



# MPRA

THE DRAGON | Spring 2021



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**2020 BG STEM AWARD**  
AS BEST IN TRADOC

# MPRA The Dragoon

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Spring 2021  
Vol. 30, No. 1



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P.O. Box 2182

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573-329-5317

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## Mission

Promote the history and preserve the traditions of the Military Police Corps Regiment while supporting Military Police Leadership, Soldiers and Families Army wide.

## Vision

The premier Military Police professional organization which is fully aligned with the Army and Military Police Corps current and future visions and recognized as relevant by Military Police Leaders, Soldiers and Families throughout the Regiment.

## Values

Serve Military Police Leaders, Soldiers, and Families with dignity, respect, responsibility and stewardship of our resources with integrity, transparency and accountability.

**A NOTE FROM THE  
BUSINESS MANAGER**



The MPRA Dragoon features information from the MPRA Community, news from the Home of the Regiment at Fort Leonard Wood, historical accounts, and stories from all components (Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve), as well as Retired Military Police from around the world. The overall goal of the Dragoon is to be current on the HOOAH events taking place within our ranks and, in turn, be a direct reflection of the Regiment as a whole. We encourage articles and photographs by and about Soldiers of all ranks, Military Spouses and Families, DA Civilians, and other Friends of the Regiment. Articles and photograph submissions should be Military Police-related and may include human interest, military operations and exercises, history, personal viewpoints and other areas of general interest. All articles accepted for publication are subject to editing. We welcome your ideas and suggestions for future publications and we look forward to hearing from you!

Respectfully,  
*Beth Bellerby*  
MPRABeth@gmail.com

**UPDATE MEMBER PROFILE**  
mpragiftshop@gmail.com

**SUBMIT NEWS & PHOTOS**  
mprabeth@gmail.com

High resolution digital photos are required. News and photos may be used in other MPRA publications (printed and digital) and may appear on MPRA's social media platforms.

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From the  
**Executive  
Director**

**O**n behalf of our members, families, and friends, I would like to welcome you to the Spring edition of the Dragoon magazine. The association thanks you for your continued support with your submission of articles and photos. We hope you enjoy the content and the great things our Military Police personnel are doing around the world.

On behalf of our entire team, we would like to say congratulations to CSM Veronica Knapp, currently serving as the 16th Military Police Brigade Command Sergeant Major, on being selected as the 101st Airborne Division Command Sergeant Major. This is a tremendous and monumental achievement for a great leader!

As you may know this year the Military Police Corps will turn 80 years old. You can assist your association to Honor the Military Police Corps' milestone by contributing an \$8 monthly donation in our 80 for 80 campaign which can be seen on page 33 of this edition. This small amount goes a long way in helping us provide funds to Military Police personnel in need, scholarship opportunities, and assists in keeping the Military Police Memorial Grove in pristine condition. Please visit our website for details on how you can play a huge part in this campaign and challenge your friends to do the same.

Recently I had the opportunity to participate in a Zoom meeting with the Civil Affairs Association. This was a great opportunity to share our association's successes with others. I sincerely appreciate being provided this opportunity.

Preparation is already underway for the 80th anniversary of the Military Police Corps in September. You can find the most



**Rick Harne**  
First Sergeant (Retired)  
MPRA Executive Director

recent calendar of events on our website and social media outlets and I ask you share this with your teams.

Our staff continues to amaze in the work they do. Beth Bellerby just celebrated her 15th anniversary with the association! Her efforts and dedication to the association is unmatched. Janet Guevara and Bobbie Martin continue to set the standard with our Gift Shop operation on a daily basis. The association thanks all of them for their continued service and commitment.

In closing, we need you to tell our story, visit our website, our online gift shop, our social media outlets, and be an active member in your area. Please feel free to communicate with us on what we can do better. Please share stories past or present with us as we would love to share your experiences.

# From the Commandant

**G**reetings from Fort Leonard Wood! We have a lot to look forward to this year as the COVID-19 vaccine makes its way through our formations and nation and we start making some headway against this pandemic. We are hopeful that by the end of the year we will be able to reunite with family members we have not been able to travel to see. We are also starting our planning for the Regiment's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in September, and have our fingers crossed that everyone will be able to travel to attend.

Last year was unprecedented in so many ways, and we are very proud of how our leaders and units adapted quickly so they could continue their missions. Our National Guard military police units definitely deserve our praise as they did everything from COVID-19 and civil unrest response for their state through the first half of the year to civil unrest response in Washington, DC and vaccine distribution in the second half.

Towards the end of last year we received the Report of the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee, which pointed out issues at Ft Hood that needed to be addressed. All of our divisions within the Directorate of Training have looked at what improvements we need to make in our instruction to ensure that we continue to provide outstanding support to our senior commanders, fellow Soldiers, Family Members, and communities. Those of you who attended a True Growth seminar may remember what they told us: feedback is a gift. We'll use that feedback to improve by implementing program of instruction changes in professional military education as required over the coming year.

Our Army is working hard to ensure we select the right leaders for command.



➔ **COL Niave Knell**  
51st Commandant  
and Chief of the Military Police  
Corps Regiment

Over two years ago the CSA started the Army Talent Management Task Force, and they transformed the command selection process. A number of promotable Majors and Lieutenant Colonels were selected – based on their evaluations – to compete for battalion command. They then went to Ft Knox for a week and completed a physical fitness test, a battery of other tests, and an oral board with a panel of senior officers. The panel of senior officers had access to all those results, as well as evaluations from peers and subordinates, to decide whether the individual was ready to command. This year the program expanded to brigade command, and it will soon extend to command sergeants major. Additionally, TRADOC instituted Project Athena this year. Our BOLC and Career Course students are assessed on everything from critical thinking to reading and writing to social skills. Again, feedback is a gift, and they leave here with a very good idea of areas they need to work on – years ahead of when they will compete for command,

leaving them a chance to improve as they gain experience and knowledge.

I was fortunate to be able to visit the Regional Confinement Facility at Ft Leavenworth after a meeting at the Combined Arms Center. As we visited the housing units, you could see the pride the MP Soldiers had in their role in running the facility in a professional manner, but the most telling comments came from the support MOS Soldiers, who all said, "I love working with MPs. Your units do things right." We should be very proud of that, as we hold ourselves to a high standard and strive to be worthy of the special trust reposed in us.

I'd like to finish up with a big thank you to the MPRA, and their continued support of our great regiment. With their Military Police Corps Excellence in Education MPRA Scholarship, along with scholarships for Family Members, as well as the Benevolent Fund program, our regimental association continues to take care of our own.

**ASSIST-PROTECT-DEFEND...  
WINNING MATTERS!**



# From the Regimental Command Sergeant Major

**M**ilitary Police Corps Family, hard to believe that we are a full year into the active fight against COVID 19. Our team here at Fort Leonard Wood have quickly and efficiently adapted to this new way of protecting our force and are continuously working to deliver highly trained Military Police Soldiers to your formations. While many questions still remain about how the future will be impacted with the presence of this virus, the Military Police School is still delivering qualified law enforcement professionals to the field on a weekly basis.

*This year the MP Corps will celebrate its 80th Anniversary.*

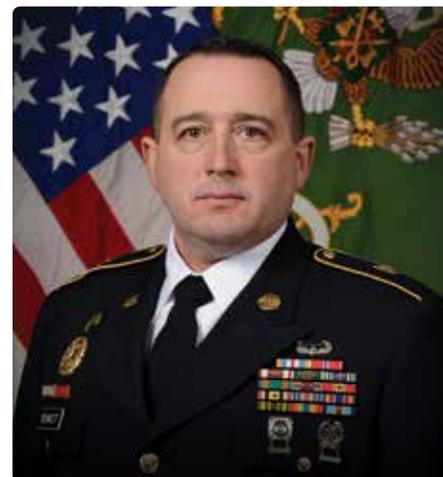
This year the MP Corps will celebrate its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. At the present time we are working to roll out the complete compliment of activities for Regimental week. I encourage you to take a look at the USAMPS website and see the calendar so that in the event of reduce travel restrictions you might be able to join us here at the home of the Regiment. In addition, take a moment to look at

the most up to date Hall of Fame policy. Timing is everything and being inducted into the Military Police Hall of Fame is no different. Changes have been made to the eligibility of when a Soldier can be considered so take a look and see if your candidate meets the criteria.

The Army Combat Physical Fitness Test (ACFT) is still under review by our senior military leaders. This should not stop you from maintaining your physical readiness so that when the decision is made on how we will be assessed, you will be ready. It will be much easier to catch up if you have still maintained a steady regime of physical fitness. Those who have not maintained demanding physical fitness programs will struggle to close the gap when the Army rolls out the final draft of how they will assess physical readiness.

During the last 12 months, our Regiment has continued to demonstrate that regardless of the task that we stand ready to hold the line for our nation. MPs have done everything from securing the Southwest boarder, protecting our federal facilities in our major cities during civil unrest, or standing watch in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our Regiment is never far removed from the evil that is around every corner. I am so proud of every single member of the Regiment past and present that have stood the watch for this great nation. Keep up the great work!

**ASSIST, PROTECT, DEFEND**



➔ **CSM Michael P. Bennett**  
Military Police School Command  
Sergeant Major

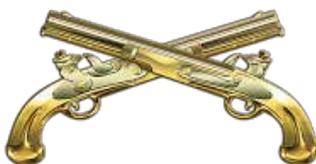


# From the Regimental Chief Warrant Officer

**G**reetings from the Home of the Regiment! Last year certainly was a year full of challenges and this year has started out no different. As we all continue to operate in this COVID-19 environment, I want to keep you aware of criminal activity affecting the Military Police community as well as the Army community. In the last edition, I talked about a crime prevention resource called CID Lookout. CID Lookout is a U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command initiative to partner with the Army community by providing a conduit for members of the Army family to help prevent, reduce and report felony-level crime. CID Lookout provides the latest information to the Army community aimed at helping Soldiers protect themselves, their families and to reduce their chances of becoming a victim of crime. Late last year, a bulletin (Safeguard Children from Online Predators, Oct. 29, 2020) was

published reminding parents to safeguard their children and teenagers against invasions of privacy, cyberbullying, sexting, and other forms of harassment found online. The bulletin explains these threats and provides recommendations to protect children against them, emphasizing that parental involvement is critical to help use the internet safely. This bulletin and other informative bulletins can be accessed at <https://www.cid.army.mil/cid-lookout.html>.

**PRESERVE THE FORCE  
ASSIST, PROTECT, DEFEND  
OF THE TROOPS AND FOR THE TROOPS**



**➔ CW5 Mark W. Arnold**  
Regimental Chief Warrant Officer

## Book Nook

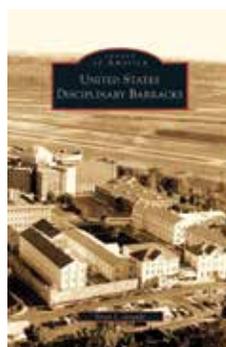
### Military Police Regimental History



The Military Police Regimental History Book chronicles the history of our Regiment from WWII to present day. The book is richly illustrated with historic and contemporary photographs, stories, quotes, and over 1,000 personal biographies from Military Police Veterans. The 9"x12" book is available in a green leatherette cover with the Regimental crest

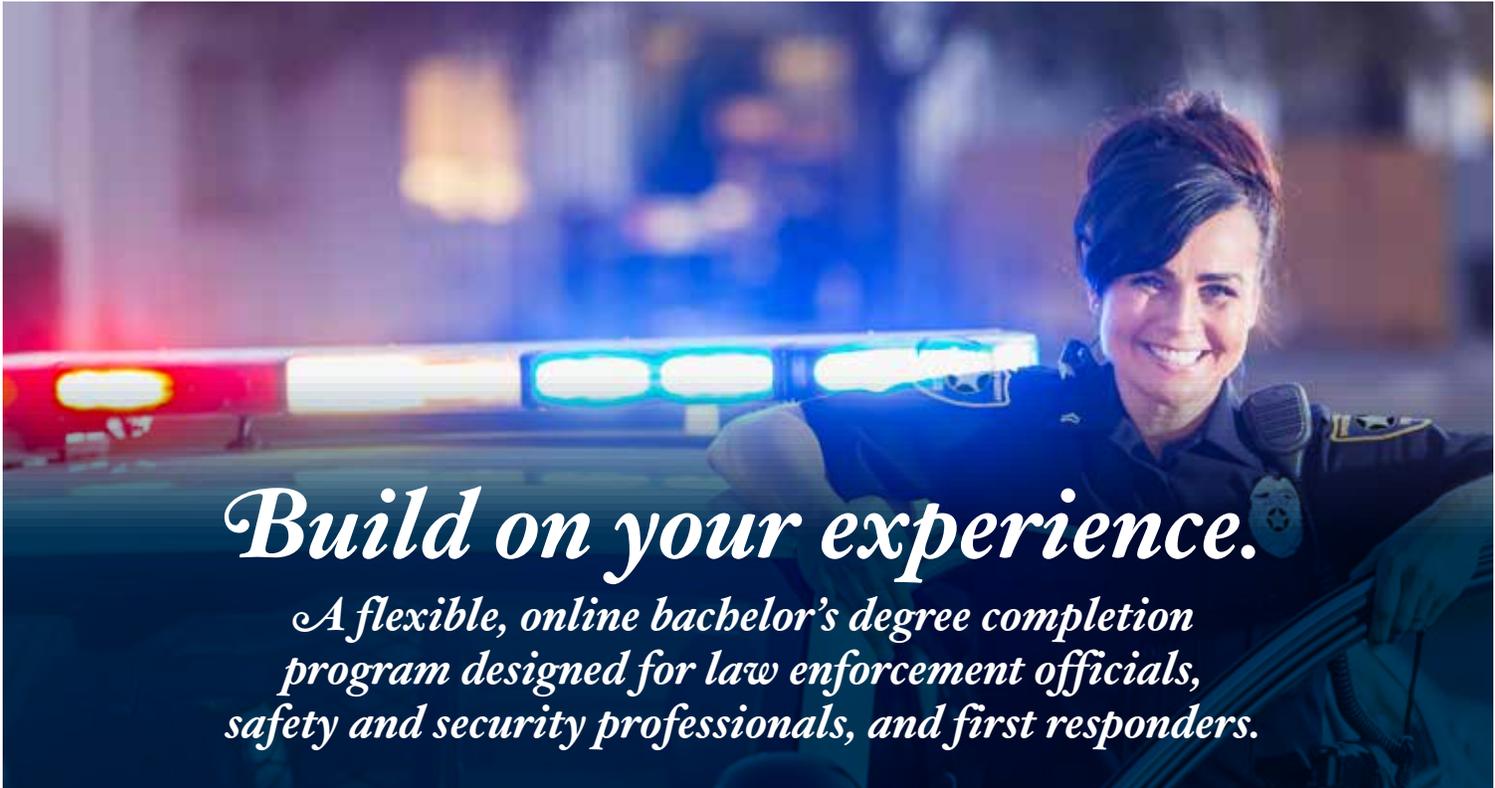
embossed in gold on the front cover. **PURCHASE:**  
[mpraonline.org/shop/military-police-history-book](http://mpraonline.org/shop/military-police-history-book)

### United States Disciplinary Barracks



On May 21, 1874, Congress approved the establishment of the United States Disciplinary Barracks (USDB), formerly the United States Military Prison at Fort Leavenworth. The original prison was once a quartermaster depot, supplying all military posts, camps, and stations in the Indian Territory to the West. It has been the "center of correctional excellence" in the military for over 130 years, housing the most notorious service members in the armed forces, including maximum-custody inmates and those with death sentences. On October 5, 2002, retreat was played for the last time in front of the eight-story castle inside the old USDB, and another era started with the occupation of a new modern correctional facility.

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**THE GEORGE  
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The 978th Military Police Company, 93D Military Police Battalion, 89th Military Police Brigade located at Fort Bliss, Texas is led by Captain (CPT) George E. Schoenfeld and First Sergeant (1SG) Roberto Castaneda Jr. The 978th MP CO “Scorpions” have been serving the Fort Bliss community for over 45 years, and have adopted the nickname “The Original Company”, as the first Military Police Company to serve the Fort Bliss and surrounding El Paso Communities since 1972.

Rich in its history and lineage, the “Original Company”, was activated on 20 July 1942 at Camp Riel, Minnesota, where they were designated as “Aviation MP’s”, assigned to the 8th Army Air

Corps (The Mighty 8), trained to perform interior guard, traffic control, riot control and vice control duties at overseas installations. The 978th MP CO has also spent time at various other duty locations to include RAF Bovington, England, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, Fort Riley, Kansas, Fort Chaffee, Arkansas for “Task Force Resettlement Operations”, and finally in 1972 assigned to Fort Bliss Texas to conduct Law Enforcement Duties.

The 978th Military Police Company has also been involved in major operational campaigns to include World War II (European-African-Middle Eastern Theater/Rhineland Campaign), Panama, Gulf War/Defense of Saudi Arabia, Gulf War/Liberation and Defense of Kuwait, Southwest Asia Cease-Fire (Iraq), Operation Iraqi Freedom (Liberation of Iraq, Transition of Iraq, Iraqi Governance, National Resolution, Iraqi Surge, Iraqi Sovereignty), and Operation Enduring Freedom/ Afghanistan Transition.

Throughout the multiple deployments, rotations, and other campaign support, there has always been one constant for the “Scorpions” of the “Original Company”, and that is being one of the premier law enforcement units for the Fort Bliss and surrounding El Paso Communities. For over 45 years, the Soldiers of the 978th MP CO have been charged with protecting life and property through the enforcement of laws & regulations, as well as proactively continuing to build that bridge and bond between the local community and law enforcement professionals. The Scorpion Soldiers and Fort Bliss Community have faced and overcome many challenges over the years, but nothing compared to the ongoing fight they face today with the rise of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in El Paso County, and being designated as one of the nation’s hot spots for the virus.

Since February 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic started to take shape and make its presence known within Fort Bliss and El Paso, the Scorpion Soldiers have been one of the primary companies performing law enforcement duties on the installation, and will continue to do so as COVID-19 cases are still on the rise. Though the pandemic



SFC Landavaerde, 3rd Platoon “Gladiators” Platoon Sergeant, and her daughter Jaelynn Torres both receive certificates and coins for their participation in the 978 Military Police Company’s “Army 10 Miler”. Photo by Mrs. Miranda Castaneda, Company SFRG representative.

created a whole different range of unforeseen and unprecedented challenges for our Military Police Soldiers, the “Scorpions” stepped up, and stayed true to its company motto of “Fear None”. These Soldiers continue to successfully manage the various emergency situations they respond to every day, but must now consider the new threat of COVID-19 that has a significant impact in every response, regardless of the situation. While other Soldiers on Fort Bliss were designated as non-mission essential, the Scorpions were 100% committed in continuing their law enforcement mission and duties.

Another new obstacle that the 978th Soldiers faced as the number of cases began to rise, is enforcing the new Fort Bliss Stay Home, Work Safe order directed by the 1st Armored Division. This order applies to all individuals located on Fort Bliss, as well as units rotating through the installation for mobilization/demobilization and training. This order has included the enforcement and implementation of an installation curfew, mandatory face coverings, and ensuring that social distancing is enforced at all times.

Through this pandemic and the restrictions that have come as a result, many in the region have been effected, but none so much as the children of the Fort Bliss and El Paso community with schools shutting down on post and throughout El Paso County. Though the virus has shown a special animus for those older in age, and for the most part has spared those who are younger as well as healthier, the virus has not been as kind to the younger population’s mental health. This virus has shown, that no matter your age, no one is immune to the stress that comes with a pandemic and quarantining.

Understanding the effect the pandemic and quarantine mandates have had on the younger generation at Fort Bliss, the Soldiers of the “Original Company” stepped up, and began to come up with various ways to positively interact with these children. Through the promotion of community policing, a strategy of policing that focuses on building ties and working closely with members of the community, these Soldiers have created bonds with the children whom they interact with. Specialist (SPC) Methlan of the 2nd Platoon “Guardians” has been one of the unit’s biggest advocates on community policing and has come up with different ways to safely continue to interact with kids while they quarantine at home. Some of these proactive activities included playing soccer, which is a great sport to ensure social distancing is being adhered, as well as providing balloons for kids at the Fort Bliss RV lot so they can have a community water balloon fight.

SPC Poppe of the 3rd Platoon “Gladiators” has also found a “silver lining” and unique opportunity in the pandemic. Understanding that most soldiers and family members are now quarantined at home, he has used this time to continue to focus on building an effective partnership between Fort Bliss Military Police Soldiers and local communities. “To effectively police your community, you have to know your community” SPC Poppe said, “trust is built through positive interactions. Positive interactions are built through trust, and you can’t have one without the other”.

Another constant throughout the many obstacles the COVID-19 pandemic has had, is the leadership of the “Original Company”, and their everyday fight to continue to push the Operational Tempo (OPTEMPO), as well as keep their Soldiers safe and ready in order to fulfill their Law Enforcement mission. Sergeant First Class (SFC) Ian Rogers, Platoon Sergeant for the 1st Platoon “Warriors” has been with the company through the duration of the pandemic, and knows firsthand the many difficulties this infectious disease has had on his formation, as well as its effect on their ability to successfully accomplish their mission.



SPC Methlan, Soldier for the 2nd Platoon “Guardians”, 978 Military Police Company, 93D Military Police Battalion, poses with a young fan in a local on post neighborhood located on Fort Bliss, Texas. Photo by MAJ Foster.



SPC Mcelvogue and 1SG Castaneda, 978 Military Police Company, 93D Military Police Battalion, pose for a quick photo before working a shift on Fort Bliss, Texas. Photo by 1SG Castaneda.



Soldiers from the “Original Company”, 978 Military Police Company, 93D Military Police Battalion, pose with children in one of the housing areas located on Fort Bliss, Texas. Photo by SGT Pando.



Scorpion Leader for the 978 Military Police Company, 93D Military Police Battalion, joined by representatives from the El Paso Crisis Center. Soldiers from the Company donated over 100 toys helping out children in need during the COVID Pandemic. Photo by 1SG Roberto Castaneda



SPC Mehtlan, Soldier for the 2nd Platoon "Guardians", 978 Military Police Company, 93D Military Police Battalion, pins on a Military Police sticker during a patrol on Halloween. Photo by Maj Foster.



Company Leadership for the 978 Military Police Company, 93D Military Police Battalion, ready to serve Soldiers their COVID Thanksgiving Day lunch. Photo by Mrs. Miranda Castaneda, Company SFRG Representative.

One of the first missions the "Warriors" participated in was conducting courtesy policing in the high visibility areas such as the Installation Main Exchange, food courts and the Commissary. "These extra hours my Soldiers put in allowed me to see how resilient they actually are. While my Soldiers have seen all their battle buddies working from home, it was not just my platoon, but the entire 978<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company taking the initial workload during the first stages of the pandemic." Finding a way to ensure leadership maintained effective communication with their Soldiers to meet their needs was also an issue. Due to the rules and restrictions that were set in place, not allowing SFC Rogers to see his platoon daily, created another challenge, "We as leaders had to be creative and find ways to ensure Soldiers were still staying physically fit and still in standard with rules and regulations during the initial pandemic".

With various mandated Army and installation quarantine guidelines being set in place, as well as a remote "teleworking" policy, Scorpion leaders worked to develop various tactics to meet this challenge. Keeping that creative mentality, the Company Command team understood that in order to continue to push the OPTEMPO of the organization, they would have to come up with extrinsic proactive initiatives to continue to motivate the Soldiers, as well as maintain the high level of moral, as just stopping all operations with no end to the pandemic in sight was never an option. One of the ways that leadership inspired and motivated Soldiers, was through the use of Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA) Grinston's new concept, "This is my Squad" or TIMS. 1SG Castaneda used the TIMS initiative to propel leadership at all levels, to use this time to return back to small groups, and focus on their respective fox holes. This equates to small wins, and has contributed to increased moral, pride within the platoons, and encouraged unit ownership that ultimately cultivates with an outpour of energy and motivation. Using this same strategy while maintaining a positive outlook, leaders used this unforeseen extra time to their benefit, and utilized this opportunity to enhance readiness through programs that include professional development, maintenance, and of course, physical fitness while incorporating the new Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT).

With quarantine mandates and a huge emphasis being placed on the amount of Soldiers who can conduct physical fitness training together, the 978<sup>th</sup> MP CO leadership used this opportunity to

customize plans to Soldiers with different or unique profiles, as well as using the newly fielded fitness platform gym in a box, or "GIBS", to motivate Soldiers and ensure they reach their COVID fitness goals.

Another way the Command team motivated Soldiers to not only help them reach

their own personal goals but contribute to their platoon performance, the Scorpion Incentive Program was adopted and an ACFT Scorpion Excellence Trophy created, which would be handed to the platoon with the highest overall ACFT average for that respective quarter. Again, understanding that a lot of physical fitness would have to be done at the individual level due to quarantine and social distancing, the program also included individually based incentives. These included top performing Soldiers earning the coveted "Scorpion Excellence" belt buckle which can be worn in uniform during the duty day, Soldiers who received a 520 or above getting their name placed on the ACFT Excellence wall in the unit gym, and a late work call for Soldiers who scored a 90 percent in each event.

While this pandemic has introduced many stressors and difficulties for not only the Soldiers of the 978<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company at Fort Bliss, but people around the world, this strenuous time has shown the determination and willingness for the Soldiers of the "Original Company" to fight back and rise above these troubling times. The Scorpion Soldiers rose up to the occasion to fight this virus by showing their outstanding commitment to the unit and this unprecedented endeavor by challenging it head on and pushing through to the objective to accomplish the mission.

The current operating environment, with such an uncertain future, demands leaders to be resilient and adaptive. Operationally, this will require leadership at all levels to shift their focus from their traditional mindset, and find extrinsic means in order to continue to face outboard and hold the line while policymakers and lawmakers continue to exercise their own responsibilities.

If you look at the totality of our share to the nation, it is an impressive task and absolutely NO FAIL. The Army will continue to go "Rolling Along" and as long as the Fort Bliss and El Paso Community esteem the 978<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company "Scorpions" as consummate professionals that are unflinching and ready to fight tonight on their behalf, SCORPIONS SOLDIERS WILL ALWAYS REMAIN READY!

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# FORT STEWART HOSTS LAW ENFORCEMENT SYMPOSIUM

STORY BY LT. COL. LINDSEY ELDER,  
3RD INFANTRY DIVISION  
PHOTOS BY HEATHER TETER

Officials from 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield hosted a law enforcement symposium at Fort Stewart Feb. 18-19, 2021. The event was a collaboration with law enforcement partners from across the region to include Liberty County Sheriff, Hinesville Police Department, Bryan County Sheriff, Richmond Hill Police Department, Garden City Police Department, Statesboro Police Department, U.S. Marshals Office and members of the FBI. Georgia State Patrol, Long County Sheriff, Chatham County, and the Savannah Police Department were also invited. Command teams from across 3rd ID and garrison also attended.

The 385th Military Police Battalion and the Fort Stewart Directorate of Emergency Services organized the event. Maj. Gen. Antonio Aguto, the commanding general of the 3rd ID, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, wanted the event to be both educational and relationship-building.

“The safety of our force and community is a team effort,” said Aguto. “Collaboration events like this are not just about what we can do better for our Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Community, but what we can help with for the greater law enforcement enterprise in the area. It’s important to ask what we can be doing better in their eyes, while keeping them informed of where we might need more of their expertise or assistance.”

The two-day event included briefings from several different agencies to address issues and educate each other on their challenges, capabilities, and best practices. It also included a briefing by Ms. Bonnie Sharp, an analyst for the National Counterterrorism Center.



Maj. Gen. Antonio Aguto, commanding general, 3rd Infantry Division, speaks to Hinesville Chief of Police Lloyd Slater during the law enforcement symposium at Fort Stewart Feb. 18 2021. The symposium was a collaboration event with regional and military law enforcement agencies and Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Command teams to address issues and educate each other on their challenges, capabilities, and best practices.

“The law enforcement symposium was an event created to highlight our regional law enforcement and ensure commanders were aware of the law enforcement capabilities both on and off the installation,” said Maj. Erin Peterson, the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Directorate of Emergency Services Operations Officer and lead planner for the symposium.

Since the Fort Hood Independent Review was published in December 2020, the Army has outlined an updated framework of recommended actions, considerations, and activities to commanders and Army law enforcement to assist in determining whether a Soldier’s absence is voluntary or involuntary.

The symposium helped ensure commanders were informed of crimes and procedures both on and off installation. It also outlined further responsibilities that commanders and law enforcement personnel must execute for involuntary missing persons’ cases and desertion cases.

It’s important for civilian law enforcement to understand because the changes in Army policy may lead to an increase in attempt to locate requests for the Soldiers and family members that reside off post.

“A secondary objective of this event was for commanders to become acquainted with the local law enforcement agencies and build ‘connective tissue’ to enhance our relationships with them in order to address corrosive



Brig. Gen. Hubert Cottereau (left), deputy commanding general, 3rd Infantry Division and Maj. Gen. Antonio Aguto (right), commanding general, 3rd ID, speak to Hinesville Chief of Police Lloyd Slater during the law enforcement symposium at Fort Stewart Feb. 18 2021. The symposium was a collaboration event with regional and military law enforcement agencies and Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Command teams to address issues and educate each other on their challenges, capabilities, and best practices.

behaviors that Soldiers may be participating in both on and off the installation,” Peterson said.

As a precursor to the Secretary of Defense-ordered stand down on the topic, the symposium also included a brief about “Extremism in our Ranks,” by Supervisory Special Agent Robert Payne, a U.S. Army War College research fellow from the Atlanta FBI Office.

The Army is committed to working closely with the FBI and local law enforcement on any accusations to charges pertaining to extremist behavior.

“Events like this are important for ensuring we are being proactive with information sharing to reduce crime in areas like drug suppression and increase joint law enforcement operations on the installations,” said Lt. Col. Craig Giancaterino, Commander of the 385th Military Police Battalion and Provost Marshal/Director of Emergency Services for Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. “It’s also important as policies change to continuously inform our law enforcement partners and commanders on how the military law enforcement operates and educate ourselves on the crime areas off-post so we can assist in getting the information out to our community.”

Organizers said the symposium, the first of its kind for the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Community,

opened dialogue and increased awareness of off-post hot spots and future partnership and networking opportunities to prevent and solve crime. The goal is for this to become reoccurring event.

“We are excited for the future law enforcement engagements beyond this symposium as we work together to provide analysis, feedback, and general situation awareness to the commander toward facilitating and enabling this posture and work rapidly toward crime incident reduction,” said Giancaterino.

“This symposium was a great start to future endeavors. I look forward to working with the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield leadership in caring for and protecting America’s greatest asset, our servicemen and women,” said William Bowman, Sheriff of Liberty County.

## “THE SAFETY OF OUR FORCE AND COMMUNITY IS A TEAM EFFORT.”

– Maj. Gen. Antonio Aguto



# 221ST MP DETACHMENT RECEIVES BG STEM AWARD

STORY AND PHOTOS PROVIDED BY 221ST MP DET

Both CPT Rickey and I have been in the seats for just over a year now, CPT Rickey in Jan of 2020 and myself March of 2020. To put it bluntly, we inherited a unit in pretty rough shape. The morale was at an all-time low as evident from a command climate survey that was done in January and many of the Soldiers seemed down in their motivation. To top it all off, the kennel master at the time of the 3d MWD ended up committing suicide in February which really made things difficult. The CDR and I knew we had to get in front of the troops for a few reasons. 1.) To show them that it was out with the old and in with the new, 2.) To introduce ourselves as well as our intentions, and 3.) To let them know that things were going to get better. Personally, I didn't think things could get much worse and knew that we could only get better from here. But how fast and by how much took all of us by surprise. One of the first orders of business we set was to get involved with the troops. We showed up to guard mounts where at the time, was the only face time we could get with the troops. Just talking to them and hearing their problems did wonders. Next, we had to find a way to motivate them. The Soldiers, while working 12 hours shifts 4 days a week, were exhausted and just thought of their shifts as a job. There was no training or PT plan in place and it really showed. For training, we looked at personnel we currently had and using their strengths, re-organized some positions to make an effective training section. Through this, we conducted



realistic training throughout the year that focused primarily on our METL, but also Soldier skills so that they are prepared for their follow on assignments. Some of the events we did were:

- Land Navigation: We conducted 2 training events that re-affirmed the Soldiers ability to read and plot on a map before going out to the training area and putting them in the woods. One of these exercises ended with a Helo extraction that provided a tour of the Hampton roads area which was a huge hit.
- Ranges: We conduct our semiannual M4/M17 LEWTAQ more ranges, but other than that, the Soldiers don't get much trigger time. We have incorporated ranges and have shot the M320 grenade launcher as well as the M500 shotgun. Additionally, we reached out to the installation's marksmanship team who spent time with the Soldiers and made them better shooters on their assigned weapons which has resulted in the unit staying 100% qualified in weapons qualification. Also, we wanted to give power back to the NCOs so we assigned each of them the mission of coordinating, planning, and operating a range. This gave them, as leaders, the opportunity to lead and also make sure that range days weren't cookie cutter products. Each NCO added their own touch to their operation which gave them a different perspective of how to run a range.
- Active shooter training: we took the Detachment to MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) Site here on Ft. Eustis and using sim rounds, ran active shooter scenarios so that the Soldiers experienced what it was like to respond while being shot at themselves. The training, which is formally called ALERRT (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training), was led by one of our NCO's who previously, served as a Deputy Sheriff in near by Portsmouth. Using the experience's he went through himself and tailoring it towards the the daily duties we have as Military Police increased the Soldier's ability to handle themselves if the opportunity presents itself.
- CLS: Everyone goes through CLS and while it's a great course, not practical to the law and order side of the job which we mainly work. We reached out to some medical personnel here and together, developed a program that had patrols performing lifesaving steps at their patrol car as well as on scene like they would in their normal duties. We also had some of the paramedics who respond to the same calls we do come instruct a class of how we can better work together to ensure the safety of every situation we respond to.

- Domestic Disturbance: Even though it was recently removed from our METL, the CDR and I thought that it was still an important tool to have and provide the installation commander, especially with the riots of late and the COVID pandemic happening. We partnered with the local PD of Newport News, and hosted a joint training exercise on Ft. Eustis in which we learned many new tactics from officers who are applying it the civilian sector.

As far as PRT, that was another big issue to tackle. Ft. Eustis is home of the new Army Combat Fitness Test with CIMT being right next door to us. At the beginning of the pandemic, Ft. Eustis had to close all of it's gyms until they could figure out a way to open them back up safely. With Soldiers on 12 hour shifts and different





times to conduct PRT, we had to find a way to get them in a routine. Through a few donations and second hand gym equipment, we were able to get a fully functional gym in the basement of our Detachment that our Soldiers have 24 hour access to. This was a huge morale booster for the troops and I believe really showed that we had their best interest in mind.

COVID really presented us with a challenge of accomplishing our training goals and objectives. A lot of unit's were told to cease fire with daily operations but us as MPs are not afforded that opportunity. In fact the only thing that changed for us was making it more difficult to find training opportunities as most were teleworking. We found a way to overcome and work out the kinks to not only keep training going, but at a high expectation. Since we were one of the only units training on the installation, we extended invites out to other units to co-train.

This allowed us to network as a unit as well as increased the Detachment's popularity on Ft. Eustis. In the midst of all of the police brutality issues going on outside of the walls and all the negative attention towards the police force, I'd like to think the complete opposite was going on at Ft. Eustis. I would say that at least 5 of the 100 phone calls/messages I get a day is someone reaching out to ask a question or ask for assistance with something. We even have a few High ranking General Officers that pencil us in their calendars for our range days and some training days, just so they can attend. A few weeks ago, we were doing non-lethal training when LTG Martin, the Deputy Commanding General of TRADOC asked if he could partake. To this day, I believe we are the only unit to ever use a TASER on a 3 Star General.

For morale, COVID also presented many difficulties with FRG and BOSS hosting events. However just like everything else, rather than look for an excuse, we looked for a solution. Both were able to host large scale events and work with outside agencies to scrape together donations and supplies that resulted in the Soldiers having to pay nothing to attend and enjoy.

To sum it up, there was a lot that led to our unit being successful. We never did it for an award but did it more so because it was how we were raised in the Army and we simply just paid it forward. In doing this, when it was time to submit the award, it was one of the easiest submissions to write, as the organization spoke for itself. All we had to do was translate it into army talk and put a pretty bow on it to submit. I never thought of what we were doing as extraordinary but necessary to complete the mission. When we were announced as the winners, it was more of a reassurance for the organization on how far we have come, from almost rock bottom to the top. The Soldiers don't see the actions behind the scenes, rather us just doing our jobs but now their legacy is cemented in the unit's history, along with the previous winners. Currently, we are working on a unit collage of individual pictures and once complete, plan on hanging it in the Detachment. I sold it to the Soldiers saying that many years from now, you may find yourself in this building again or maybe one of your Soldier's will and they will see your picture and think that you were a part of the best MP unit in TRADOC.

# FORT LEE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES PARTNERSHIP USING IGSA

Fort Lee's Department of Emergency Services' joint venture with Prince George County began in 2018 after a review of Fort Lee's emergency dispatch center. The Garrison review exposed an antiquated system in dire need of an upgrade. The dispatch center operated entirely with a pen and paper system, making tracking the location of incoming emergency calls and officer locations impossible unless provided on the call.

Fort Lee and Prince George County discussed creating an Intergovernmental Support Agreement between them in the fall of 2018. The 2013 Defense Authorization Act encouraged mutually beneficial partnerships that lowered costs and improved government services. Within four months of discussion, the IGSA was signed. However, it took an additional year to prepare, coordinate and implement the system. Provost Marshal Office Communications supervisor Lt. Jennifer Warshawsky led the process.

The two largest aspects of the IGSA are the joint use of Prince George's County Computer Aided Dispatch system and the implementation of the electronic 911 system for both Fort Lee and Prince George County.

Prince George County had been using the CAD system since 2006. It uses Mobile Data Terminals located in each vehicle to communicate with law enforcement officers. It tracks each military police and DACP officer's location, and includes all fire and EMS vehicles. The system generates ten categories of calls. The first is priority calls, or calls "in-progress," then proceeds from category one to nine. In-Progress and level one calls automatically recommend what officer to dispatch based on proximity, decreasing response time.

The CAD has made a positive impact according to Fort Lee dispatchers. It drastically decreases the dispatch time by minutes, thereby decreasing the total response time.

"Prior to CAD we were averaging three minutes for a normal dispatch," said Staff Sergeant Robert Graham, Fort Lee desk sergeant. "With CAD in play, we are now down to one minute for a routine dispatch."

Warshawsky said the dispatch time is expected to continue to decrease as dispatchers become more familiar with the system. Once the location has been identified the CAD allows the dispatcher to simultaneously dispatch and continue to place notes in the system that goes directly to the officer, fire fighter or EMS team. The MDTs in the vehicles are programed to speak to each officer, giving updates on the call and allowing them to drive more safely to the scene. These are only a few aspects of the MDTs, as at user level, each officer can program a multitude of different settings.

The CAD system is also useful as an investigative tool. Whether on scene or during a routine traffic stop, Soldiers have the ability to utilize NCIC/VCIN for driver's license or vehicle registration checks. The system also enhances our Soldiers' ability to access ALERTS from within their patrol car. Communication is enhanced, and CAD not



Lt. Jennifer Warshawsky explaining the CAD system to a Fort Lee Dispatcher.

only serves as a way to transmit information it also provides a running accountability for supervisors and patrols to reference later if needed.

Fort Lee shares concurrent jurisdiction on the roadways separating the Ordinance Campus with the main post. Due to the system tie-in, state and local police are able to provide backup to patrols if needed, and vice-versa. This is invaluable from an officer safety standpoint where there is a high volume of individuals from the general public passing through on a daily basis.

Initially, neither Prince George County nor Fort Lee were equipped with the e-911 system, which is soon to be mandated nationwide. The joint venture initially saved each agency over \$485,000. The e-911 system allows for pin-point locations to be calculated for all calls and includes the ability to receive and respond to 911 text messages.

Using the IGSA was not only financially beneficial for both Fort Lee and Prince George, but it also promoted team work within the community. Both agencies can not only talk to each other, they can access each other's system and utilize the others as a Continuity of Operations Planning site should a major system error or outage occur. The IGSA has only strengthened the partnership between Fort Lee and Prince George County, and both communities have been awarded the 2020 Army Community Partnership Award.



**DÜLMEN MPS WIN  
DURING USAG BENELUX**

# BEST WARRIOR

STORY BY BRYAN GATCHELL, U.S. ARMY GARRISON BENELUX  
AND PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHE MOREL, USAG BENELUX PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**A**fter a week competing against their garrison peers, two U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Soldiers from Army Prepositioned Stock Site (APS-2) Dülmen in Germany earned the titles of Soldier and non-commissioned officer of the year during the garrison's Best Warrior Competition Jan. 28 at Chièvres Air Base, Belgium.

Spc. Hunter Tinsley, member of the Directorate of Emergency Services' military police, earned the title of "Soldier

of the Year," Sgt. Isaac Mayfield, team lead for DES at APS-2 Dülmen, earned "NCO of the Year," and both will move on to compete at the Installation Management Command – Europe level.

Mayfield felt the competition was not just a contest of physical strength and mental agility but of will and determination.

"This competition is supposed to be taxing on you," said Mayfield. "It's called 'the Best Warrior' for a reason. It's

definitely something you have to come in mentally and physically tough for. And if you have any doubts in your mind about it, then you're automatically just going to fail."

Soldiers and noncommissioned officers took part in the competition based on whether they were the Soldiers or noncommissioned officers of their month and their quarter for their location in the garrison. Beside the two winners from APS-Dülmen, competitors hailed from Chièvres Air Base and Brussels Site in Belgium and Brunssum Site and JFC Brunssum in the Netherlands. Most of the competitors were from the military police of the Directorate of Emergency Services, and one was a religious affairs specialist who works at JFC Brunssum.

"They definitely strove hard to show us that 'They do work, and they deliver,'" said USAG Benelux Command Sgt. Maj. Katrina Herzfeld. "I am honored to have Sergeant Mayfield and Specialist Tinsley represent the Benelux in March."

Herzfeld said Best Warrior is important for a variety of reasons.

"It tests our Soldiers and NCOs on their physical strength, mental agility, endurance, courage, tactical skills, military knowledge, and most importantly, their heart," said Herzfeld. "Across the Benelux, on any given day, a Soldier and/or NCO is preparing to compete. They are studying and working out. All in the hopes of becoming the USAG Benelux Best Warrior. This competition not only encouraged the professional growth of these eight but all Soldiers assigned to USAG Benelux. It creates a sense of esprit de corps within the unit as the sites root for their representatives."

And although the different sites of the garrison may have rooted for their own, the competition gave its contestants the opportunities to know each other better.

"I've made a couple new friends here since the start of the competition," said Sgt. Michael Sanabria, an investigator and desk sergeant at the Brunssum Site and a native of Brookville,

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Opposite: Sgt. Isaac Mayfield, team lead for the Directorate of Emergency Services at Army Prepositioned Stock Site (APS-2) Dülmen, treats a simulated casualty at Chièvres Air Base, Belgium, Jan. 26, 2021. After a week competing against their garrison peers, two U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Soldiers from Army Prepositioned Stock Site (APS-2) Dülmen in Germany, including Mayfield, earned the titles of Soldier and noncommissioned officer of the year during the garrison's Best Warrior Competition.

Top right: Pfc. Joseph Prest, the religious affairs specialist at JFC Brunssum, the Netherlands, whose hometown is Carbondale, Illinois, prepares for a written portion of the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Best Warrior Competition. After a week competing against their garrison peers, two U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Soldiers from Army Prepositioned Stock Site (APS-2) Dülmen in Germany earned the titles of Soldier and noncommissioned officer of the year during the garrison's Best Warrior Competition Jan. 28.



Pennsylvania. "It's nice to see how everyone's doing at their respective locations – just kind of talk and share our experiences. I think it's been a really good team-building experience during our downtime."

"It's definitely good to come together," said Staff Sgt. Devon Bowman, a desk sergeant and squad leader at Brussels Site and native of Columbus, Georgia. "There are a couple of NCOs I haven't seen since I went to (advanced operations course) over a year ago. So it's good to venture out."

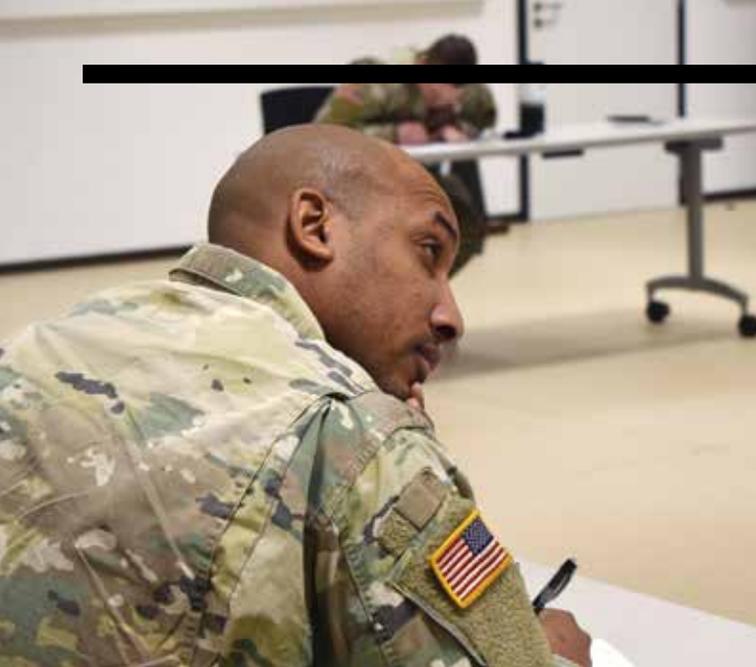
Pfc. Joseph Prest, the religious affairs specialist at JFC Brunssum, whose hometown is Carbondale, Illinois, appreciated how much he got to interact with his fellow Soldiers.

"It's nice to learn from them, model from them, and pick their brain," said Prest.

The four day competition included warrior tasks and drills; a foot march; land navigation; chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear lanes; a written essay; weapons draw; boards; and more. During one event, competitors had to assemble a disassembled weapon. During another event, competitors had to perform a modified Murphy challenge, in which they ran, did pushups, pullups, air squats and ran more.

"The Murphy was pretty challenging," said Bowman. "It was a long day we already had with the ruck march and multiple Combat Lifesaving lanes. It made it more stressful on the body."

Two other Soldiers felt the Murphy challenge to be the toughest part of the competition. A few said it was the medical lane. Others said the board on the final day of competition was the most difficult. Spc. Arnando Smith, a mid-shift patrol for



Top: Spc. Adonis Singletary, an investigator with DES at the Brussels Site, takes a written portion of the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Best Warrior Competition Jan. 25. After a week competing against their garrison peers, two U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Soldiers from Army Prepositioned Stock Site (APS-2) Dülmen in Germany earned the titles of Soldier and noncommissioned officer of the year during the garrison's Best Warrior Competition Jan. 28 at Chièvres Air Base, Belgium.

Bottom: Spc. Arnando Smith, a mid-shift patrol for DES at Chièvres Air Base, whose hometown is Atlanta, takes a written portion of the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Best Warrior Competition. After a week competing against their garrison peers, two U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Soldiers from Army Prepositioned Stock Site (APS-2) Dülmen in Germany earned the titles of Soldier and noncommissioned officer of the year during the garrison's Best Warrior Competition Jan. 28 at Chièvres Air Base, Belgium.



DES at Chièvres Air Base, whose hometown is Atlanta, cited the board among the other stressors of the competition.

"It's the mental strain, the lack of sleep, getting ready for the board and going amongst people who severely outrank you," said Smith. "You really realize what you don't know, and it pushes you to do better."

"It kind of put me in the perspective of where I was physically, mentally as well," said Spc. Adonis Singletary, an investigator with DES at the Brussels Site, whose hometown is Seaside, California. "It really challenged me to think outside the box and to think on the fly."

Tinsley, a native of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, will take part at the next level of the competition. He also appreciated how the contest served to assess him as a Soldier.

"I just need to go to a gym more, do more physical stuff, running, rucking, studying up more Army knowledge," he said of the upcoming competition. "Since it's a bigger event, I need to also study up more on weapons."

The IMCOM-E Best Warrior Competition, which is set to take place at the end of February and beginning of March at USAG Ansbach in Germany, will pit both Tinsley and Mayfield against the best Soldiers and NCOs of the other six Army garrisons in Europe. Mayfield, a native of Platte City, Missouri, felt competing against his fellow Soldiers at this garrison was difficult, and will seek to improve before the next iteration of competition.

"My peers are very knowledgeable and well-rounded," he said. "There's a lot I can improve on and then definitely get my physical fitness back where it needs to be."

Others in the competition, though they may not have won, still found the competition valuable.

"I pushed myself to see what I was capable of," said Sgt. Christopher Arcia, a desk sergeant and noncommissioned officer in charge of desk sergeants at Chièvres Air Base. "I didn't really think I was actually ever going to be able to compete in a Best Warrior competition. This was my first Best Warrior Competition. I'm glad I did it, and I'd like to do it again and see if I could win next time."

"If you don't make it, it's okay," continued Arcia, who is a native of Santa Clarita, California. "Just keep on pushing through. Failure only makes you stronger."

Herzfeld said the competitors exemplified the Warrior Ethos of "I will always place the mission first; I will never accept defeat; I will never quit, and I will never leave a fallen comrade."

"I am proud of all my competitors," said Herzfeld. "They were pushed to what they thought were their limits and kept going past that point. No one gave up. They encouraged one another and grew together as a team."

"Stay motivated," said Singletary. "There's a lot of times when you're going to face obstacles. There's a lot of times you'll have to do things you don't want to do, but once you're there, you might as well do the best you can."

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# MILITARY POLICE OPERATION SET-UP FOR COMBINED RESOLVE XV

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. RENEE SERUNTINE, JOINT MULTINATIONAL READINESS CENTER

U.S. Army Soldiers of the 64th Military Police Company out of Fort Hood, Texas, attached to the 91st Brigade Engineer Battalion (BEB), 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division prepared for Combined Resolve XV by establishing their area of operation at Hohenfels Training Area, Germany, Feb. 24, 2021.

Their mission was to establish their defensive posture by setting up an area of operation, safely secure the perimeter, conduct detainee operations and answer calls for backup to the surrounding area, all while remaining vigilant and ready for an enemy attack.

“Once we get to our location the first thing we establish is security, and from there we’ll each move into our respective priorities, for my platoon, it’s establishing the detainee collection point in a secure location,” said 1st Lt. James Reinhart, MP, 2nd platoon leader with the 64th MP Co. “We’re able to gather intelligence through displaced personnel and detainees that we find along the battle field and push that up through proper intelligence channels, and make sure we can use this to shape future operations.”

The military police (MP) play an essential role in securing other military personnel and property at home, on foreign bases and in forward operating bases in war zones. They are trained in corrections and confining of detainees, prisoners of war, investigations and mobile security support around the world.

“Our intent is to conduct rear security and allow for freedom of maneuver tactics,” said 1st Lt. Alexis Carney, MP with the 64th MP Co. “The BEB’s intent for us in that scope is for us to assist with the allied forces that are around here, specifically with the Italians and their abilities to help out the area and stop enemy forces from coming in.”

“For our purposes and what we’ll be doing within that scope is maintaining the rear security area as well as focus on IDPs (internally displaced persons), refugee placement and related humanitarian missions,” said Carney.



Soldiers of the 64th Military Police Company, attached to the 91st Brigade Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, establish their area of operation at Hohenfels Training Area, Germany, Feb. 24, 2021, during Combined Resolve XV. The exercise is a Headquarters Department of the Army directed Multinational exercise designed to build 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division’s readiness and enhance interoperability with allied forces to fight and win against any adversary.



Soldiers of the 64th Military Police Company, attached to the 91st Brigade Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, guard detainees at Hohenfels Training Area, Germany, Feb. 25, 2021, during Combined Resolve XV. The exercise is a Headquarters Department of the Army directed Multinational exercise designed to build 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division's readiness and enhance interoperability with allied forces to fight and win against any adversary.

Combined Resolve XV promotes regional stability and security, while increasing readiness, strengthening partner capabilities and fostering trust. This combined training opportunity greatly improves interoperability among participating allies and partners.

“The importance of Combined Resolve is to ensure readiness, not only with our company, but with the whole Iron Horse brigade and all of the elements attached to them to work together to complete the mission at the end of the day,” said Sgt. Jacob Moseley, MP with the 64th MP Co. “As military police we conduct multiple mission sets such as detainee operations, area security, route security,



Soldiers of the 64th Military Police Company, attached to the 91st Brigade Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, establish their area of operation at Hohenfels Training Area, Germany, Feb. 24, 2021, during Combined Resolve XV. The exercise is a Headquarters Department of the Army directed Multinational exercise designed to build 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division's readiness and enhance interoperability with allied forces to fight and win against any adversary.

route recon, convoy security and personnel security.”

Reinhart added, this training allows us to show our maneuver counterparts exactly how we as MPs enable them variously through route security, detainee operations and how we can assist in helping them with the overall fight.

Combined Resolve XV is a Headquarters Department of the Army directed Multinational exercise designed to build 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division's readiness and enhance interoperability with allied forces to fight and win against any adversary.



Sgt. Brendan Stevenson, military policeman, 64th Military Police Company, pulls security using the M4 carbine assault rifle, during Combined Resolve XV, at Hohenfels Training Area, Germany, Feb. 24, 2021. Combined Resolve XV is a Headquarters Department of the Army directed Multinational exercise designed to build 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division's readiness and enhance interoperability with allied forces to fight and win against any adversary.



# JOURNEY TO BECOME A **GOLDEN KNIGHT**

STORY AND PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SFC JAMES HACKETT

➔ **I JOINED THE ARMY IN AUGUST OF 2000.** My motivation for joining was my uncle and my namesake, James Hackett. James Hackett was KIA/MIA during the Vietnam War and his remains were ultimately recovered shortly before I graduated high school. It was engrained in me that the military was part of my destiny. I threw myself into the JROTC program while I was in high school and continued it until I graduated, I joined the Delayed Entry Program at 17 and then shipped after high school graduation to Army One Station Unit Training (OSUT) in Ft. Leonard Wood, MO to become a 31B (Military Policeman).

As a child, I had family members in the law enforcement community, US Marshals and Deputy Sheriffs. I was always excited to hear about their stories and wanted to be a law enforcement officer as well, but in the US Army. Not only did I choose it as my career specialty in the military, but I continued taking higher education courses in pursuit of a criminal justice degree. The career field is definitely interesting and has been hard work over the years. I've always highly admired civilian law enforcement, but after my own experiences, my respect has grown beyond measure.

I spent the first 11 years of my military career based out of Fort Bragg, NC. For the first five years, I was assigned to the historic and prestigious 82d Airborne Division, 82d MP CO as a Military Policeman. While in the 82d MP CO, I deployed to Afghanistan in 2002 and Iraq in 2003. After the 82d MP

CO was deactivated, I remained in the 82d ABN DIV and worked in the 82d Provost Marshal Office as an Operations NCO until 2008. While in the 82d PMO, I was deployed to Afghanistan again for 16 months. I even reenlisted while on this deployment.

Somewhere in between the military work, I found skydiving. It was a story of luck and good opportunity. I had no intentions of skydiving, and the extent of jumping out of a plane was the airborne operations conducted while I was with the 82d Airborne Division. I used to frequent a club for country line dancing; I made friends there with several people. One of which, Mike, happened to be a skydiver at the local drop zone. One night, he didn't ask but told me that I would be going skydiving in the morning. He forced me out of my comfort zone and pushed me to pursue what would become my new hobby. From



that point on, I was hooked. We had a local sport parachute club at the time that assisted active duty military members with jumping. They helped with instruction, gear rental, and the overall community. They gave me a good start to my jumping career. From there, I went on to not only find a hobby that I love, but a community that was beyond welcoming and inclusive. I spent most of my weekends out there until I was offered an opportunity to join the All-American Free Fall Team, a sport parachute team representing the 82d Airborne Division in aerial demonstrations around the country. While I was there, my weekend jumping turned into any-day-that-had-good-weather jumping. We trained all the time to become proficient enough to do prestigious demonstrations and to compete in target accuracy competitions. I worked hard and earned my Coach, Tandem Instructor, and Accelerated Free Fall-Instructor (AFFI) Ratings. With those ratings, I could either take you on a skydive or teach you to skydive.



The 82d Free Fall Team trained often with the U.S. Army Parachute Team, the Golden Knights, at their training facility in Laurinburg, NC. I developed friendships with members of that team and was inspired to become a Golden Knight.

I had my sights set on attending the Golden Knight Assessment and Selection program in 2011, but the Army had other plans before I could apply for the program. I was placed on orders to Schweinfurt, Germany and completed a 3 year tour as the Provost Sergeant for the Military Police Station at U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt, Germany. From there, I was able to get the unique opportunity to have both a partnership and a friendship with the German Polizei. We saw how they conducted operations, learned German rules, and really got to experience German culture from a different perspective. Germany was incredibly busy but quite rewarding. In my off time, I got to travel, play softball with our base team, and take up a few new hobbies. With our proximity to a small mountain, I learned to snowboard. I took my family hiking countless times in the Alps. We explored every small town in between, collecting magnets from each new place we visited. My dog, a black Labrador, traveled everywhere that was comfortably feasible for him. He's had the local cuisine in at least 6 new countries, rolled in every grass type he could find, and barked at more Swiss cows than we can count. To this day, the cowbell still gets him excited.



Even though it delayed my initial plans, I am incredibly grateful for that assignment. I still had the opportunity to skydive at the local parachute club in Germany, so I never lost sight of my goals.

As my tour in Germany was coming to a close, I submitted my application to the Golden Knights. It was accepted, and I attended the selection program in autumn of 2013. The hours were long and the process was intense, but I met and bonded with my future teammates.

After making the Golden Knights, I was assigned to the Black Demonstration team. In the two years on that team, I was able to jump into places all over the country and the world, to include NY Yankee Stadium, Chicago Air and Water Show, an international airshow in South Africa, and the Army vs. Navy game. There really is nothing like being a part of the demonstration team, as you often get to jump into places that are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, get to meet incredible individuals at airshows, attend recruiting events, and experience professional sporting events.

After those two years, I joined the Tandem Team. With this section, we travel the country taking centers of influence on tandem skydives in support of US Army Recruiting Command (USAREC). With each tandem, it's likely to be the person's first skydive. I get to have a first jump experience almost every jump, and I love that I get to be a part of something truly extraordinary and memorable for each person. One of my favorite tandem jumps was a gentleman who was a World War II Bomber Pilot. I have been fortunate to meet famous individuals within the sports community and film stars since being on the Tandem Team.

I have made 3,789 parachute jumps since starting the sport. Of those, 2,518 have been with the Golden Knights.

I had never imagined that I would spend 20+ years in the military, but each time an enlistment came around, I couldn't walk away. It's been a rewarding career and I've been quite fortunate to experience everything that I have done. I love the Army and the life I've been able to build because of it.

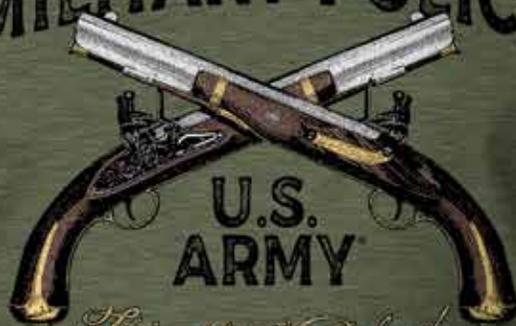
Awards and decorations include: Defense MSM, MSM, ARCOM(4), AAM(4), Presidential Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Citation, OSR(2), Nato Medal, Combat Action Badge, Drivers Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, and Military Free Fall Badge.

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# MILITARY AND CIVILIAN POLICE JOIN FORCES

STORY AND PHOTO BY KEITH HAYES, MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE BARSTOW

Combining civilian police officers and Military Police personnel to staff the Marine Corps Police Department provides an enhanced law enforcement presence aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif.

Captain Mark Machado, MCLB Barstow's police chief and provost marshal, has been overseeing the influx of Marine Corps Military Police personnel coming in from divested MP battalions as well as MPs coming right from the United States Army Military Police School.

"Right now we have 12 MPs on hand, of which 10 are on the patrol force and we have two Military Working Dog handlers," he said. "With the exception of two MPs coming from Okinawa, Japan, the rest are from USAMPS at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and this is their first duty billet."

Machado said most of the MPs coming from the schoolhouse are arriving aboard base with all of the certifications they need to begin training with the Field Training Officers in the department. This saves a lot of time in getting them out on patrol and manning the gates at both the Nebo and Yermo Annex sides of the base.

"With civilian police officers, we have to go through the hiring process, and then send them away for three months to the civilian police academy, which is also at USAMPS, then have them go through the four month training period with their FTOs before they can operate autonomously," he said.

"The Marines are filling in key positions at the lower levels as far as the gates are concerned," Machado said. "They're really hard workers and eager to learn. This ensures that security we provide aboard MCLB Barstow remains at the highest level possible."

"Prior to the divestments of the MP battalions at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, the Fleet Assistance Program would send Marines to large bases needing additional law enforcement personnel, but they wouldn't necessarily have the official law enforcement Military Occupational Specialty," he explained.

When the all of the FAP spots in the Corps are filled by MPs and civilian police, those Marines working under the FAP would be returned to fleet to bolster the numbers, the captain said.

When all of the 22 spots for MPs are filled aboard MCLB Barstow, the provost marshal will have the flexibility he needs to fill shifts suddenly reduced by officers whom may contract COVID or other illnesses, or may be deployed themselves.

"Civilian police officers serve six months on day shift and six months on night shift," Machado said. "MPs, however, are not subject to the law enforcement union stipulations, so I can take an MP from night shift and put them on day shift without having to go through the union, which saves a lot of time and ensures our base security stays at high levels."

Large Marine Corps bases usually put two MPs together on patrol or two civilian police officers on patrol, but Machado has changed that up for a combined team.

"I did that on this base because I wanted a fully integrated force. Marines working with FTOs allows both of them to learn from each other," he said.

Lance Corporal Anya Hunter is one of the new MPs aboard base, coming straight from USAMPS to her first duty station at MCLB Barstow.

"I think the civilian police department has very good police officers," she said. "The civilian POs have a different way of looking at things than the MPs do because they are civilians," Hunter said.

"The combination of civilian POs and Marines MPs on law enforcement duty helps me learn how to better communicate with civilians I may encounter on the job. Being from the Marine Corps culture I can already work with the Marines I encounter," she added. "I think the Marines appreciate having an MP aboard base."

"I believe that having MPs on calls that involve Marine personnel sets a calmer tone because the Marine is thinking 'I'm talking to another Marine rather than a civilian PO,'" Machado agreed.

"I think it's great that the two forces have been combined. It's made MCLB Barstow a better environment. In the past the Corps has not sent very many Marines here, but I appreciate the Corps starting to send more Marines to MCLB Barstow again because it really improves the base and represents to those outside the wire more of what a Marine base should look like," the chief said.



Corporal Noah Avila, S-6 Communications Department; Lance Cpl. Kimberley Mendez, Fuel Clerk; and Military Policeman Lance Cpl. Briar Roberts, staff the commercial gate of the Nebo Annex of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, as a Security and Emergency Services ambulance responds to an off-base call, Jan. 13.

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**SHOCKED**

**AND IN TEARS:**

**TASER AND PEPPER SPRAY TRAINING**

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. JOSHUA JOSEPH MAGBANUA,  
JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**Military Police Soldiers on Fort Eustis conducted non-lethal weapons training Jan. 22, 2021, and the event centered on two Soldiers from the 3rd Military Working Dog Detachment conducting their qualifications for the first time.**

U.S. Army Spc. Taylor Blanton, 3rd Military Working Dog Detachment K-9 handler, undergoes exposure to electric shock from a Taser during a training event at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, Jan. 22, 2021. Military police officers are required to undergo exposure to the Taser and oleoresin capsicum spray as part of their qualification for these non-lethal weapons.



Clockwise from top left: U.S. Army Spc. Taylor Blanton, 3rd Military Working Dog Detachment K-9 handler, attempts to subdue a simulated subject while under the effects of pepper spray during a training event at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, Jan. 22, 2021.

U.S. Army Pvt. 2nd Class Mayah Cerda, 3rd Military Working Dog Detachment K-9 handler, attempts to handcuff a simulated subject while under the effects of pepper spray during a training event at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, Jan. 22, 2021. After undergoing exposure to the oleoresin capsicum spray, officers conducting the training had to perform a number of tasks related to apprehending a subject.

U.S. Army Pvt. 2nd Class Mayah Cerda, 3rd Military Working Dog Detachment K-9 handler, undergoes decontamination from pepper spray after a training event at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia, Jan. 22, 2021.

“This training is extremely important for them to understand what these weapons can do to the human body and the effects they cause,” said U.S. Army Sgt. Jeffrey Brahim, 221st Military Police Detachment training non-commissioned officer.

“It’s also important to know how the weapons operate so they can effectively use them, and not cause undue harm to the subjects. I want them to be able to effectively use and operate the weapons in the safest manner for themselves and the subjects they will be employing these devices on.”

The first phase of the training involved classroom instruction on the proper use of Tasers and oleoresin capsicum, also known as pepper spray.

The two Soldiers undergoing initial certification then underwent exposure to electrical shock from the Taser. The Soldiers were then given a rest period before moving on to the pepper spray portion of the training.

In this section of the training, the Soldiers were sprayed in the face with pepper spray. Afterward, they were required to accomplish a series of tasks: conducting knee strikes, baton hits, and handcuffing an assailant—all while under the effects of pepper spray.

“Trying to complete the tasks while under the effects of pepper

spray was especially challenging,” said U.S. Army Spc. Taylor Blanton, 3rd Military Working Dog Detachment K-9 handler. “You’re already dealing with limited visibility. It was also stressful due to the inflammation; it’s like getting shampoo in your eyes—times one thousand.”

Despite these challenges, Blanton was able to accomplish his assigned tasks, adding that he now has more confidence to accomplish his duties as a law enforcement officer.

“I now have a better understanding of how to use my tools, and the effects they have on others as well as myself,” Blanton said.

Brahim expressed the important role this training has in keeping the entire community safe, assuring the public that military police officers under his training are aware of their parameters as public servants.

Although the events of that day left two members literally shocked and in tears, the training provides military police officers with insight on how to employ appropriate use of force tactics and de-escalation techniques in order to protect their community.

“We’re not out there to bully or hurt people,” Brahim said. “We do everything possible to ensure our Soldiers are trained effectively to not abuse their power or the tools that they have. This training helps them know how and when to use their weapons, and basically instills confidence.”

# SOLDIERS OF THE 293<sup>RD</sup> MILITARY POLICE COMPANY CONDUCT SHARP TRAINING WITH A TWIST

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SGT. JAVIERA SCOTT, 3RD INFANTRY DIVISION

In an effort to approach the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) training with a new and more interactive method, the 293rd Military Police Company, 385th Military Police Battalion, created a themed escape room for their Soldiers on February 5, 2021. With units looking for more effective ways to educate Soldiers and prevent toxic and corrosive incidents within their organizations, the team channeled their creativity.

"It creates a non-traditional environment for training and promotes that hard discussion that Soldiers don't like to talk about in front of leadership," said Staff Sgt. Gerrod Loud, the battalion SHARP representative with the 385th Military Police Battalion. "I feel like they learn more because at the end of the escape room, we talk about things pertaining to each room."

The Soldiers were sent into each of three rooms with their squads to participate in three SHARP related, scenario-based activities. Each room correlated with what sexual assault or harassment scenario was most likely to happen in that room. The rooms were titled "Reporting," "Intervene" and "Consent."

"I chose those topics for the rooms because I feel like they are very big topics when it comes to SHARP, and they have a lot of gray area in them," said Sgt. Joshua G. Roberson, the company level schools noncommissioned officer-in-charge of 293rd MP Co. "But I feel like if we can bring more light to them, Soldiers will have a better understanding of them."

In the rooms, the Soldiers received four to five clues and had approximately 20 minutes to solve them in order to "escape" the room.

Upon entering the Reporting room, Soldiers saw the company operations office with the battalion SHARP representative present. It was centered around reporting, the differences between restricted and unrestricted reports, and to who you can take each type of report.

"We wanted to emphasize on who you can report to, the different types of reports, the different types of complaints and the differences between sexual assault and sexual harassment," said Roberson.

The Intervene room was set up in the barracks common area. It had a poker table set up with a couple of empty alcohol bottles. It simulated a weekend where Soldiers might have spent time outside of work with one another.

"We put it in a public area due to the likelihood that if there was something inappropriate going on, there would be someone there able to intervene and stop the actions from going further," said Roberson.

The MP company set up a barracks room for the Consent segment of the training. The training there centered around giving proper consent, taking back consent and making sure the person is in the right state of mind to give consent.

"We used black lights, invisible ink and encouraged the soldiers to use their investigative skills as an MP to search for these clues in this



U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to 293rd Military Police Company, 385th Military Police Battalion, conduct Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) training on Fort Stewart, Georgia, Feb. 5, 2021. The Soldiers used their detective skills and found clues to solve SHARP scenario-themed escape rooms.

room," Roberson said. "That was one thing we were really proud of, being able to get our hands on those types of props."

Once the Soldiers solved all the clues in the room, the NCO in charge of monitoring that room took the time to discuss with the Soldiers what they had learned or gained from the training.

"It's a little more interactive; it's hands on," said Sgt. Brianna Decker, an MP with the 293rd MP Co. and participant of the training. "You're working as a team to actually think about the scenario that's going on and think about the definitions of everything that we're doing."

"Talking about it a little more makes it easier to retain the information," she said. "It also makes it a fun way to learn about a serious topic that we should be talking about more."

Although this method does not replace the annual SHARP training according to the company leadership, it serves as a supplemental, more creative and interactive way for Soldiers to receive and retain the information received. Their leaders assert that it allows for them to train their Soldiers through realistic and challenging exercises and get away from the typical slide presentation style of training.



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BEHIND THE SCENES AT MILITARY POLICE MUSEUM

# POISON IVY

STORY BY MEGAN WARLEY MCDONALD, MUSEUM SPECIALIST,  
U.S. ARMY MILITARY POLICE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM



“Poison Ivy” on display at the Military Police Corps Regimental Museum.

This past February was the 30th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm. The Military Police Corps Regimental Museum is home to a special Desert Storm artifact: an M1025 HMMWV that was deployed alongside U.S. Army Military Police. This HMMWV was driven by the 838th Military Police Company of the Ohio Army National Guard, 137th Service and Support Battalion, which was attached to the 720th MP Battalion, 89th MP Brigade from Fort Hood, Texas. Affectionately nicknamed “Poison Ivy” by crewmembers, the HMMWV was driven on patrols of the Main Supply Route Dodge, located south of Kuwait.

At the conclusion of Operation Desert Storm, both the 838th Military Police Company and “Poison Ivy” returned to Ohio. “Poison

Ivy” returned to the Ohio National Guard and was utilized by the 838th for many years. In 2010, the Ohio National Guard transferred “Poison Ivy” to the Military Police Museum in order to ensure the long-term preservation and care of the HMMWV. Upon acquisition by the museum, “Poison Ivy” was fully restored to its Desert Storm appearance.

Special individual markings include a bull’s head that signifies the 3rd Platoon (aka “3rd Herd”) and a record of “Poison Ivy’s” wildlife casualties. The inverted “V” symbols located on the vehicle were originally field applied during Desert Storm as IFF (Identification Friend or Foe) markings.



Visit the Military Police Museum's Facebook page and view the latest video.  
<https://fb.watch/4P1u8gmEq8>



- 1 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) marking on "Poison Ivy."
- 2 Bull's Head signifying the 3rd Platoon (aka the "third herd")
- 3 "Poison Ivy" enroute to the Military Police Corps Regimental Museum in 2010.
- 4 SPC Urichich and unidentified personnel with a desert lizard. (Photo courtesy of V. Urichich).
- 5 "Poison Ivy" at the end of its tour at Kuwait International Airport. Standing L-R are Hissom, Ferrell, and Urichich. In the turret is Peter H. Horne. (Photo by COL J. Vartanian).

# THE PERSIAN GULF WAR

STORY BY RONNEY Z. MILLER, USAMPS HISTORIAN

With four heavy divisions of the elite Republican Guard and the equivalent of a fifth division comprised of special operations commandos, Iraq invaded its neighbor Kuwait on 2 August 1990. US President George H. W. Bush quickly responded to Iraq's wrongful aggression; on 7 August 1990, he organized a coalition of 35 nations to defend Saudi Arabia and ultimately liberate Kuwait. The XVIII Airborne Corps, spearheaded by the 82nd Airborne Division, began its deployment to Saudi Arabia the next day, marking a massive buildup of combat power in the region. (The United States provided the bulk of the forces arrayed against Saddam Hussein, with the US Army contributing the greatest portion of the ground forces). In rapid succession, the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized), the 197th Infantry Brigade, and the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) deployed to the Persian Gulf. Concurrently, the US Army Reserve began its largest mobilization since the Korean War. By early November 1990, with the addition of the 1st Cavalry Division (Armored), the 1st Brigade/2nd Armored Division, and the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, a lethal force of over 100,000 soldiers was assembled on the ground for the defense of Saudi Arabia. The build-up phase of the Persian Gulf War was codenamed Operation Desert Shield and prior to the initiation of Operation Desert Storm (the combat phase of the war), US military personnel in the Persian Gulf region would reach its peak strength of 600,000.

The Army that deployed to Southwest Asia, the product of almost twenty years of reform and modernization, bore little resemblance to the Army that left the Republic of Vietnam in 1972. This superbly equipped, highly-skilled, well-trained and extremely mobile force, comprised of units from the Regular Army, the

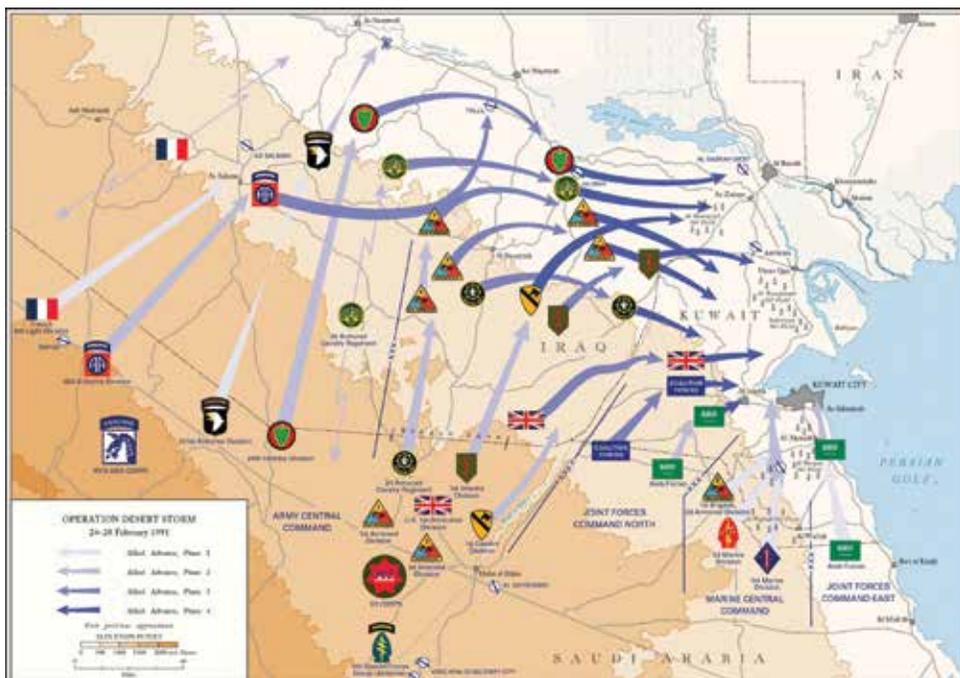


Reserves, and the National Guard, clearly demonstrated that the US Army could project its power effectively and operate as part of a multi-national force with great success... and

Military Police were one of the most heavily mobilized branches of the National Guard during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. They processed and guarded tens of thousands of Iraqi prisoners of war; conducted security operations; maintained law and order; and controlled both military and civilian traffic. Thirty states as well as the District of Columbia, the Territory of Guam, and the Commonwealth

of Puerto Rico provided Military Police units during the war. The Persian Gulf War also marked the first time in our nation's history that female soldiers were deployed to an active combat theater of operation on a large-scale.

With the start of the air war, Operation Desert Shield transitioned to Operation Desert Storm on 17 January 1991 and Operation Desert Storm qualifies as the most rapid and complete victory in US military history. In less than 100 hours, the US-led coalition defeated Iraqi forces and liberated Kuwait. The war ended with a devastating series of engagements in which Iraqi forces were completely overwhelmed. During Operation Desert Storm, Military Police units validated its doctrine in all four battlefield functions: Area Security; Battlefield Circulation Control (BBC); Enemy Prisoner of War (EPW) Operations; and Law Enforcement. MP units supported the





movement of tactical units across the line of departure; locked down MSRs to enable operational mobility along multiple routes within a designated corridor; conducted route reconnaissance missions and marked routes for maneuver elements and logistical trains; conducted MSR maintenance; provided battlefield circulation control in support of maneuver divisions; provided critical area/site security for eleven key headquarters, eight logistical bases, one port facility, six air bases, two confinement facilities, and 150 troop bases/encampments; established forward EPW camp enclosures and mobile EPW transfer points; and rapidly evacuated EPWs through division and corps to theater enclosure camps. Of particular note, a mission assigned to the 14th Military Police Brigade during VII Corps' initial attack was to engage and destroy by-passed Iraqi infantry units.

Military Police units proved critical to tactical and operational success and the two areas that posed the most significant challenge to MP units included EPW Operations and Refugee Control. EPWs were captured and surrendered during all phases of operations in Southwest Asia – Desert Shield as well as Desert Storm, and continued into Desert Pride. Of the 80,000+ EPWs processed by US forces, 50,000 were captured during the ground combat phase

of Desert Storm. The large numbers of EPWs that were captured or surrendered during operations in Southwest Asia greatly exceeded the estimates provided by Army Forces Planning Data and Assumptions (AFPDA) and in many instances, surrendering enemy units delayed and disrupted the battle rhythm of maneuver units. (AFDA estimates had predicted a total figure of 5,000 EPWs). During and immediately after the cessation of hostilities (Operation Desert Pride), MP units provided humanitarian assistance to displaced Kuwaitis returning to their homes and Iraqi refugees fleeing the civil war in Iraq. Feeding, guarding, housing and controlling large numbers of unexpected EPWs and refugees required significant combat support and combat service support assets and refugee control, normally a host nation responsibility, adversely impacted the management of a massive EPW population. The additional burden of providing humanitarian support to refugees could not be ignored; had not been anticipated; and detracted from the EPW mission. Sorting our large numbers of EPWs and refugees became manpower and structure intensive. There were even instances of moving refugees to EPW holding and internment areas for subsistence. Thus, EPW facilities were confronted with demands that exceeded design capabilities.

After 100 hours of intense ground combat operations, the fourth largest army in the world had been expelled from Kuwait and soundly defeated; 42 Iraqi divisions were either destroyed, captured or rendered combat ineffective. When Saddam Hussein recognized that defeat was imminent, he ordered the deliberate sabotage of Kuwaiti oil wells. Approximately 600 were set ablaze and the fires – literally towering infernos – burned for seven months. The Gulf was awash in poisonous smoke, soot and ash; black rain fell; and lakes of oil were created. The sand and gravel on the land's surface combined with oil and soot to form a layer of hardened 'tarcrete' over almost 5% of Kuwait. Scores of livestock and other animals died from the oily mist, their lungs blackened by the liquid. Today, we honor the service of our Desert Shield and Desert Storm Veterans from the Regular Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserves, who demonstrated America's resolve to defend freedom and deter wrongful aggression on short notice during the Persian Gulf War. The valuable lessons of a quick and decisive response by US forces to defend Saudi Arabia thirty years ago is relevant today with the Army's "Ready to Fight Tonight" philosophy.

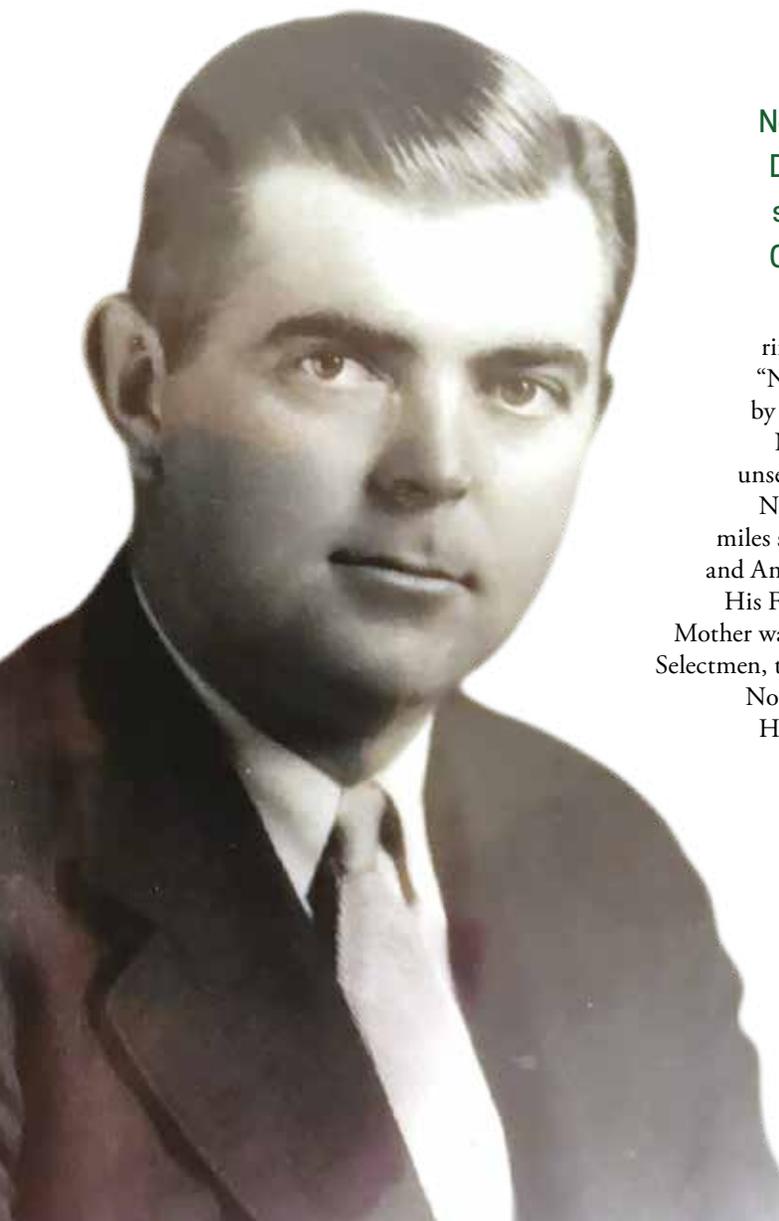
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SELFLESS IN SERVICE:

# Noel King

Americal Division's First Military Police Casualty

STORY BY DALE MEISEL



Noel King, of Holbrook, Massachusetts, was the Americal Division's first Military Police casualty. He was injured by shrapnel from a Japanese bomb on the Pacific island of Guadalcanal on January 15, 1943 and died shortly after.

In the fall of 2015, his home town honored their native son and his sacrifice by naming its new selectmen's chamber at Holbrook Town Hall the "Noel C. King Meeting Room." He was remembered with great fondness by many of its citizens at that time.

Noel King's story is both typical and unique of those citizen-soldiers who unselfishly served our country in World War II.

Noel King was born in Holbrook, Massachusetts, a small town about 19 miles south of Boston on December 24, 1905 (hence his first name) to John and Annie King. Noel had an older brother, also named John, born in 1904.

His Father, John, worked in a shoe factory and was a newspaper editor. His Mother was a homemaker. His Father was eventually elected to the Board of Selectmen, the term for the governing body of New England towns.

Noel grew up in the town and attended its schools, graduating from Sumner High School. He became an insurance investigator for a company called Underwriters Reports, Inc. But Noel King was more than just a working man. He was a popular and contributing member of his community.

Both Noel's parents had been born in what was then called the "Irish Free State," and unsurprisingly, Noel was an active member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Holbrook. A large man at six feet, one inch, with the bulk to match, Noel played Santa Claus for the parish and for the American Legion Christmas parties.

Noel directed the town's football team and the St. Joseph team. He was looked on as a mentor by many of the town's youth. Not only was Noel an informal leader, but a formal one as well.

He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Foxboro State Hospital for six years. He followed his Father's footsteps and was elected as one of the Holbrook Selectman, the youngest member to hold the office at the time.

In the late 1930's, when war erupted across the world, U.S. leaders tried to maintain the country's neutrality, while at the same time preparing for what many saw as its inevitable participation.

Accordingly, the United States Congress passed the nation's first ever peacetime draft in September 1940. All men from the ages of 21 to 45 were required to register. Many patriotic Americans were anxious to serve. Noel King was one of them and attempted to enlist rather than wait for the draft. But he was 70 pounds overweight, was classified as obese and was rejected.

Nevertheless, Noel's draft number later came up and he was inducted on April 14, 1941. He was 35 years old, unmarried with no dependents. As a public official, perhaps he could have been deferred under provisions of the law. Or he might have sought a waiver due to his age. But neither option would have been something he wanted.

Noel joined the 182<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, then a part of the National Guard's 26<sup>th</sup> "Yankee" Division and was assigned to Company A. The 182<sup>nd</sup> Infantry is the oldest infantry regiment in the United States Army, tracing its lineage back to 1636 as the "North Regiment," a colonial regiment of foot of the British Crown in Massachusetts.

As was common with National Guard units, the regiment was scattered across Massachusetts state armories. With the draft then in force, the regiment began a rapid buildup of manpower, ultimately having 3,366 men assigned just before overseas deployment.

The regiment trained primarily at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts in the western part of Cape Cod. When the structure of Army divisions was modified and reduced its infantry regiments from four to three, the 182<sup>nd</sup> was detached from the 26<sup>th</sup> Division and inducted into federal service on January 16, 1941 at Charlestown, Massachusetts.

On September 29, 1941, Noel King accompanied his regiment as it traveled by train to Fort Bragg, North Carolina to take part in the largest ever peacetime maneuvers in Army history. There were now over one million soldiers on active duty. Army Chief of Staff George C. Marshall wanted to test doctrine, equipment and

organization before war came. That possibility—of being swept up into war—was closer than anyone knew at the time.

The first phase of the maneuvers had already been held in Louisiana and west Texas in September. The 182<sup>nd</sup>'s turn came in the last two weeks of November in western North Carolina. Nearly half the Army's manpower participated in these two exercises.

The regiment returned to its Camp Edwards base on Saturday, December 6, 1941 and, according to one account, "had a night of excitement before their lives changed forever" the following day. In fact, according to the same source, the trip to the Carolinas was expected to be the final military event for many of the soldiers of the 182<sup>nd</sup>, as their one-year terms of service were scheduled to end around that time.

With the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor the next day, the U.S. declaration of war against Japan on December 8, and the German declaration of war against the United States on December 11, the soldiers' world changed forever.

U.S. military and political leaders scrambled to counter the Japanese advances being made all across the Pacific. It was a bleak and chaotic time for America. One of the military moves was quickly to form Task Force 6814.

The Task Force was comprised of all facets of the Army: infantry, armor and artillery combat units as well as engineer, medical, quartermaster,



Noel King on Right  
Source: "Quincy Patriot Ledger"



1st Marine Division Cemetery on Guadalcanal  
Source: Naval History and Heritage Command 80-G-43979

signal, ordnance, finance and other units. Noel King and his 182<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment were among that number. Also included was a platoon of the 26<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company—a fact which will later be important to Noel King and our own MP history.

It was a hastily formed Task Force 6814 that departed on eight transport ships from New York harbor only 46 days after Pearl Harbor—on January 23, 1942. After passage through the Panama Canal and a total of 35 sailing days, Task Force 6814 landed in Australia.

## When news of King's death swept through Holbrook, **“the whole town cried.”**

After only a week, the troops reboarded their ships and sailed to an unknown destination, but which turned out to be the French possession of New Caledonia, a large island north and a little east of Australia. They arrived on March 12. Their mission was to secure the island from Japanese invasion.

The story of Task Force 6814 on New Caledonia in the midst of French political maneuvering, shifting strategic military priorities, supply shortages, training needs and so forth is a story in and of itself. Part of that story included the activation of the Americal Division on May 27 from the Task Force elements.

Almost simultaneously, on June 5, the 39<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company was formed at Noumea, New Caledonia. The cadre which formed the core of the Company came from Task Force 6814's Third Platoon, 26<sup>th</sup> MP Company.

To bring the Company up to strength, soldiers were transferred from the 132<sup>nd</sup> and 182<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiments, the 180<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment and the 123<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion—a practice not unknown to us Vietnam veterans. It is assumed that Noel King was one of those soldiers transferred to the MP's.

As the buildup of Navy, Marine and other units went forward on New Caledonia, Americal Division leaders turned their eyes towards Guadalcanal, a 90-mile long British protectorate settled by Melanesian people in the Solomon Islands north of their location.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division had landed on the Japanese-held island in early August. Fighting to secure the island and control the sea lines of communication between the U.S. and Australia was savage and bitter.

By October it was the Army's time. The first American Army unit to enter combat in World War II was the Americal Division's 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Combat Team on October 13. On November 23, 1942, the 39<sup>th</sup> MP Company, less one platoon, embarked from Noumea for Guadalcanal along with other units of the Americal Division. By December 8, Noel King and the remainder of the Division had arrived.

As the Marines had already discovered, Guadalcanal was not an island paradise. Much of the topography was thick jungles, bottomless ravines and steep mountains, a “pestilential hellhole.” No training could have prepared the Americal's soldiers for the terrain and their Japanese adversary.

The Division's soldiers, now fully committed, moved into combat, which was entering its final phases. Even then, the combination of a fierce enemy and an unforgiving tropical environment resulted in high casualties. Japanese resistance was tenacious. The mosquito waged its own relentless war.

Americal Military Police pursued their combat roles. In early December 1942 they erected a prisoner of war stockade and operated it to early February 1943. They conducted traffic control and provided convoy security on the unimproved road system. They suppressed pilferage and ran basic security operations such as straggler control. They enforced discipline, law and order for the command.

It is speculation, but it is likely that King was as popular with his fellow soldiers as he had been in Holbrook. He was considerably older and more experienced than the average draftee, who probably referred to him as “Pops,” his nickname back home.

Americal Division Commander, Major General Alexander Patch, took command of the island on December 6 when 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division Headquarters was withdrawn. The Division's mission was clear: “eliminate all Japanese forces” on Guadalcanal. On January 10, 1943, the final offensive began.

During a Japanese air raid on January 13, Private First Class Noel King was in a tent in his unit area and was seriously injured by shrapnel from a bomb. He suffered a compound comminuted fracture of the left femur, which meant that the bone was

broken into several pieces and pierced the skin.

PFC King was evacuated to Field Hospital III (newly established just the month before) at Lunga Point on the north side of Guadalcanal but he died shortly after. King had bled out over the course of eight hours.

Holbrook Town Historian Wesly Cote wrote in his biography of King that “medical aid became hopeless.” King’s last words, as recorded by one of his friends, was “If it had to be somebody in this outfit whose number was up, I’m glad it was the old buck.”

Medical treatment of casualties was good by the standards of the day and by the location of the fighting, but generally the clearing stations and field hospitals were overwhelmed. There was always a shortage of beds.

Medical policy had been developed during the campaign that mandated casualty evacuation within 72 hours to New Caledonia, Fiji or New Zealand either by returning ships or by cargo planes. Why Noel King was not evacuated is unknown. Perhaps his injuries were too severe to move him or transport was not immediately available.

He was buried on January 16 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division cemetery on Guadalcanal. When news of King’s death swept through Holbrook, “the whole town cried.”

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Effective and organized enemy resistance ended on February 8, 1943.

The Guadalcanal campaign had been exceptionally bloody. One Marine Corps estimate of enemy losses was put at 28,580 of a total 37,680 or 76% of Japanese soldiers. About 1,000 Japanese became prisoners during the campaign.

The 60,000 Army and Marine ground forces suffered less. Their casualties included 1,702 killed (1,152 Marines and 550 soldiers) and 4,088 wounded (2,799 Marines and 1,289 soldiers). Thousands more U.S. forces were felled by disease, mostly malaria.

Of that total number, Americal combat casualties amounted to 72 officers and 1,152 enlisted men. Forty officers and 263 men were killed in action. Three officers and 28 men died of wounds.

The Americal Division was relieved of duty on February 9, 1943. It departed the island for Fiji on March 5 for refitting and retraining. On March 18, 1943 the 39<sup>th</sup> MP Company gave way to the Military Police Platoon, Americal Division which was activated with a strength of two Officers and 77 Enlisted Men.

Americal Division soldiers continued in combat, fighting on another tropic island,

Bougainville, and then conducting combat operations on several islands of the Philippine Archipelago. Four more Americal Military Policemen died during those campaigns.

At the conclusion of hostilities, the Division assumed occupation duties in mainland Japan for a few months. The Americal Division stood down and cased its colors on December 12, 1945.

Noel King was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart. His body was moved from its temporary location on Guadalcanal to its final resting place at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (commonly termed “The Punchbowl”) in Honolulu, Hawaii in December 1949. The most common translation of the Hawaiian name of the site is, appropriately enough, “Hill of Sacrifice.”

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At the time of the dedication of the Noel C. King Meeting Room in 2015, the then Chair of the Holbrook Board of Selectmen stated of Noel King:

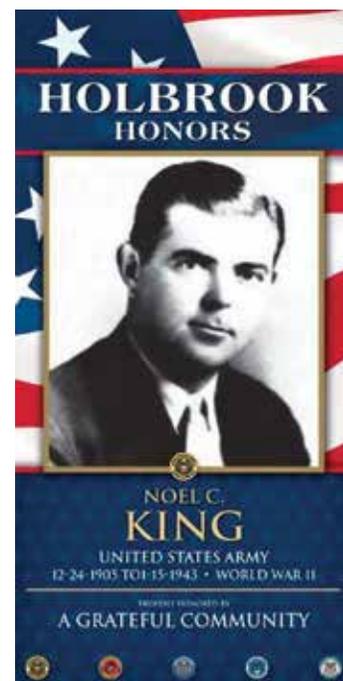
*He was loyal to his community and respected by those who knew him. He exemplified these traits, and they were displayed in his actions to not take the deferment he was entitled to take.*

*He possessed honor and integrity and was guided by those moral principles in his actions throughout his life. He had the personal courage that is self-evident in so many of our American soldiers who find themselves on the battlefield.*

*He was selfless in his service not only to his community but to his country, not only in life, but in death.*

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[Author’s Note: Noel King’s story is drawn from a variety of sources. I am grateful for the help. The Quincy *Patriot Ledger* covered the dedication of the Noel C. King Meeting Room in two articles: August 1 and November 4, 2015, and much of the personal information on King is drawn from those sources and from information furnished to the Editor by Holbrook residents, Ellen Walsh and Thomas Benvie. The *U.S. Army in World War II historical series* was a great help. Ron Sunderland’s and Al Feser’s prior research were invaluable as were several internet sites, particularly [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), [www.182ndinfantry.org](http://www.182ndinfantry.org) and [www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USA/OOB/Americal-history.html](http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USA/OOB/Americal-history.html). The staff at the US Army MP Regiment and Museum also assisted with primary documents. Finally, I must acknowledge the enthusiastic assistance of Noel King’s first cousin once-removed, Rosemary King Lange Sheehan.]



# DIVERSITY HELPS UNITS SUCCEED

STORY AND PHOTOS PROVIDED BY COL ANDREW "DREW" DEATON

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**M**aximizing the strengths of diverse team members is key to success in leadership and amplifying a unit's ability to accomplish its mission most effectively. So how do Army leaders maximize diversity's benefits to these ends?

First, we need to understand diversity itself. Many dictionaries define diversity by mentioning ethnicity or gender. But first they point to the state or fact of being diverse and exhibiting a difference or unlikeness, such as diversity of opinion, form or character.

Another key characteristic is diversity of experience and skills, some of which are unique and ones we may not often think of. But before we can blend all this into a successful formula, leaders first should ensure they build a foundation of treating every member of their team, military or civilian, with dignity and respect, showing team members that they are valued as individuals, not just for what they can do for the organization.

An example of diverse team success is the 525th Military Police Detention Battalion at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. I had the privilege of commanding this organization, known as the Vigilant Warriors, from July 2016 to July 2018. Our members' efforts during that time led to the battalion earning the Army Superior Unit Award. Earning this award was a team effort by diverse soldiers and leaders from across the U.S.; units came from locations ranging from California to the East Coast, Guam, Puerto Rico and Hawaii.

When battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Jametia Bland and I highlighted the importance of diversity, we showed it started with us. We pointed out that our tightly bonded command team was made up of a straight, Caucasian, male, officer who had served in all three branches of the military police (MP) regiment (tactical/law enforcement, Criminal Investigation Division and corrections/detention units) and a lesbian, Black, female, enlisted soldier who had specialized in the corrections/detention field and also brought inspector general, drill sergeant and non-MP assignment experience to the team.

Our different life and career experiences, ways of thought and lifestyles were not sources of conflict or discord. Rather, they gave us exceptional insights to complement one another's styles and cover each other's blind spots. Rarely would either of us make a major decision affecting our soldiers without getting the other's viewpoint and input first.

This was not a matter of being indecisive but instead was a method to ensure we examined the issue from all angles and were able to make a decision that best benefited our soldiers and the mission.

Our opportunities to leverage our diversity brought us into such alignment as a command team that when someone brought an idea or issue to one of us, we could tell that person what the other member of the command team would likely say or think about the issue.

## VARIED BACKGROUNDS

In addition to the diversity that cemented the bond of our



COL Deaton and CSM Bland Erase the Race shirts

command team, the battalion drew its primary power of performance from the diverse background of its soldiers.

During our two years as a command team, Bland and I had the honor of leading 25 companies and detachments in the strategic detention mission of Joint Task Force Guantanamo. The combination of diverse active-duty, Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve units and soldiers made our battalion stronger than it would have been had it been composed of a single component.

A key benefit of this diverse unit composition is the civilian job expertise that reserve component soldiers bring that active component soldiers may not have.

An example of how this benefited our team was when our active-duty battalion headquarters company lost engineer soldier personnel authorizations. The engineers were responsible for a significant portion of maintenance and enhancement projects needed to keep the detention facilities running smoothly.

When the active-duty engineer soldiers departed and were not replaced, we found ourselves in a quandary, with no apparent way to continue the facilities-maintenance mission.

Battalion leaders examined the problem and quickly put out a call across the formation for any soldiers with construction, plumbing, electrical or other engineer-related experience.

The value of the diverse job skills of our soldiers was on clear display in this situation, as numerous MP soldiers from reserve component units in the battalion came forward with their civilian engineer expertise. These “engineer MPs” rapidly gelled into a cohesive maintenance structure, successfully keeping the critical detention facilities operating and able to fully meet Joint Task Force Guantanamo’s mission needs.

### AMPLIFYING THE EFFECT

When leaders are able to leverage the holistic diversity of their soldiers, the unit and mission benefit. How can leaders amplify this effect, since they cannot be everywhere and have only so much capacity and time in which to pursue ways to leverage diversity?

As with many other aspects of military missions, leaders can best amplify effects by empowering and enabling soldiers to make decisions and take disciplined initiative within the leaders’ intent. For the 525th MP Detention Battalion, Bland’s understanding of the diverse needs, interests and mindsets of our soldiers made this happen.

Bland conceived and led the effort to establish, first, a Women’s then a Men’s Mentorship Program, with participation in each being voluntary. The Women’s Mentorship Program established the framework to make the program run and established the governance mechanisms to keep the program moving in a positive direction.

The lessons learned from the Women’s Mentorship Program paved the way for the Men’s Mentorship Program to stand up more rapidly, exemplifying the benefit of using the experiences of one group to help another.

Soldiers who participated elected the program leadership and planned projects and activities. Bland served as the command mentor for the Women’s Mentorship Program, and I had the privilege of serving as command mentor for the Men’s Mentorship Program.

The soldiers participating in the programs said they benefited immensely by having a confidential, open, nonrank-focused environment in which they could reach out for and provide mentorship to one another.

The diversity of life experiences and professional fields of expertise among participants was key to helping guide those who sought out

support for personal, professional, financial and myriad other issues. The openness of the programs allowed soldiers to benefit from each other’s diversity, regardless of rank or background. This was the power of diversity in action.

### DIVERSITY IS POWER

Diversity, whether in the realm of ethnicity, gender, background, professional skills, life experience or in any other, is the power that makes a unit exceptional. When leaders recognize this and set the environment of dignity and respect for all team members, and soldiers see this value in one another, there is virtually nothing a unit cannot accomplish. The success of the 525th MP Detention Battalion is a case study in this truth.

I urge everyone to take this idea, create or continue to support your unit’s diversity-amplifying environment, and achieve your success story. Diversity, inclusion and teamwork is a recipe for mission, unit and individual soldier success at every echelon.



COL Deaton and CSM Bland with 525th colors



CSM Bland with Women's Mentorship Program group fitness event

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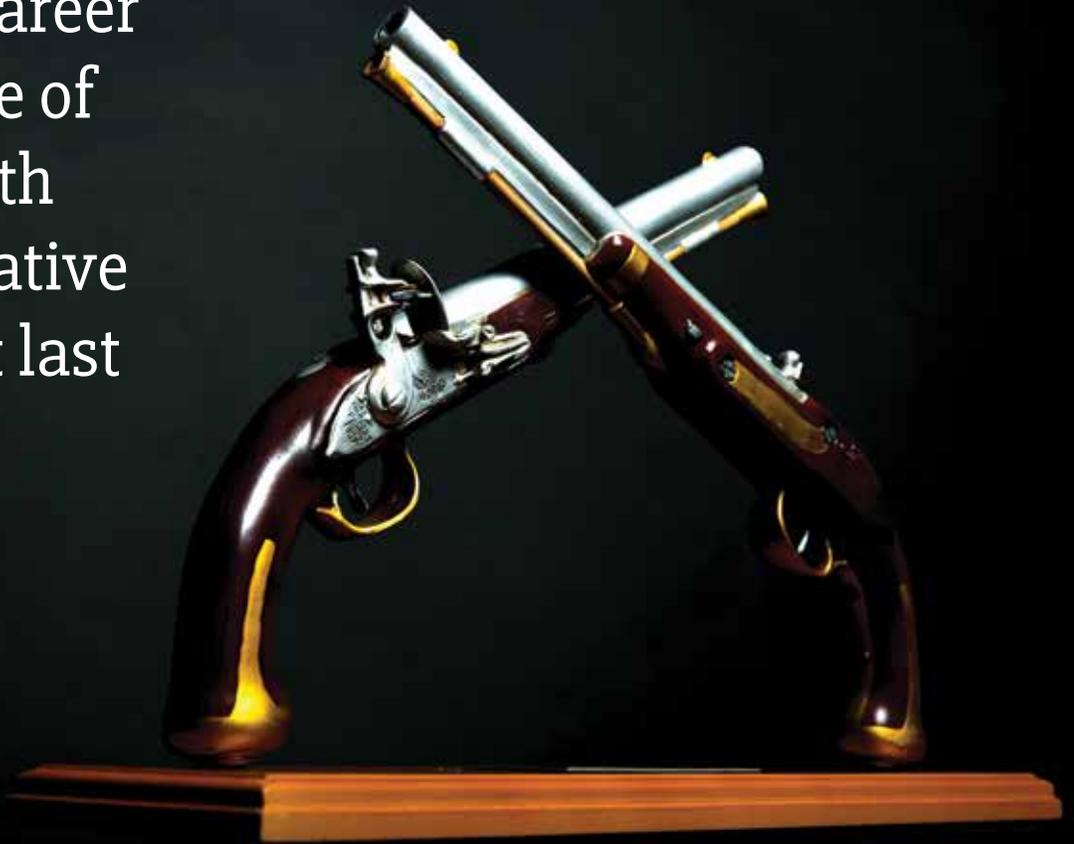


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REPLICAS



BY JASTRO



Sgt. 1st Class Michael Raines (left), a military police Soldier with the 29th Military Police Company, Maryland Army National Guard, poses for a photo with former Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel Dailey at the Pentagon in Washington D.C. in December 2014. Raines served as security while on special assignment for the Joint Staff. During brief encounters with senior leaders, Raines said he came to fully understand the “this is my squad” concept, which emphasizes taking care of Soldiers and empowering leaders. (Courtesy photo)

# U.S. KFOR MP SOLDIER LEADS UNIQUE MILITARY CAREER

STORY BY STAFF SGT. TAWNY SCHMIT, KFOR REGIONAL COMMAND EAST

**C**AMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo — Since Sgt. 1st Class Michael Raines joined the U.S. Army under the Active First program in 2009, he hasn’t visited his hometown in Maryland for more than two weeks at a time. The program allows Soldiers to serve on active duty before transitioning to the National Guard.

As his initial three-year contract was coming to an end, Raines was deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, so he decided to enlist for another four years of active duty service. He would find out later that his new path would connect him to his family in ways he didn’t expect, even as he spent a majority of those seven years away from home.

“There’s an odd number of connections between my grandfather and I in our careers,” said Raines. “I knew he served in World War II when I joined, but I didn’t know the details. That information started coming to me as I progressed through my career.”

His grandfather, Lawrence H. Raines, now passed away, was a military police Soldier stationed at Camp Mackall, North Carolina, which is now a sub-installation of Fort Bragg – and where he met Raines’ grandmother. He mobilized to France during World War II. Later on, he would work as a civilian at the Pentagon doing construction jobs.

Coincidentally, Raines also joined as military police, and after his deployment, he was stationed at Fort Bragg as a desk sergeant.

It was this assignment, he said, where he learned the most about law-and-order operations.

Not long after, he was selected for a special assignment at the Pentagon, where he provided security for the Joint Staff.

“It was a unique opportunity that was very rewarding,” said Raines. “I got to work with some of the best [noncommissioned officers] in the MP Corps.”

As he and his father looked back and connected the dots between their careers, Raines often thinks about the stories that could have been swapped if he were able to sit down with his grandfather to talk.

Some of his best memories come from time spent with senior leaders during his Joint Staff assignment. Raines recalled brief but meaningful conversations with former Command Sergeant Major of the Army Daniel Dailey and former Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley.

It was during these encounters that Raines said he came to fully understand the “this is my squad” concept, which emphasizes taking care of Soldiers and empowering leaders.

“I really enjoyed working with Gen. Milley,” said Raines. “He was very personable and aware of his team that supported him. It’s an amazing experience when you have someone like him not just acknowledge you, but actually ask you questions about who you are. Talked to us as another Soldier, as humans.”

The five minutes those leaders took out of their busy schedules to connect with their team humbled Raines and continues to influence how he interacts with his Soldiers as a senior NCO.

Cpl. Jon-Michael Cress is one of those Soldiers. He serves with Raines on his current deployment to Kosovo in support of Regional Command-East, Kosovo Force. But Cress isn’t just another troop in the 29th Military Police Company; they were both raised in Middletown, Maryland, and attended the same high school.

Even though Cress joined the Maryland National Guard a year after Raines enlisted as active duty, fate brought them to the same unit just as the 2020 pandemic started. The 29th MPs spent the months leading up to their deployment supporting their state’s COVID-19 response efforts.

As the provost sergeant for RC-E, Raines has the rare opportunity to lead MP Soldiers in a law enforcement and force protection mission at Camp Bondsteel, rather than combat support, which is a more common mission assigned to National Guard MP units. He’s in charge of a platoon made up of traffic enforcers, K9 handlers and investigators.

Throughout their COVID-19 response and during the first leg of their deployment to Kosovo, Cress has watched Raines remain calm and keep people focused whenever something serious happens.

“He’s been there, done that, so when something serious happens, he’s not sweating,” said Cress. “He’s got veins of ice-cold water. Somebody with less experience might be freaking out, heart racing, trying to figure out what they have to do. Not Raines.”

Raines was only 20 when he was promoted to the rank of sergeant during his combat deployment to Afghanistan. As he replaced a team leader who was well connected with their Soldiers, Raines knew he would have to earn his squad’s respect and trust.

He leaned on his team and allowed himself to be mentored. To this day, he said some of his best friends are Soldiers he operated with in that squad. His experience there is part of what keeps him grounded during those tough moments, and taught him the value of connecting with the people you work with.

“When I have a mad moment, or I’m struggling, I think back



Sgt. 1st Class Michael Raines, a military police Soldier with the 29th Military Police Company, Maryland Army National Guard, smiles in front of the U.S. flag outside his office at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, on Feb. 13, 2021. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Tawny Schmit)

to that deployment and how everything worked out,” said Raines. “Connections don’t happen overnight. It’s an enduring thing.”

Those same lessons have followed Raines into his civilian career after he left active duty. He joined the City of Alexandria Police Department in Virginia in December 2017. When he reported to drill in March 2020, his unit was activated for COVID-19 orders and he never had the chance to return to work.

Despite his absence, his coworkers on the midnight patrol haven’t forgotten about him.

“I love the crew I work with,” said Raines. “They’ve taken care of me and reached out. It’s nice to feel I’m still being thought about over here because I certainly still think about them.”

Between active duty service and gearing up for a National Guard deployment during a global pandemic, Raines hasn’t spent much time with his family. Even after all that time away, Raines said his parents and sister continue to offer their unconditional support – and he’s found a new family along the way.

“Being away from home, being away from your normal life, stepping away from your civilian job?” said Raines. “It’s not always easy, and there are going to be times when you don’t feel important or you’re stressed out or just miss your life back home, but we have to work together to get through it. Everyone is feeling it.”



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