



# MPRA

THE DRAGOON | Summer 2023



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Vol. 31, No. 2



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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.

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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 Belleby*

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# From the Executive Director

**O**n behalf of our members, families, and friends, I would like to welcome you to this edition of the Dragoon. As you may know this year the Military Police Corps will turn 82 years old and there are many events planned this September. The Memorial Tribute kicks off the action-packed week and the Military Police Ball closes it out make your plans to attend as many of the events as possible. Bowling, Golf, Fishing, and the Hall of Fame Induction are just a few of the great events planned and we invite you to be a part of them. In September the MPRA will unveil a newly commissioned art piece. This is only the 2nd print commissioned by the MPRA, the 1st being the Dawn of the Regiment many years ago. These prints will be available for purchase from the MPRA and the advance ordering process will be posted very soon. There will be only a limited number of these prints available.

Obviously moving from position to position and from duty station to duty station are a part of our lives yet it is still hard when it happens. CW5 Mark Arnold and CSM Shawn Klosterman are off to new adventures and we as an association wish them nothing but the best and thank them for their service and support to the MPRA. There were many initiatives that we collaborated on and they were instrumental in our success. We welcome CW4 Angie Rulewich and CSM William Shoaf to the regimental team and look forward to working with them as the Military Police Corps takes the next step. In addition, Mr. Bob Davel hung up one uniform only to put on a different set of clothes and is doing great things as our Deputy Commandant.

A special thanks to the USAMPS team on a project that started years ago. Now each Hall of Fame inductee will also be awarded the Order of the Marechaussee in Gold during their induction ceremony. Previous inductees have been retroactively recognized with the award as well.

Thanks to our Senior Advisory Council, Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers for always doing what is best for our Soldiers and their families.

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 and communicate with us on what we can do better. Please send stories past or present to us as we would love to share.



**Rick Harne**

First Sergeant (Retired)  
MPRA Executive Director

# From the Commandant

**A**s the peak of summer nears here at Fort Leonard Wood, we all start thinking about transitions. Our people are moving to new assignments, our children are moving to new grades or schools, and our training units fill with new graduates just beginning their Army lives. In the cycle that is summer, we all know change is coming. Perhaps you are picking old mover's stickers off your furniture or thinking about your child's last summer at home or maybe in the rush to finish off those evaluations. As each of us thinks about our personal summer transition, the Army is going through a big transition of its own. The Army continues its modernization journey, changing structure to support the Army 2040 vision and working hard to fill those spaces despite some recruiting challenges. As our small but mighty Military Police Corps Regiment continues to anticipate impacts from this Army transition, we are constantly reminded that our policing skills remain in demand by our leaders.

We had the pleasure of hosting several Army senior leaders at USAMPS over the past few months as they sought to understand what we train here and the impacts of pending changes. One specific area has strongly resonated with all of them: our professional credentialing and accreditation programs. These programs are a promise that we deliver expert and standardized policing skills in line with external federal and community standards and best practices. As the largest trainer of police forces in the nation, it remains critical that we are not only within standards but are agile enough to adjust to emerging guidance within the policing community. Your total force



**BG Sarah Albrycht**  
52nd Commandant  
and Chief of the Military Police  
Corps Regiment

MP Regiment, to include our DACPs and DASGs, comprise the largest police force in the nation. We must always be ready to protect our people and installations while enabling our Army's power projection, extending the commander's operational reach from depot to fort to foxhole. That is no small feat. If assumptions hold and our homeland is no longer a sanctuary, it will take all of us working in concert with local, state, and federal partners to assure and reinforce our forward forces.

Challenges in our operational environments will continue to require military police forces to deliver the skills our commanders have always counted on to solve difficult people problems. Simultaneously, the Military Police Corps Regiment must modernize our materiel to make us lighter, more agile, and more lethal. Military Police have an innate ability to lower the consequences of a crisis that is hard to measure but in-

stantly in demand when human exigencies spark to life. That is because policing competencies, coupled with the daily experience of interacting with people in stressful situations, build a calm and confident Military Police Soldier that can view the situation through a practiced lens then pick the right tool to respond. The unique skillset Military Police provide commanders is a deft response to potentially chaotic situations, often mitigating or preventing that situation from toppling over into a crisis. This intangible ability to use the right tool at the right time leads to a high demand for Military Police forces across all compos in response to real world situations, even if it does not always translate to demand in future force modeling.

While the character of warfare changes constantly through technological innovation, the fundamental nature of war does not. War was, is, and in 2040 will remain a human endeavor. Military Police will be there to solve the commander's 'people problems' at a lower cost, mitigating or preventing an exigency from spiraling into a catastrophe.





# From the Regimental Command Sergeant Major

**M**ilitary Police Corps Regiment: I want to start off by saying thanks to the entire team for the exceptional efforts by everyone.

I have really loved serving our Corps as the 15th Regimental Command Sergeant Major and look forward to my new position as the next Provost Marshall & U.S. Army Corrections Command CSM. This is not goodbye but rather see you soon. I pray I was able to serve this team as well as you all have served our Corps daily. We have a small but dynamic Corps. Our accomplishments as a team keeps Army leaders informed and validates why we are the force of choice. The Commandant, Regimental Chief Warrant Officer, and I are extremely proud of you all. Please keep demonstrating the finest qualities of excellence as you Assist, Protect, and Defend. Additionally, I want to welcome CSM William Shoaf as the 16th Regimental Command Sergeant Major. He is a phenomenal leader that will serve our Corps with honor, integrity, and respect.

September is going to be a busy month here at the home of the Regiment. In celebration of the Military Police Corps 82nd anniversary, we will conduct a full complement of events of the past. We will start by conducting the Military Police Competitive Challenge which includes individual officers and a two person NCO/Soldier team. Next, we will execute a senior leader forum, consisting of senior leaders from across the globe. The official anniversary week activities will be comprised of a Memorial Tribute, Bass Fishing Tournament, Motorcycle Mentorship Ride, Bowling Tournament, Regimental Command Sergeant Major James W. Frye Noncommissioned Officer of Excellence award, MPRA sponsored 5k Fun Run, Regimental Retreat, Honors Ceremony, and the Regimental Ball. We hope to carry on the standards of last year where events were standing room only, packed auditoriums. The goal for this year's ball is to have more than 700 Soldiers, Leaders, Families, and guests. Our people always show up

and show out for their Corps! We have recently updated the Military Police Corps Honors Regulation to ensure we create opportunities to recognize outstanding members of the Regiment. The updated regulation provides information on the administration and governance of Military Police Corps Regimental Honors Program, consisting of the Hall of Fame, Distinguished Members of the Corps, the Regiment Honorary Colonel, Honorary Warrant Officer, Honorary Sergeant Major, and the RCSM (R) James W. Frye Noncommissioned Officer of Excellence Award. The main goal of this update is to expand opportunities to recognize as many people within our Corps as possible, while ensuring we recognize them based on their overall contribution and merit. Additionally, we want to modernize the program, aligned with Army processes, while keeping it impartial. The Distinguished Member of the Corps will definably allow us all to recognize many more deserving members of our regiment after the honorable service.

Although the Order of the Marechaussee (OoM) is not covered in this regulation all information can be accessed on the MPRA site. I ask you to identify your very best and continue to submit them for recommendation. The OoM provides an opportunity to recognize our people while they are still serving our regiment, based on their level of responsibility and performance with that responsibility. I know there are varied opinions about the OoM, but every time I see one presented, the recipient is honored and proud to be recognized.

Formations have been onboarding Soldiers within their organizations that are part of a Military Police "Battle Buddy" Pilot Program. A program that is growing rapidly. This is different from the battle buddy system most are familiar with when they arrive to Fort Leonard Wood. This program allows Soldiers to list up to three of their buddies, from their OSUT/AIT class, that is then sent to human resource command for assignment consideration. If there are no disqualifying factors, Soldiers will be paired and PCS to their first duty station together



**CSM Shawn Klosterman**

Military Police School Command  
Sergeant Major

and assigned to the same unit for a minimum period of six months. This program hopes to assist leaders with an additional resource as part of the Soldiers "golden triangle" and to provide those Soldiers with other resources to combat potential harmful behaviors. There is a follow up survey for the Soldiers and their leaders to further refine the program.

As we see changes in the Military Police Corps structure, we will be taking a close look at how that will affect the people within our formations. One thing the proponent team will be focusing on is any necessary revisions to DA PAM 600-25 to ensure our NCOs have clear promotion path guidance. In the meantime, please ensure we use the current DA PAM as a guide to keep the right leaders in the key developmental positions, for the right amount of time. The future of our Corps is bright. Please continue to do your part to guide, mentor, and evaluate our people to give the selection boards a clear picture of their knowledge, skills, and behaviors.

I am humbled and extremely proud to be a member of this Corps and look forward to serving alongside you all. Remember it's not about you, but it always starts with you.

# From the Regimental Chief Warrant Officer

**G**reetings to all. It is with mixed emotions that I write my last message to the field as the Sixth Regimental Chief Warrant Officer. I have had the privilege of serving in this position for nearly four years and have counted each moment a true honor. This has been an extraordinary experience and one that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I've had the opportunity to travel the Regiment and meet the Soldiers and Civilians who have dedicated themselves to the often-thankless work of assisting, protecting and defending our Army and military communities around the world. I have been awed by your accomplishments and inspired by your commitment. I knew this assignment was going to be challenging and it definitely did not disappoint. These last couple of years were full of challenges and uncertainties.

COVID-19 made all of us look at how we do business, adapt to a new environment and continue to accomplish the mission. Like true professionals, our Regiment reacted and responded admirably across all disciplines and in multiple domains. Here at the Home of the Regiment, the Commandant refocused and prioritized our efforts to ensure that we provided a safe, healthy, and low risk work environment, continued to train and educate students/soldiers in our courses within the guidelines established by Health Protection Conditions and in compliance with the guidance provide by the Department of the Army, Training and Doctrine Command and the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence, and set the conditions to re-establish full mission support operations / conditions as quickly,

efficiently, and safely as possible. Everyone pulled together and executed the Commandant's guidance and directives to the letter. It was truly a sight to see, and I am extremely proud to be associated with such professionals.

The Fort Hood Independent Review Committee (FHIRC) Report set the tone for the CID transformation. The on-going CID transformation will be continuous through this year and well beyond. The current model has CID moving towards a 60% civilian agent, 40% military agent ratio; however, may go beyond that ratio and move to an all-civilian agent organization. CID will continue to meet the challenges of the present while shaping for the future and will always be ready to provide superior criminal investigative support to the total force across all domains and in all locations in order to enhance the Army's operational readiness. The Regiment is committed and stands ready to assist and support CID as they continue to transform as a premier criminal investigative organization.

As a part of the Army's modernization effort, we took a look at and redesigned our Warrant Officer Professional Military Education (PME) system. This effort involved developing Knowledge, Skills and Behaviors (KSBs), instituting career long assessments, and adding two additional courses within the PME continuum. We are in the final stages of staffing and will be set to commence by fiscal year 2026. This modernized PME model will ensure we are developing leaders who possess the character, competence, and commitment to serve in the Army profession; will win in Large Scale Combat Operations (LSCO) /



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

Multi-Domain Operations (MDO); possess the KSBs to provide our Soldiers with war winning leadership; meet the requirements of the operational force and can develop others.

As I move on to the next chapter, I pass the reigns to CW4 Angela Rulewich, who is both highly capable and wholly committed to continuing the forward momentum we've started. I encourage you all to continue the hard work of moving our Regiment into the future. It will be frustrating at times, but it is a necessary process. Again, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the Regimental Chief Warrant Officer.

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# 58<sup>TH</sup> MILITARY POLICE COMPANY PARTICIPATES IN JOINT PACIFIC MULTINATIONAL READINESS EXERCISE

STORY BY BENJAMIN D. CARRUTH, CPT, MP COMMANDER

At 0300, Staff Sergeant Lario Briseno's driver shook him awake. The roar of a diesel engine pierced through the darkness, announcing the arrival of an M997A3 Field Litter Ambulance (FLA) before the early morning light betrayed the silhouette against the horizon. "The enemy was moving in FLAs, we observed vehicles through our night vision. They parked on the edge of the wood line at first, we thought they might be lost friendly forces," recalled Staff Sergeant Briseno, "We saw them walk up to us, and as soon as we could positively identify them, we started to open fire with one of our .50 caliber machine gun."

At the same time, more than 200 miles away at Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) on the island of Hawaii, First Lieutenant Mikeidrea Feacher prepared for a convoy escort mission in blackout conditions. "The terrain consisted of hilly unimproved roads, the majority of which were black from volcanic ash. Our depth perception was altered as what we sometimes believed was a road, was volcanic ash. We had to be a lot more cautious when traveling," remembered First Lieutenant Feacher. It was only training day two, and despite the distance that separated them, operations in limited visibility conducted over hostile terrain remained a common thread for both SSG Briseno and 1LT Feacher.

The 58th Military Police Company participated in Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Exercise rotation 23-01 with



Soldiers from first platoon 58th Military Police Company escort a detainee in to the Detainee Holding Area (DHA) at the Brigade Sustainment Area (BSA) on Oahu. Photo by SSG Richard Perez 8th Military Police Brigade, U.S. Army.



Staff Sergeant Benjamin Colson (right) and Sergeant Brody Holcomb (left) provide over watch during Military Operations in Uber Terrain (MOUT) training at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows on Oahu. Photo by Cpl. Samatha Sanchez United States Marine Corps.

2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division (2/25), in November 2022. The exercise prepares units to fight in a non-contiguous island battlefield that includes the harsh jungle terrain found in the Pacific in lieu of a traditional combat training center rotation. This rotation included over a dozen regional partners, service members from every branch, and spanned three Hawaiian islands; Oahu, Kailua, and Hawaii.

"The Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center is the US Army Pacific's Regional Combat Training Center for units and leaders in the Theater Army's complex operating environment (Arctic, Jungle, and Archipelago) designed to replicate combat by stressing every warfighting function and generating readiness in theater," said Command Sergeant Major Jeremy Hopfe, 4th Battalion, 196th Infantry Brigade Task Force Cobra. Command Sergeant Major Hopfe served as an observer controller trainer for 225th Brigade Support Battalion. For the 58th Military Police Company, Workhorse, it was the culmination of months of training and an opportunity to exercise Military Police functions while supporting an Infantry Brigade Combat Team across the unique terrain in the Pacific Theater. Workhorse Soldiers overcame the harsh operating environment and supported 2/25 for detainee and security operations with exceptional results.



## A Different Kind of Environment

The Hawaiian Islands provided unique terrain for units to test their combat skills. First, there was the tyranny of distance; more than 200 miles of the Pacific Ocean separate the islands of Hawaii and Oahu. Soldiers, equipment, and supplies must move by air or boat between the islands. Units depend on long-range radios and satellite communication systems like the Integrated Tactical Network to communicate. Next, the terrain varies dramatically across the islands and completely changes how units operate. For example, Pohakuloa Training Area is covered with black volcanic rock on the island of Hawaii. The terrain offered wide open fields of fire for the military police gun trucks, but the featureless terrain made navigation especially difficult at night. In contrast, heavy rainfalls on parts of Oahu built a dense rainforest, and erosion created steep drop-offs. All these features created harsh terrain that limited the Military Police squad's ability to navigate the limited unimproved roads that criss-cross the training areas.

"Unlike Oahu, where we conducted our train up, the weather continuously changed as we moved to a higher elevation," explained First Lieutenant Feacher, Second platoon 58th Military Police Company, along with 1-21 Infantry Battalion, deployed to the island of Hawaii. "When the wind speeds would get high, it would cause dust storms from volcanic ash. When there wasn't any wind, thick fog would settle in that limited visibility to just a few meters."

The company command post and first and third platoons stayed on the island of Oahu, supporting the rest of 2/25. On Oahu first platoon established a consolidated detainee collection point. As the exercise progressed, it was clear that there was little the command post could do to influence the fights from island to island. Platoons were ready to operate independently and work parallel to each other to support maneuver battalions.

## Security Operations

The rear area security mission proved to be especially difficult. After seizing objectives on Oahu, 1-27 Infantry Battalion bypassed large numbers of dismounted opposing forces. The opposing forces moved unnoticed, easily dodging roving patrols and checkpoints by Military Police. However, the terrain limited ground movement and rendered ground line of communications inconsequential. During later phases of the exercise, all incursions and resupplies were conducted by air, even with units operating on the same island. At times terrain and enemy forces prevented a ground route between 1-27 Infantry Battalion and the Brigade Sustainment Area on Oahu when only 11 miles separated them.

The critical site security provided for the 2/25 tactical operations center (TOC) was the most effective security. Staff Sergeant Briseno, a squad leader from 1st platoon, 58th Military Police Company, led his squad to protect the tactical operations center. "Our mission was to provide security for the TOC and the brigade commander," said Staff Sergeant Briseno, "once a new location was identified, we were the first to move to establish security. Then the TOC would move



Soldiers from 58th Military Police Company prepare weapons and equipment for a convoy escort mission at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows on Oahu. Photo by Cpl. Samatha Sanchez United States Marine Corps.



Sergeant Brody Holcomb accesses a rooftop after his platoon secures a building at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows on Oahu. Photo by Cpl. Samatha Sanchez United States Marine Corps.



Sergeant Tealk Blakely, second platoon 58th Military Police Company at Pohakuloa Training Area on the island of Hawaii. Photo by Sergeant First Class Joshua Brandurg 8th Theater Sustainment Command, U.S. Army.



First Lieutenant Brandon Stockton, first platoon 58th Military Police Company, observes while Sergeant Ian Sinclair searches a suspicious civilian roll player at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows on Oahu. Photo by Lance Cpl. Isaiah Hill Sanchez United States Marine Corps.

into our secured perimeter." Critical site security proved to be one of the most challenging Military Police missions during the exercise.

His squad used passive security measures and the existing jungle canopy for camouflage. Staff Sergeant Briseno expertly applied the principles of security: ensuring maneuver time and space, identifying enemy avenues of approach, and even setting up a deception operation. "One night, we set security in a new location, and we identified the most likely avenue of approach. Previously opposing forces would see our trucks at a checkpoint and ambush us, so we dismounted one of our weapons and established a fighting position," recalled Staff Sergeant Briseno, "We even put a pole in the turret of our truck; it worked like a charm, the opposing force dismounted and moved to the truck, and we ambushed them."

"It was really nice to see the unit progress," First Sergeant Scott Tidwell of 58th Military Police Company, "we spent an entire FTX during our train up on critical site security. Sure any Soldier can pull security, but our guys really became the experts." During the exercise, opposing forces never successfully attacked the 2/25 tactical operations center, thanks to the determination and expertise that Staff Sergeant Briseno and his squad provided.

## Detainee Operations

The 58th Military Police Company was responsible for detainee movement throughout the exercise. Military Police squads supporting maneuver battalions positioned themselves close to the point of capture to speed detainees back to the rear. "In the offense, we as a platoon had to be able to receive detainees at the point of capture, transport from the point of capture, tactically question, process at the detainee collection point, medically screen, biometrically enroll, and secure for military intelligence interrogators," said Sergeant First Class Robert Fissel, the platoon sergeant for third platoon. At the brigade sustainment area (BSA), first platoon 58th Military Police Company established the brigade detainee collection point designed to hold up to 50 detainees for a prolonged period. "Once complete and the operational environment allowed for it, the detainees were sped to the rear where

first platoon was running a larger facility co-located with the BSA." Sergeant First Class Fissel recalled.

Connecting the islands was a sky bridge of UH-60s and CH-47s provided by the 25th Infantry Division Combat Aviation Brigade. Soldiers trained to move detainees, by air, between the islands. If air movement was not possible, then second platoon on the island of Hawaii prepared to establish a second detainee collection point and hold detainees for a prolonged period. A human intelligence team from Delta Company 65th Brigade Engineer Battalion prepared to deploy to Pohakuloa Training Area to interrogate detainees at the second detainee collection point.

Even when on the same island, ground or air movement to the brigade detainee collection point was not always possible, and Military Police had to be prepared to hold detainees. "We arrived on an objective linked up with 1-27 Infantry and assumed control of all of their detainees," Sergeant First Class Fissel, "We were in one of the cleared buildings while the battalion was still fighting to control the rest of the city." Moving the Military Police and Human Intelligence team close to the point of capture allowed for immediate intelligence gathering.

## Conclusion

"We really showed what the Military Police can do on an archipelago. The environment in the Pacific can not be replicated anywhere else." First Sergeant continued, "Detainees and critical site security, these are still things that the Brigade Combat Teams need support with." Joint Pacific Multination Readiness Center was an opportunity to train in the same terrain where Army units might have to fight and work alongside key regional partners. Volcanic rock, thick jungles, and islands hundreds of miles apart represent terrain unique to the Pacific theater. Despite the restrictions and unique operating environment, the 58th Military Police Company excelled at all their assigned missions and developed valuable lessons learned for the Military Police Corps.



Soldiers from 58th Military Police Company move a casualty to medical vehicle for evacuation at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows on Oahu. Photo by Cpl. Samatha Sanchez United States Marine Corps.



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# MP ADVISING/SEEKING A ROLE WITHIN THE SECURITY FORCE ASSISTANCE ENTERPRISE

STORY BY MSG EMERSON J. SULLIVAN, HQ 1SFAB | PHOTOS PROVIDED BY 1SFAB PAO

## GREAT POWER COMPETITION AND SECURITY FORCE ASSISTANCE

In early 2014, the international community observed as Russian aggression escalated against Ukraine which quickly saw the latter nation lose various regions of its sovereign territory annexed by the former. The special military operation, as Russia cited it, was swift and quickly ensured the successful annex of the Donbas region<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore, Russia's special military operation led to the complete seizure of Crimea and the important naval port of Sevastopol. Hence, providing Russian overmatched, consolidated access to the Black Sea via maritime control. The resulting situation caused outcry and concern from the international community as Russia had quickly consolidated its gains among the Ukrainian territory it had annexed.

Subsequently, in late February of 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced another special military operation into Ukraine following months of intensive buildup along the contiguous borders. What had in the past 2014 incursion been swift and successful for the Russian and Ukrainian

separatists has presently become mired in a grinding conflict of attrition for both sides<sup>2</sup>. Though the US has not committed "boots on ground" to assist within the borders of Ukraine in its efforts to repel Russian military forces, it nevertheless has provided elements of security cooperation and security force assistance (SFA)<sup>3</sup>. Following the 2014 incursion, employment of SFA activities provided by the US Army has been instrumental to Ukraine's present success in halting Russian military forces within the country. This is further coupled with the volume of security cooperation afforded to Ukraine via foreign military sales of key military equipment, aiding Ukrainian military forces in their effort to stymie Russian military efforts.

Within this era of great power competition, SFA activities are essential to establish deterrence between the continuum of competition, crisis, and conflict. Amid this continuum, SFA activities are a central component of ensuring that the US Army maintains access to partners during this period of strategic competition. As described in the 2021 Chief of Staff Paper #1 white paper, "the US Army seeks [to] play



an outsized role in supporting U.S. inter-agency objectives in a whole-of-government approach<sup>4</sup>. SFA activities play a substantial role in achieving that objective. To attain that outsized role, the Security Force Assistance Command (SFAC) and its regionally aligned Security Force Assistance Brigades (SFAB) facilitate bridging the gap between partner nations and allies. The SFAB's advising activities set the conditions to further improve upon an environment of integrated deterrence in opposition to competing great powers. Thus ensuring this access serves as the conduit to orchestrate the Army's SFA activities through the use of highly trained Advisor teams.

## MILITARY ADVISOR TEAMS

These teams have made inroads across geographic combatant commands, ranging from those partners in Europe, bolstering the US commitment to NATO and other partners amid the ongoing conflict being played out over Ukraine<sup>5</sup>. Advisors have further displayed the US commitment to freedom of travel in the Indo-Pacific region, where they have sought to strengthen the capacity and capabilities of partner nation's security forces. Through these global SFA activities, SFABs have ensured continued access to allies by being the partner of choice over other competitors during this period of great power competition<sup>6</sup>. Central to this success are the Military Advisors Teams (MAT) and the Advisors that provide the framework from which to assess, train, advise, and build upon our partner's foreign security forces (FSF) capacity and capability.

Though advising is expected to be conducted across the continuum of competition, it is below the realm of armed conflict, the liminal juncture, that Advisors set conditions to deter conflict<sup>7</sup>. Through building foreign partner capacity, Advisors assist with facilitating an environment for partner nations to achieve their own internal security concerns against terrorism and transnational organized crime<sup>8</sup>. Furthermore, through assessments and rigorous training, Advisors provide guidelines for partner nations to raise their level of warfighting expertise to contribute to multinational operations and an integrated defense. Bridging these two areas, Advisors oscillate amid the competition continuum to ensure the US maintains access and that the Army is at the forefront of security cooperation efforts.

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLICE ADVISORS

Among the Advisors to be found within an Advisor Team, Military Police Advisors have a unique qualification due to their dual role between providing support to maneuver units as well as being able to engage with communities through effective law enforcement operations. This ability to function between these two essential spectrums of operations, provides a realm of experience from which MP noncommissioned officers pull from to fulfill their roles as an Advisor that SFA activities would greatly benefit from. The breadth of experience that an MP Advisor brings to the fore ranges across supporting unified land operations to conducting host nation police advising.



This experience largely stems from service within a combat support military police company. Supporting maneuver forces during rotational multinational training exercises, enabling brigade combat teams at the various training centers, or rapidly deploying to support contingency operations across the globe are all aspects from which to MP Advisors are developed. These key exposure events serve as linkage points of understanding of the “how” maneuver forces seek to employ the capabilities that military police provide. Additionally, this is where MPs see the integration of the protection warfighting function at echelon. Whether through area security of the consolidation zone, securing lines of communications, providing route signing and security to enable maneuver elements to the FLOT, or providing relief of EPWs to unencumber maneuver elements to continue a steady advance. Through this integration of protection assets and the role of combat support operations to maneuver forces, military police noncommissioned officers garner much experience from this exposure.

Conversely, from the realm of law enforcement operations, Military Police formations have a unique viewpoint shared with no other formation within the Army. The ability to conduct policing, community engagement, and coordination between local LEOs is a task that many formations in the Army are simply not suited to conduct. The interpersonal skills that military police develop further have touch points when advising partner nations FSF. These skills provide an aspect and appreciation of the influence of culture that other conventional formations within the Army find themselves not immersed within. Between the investigations handled by military police investigators, traffic sections, and the daily law enforcement activities conducted across installations, military police again gain a wide degree of knowledge and experience that serves them when assessing and advising the FSF of partner nations.

## TYING IT TOGETHER – ADVISING

Hence, Military Police Advisors are uniquely equipped to provide support and experience within their Advisor Teams

as well as tested experience to their foreign counterparts. From the realms of combat support operations and law enforcement operations, the seasoned noncommissioned officers that serve as Advisors provide a merging between what our partners seek from SFA activities and what the Army seeks to build upon- their capacity and capability to support multinational operations and an integrated defense.

Service within an SFAB shouldn't be seen as a stepping stone to the next grade. Rather, those selected to serve should be mature leaders that have the experience to advise not just FSF but also advise their leadership and teammates on the broad aspects of the protection warfighting function. Nevertheless, the ability to serve outside the career management field serves as means to gain a broader understanding of the Army and where the Military Police Corps Regiment seeks to support maneuver forces. Upon returning to the CMF, those MP Advisors will be successfully prepared to assist both their Soldiers and Leaders with their experiences amid the operational and institutional knowledge garnered from the experience.

To successfully integrate within the SFA enterprise, non-commissioned officers arriving to the organization must be well rounded leaders, who have an understanding of the protection warfighting function. Furthermore, those NCOs that have been identified to serve as an Advisor must be prioritized to be to attend the Antiterrorism Officer Basic Course prior to arriving to an SFAB. This will serve to increase their knowledge of the force protection concerns while further serving to enhance their input while serving on an Advisor Team. Another aspect that leaders must be familiar with is the protection warfighting function. Broad knowledge of the protection function will assist with integration efforts between FSF and SFABs across the continuum of operations. Due to the austere environments from which teams conduct their assessments, the MP Advisor will negotiate the friction points between an embassy's protection; integrating their teams own security plan within the embassy. Thus, those considering an assignment or already selected to an SFAB should understand those tasks and be prepared to immediately integrate their unique policing skillsets within their teams.

Throughout the continuum of competition, security force assistance is a central component of ensuring that the US Army maintains access to partners during this period of strategic competition. This has been touched upon within the Chief of Staff 2021 white paper and again in the 2022 Army Posture Statement. The outcomes that SFABs have achieved and the level of deterrence, capacity, capability built with our partners helps ensure the greater Army remains intact to expeditiously conduct large scale combat operations when called upon. Where the Army seeks "to play an outsized role in supporting U.S. inter-agency objectives", it is within the domain of SFA activities that the Military Police to have the



ability to exercise its own outsized role.

The security force assistance enterprise will be a mainstay of the Army Vision for the foreseeable future, especially being one of a few named formations within the Army Posture Statement these past few years to Congress. The touch points that MP NCOs will incur, assessing and advising partner nations, will pay large dividends within the Army and the Military Police Corps Regiment.



*About the author: MSG Emerson Sullivan serves as the senior Military Police Advisor for 1st SFAB at Fort Benning, GA. He holds a Bachelors of Science from Norwich University- The Military College of Vermont. He is further pursuing a Masters in Strategic Studies.*

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# RELATIONSHIPS BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

STORY BY MAJOR JOHN T. FERRELL, FORT JACKSON DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES  
AND CHIEF JOHN HUGHES III, FORT JACKSON CHIEF OF POLICE

**F**ort Jackson, South Carolina is nestled in the midlands of South Carolina and adjacent to the Capitol city of Columbia. Within the immediate area, there are more than 25 law enforcement agencies ranging in size from over 700 sworn officers to agencies with just 5-10 officers. With a majority of Fort Jackson permanent party Soldiers residing off the installation, these are the agencies that protect our Soldiers and civilian work force when off duty. Further, these are the agencies that will be called upon to support Fort Jackson when in need.

The Report of the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee provided multiple findings that emphasized the importance of Installation law enforcement having strong enduring relationships with local law enforcement partners. The Fort Jackson Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) continues to make intentional efforts to strengthen those partnerships. Through deliberate and meaningful interaction with local law enforcement organizations and leaders, these relationships have borne the fruits of strong partnerships as we will describe below.

## BENEFITS OF RELATIONSHIPS

These mutually beneficial relationships continue to prove advantageous to both the DES and Fort Jackson as a whole. For example, Fort Jackson DES has direct and open lines of communication with multiple agencies at all levels. Fort Jackson's DES Emergency Communication Center has the capability to communicate directly with dispatch centers for Richland County Sheriff's Department (RCSD) as well as the Columbia Police Department (CPD). Additionally, DES leaders are on multiple distribution lists for law enforcement



**Military Police Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilian Police Officers from seven different installations pose for a class photo during a Traffic Management and Collision Investigation class hosted by Fort Jackson and instructed by Corporal Phillip Darnell of the Richland County Sheriff's Office. (Photo credit SGM Bradley Lanchester)**

intelligence and receive near real-time updates of criminal activity and incidents at our doorstep. This open communication and mutual trust provide Fort Jackson DES early warning and the ability to identify suspects and document trends that can adversely impact on-post activities or the installation mission.

Another venue for information sharing for our local LE leaders is the Law Enforcement Agency Luncheon hosted by Richland County Sheriff's Department (RCSD) quarterly. The Fort Jackson Director of Emergency Services and the Chief of Police attend regularly. The luncheon is comprised of over 25 heads of agencies and is an informal round-table discussion of crime trends and concerns in their applicable jurisdictions. Often, these crime trends off the installation foreshadow issues that Fort Jackson DES will eventually see on post. This was demonstrated by a large rash of catalytic converter thefts off post that was discussed in a previous forum. A few months later, catalytic converter thefts began happening on post. Fortunately, with the early notice from local agencies, Fort Jackson DES was able to minimize the threat and reduce the amount of theft through an awareness campaign

and targeted patrols. These luncheons also include an informal "social hour" to meet and greet with fellow LE leaders. This opportunity allows for proactive members, such as Fort Jackson DES, to exchange contact information and build new relationships. The value of DES leadership having direct lines of communication to the head of our civilian partner agencies cannot be overstated; simply being able to make a phone call to a Chief or Sheriff not only saves time in critical incidents, but it fosters a degree of mutual trust and respect that benefits all those we protect and serve.

Fort Jackson has also had numerous training opportunities stem from the various relationships developed. For instance, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) has provided Fort Jackson DES training opportunities in Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT), Reunification Training, Datamaster Operations, and Simulation Instructor Courses. These classes / training opportunities are offered free of charge to the DES personnel and are taught locally by qualified subject matter experts.

The Richland County Sheriff's Department has also



provided instruction and certification for Fort Jackson Military Police (MP) and Department of the Army Civilian Police (DACP) in Speed Measuring Devices and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing alongside their own deputies on several occasions. These courses, hosted on Fort Jackson, have provided yet another opportunity for Military Police, DA Police, and our civilian counterparts to train side by side and further cement these vital relationships at the lowest level. Most recently, the Richland County Sheriff's Department partnered with Fort Jackson to provide a Traffic Management and Collision Investigations (TMCI) Course where seven different Army installations were able to participate and have their MPs and DACPs trained. After Fort Jackson had several TMCI reservations cancelled at Lackland Air Force Base, the Police Chief, Chief John Hughes, coordinated directly with a leader of the RCSD traffic enforcement unit. Corporal Phillip Darnell, a former lead instructor for collision investigation and reconstruction at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy, received authorization to spend 17 days at Fort Jackson teaching TMCI using the program of instruction and materials provided by the TMCI Course Chief at Lackland AFB. All of these training opportunities are attributed to the relationships formed with the leadership of the RCSD. The results were 20 MPs and DACPs receiving vital training and certification that they likely would not have received in the near future and certainly not for less cost.

In addition to individual training opportunities, joint training and exercises have also been a product of these

relationships. During the most recent Installation Management Command (IMCOM) Full Scale Exercise conducted on Fort Jackson in May of 2022, RCSD, CPD and the State of South Carolina all provided support. CPD and South Carolina State Troopers mitigated traffic congestion concerns outside the gate allowing Fort Jackson to exercise a true base closure with all ACPs being momentarily closed. RCSD provided a tactical response to the incident filling a gap for the exercise that ensured realism for all evaluated responses.

## HOW WE SUSTAIN RELATIONSHIPS

While the Fort Jackson DES relationships with local partners were established long before our current leadership, they endure largely because of the effort and priority to continually enhancing these relationships into true partnerships.

One significant way in which Fort Jackson sustains these relationships is by reciprocating numerous training opportunities and resources, when available. When it comes to support, Fort Jackson DES's mantra is "If we can legally, ethically, and morally say yes, we will." This mantra began in respect to supporting on-post chains of command but has grown to also represent the DES view on supporting their local partners. Although the Posse Comitatus Act prevents Fort Jackson from conducting law enforcement off the installation, it does not prevent us from supporting the local partners with intelligence and resources, such as facilities and ranges. With close

consultation of the administrative law section, Fort Jackson DES has supported training for outside agencies with ranges, rappel towers, classroom facilities, and other various training areas to assist these agencies in becoming more proficient. The Fort Jackson DES also works to ensure these training opportunities are mutually beneficial. For example, when DES was able to source an instructor to provide an "Interacting with Veterans" course, seats were offered to our civilian partners who protect our Soldiers and civilian employees off post.

What Fort Jackson DES leadership finds most important in transforming relationships into genuine partnerships, is just the classic "grip and grin". In the current era of technology, DES leadership makes it a priority to get out from behind the façade of emails and phone calls and meet our partners in person; see each other's faces, shake their hands, and drink a cup of coffee together. These personal introductions and conversations go beyond a three-line email and lead to invitations to awards ceremonies, invitations to agency barbeques, various exclusive events, and occasionally, the unfortunate opportunity to support other agencies at funerals and memorials for fallen Officers. While it may seem simple, attendance by DES leadership at these events demonstrates our vested interest in their organizations and communities. Consequently, our relationships are enriched and our partners become our friends.

While regulatory guidance certainly requires coordination with off-post Law Enforcement agencies, Fort Jackson has experienced great benefit from expending deliberate effort to transform these common relationships into invaluable partnerships. At little cost beyond time, effort, and intentionality, the Fort Jackson DES has moved beyond simply collecting crime stats to partnering in endeavors to enhance our respective organizations through professional development, real time intelligence sharing, and most importantly, creating a culture of cooperation in which all have a vested interest in the safety of our communities and the success of the Army mission at Fort Jackson.



Major John Ferrell, Fort Jackson Director of Emergency Services, poses with members of the South Carolina Bureau of Protective Services and State Troopers during Fort Jackson's 2022 National Night Out event. (Photo credit SCBPS)

# GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT WITH ALLIED AND PARTNER MILITARY POLICE

STORY BY COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR ROBERT PROVOST,  
COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE 200TH MILITARY POLICE COMMAND

As we continue to move through the post-pandemic and the turmoil occurring throughout the world, we find that our nation's political and military leadership is still very much needed around the globe. Many senior military leaders may remember the initial stages of the Global War on Terror in 2003 and the initial disconnects—some small, some large—between not only our joint service partners but our allies as well. In some cases, it was lack of a common language, in some an understanding of capabilities and others equipment compatibility. As a nation we quickly adjusted our joint doctrine to increase interoperability to ensure our military remained the most lethal in history. In many cases however, our allies may have been left behind in terms of interoperability, capabilities, and human capital. Fast forward 20 years, and many of the lessons learned, while documented, have not been culturally integrated into either our national or allied operations.

In the Military Police arena, specifically Detention Operations, we have recently been making efforts and plans to address these deficiencies within the global Military Police community. In the past 24 months, the 200th Military Police Command, initially under the leadership of Major General John F. Hussey (now retired) and now Major General Cary J. Cowan, has identified the need to reengage with our allies in order to foster operational Military Police relationships with our international partners. We are doing this so that, when we are called upon to resolve armed conflicts, there is a shared understanding of our strengths, capabilities, and limitations. Quoting Major General (Retired) Hussey, “We want to meet the team in the locker room, not as we walk on the football field.” Ironically when we, as Americans, say “football,” we most automatically think of American football. However, when our European partners hear “football,” they think of what we call “soccer.” Regardless, the example crosses cultural norms. The meaning is clear: know your team!

With this concept in mind, the 200th Military Police Command has begun to “meet the team.” The effort began in June 2022, with command leadership traveling to Vicenza, Italy to visit the NATO Stability Policing Center of Excellence (NATO SP COE). The visits have continued this year, and we immediately identified a new partner in the NATO Military Police Center of Excellence (NATO MP COE) located in Bydgoszcz, Poland. Empowered by our Commanding General, the 200th Military Police Command Operations Sergeant Major Anthony Kresta and I contacted the NATO MP COE to begin initial discussions between 200th Military Police Command and NATO MP COE Senior Non-Commissioned Officers.



Command Sergeant Major Robert Provost (middle row, second from right), the 200th Military Police Command Command Sergeant Major; Sergeant Major Anthony Kresta (front row, far right), the 200th Military Police Command G3/5/7 Operations Sergeant Major; Sergeant Major Brice D. Rae, United States Army Europe and Africa G34 Protection and Provost Marshal Sergeant Major (back row, third from left); and Sergeant Major Antonio J. Soto, 18th Military Police Brigade Operations Sergeant Major (second row, right end) stand along with joint military police partners during the Military Police Command Senior Enlisted Leader Forum in Bydgoszcz, Poland. The three-day event allowed military police senior enlisted leaders from multiple nations to discuss future development of the noncommissioned officer corps.

In October 2022, Sergeant Major Anthony Kresta and I attended a 5-day course called the NATO Senior Military Police Non-Commissioned Officer Course as facilitators. The NATO MP COE teaches the course, and they focus on the role of a senior Military Police Non-Commissioned Officer. During the course, each NATO member nation presented capabilities briefs and defined the roles of their Non-Commissioned Officer Corps within their formations. During the event, the varied roles and responsibilities of the Non-Commissioned Officer were identified. Often, terminology differed among nations, resulting in some confusion. We overcame that confusion through direct communication. As a result, interpersonal and organizational relationships began to develop, resulting in international crosstalk and a shared understanding.

After the completion of the course in October 2022, the conversation continued with the NATO MP COE and other partners regarding a NATO senior Military Police Non-Commissioned Officer meeting. This resulted in an April 2023 Command Senior Enlisted Leader (CSEL) working group held at the NATO MP COE Headquarters. Present were 13 NATO and Partners for Peace (PFP) nations. During the event, it was identified that while the MP COE had a robust Military Police Officer curriculum, it was lacking regarding



the Enlisted and Non-Commissioned Officer cohorts. Notably as such, we identified the need for junior NATO Military Police Non-Commissioned Officer professional development. Plans are underway to develop this Junior Non-Commissioned Officer Course, beginning in May 2023. Additional considerations identified were the transportation of enemy prisoners of war (EPW) and/or detained personnel via air, rail or sea and the need to integrate other services such as naval and air forces.

The Senior Non-Commissioned Officer engagements have resulted in an invitation from the director of the MP COE to Major General Cowan to meet at the MP COE headquarters in mid-2023. Notably, these engagements have fostered an even closer working relationship with Sergeant Major Brice D. Rae, United States Army Europe and Africa G34 Protection and Provost Marshal Sergeant Major, and Sergeant Major Antonio J. Soto, 18th Military Police Brigade Operations Sergeant Major as we attempt to build capacity and capability for our NATO allies. Future discussion with the MP COE and partners regarding future Non-Commissioned Officer Course development, as well as future seats in the Senior Military Police Non-Commissioned Officer Course, are also topics for the MP community to tackle. To find out more information about the course, visit <https://www.mpcoe.org>.

The 200th Military Police Command is the United States Army Reserve Military Police Command responsible for Detention Operations (DO), General Support (GS), and Law Enforcement Operations (LEO). The command is comprised of over 13,000 soldiers and civilians, with home stations across the United States and enduring operational missions globally.



**➡ Command Sergeant Major Robert Provost**

Command Sergeant Major of the 200th Military Police Command

## FY23 RCSM James W. Frye Award Winners Announced



**➡ RCSM James W. Frye**

We are proud to share this announcement from the US Army Military Police Regimental Command Team!

On behalf of the Regimental Command Team and the entire MP Corps Regiment, we are proud to announce the overall top placing recipients of the FY23 RCSM James W. Frye NCO of Excellence Award:

Category 1, SGT-SSG: SSG Nathan Villarreal representing the 89th Military Police Brigade

Category 2, SFC-MSG: MSG Grant Smith representing the 290th Military Police Brigade

We would also like to recognize the following NCOs for their contributions and placement within the top 24 percent of packets submitted:

### Category 1:

- SSG Shawn McLain representing the

14th Military Police Brigade

- SSG Adam Walter representing the 16th Military Police Brigade

### Category 2:

- 1SG Kasey Trapp representing the Maneuver Support Center of Excellence
- 1SG Salvador Montenegro representing the 18th Military Police Brigade
- 1SG Daniel Hansen representing the 42nd Military Police Brigade

It was such a pleasure to see how many amazing NCOs our MP Corps have, and these packet submissions were a testament to your Dignity, Determination, and Discipline.

We look forward to having all recipients participate in the awards ceremony 22 September 2023 @ 1000 at Fort Leonard Wood during Regimental week.

# 23D MILITARY POLICE COMPANY APPLYING LESSONS OF THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

STORY BY MICHAELA C. LANG, CPT, MP COMMANDING

In February of 2023, the 23d Military Police Company, 91st Military Police Battalion, participated in Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) Rotation 23-04. This exercise demonstrated the capabilities of the Military Police Corps to our aligned Brigade, 2/10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) in Multi-Domain Operations (MDO). The 23d Military Police Company excelled during this JRTC rotation by applying lessons learned from years of counterinsurgency experience from the Global War on Terror (GWOT) to conduct stability operations in the context of MDO. These stability operations, namely Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO), Key Leader Engagements (KLE), Host Nation Policing, and detainee operations, enabled the IBCT to focus on maneuver and maintain operational tempo, especially during transitions between phases of the operation. This exercise showed that the lessons learned by the Military Police Corps conducting stability operations in Iraq and Afghanistan remain relevant in supporting maneuver forces during MDO.

## NON-COMBATANT EVACUATION OPERATIONS

Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations are a hallmark of limited contingency operations and were common missions for military police forces during the GWOT. However, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the civil war in Sudan demonstrated the need for these type of operations during the initial phases of large-scale combat. Recognizing this need, this NEO was the first of its kind at a CTC rotation. 23d Military Police Company integrated with 4-31 Infantry Battalion “Polar Bears” based on intelligence that more than 100 civilians would require evacuation from a nearby city to our Evacuation Control Center (ECC). Military Police Soldiers



**SGT Bates evacuates an American Citizen Role player from a CH-47 to the ECC.**



**SGT's Bates and Quigley air assaulted into a NEO to evacuate American Citizens from a local city.**

at both the NEO extraction and ECC safely evacuated over 120 American Citizens from the impending conflict zone. Referred to as the “Main Effort Enabler” by one Infantry Battalion Commander, the 23D was entrusted with two Human Intelligence (HUMINT) teams, Civil Affairs, Psyops, and EOD during the NEO. MPs were entrusted to such an extent that they were given an Infantry Company under their operational control for the purpose of facilitating and securing the ECC. The task organization had one MP Platoon OPCON to A Company, 4-31 Infantry Battalion to assist with screening and controlling the civilian populace in the city, and one MP Platoon, all previously listed enablers, and C Company, 4-31 Infantry Battalion to support the Company Headquarters by operating the ECC. The BCT decided that due to the MPs expertise in civil disturbance, riot control, and IPC skills it was critical to have them both in the city and





SGT Quigley and PFC Paine guide American Citizens from the CH-47 to the ECC.

operating the ECC.

This mission, conducted early in the operation, served as an opening for military police in stability operations throughout the remaining phases. Just as in the Global War on Terror, Military Police Forces served as the connecting link between police, local government representatives, and friendly military commands. After an initial engagement with the Regional Security Officer, the Military Police Company gained assistance from the local police and held KLEs with the governor, mayor, and other key leaders at the site, showing them American forces capabilities and support of the civilian populace.

## KEY LEADER ENGAGEMENTS AND HOST NATION POLICING

While the NEO started the cooperation with local police, government, and military, those relationships would continue to pay dividends. As the operation continued and the IBCT began conducting offensive operations, the military police mission shifted to civil security operations. During these operations, military police forces again found value in the lessons of the Global War on Terror. The 23d Military Police Company helped the local populace rebuild and secure stability after the large attacks that took place in the city and surrounding areas. Military Police Soldiers executed civil disturbance control and ensured civilians went to the right places at the right time. Military Police Soldiers in the city operated as marshaling teams, security, and as the search team to ensure civilians were safe and the operation was organized. This allowed the BCT to maneuver forward while Military Police forces shifted to civil control operations, working with Civil Affairs, Physiological Operations (PSYOPs), and other elements to help restore local governance in the area of operations.



SGT Fulton Supports an American Citizen through the ECC.



SSG Walter encounters EPWs while operating a checkpoint outside of a local city.

As the infantry moved forward, the 23d Military Police Company continued to execute stability operations to ensure the local populace did not perceive American forces as abandoning them and further decreased the likelihood of civil disturbance in the area of operations. Having Military Police Soldiers in the city allowed IBCT maneuver forces to remain enemy oriented and enabled friendly forces freedom of maneuver. Just like during the Global War on Terror, Military Police forces were critical to the execution of civil control operations. Soldiers and leaders from the company controlled access to the city, executed a KLE with the Mayor's representatives, and made plans for combined patrols with the city's police department. This mended relations with the local government and set conditions for long term civil security. By keeping the peace in the rear, maneuver elements were able to focus on the FLOT and beyond, where Military Police forces would soon find themselves supporting detention operations.

## DETAINEE OPERATIONS

Another circumstance where lessons from GWOT applied to MDO in JRTC was detainee operations. Facing hybrid threats in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Military Police Corps learned a valuable lesson that would transform how the Corps conducted detention of enemy prisoners of war, as well as criminal elements on the path to local prosecution. During the JRTC rotation, the 23d Military Police Company applied these lessons in a variety of contexts. One element of the company established a hasty Detainee Collection Point (DCP) directly behind the FLOT while under the operational control of C Company, 2-14 Infantry Battalion. This hasty DCP was established at the point of capture while another element of the 23d Military Police Company reconnoitered sites for an improved DCP farther to the rear. While looking for a location for the improved DCP, the company found an old jail in a nearby town. Due to the company's previous relationship building with the local government, including KLEs, joint patrols, and ECC operations, the mayor of this town was happy to let the company use not only the jail but the entire portion of the city to conduct detention operations. The reputation of the company preceded it, and the mayor was happy to



1SG Mackinnon and SSG Walter meet with members of the ICRC prior to inspecting our DCP.

give the military police company whatever was needed. This continued to highlight the importance of lessons learned during the Global War on Terror. Military Police Forces were the liaison between local police and government and friendly forces. This link was crucial, without the ability to transport the detainees to the rear, they would have all been endangered at the FLOT.

## GWOT LESSONS LEARNED FOR MDO

The value of Military Police forces was highlighted during this JRTC rotation through their integration with the IBCT and local authorities, allowing maneuver forces to focus on offensive operations while Military Police forces focused on stability and maneuver support tasks. The IBCT was able to focus on movement forward and maintain their tempo because the MP Company handled stability operations, especially during transitions. In an MDO context, the focus of Military Police forces becomes stability operations and is aided through using interpersonal communication skills on the battlefield to maintain the BCT's operational tempo. These stability operations were conducted by using knowledge gained during limited contingency operations during the Global War on Terror in NEO, KLE's, Host-Nation Policing, and detainee operations. During JRTC Rotation 23-04, Military Police forces proved themselves as a critical enabler by using those lessons learned to sustain relationships with towns and cities that the Military Police Company interacted with. As the Army transitioned to its new operating concept, stability operations remain vital for MP operations, and the Corps must apply lessons learned from the Iraq and Afghanistan to support the operational tempo of friendly forces on the battlefield. During MDO, NEOs, controlling GLOCs, presence patrols, KLEs, and other stability operations still happen, and having MPs on those tasks is critical.



23D MP Company posing for a photo at the DCP site.





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# OVERCOMING OBSTACLES: REFLECTIONS ON TEAMWORK

STORY BY LTC STEPHEN ANEST

**O**n an unseasonably cold and windy Saturday night at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, Command Sergeant Major Jared Dean and I watched the Soldiers and Noncommissioned Officers of our battalion make final preparation to execute an NCO induction ceremony, which marked a culmination of the previous 48 hours of field operations during the 310th Military Police Battalion's March Battle Assembly. As the command team for an Army Reserve battalion, our most challenging enemy is time. A typical Army Reserve unit gets a grand total of 38 at-bats a year to get it all done, and among the hardest questions a commander faces are what things to pick to train and what delivery method to employ in the time available.

From March 3 to 5, 2023, the 310th Military Police Battalion (Detention Operations), headquartered in Farmingdale, New York and consisting of four subordinate companies, conducted a squad-level lanes situational training exercise at JBMDL. 300 Soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, the 340<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company (General Support), the 423<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Company (General Support) and the 430<sup>th</sup> Military Police Detachment (Law Enforcement) participated in Operation Train to Fight, which began with the battalion occupying its operating site establishing command posts and bivouac areas. The lanes focused on basic warrior tasks, battle drills, and small unit tactics while highlighting a mounted lane employing both HMMVWs and MATVs, crew served

weapons complete with employing a Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station, reacting to a chemical attack, and countering Unmanned Aircraft Systems tasks. During the lanes the squads completed the orders process, received an evaluation, and participated in an after-action review with the entire event culminating by recognizing a "best squad leader." The event also included a night reconnaissance mission employing night vision devices and trained enabling tasks such as field feeding and command post operations. First Sergeant Robert Meola of the 340<sup>th</sup> MP CO said, "The lanes were what the Army is all about. It reminded me of the old Army where Soldiers grabbed their gear, loaded up in tactical vehicles with their assigned weapons, and moved out to complete a mission. The training hit the mark for the MP Mission. Shoot, move, and communicate!"

## WHERE ARE WE?

Knowing where you are enables a commander to know where we must go. Having to present the Yearly Training Brief to the brigade and then division commander within three weeks after taking command in April of 2022, I found myself having to make hard decisions about time, resources, and training with little time to assess each formation and the battalion staff. Around the same time, Lt. Gen. Jody Daniels, Chief of the Army Reserve, published her paper *CHANGING CULTURE, Moving from Metrics to Readiness*, which challenged leaders at all levels to shift the leadership and training paradigms. Having previously commanded the 382nd Military Police Battalion

(Combat Support) as a major, I recognized before making any significant changes I needed to develop a relationship with my command sergeant major and key staff, as well as observe the units in the field. In July of 2022, I got that opportunity.

The battalion participated in Gotham Justice, led by the 333rd Military Police Brigade at JBMDL, and gave me my first solid insights into where we were. We didn't pack all the equipment we needed such as blank firing adapters, key communications components, and individual OCIE. We didn't plan to have enough vehicles or licensed operators. We didn't have what we needed nor the skills to conduct the operations process efficiently. Despite all the challenges, the battalion had a successful training exercise where teams were built and filled with opportunities to learn and improve. The CSM, XO, S3 and I landed on four key objectives, for there were obstacles we needed to overcome:

1. Key staff positions were vacant.
2. The troop leading procedures and operations process needed to be improved upon at all levels.
3. Our path to move to the field and conduct operations was covered with obstacles.
4. In short, we needed to train on *how* to train.

Taking these lessons learned, and others, we input them back into the training planning process and immersed ourselves in an iterative cycle of refining the yearly training calendar. It was hard, it took effort, and it was ugly at times. We landed on an ROTC



advanced camp-style squad situational training event as our near-term objective with several key waypoints including a Command Post Exercise overlaid on a consolidated crew-served weapons range weekend and equipment readiness goals such as ensuring all Soldiers in the battalion had load carrying equipment, LiteFighter tents and helmets. The CSM and I maintained in the back of our minds three of our formations would be mobilizing in support of contingency operations during the next two training years.

### **PLANNING THE ROUTE**

Over the next nine months, the battalion staff would grow through significant recruiting efforts and team building, having all its key positions filled well in advance of the STX lanes training. I would describe the task at hand as Herculean because, the reality was, we had only around 15 actual training days to get it planned, rehearsed, and prepared. BN XO, Major Nick Jaeger managed the staff, set timelines and deliverables and worked closely with the BN S3, Major Lesly Perrier to synchronize the orders process and marshal resources. The entire operation was planned and executed with primarily organic personnel but included relevant and ready support by trainers from 1-310<sup>th</sup> Brigade Engineer Battalion, 181 Multifunctional Training Brigade, First Army Division West. Their Battalion Commander, LTC Joseph Sawruk said “they were thankful for the hard-work, dedication, and thoughtful remedies the Soldiers, NCOs, and Officers implemented to overcome limitations and shortfalls that made the mission an astounding success.”

The battalion headquarters and companies conducted the operations process throughout the planning of the training event. The S2 created threat models for lanes while other staff members built orders, planned scenarios, and designed overlays. Logisticians at the battalion and companies worked to ensure beans, bullets and equipment were at the right place at the right time. The companies trained the Troop Leading Procedures, conducted rehearsals and precombat checks and

inspections. A month before the exercise key personnel conducted a leaders’ recon of the training areas, refined the plan and the BN S3 published a final Fragmentary order. As a command team, the CSM and I drove the process, providing guidance and removing the obstacles to success where we could and mitigating their effect where we couldn’t.

### **BARRIERS, OBSTACLES, AND MINES**

As we approached the execution phase of the operation there were various challenges. In an Army Reserve unit, a missed training opportunity could set a training year back for six months or more. For the leaders in the battalion, we knew not getting this right could set things back significantly. Nothing goes perfectly in any Army operation as we all know. The Ammo Supply Point was closed for inventory during our planned draw time, buses dropped Soldiers on cantonment rather than the training area, and lane locations had to be adjusted. Not to mention our complete lack of experience in getting air corridors secured so UAS could fly or the torrential rain and 40 mile per hour winds impacting operations on the first day.

### **ON THE OBJECTIVE**

These STX lanes were a first for the battalion, at least in everyone’s recent memory. My commander’s training objectives sought to focus on the Troop Leading Procedures and to build unit cohesion. These objectives were most certainly achieved. Not only did the event provide valuable training during the execution phase but it trained our company grade leaders and battalion staff how to plan and execute training and how to set the conditions for NCOs to be NCOs. The training event consisted of ten squad lanes lasting approximately two hours each. We integrated blank ammunition for both individual and crew served weapons, smoke, and other pyrotechnic simulators into the training which added needed realism. It was a cold weekend and Friday was especially windy with significant precipitation, but that did not stop the Soldiers

of the Battalion. The weekend culminated in an NCO Induction Ceremony, which was inspiring for our junior NCOs and officers alike. For our company leaders, we conducted a Yearly Training Brief rehearsal and injected the most recent lessons learned into the iterative process which again juxtaposed the question of where we are informing where we need to go. Finally, as the battalion cleared training areas and prepared for redeployment to our reserve centers to conduct recovery, we held a full battalion formation, awards presentation, and promotion ceremony. Some of my fondest memories as an officer are participating in large formation ceremonial events where you truly see the combat power and scale of a battalion all at once. What a rarity it was to have a full Army Reserve Battalion with its organic Soldiers in one place at the same time.

There was a tremendous number of lessons we learned. However, what stands out is that when given guidance, leadership, and opportunity, junior officers and NCOs will carry the guidon forward despite obstacles. CSM Dean said, “I think maintaining proficiency on warrior tasks and battle drills can sometimes get lost in the shuffle of day-to-day operations, so opportunities like this battalion-wide training event can show leaders how they can synergize their training plans while helping us develop more efficient and agile junior leaders in our formation who can focus on the bigger picture when planning training for their units.” The CSM and I are very proud of our junior officers, NCOs, and Soldiers. They truly impressed us and exceeded our expectations. This was my second battalion command, and, in truth, the 310<sup>th</sup> MP BN was not even on my list of choices when I input my information for the Command Selection Board, but the Army works in mysterious way because I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else then to be surrounded by this amazing group of officers, NCOs and Soldiers who make a difference every single day.

**Justice to All!**

# ARMY RESERVES UNIT CONDUCTS ANNUAL TRAINING AT THE UNITED STATES DISCIPLINARY BARRACKS

STORY BY MAJ HECTOR A. PADILLA AND 2LT ZACHARY R. CARLEY

**T**he 310th Military Police Battalion conducted corrections operations in the United States Disciplinary Barracks from 1 February to 14 February 2023. The training focused on Pre- Service Corrections Training, Custody and Control, Force Cell Move operations and situational exercises prior to posting in the United States Disciplinary Barracks which houses over 400 inmates.

This marks the commencement of a unified relationship between the United States Disciplinary Barracks Battalion and the 310th Military Police Battalion. For the first time in both Battalion's relationship, soldiers from the 310th Military Police Battalion spent their 14-day training assembly working and training full time inside the only maximum security prison in the Department of Defense. Colonel Kevin Payne, Commander of the 15th Military Police Brigade, said it is important for soldiers to train in all the corrections tasks prior to taking on any correctional job or any mission around the world. The United States Disciplinary Barracks is the perfect environment

for these soldiers to gain experience conducting 24-hour correctional operations. The 310th MP BN is in preparation for their deployment to Kuwait where they will carry out the correctional mission.

Lieutenant Colonel John Magliocca, USBDB Battalion Commander, said this annual training prepared soldiers for corrections operations overseas. Operations, he said, have developed a lot through the years because of modernization and the new generation of soldiers. "The 310th MP BN came with soldiers from different backgrounds, of this group, we trained soldiers that

work in law enforcement and soldiers that work in retail. Our training was set up to cover all the gaps and prepare them to take over a detention facility in Kuwait".

Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Anest Jr., 310th MP Battalion Commander, traveled to Fort Leavenworth to learn about the correctional mission and discuss further training opportunities. He stated that the corrections/detentions mission has a multitude of variants between the Active and Reserve Components. The 310th MP BN training cycle at Fort Leavenworth gives Reserve units the opportunity to

expand on their knowledge and understand how the Active Component grapples with the correctional mission. Lieutenant Colonel Anest specified that he wanted to open the door for other Reserve units to acquire quality training and experience that comes from collaboration with the USBDB BN.

Sergeant First Class Martin Alonzo and Sergeant First Class Thomas Rincon were directly responsible for training and coaching the 310th MP BN soldiers.

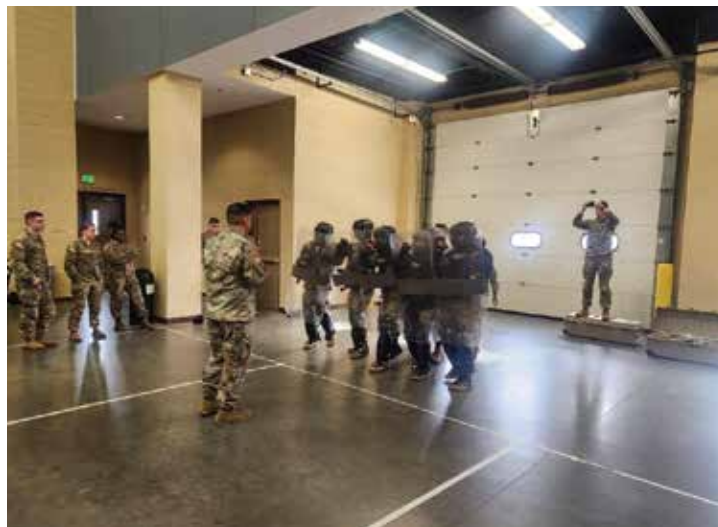


SFC Alonzo Instructs 310 MP BN Soldiers on Riot Control Movements  
(Picture taken 8JAN23 by SFC RINCON)





310 MP BN Soldiers Conduct Forced Cell Move Training (Picture taken 7JAN23 by SFC Rincon)



SFC Alonzo Conducts Riot Control Training (Picture taken 8JAN23 by SFC Rincon)



SFC Rincon Conducts OC Spray Certification (Picture taken 9JAN23 by SFC Alonzo)

Both Non-Commissioned Officers visited the Army Reserve Center in Farmingdale, New York prior to their arrival to Fort Leavenworth. Sergeant First Class Rincon and Sergeant First Class Alonzo trained the unit on Unarmed Self Defense, Non-Lethal Capabilities, Force Cell Move and Riot Control to assess their proficiency prior to posting by themselves in the United States Disciplinary Barracks.

This annual training cycle serves as a keystone experience for the 310th

Military Police Battalion by using this professional experience as validation to their deployment to Kuwait in the summer and is setting the standard for other Army Reserves units to follow.

*Major Hector A. Padilla has worked as a Military Police Officer since January of 2010. He has worked in various areas ranging from Corrections Platoon Leader to Corrections Company Commander and is currently assigned to the United States Disciplinary Barracks Battalion as an*

*Operations Officer. He can be contacted at [hector.a.padillagonzalez.mil@army.mil](mailto:hector.a.padillagonzalez.mil@army.mil).*

*Second Lieutenant Zachary R. Carley Enlisted in the United States Army in November of 2013 as a 31E (Internment/Resettlement Specialist). In May of 2021 he Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant as a Military Police Officer. He has worked in various areas ranging from Corrections Team Leader, Squad Leader, Platoon Leader and is currently assigned to the United States Disciplinary Barracks Battalion as an Assistant S3. He can be contacted at [zachary.r.carley.mil@army.mil](mailto:zachary.r.carley.mil@army.mil).*

# URBAN RECONNAISSANCE

STORY BY COL. JONATHAN BENNETT

PHOTOS BY MR. TOM SHORTRIDGE, DARPA PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**H**UNTSVILLE, Ala.— On April 12, 2023, senior leaders from the Office of the Provost Marshal General (OPMG), 200th Military Police Command, and 290th Military Police Brigade had the opportunity to observe a demonstration of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's (DARPA) Urban Reconnaissance through Supervised Autonomy (URSA) program and consider potential uses for Military Police missions. DARPA developed the program to enable autonomous systems operated and supervised by U.S. ground forces to detect hostile forces and establish positive identification of combatants before U.S. troops encounter them.

Military Police leaders observed the technology demonstration to consider the value of using this type of technology in MP missions such as detention operations, area security, and force protection. Observing were Military Police Maj. Gen. Cary "Joe" Cowan, Jr. (Commanding General, 200th Military Police Command), Brig. Gen. Matt Metzel (Deputy Commanding General, 200th Military Police Command), Col. Shannon Lucas (Deputy Provost Marshal General), and Col. Jonathan Bennett (Commander, 290th Military Police Brigade). The team was highly impressed with the capabilities and potential. Military Police leaders are continuing discussions with DARPA on the possibility of integrating URSA into a future training exercises in order to test it further in specific mission contexts.



Senior Army Leaders from OPMG, 200<sup>th</sup> MP Command, and 290<sup>th</sup> MP Brigade discuss system capabilities while observing the ground robotics systems used in DARPA's URSA experiment.



MG Cowan, BG Metzel, and COL Bennett interact with one of the ground systems during the experiment. Ground and air robotic systems are used as a part of the URSA system to engage with individuals in the monitored area as they gather data to build a comprehensive operating picture in real time.

## ABOUT THE URSA SYSTEM IN DETENTION OPERATIONS

The URSA System could be integrated into Detention Operations Battalions and could include small ground and air systems as well as a Mission Commander's module. Ground Systems (Small UGVs) would conduct perimeter patrols around the facility and Air Systems (Small UAVs) would conduct overflight of compounds on regular intervals to gather data and build assessments. Guard Force Watch Commanders would be trained to operate and monitor the system to give them vastly greater situational awareness of activities within the facility and near instantaneous accountability of EPWs in custody. Detention Operations Battalion S-2's would work with the system to better understand potential internal threats and individuals of potential intelligence value. The URSA System could be a significant combat multiplier for the detention operations mission and possibly allow Detention Operations Battalions to increase the number of EPWs they are able to manage without additional personnel requirements.

## FIELD TESTING AT TITAN WARRIOR 23

The 200th MP Command and 290th MP Brigade are working with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to conduct a field test of the URSA system at the 290th's Titan Warrior '23 exercise this summer at Camp Shelby, Mississippi between 30 July and 03 Aug. As a





URSA Mission Commanders review captured footage of an scenario event during the experiment and use it to backtrack to see who else was involved. In a detention operations mission URSA would potentially enable a watch commander to identify those involved conflicts within a compound and replay any past interactions involving those EPWs. The system could prompt the identification of the same individual being involved in multiple events and identify violent detainees.

part of this field test, the URSA team will be implementing Camp Bobcat (a theatre detention facility training site) with cameras and robotics systems that will be active while 290th Soldiers are conducting their culminating training events (CTE) on Detention Operations. Soldiers will be trained on the URSA system and how to employ its capabilities to better ensure the care, custody, and control of EPWs inside the TDF.



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# A Closer Look:

## New, Rare and Unauthorized Insignia in the MP Collection

STORY BY AMANDA WEBB, MUSEUM SPECIALIST,  
MILITARY POLICE CORPS REGIMENTAL MUSEUM



We are in the thick of cataloging a new accession here at the museum! We have recently accepted an almost 200-piece grouping of rare and unauthorized Military Police insignia ranging from World War I to late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Within the larger accession are several smaller groupings, tied to specific Soldiers, which help to tell their story of service. But for the majority of pieces we are accessioning, we selected them because they give us insight into MP units or represent unique examples we do not already have within our artifact collection.

Particularly during early MP Corps history, units were often stood up and later deactivated with little more than a brief line in a report, officially. But for the Soldiers who served in those units, their mission was real—their time was meaningful. We often have difficulty tracking their existence

from an artifact standpoint, but insignia can help bridge that knowledge gap. This collection includes several “unauthorized” officer and enlisted branch insignia that include lettered and numbered units on the insignia itself. Unauthorized in this sense means that the Soldiers would modify standard insignia and personalize it. For officer insignia, they most commonly had their numbered unit above the crossed pistols on a thin bar attached to each barrel. Enlisted insignia is more varied, with numbers and letters appearing both above and below the pistols, and created by stamping, soldering, and engraving.

Similarly, Soldiers often wore non-standard brassards that did not meet the specifications identified in Army regulations. (In 1941 for example, brassards were to be rectangular, dark blue wool. In 1970 their physical description of dark blue wool

included adjustable snap fastener closures and an extension to accommodate shoulder sleeve insignia.) Soldiers commonly had brassards made in theater when deployed and would take advantage of the crafting skills of the local community, with brassards made in colors and materials other than dark blue wool, with custom embroidery work, and with various types of fasteners for wear.

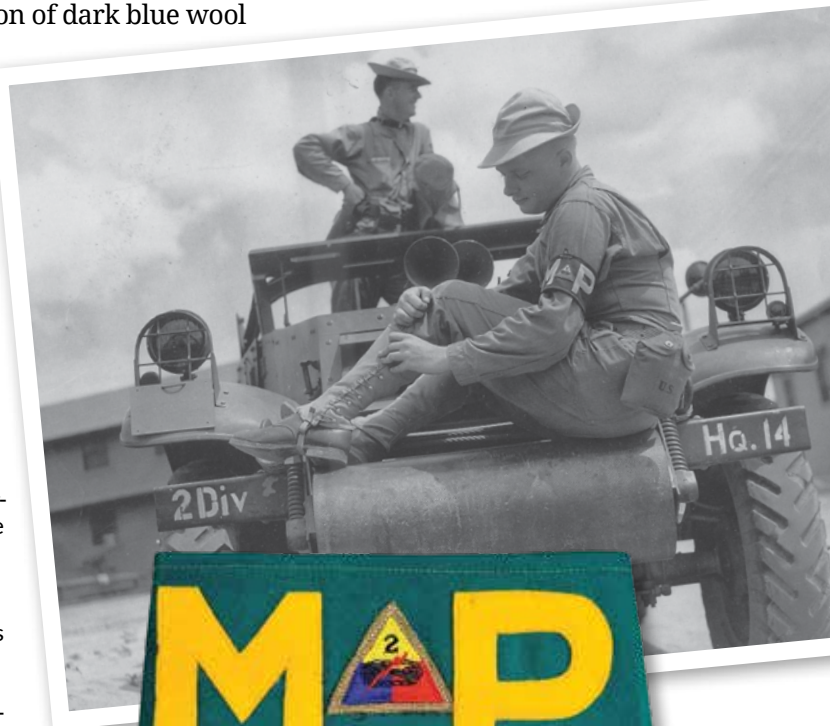
Historically MPs had an affinity for customizing their uniforms to reflect their pride and esprit de corps, and this collection reflects that trend of unauthorized pieces. We’ve selected some of our favorites to share here that highlight the unusual composition and unique take on standard insignia. Take a look!



**741<sup>st</sup> and 796<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion Officer Insignia:** On first glance, these two pieces of officer branch insignia are classic examples of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century MP insignia, with their brass coloring and numbered unit above the crossed pistols. However, comparing the two highlights some of their distinctive features. The 741<sup>st</sup> piece is unusually detailed, and all the components of the flintlock pistol are visible; of particular note the hammer, frizzen, and even the mounting holes for the lock and side plates are identifiable from the insignia. In contrast, the insignia of the 796<sup>th</sup> has some basic linework, but the space around the trigger is not pierced, and the pistols are more rounded and stylized. The “796” at the top is distinctive as well. The font of the 741<sup>st</sup> is a commonly seen serif typeface (meaning it has smaller lines capping the larger ones, like as seen at the base of the 4 and 1), however, the typeface of the “796” is italicized and sans serif. With over 100 examples of officer branch insignia in the MP Artifact Collection, this is the first piece with this style typeface.



**CO. A. 109 M.P. Enlisted Insignia:** This early enlisted collar insignia is an as of yet undocumented MP unit. Collar discs of this type for military police commonly had only the “MP” and did not typically include company and higher command information.



**2d Armored Division Brassard:** With a green base and yellow lettering, this is a rarely seen color combination for brassards. In addition, brassards from this time period, circa 1940 to 1950, typically did not include a shoulder sleeve insignia patch. An MP with the 2d Armored Division Military Police Platoon wears the brassard while seated on the front of an M3 Scout Car.



**Kagnew Station Brassard:** Kagnew Station began as a U.S. Army radio station in 1943 in what is now Eritrea, on the Horn of Africa. Following World War II, Kagnew Station became a Cold War listening station used to monitor Soviet military, space, and diplomatic radio communications until its closure in 1977. This brassard, with its hand embroidered “KAGNEW STATION” and shoulder sleeve insignia, also bears the name of its wearer, “Akin,” which, based on current research, is believed to be MP Gary Dale Akin. The brassard is of a finer weight white cloth and has black fabric MP letters stitched to the front.



**PM Collar Disc Variants:** These two reflect the variation in standard insignia for the Provost Marshal during WWI. The left disc shows the typical, block style typeface for the “PM” superimposed over the diamond background pattern of the disc. In contrast, the right disc has a “PM” superimposed over a finer detailed background. But of most importance, the “PM” is in a serif typeface and not bold like its counterpart. While the MP Artifact Collection does include some officer branch pieces with this typeface for Provost Marshal, this is the first piece for enlisted.



**MP Collar Disc:** This likely German-made collar disc dates to the post-World War I period and stands out for both its construction and color. With its coppery tone, the disc does not have the shade of either darkened or typical bronze insignia. In addition, while made in the style of other enlisted insignia of the time—outer raised edge, detailed background and plain bold typeface—the similarities stop. The background, instead of a geometric standard pattern, appears to be a hammered textured design of unevenly sized dots, with smaller points filling the tighter spaces between and around each of the letters. The bold “MP,” instead of raised and flat, is only in outline and has a distinct textured pattern.



**25<sup>th</sup> MP Company Motorcycle Patrol Brassard:** This brassard was worn by a member of the 25th MP Company motorcycle patrol assigned to the 25th Infantry Division, likely post-Vietnam. It is entirely leather, with a hand tooled design of the 25th Infantry Division shoulder sleeve insignia and “wings and wheel” motorcycle patch, all above the standard white MP letters. All the designs were hand-painted in full color.



**Company C Collar Disc:** Dated to post-World War II Germany, this collar disc highlights the artistry of its maker. This piece, comprised of a set of crossed pistols with a large “C” above, is entirely hand engraved. Although the pistols at first glance appear stamped, the variance in depth of the cut and thickness of the lines shows that the manufacturer worked by hand to detail the MP insignia.





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# JAPANESE EPWS — WORLD WAR II

STORY BY RONNEY Z. MILLER, MPCR/USAMPS HISTORIAN

The experience with Japanese prisoners during World War II stands in total contrast to German and Italian POWs of that same era. The poverty of qualified personnel, such as interrogators and linguists, represented a serious challenge from the outset. Equally problematic was the lack of cultural awareness of Japanese society and heritage. The *Senjinkun* (“Instructions for the Battlefield” or Field Service Code) was published by the Japanese War Ministry on 8 January 1941. It was a modern-day revision of the traditional code of honor practiced by the legendary *Samurai* known as *Bushido* or “the way of the warrior.” The *Bushido* code encompassed key principles or virtues that warriors were expected to uphold. Thus, the *Senjinkun* was enthusiastically embraced by the preponderance of Japanese soldiers up to the end of hostilities; the code strictly forbade its service members to retreat or surrender... regardless



Japanese Prisoners of War, Guadalcanal, circa 1942

of circumstances. It romanticized and venerated the concept of unconditional loyalty and service to the Japanese Emperor and capture

was considered as the most unimaginable dereliction of duty. To be taken prisoner was an unforgiveable sin; redemption was impossible; and the “loss of personal honor” was absolute. Years later, Kazuo Sakamaki (Prisoner No. 1) reflected, “Japan fought a war in which fallen soldiers were enshrined as war gods while those that survived a battle were treated as non-existent.”

Thoroughly indoctrinated with “the way of the warrior” mentality, Japanese soldiers often fought to the death or committed suicide rather than face the shame of being captured alive. To illustrate this point, during the Battle of Tarawa (20-23 November 1943), only 17 of the 5,000 Japanese defenders survived and during the Battle of Leyte (17 October-26 December 1944), 65,000 Japanese soldiers died and about 5,000 were taken prisoner. And this recurring scenario was perpetuated by propaganda; most Japanese service members were told





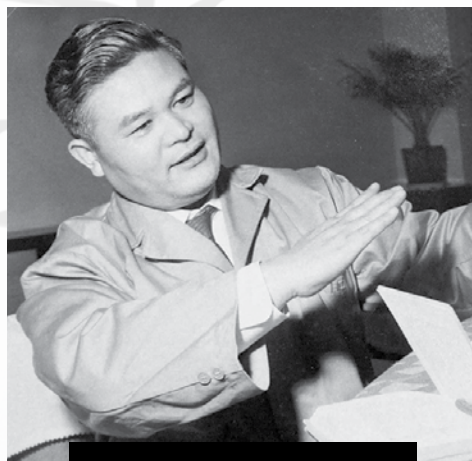
*A Japanese soldier in the sea off Cape Endaiadere, New Guinea, holding a hand grenade to his head moments before using it to commit suicide. The Australian soldier on the beach had called on him to surrender (18 December 1942).*

by their leaders that if they surrendered, they would be summarily executed or mercilessly tortured by their captors. Against this backdrop, there were many instances in which Japanese soldiers booby-trapped their dead and/or wounded or feigned surrender to lure Allied combatants into ambushes. This practice had a cause and effect: the average US or Commonwealth infantryman that fought in the Pacific Theater was reluctant to take prisoners for fear that in the process of doing so, they might fall victim to a devious ruse. Moreover, hatred of the enemy was intense; many Soldiers and Marines had personally witnessed atrocities committed by the Japanese. In his classic war memoir, *With the Old Breed at Peleliu and Okinawa*, Eugene B. Sledge observed, “Some writers blame it on racism. I don’t believe that. The code of *Bushido* by which the enemy fought fostered brutality. We never took prisoners, even when some tried to give up. They often tried to throw a grenade at us.”

The day after the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Ensign Kazuo Sakamaki was captured on Waimanalo Beach. The commander of a midget submarine that had run aground, he was escorted to Fort Shafter for interrogation and later, transferred to the United States. Kazuo Sakamaki qualified as the first enemy prisoner captured by the United States during World War II... and very few Japanese were captured during the first years of hostilities. By August 1943, there

were only 160 Japanese prisoners held for the US Army by Australian authorities; and only ten selected POWs had been evacuated to the United States from the Pacific area. In comparison, thousands of German and Italian prisoners had been transported to the United States by the summer of 1943. It should be noted that shortly after America entered World War II, a mutual agreement was made between the United States and Australia. Japanese captured by US forces would be turned over to Australian authorities for internment and administration; in turn, the US agreed to assume a proportionate share of the expenditures required for the maintenance of POWs. This initiative was one of necessity rather than convenience; the United States lacked both the facilities and personnel necessary for the detention of prisoners of war at that time.

As the war progressed, permanent POW camps were established in the United States, New Zealand,



*Kazuo Sakamaki, circa 1960*

and India in addition to Australia. Temporary camps and a few permanent POW camps were established on far flung islands in the Pacific. In April 1943, the “enemy alien” internment camp at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, was directed to shift its operations to a Prisoner of War camp. Subsequently, all “enemy aliens” were transferred elsewhere and within a few months, the conversion from internment camp to POW camp was complete... and all Japanese POWs permanently held in the United States (approximately 62 at that time) were brought to Camp McCoy. By December 1943, this POW camp held 500 German enlisted men, 88 Japanese enlisted men, and twelve Japanese officers. At the end of World War II, the camp held approximately 3,000 German, 2,700 Japanese, and 500 Korean prisoners – making Camp McCoy the largest permanent Japanese POW camp in the United States. In August 1945, the total number of Japanese prisoners held in POW camps within the United States peaked at 5,413. By the end of May 1945, the German and Italian POW population that was imprisoned in approximately 600 base and branch camps scattered throughout the United States reached a half million. As a result of battlefield success in New Guinea and the Bismarck Archipelago, enemy morale quickly deteriorated, and this led to a rapid increase in the number of Japanese prisoners. By the end of 1943, the Japanese POW population numbered 604; at the beginning of the Philippine campaigns (October 1944), this figure rose to 4,435. Nevertheless, the war was almost over before significantly large numbers of Japanese soldiers, usually disease-ridden, malnourished, and disillusioned, surrendered to Commonwealth and American forces. During World War II, it is estimated that as many as 50,000





Prisoner of War Area "A," Barracks Buildings 7613, 7614, 7615, 7616 and 7617, and Kitchen and Mess Hall Building 7619. In the background Guard Tower No. 4, Building 7608, is in front of Buildings 7502, 7503 and 7504.

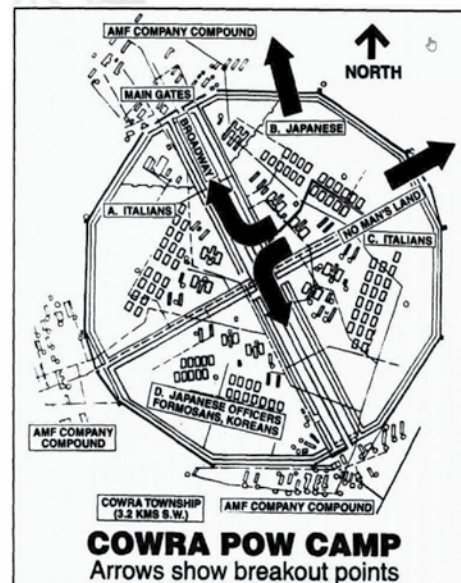
members of the Imperial Japanese military surrendered to the Western Allies prior to the end of hostilities. This does not include the number of enemy prisoners taken by the Chinese Nationalists and Chinese Communist forces. Japan's wartime POW Information Bureau calculates that 42,543 Japanese surrendered to the Western Allies; however, the Japanese government actively sought to suppress information about its captured personnel during the war.

Japanese POWs held in Allied prisoner of war camps were interned and administered in accordance with international agreements which governed the treatment of POWs. Ironically, few Japanese knew of the Geneva Convention of 1929 and were never told what to do if captured. Thus, most Japanese POWs resigned themselves to their fate and adjusted to life in captivity. The expectation of being killed upon capture was proven a myth and as a result, the trauma of surrender rapidly diminished. Sports and other recreational activities took the edge off boredom and food, clothing and medical treatment were provided. Thus, very few Japanese POWs ever attempted to escape and those that did were quickly rounded-up or returned on their own volition. Initially, work details represented a source of contention; they were perceived by the Japanese as supporting the Allied war effort. As soon as it was determined that these details were primarily for the health and welfare of the POWs themselves, this source of friction was removed.

Tensions rose and abated from time to time, but these were exceptions to the norm. Nevertheless, two notable incidents did occur. On 25 February 1943, Japanese prisoners staged a strike after being ordered to work at the Featherston POW Camp in New Zealand. Before order could be restored, 48 POWs were killed and 74 were wounded. On 5 August 1944, Japanese prisoners at POW Camp No. 12, near Cowra, Australia, attempted a suicidal escape. During the ensuing skirmish, 257 Japanese and four Australians were killed.

With the atomic bombings of Hiroshima on 6 August 1945 and Nagasaki on 9 August 1945; faced with an imminent invasion of the Japanese archipelago; the possibility of additional atomic bombings; and Soviet entry into the war, Japan announced its intention to surrender on 15 August 1945. Soviet and Chinese forces accepted the surrender of 1.6 million Japanese, and the Western Allies took the surrender of millions more in Japan, Southeast Asia, and the Southwest Pacific. To

prevent resistance to the order to surrender, Japan's Imperial Headquarters announced that "servicemen who come under the control of enemy forces after the proclamation of the Imperial Rescript will not be regarded as POWs." The Western Allies shared this sentiment and as in the case with Germany's capitulation, enemy personnel that surrendered after hostilities ended were designated as Disarmed Enemy Forces (DEF). In most instances, Japanese



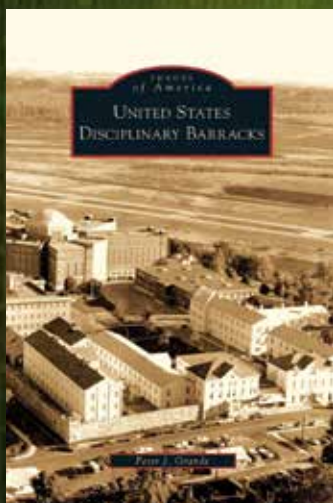
troops who surrendered on or after 15 August 1945 were not taken into captivity but were disarmed and repatriated to the Japanese home islands. However, the spirit of the *Senjinkun* was so intoxicating that many Japanese soldiers refused to surrender and "evaded" capture for years and even decades. On 18 December 1974, Private Teruo Nakamura was recognized as the last Japanese combatant of World War II to surrender – 29 years and 107 days after his country had done so. His backpay amounted to \$227.59 (US currency).



Japanese prisoners of war in Guam, after hearing the announcement of the Japanese surrender (15 August 1945)



# MP Book Nook



## 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.

**PURCHASE:** [mpraonline.org/shop/united-states-disciplinary-barracks](http://mpraonline.org/shop/united-states-disciplinary-barracks)



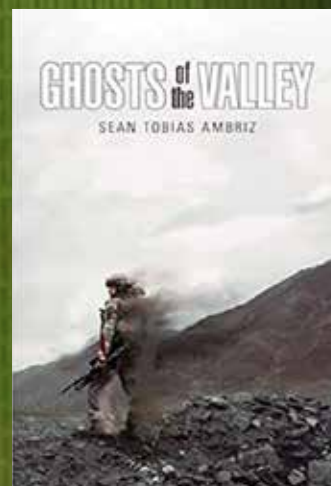
## Ghosts of the Valley

Ask around your local VFW about what a military police soldier does for a living. The answers will make you laugh, cringe, and sometimes simply lean back at the nonsensical tales we evoke from our comrades in arms. Even to the standard military police soldier, their experiences from one to the next are largely different depending on any number of influences. Whether that is duty station, deployments, specific type of military police. In this book, you will see the far edge of the combat spectrum for a military police soldier. Every so often, military police get training that enables them to be attached to units conducting missions well outside the purview of a standard military police soldier. For those soldiers, their story goes largely untold. Whether due to the incredulity of the story, or because some stories are hard to talk about. The events in this book are told exactly as they happened. Some have been modified due to security concerns and for the privacy of comrades.

Ghosts of the Valley gives a full spectrum recount of the incidents that took place in Afghanistan, and the recovery process that became necessary upon return to the peace of home. The book itself will hopefully serve as a benefit to soldiers who have not yet deployed, civilians who struggle to understand the average combat veteran, and the soldiers who have redeployed that still struggle in their recovery process. The book is not meant to glorify war, but to expose the horrors of it. Ghosts of the Valley also provides a comprehensive, and up-to-date as of the publication, list of resources for those struggling with PTSD, or those who simply need help.



**PURCHASE:** <https://mpraonline.org/product/ghost-of-the-valley>





# CONVOY DUTY—VIETNAM

STORY BY DALE MEISEL

**M**uch like modern-day Military Police, the MP's of the Vietnam War carried out a variety of duties, among them: discipline, law and order; black market suppression; prisoner of war/detainee detention; traffic control; and convoy escort. They faced a multitude of threats in carrying out these tasks. In a war without boundaries, the enemy was everywhere—and nowhere.

The 23rd MP Company, Americal Division, had been activated in December 1967 in the northern part of South Vietnam. The Division had a huge geographical responsibility. Consequently, the 23rd MP Company was spread out. The MP platoons assigned to the three infantry brigades were separated by more than a hundred miles of highway. Here is one of their stories.

Military Policemen Roger Sudbury and Bill Fenton were best friends. They went through MP AIT together at Fort Gordon and then both were assigned to the 140th MP Company there. Neither intended to make the Army a career.

After about five months at Gordon, Bill and Roger both received orders for Vietnam. After their leaves, they ended up traveling together on the same plane to Vietnam. In November 1968, Bill and Roger were assigned to the Second Platoon, supporting the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. During that time, there was heightened enemy activity in the Brigade's area of operations.

MP's on the Brigade's LZ Baldy performed all the duties of combat Military Policemen. They were stationed at the two entrances to the LZ and processed in the Vietnamese workers. They provided security for the brigade TOC. They operated a PW Cage. They patrolled an extensive section of QL 1 (Highway 1) south to the village of Tam Ky. They even supervised the local villagers who were permitted on the base to scavenge through the dump.

And they ran convoys—a most dangerous enterprise. Bill Fenton ran many of them.

Roger Sudbury had decided that, when he returned to the

**Remains of Fenton/Zugelter Truck**



World, he would buy a Chevy Z-28. To that end, he was saving all the money he could. When one of the short-timers in the platoon learned that he had to pull KP duty, he offered \$100 to anyone who took his place. The next day, March 26, 1969 was a rare day off for Roger, so he took the offer.

Roger got up early that day, but instead of doing KP, he was informed that higher headquarters wanted some important prisoners being held at the PW collecting point to be evacuated ASAP. It was Roger's turn to go on convoy. Roger was ready to return the \$100, but Bill Fenton stepped in and said he would pull Roger's duty for him.

With Bill Fenton on that convoy from LZ Baldy to LZ Ross would be fellow MP, Gene Zugelter.

Gene, who had been in-country about four months and had worked in the MP motor pool most of his tour, was asked the previous day if he would drive a vehicle in the convoy going from LZ Baldy to LZ Ross. Gene had spent most of his time working on vehicles and had not had much chance to see the country, so he agreed.

By late that morning, after the engineers had swept the dirt packed road, the convoy set off through the west gate.

Jerry Widiker and Bob Corey were in the lead jeep. Bob was driving and Jerry was manning the M-60 machine gun. Jerry recalls that since the Tet holiday of the previous month, the convoy route had become extremely hazardous.

Gene was driving a deuce and a half, with Bill riding shotgun in the back of the vehicle with seven Vietnamese prisoners. They were second in line in the convoy.

Jerry and Bob, in the lead vehicle, made the necessary radio contacts, picked up the rest of the convoy, and headed out towards LZ Ross. Jerry recalls that there were about 22 vehicles.

MP's described the most dangerous part of the route variously as "Bomb Alley," "Mine Alley" or "Graveyard Alley." Dozens of military vehicles had been destroyed by mines in the prior six weeks.

Bob Corey had been calling in the checkpoints as the

**Enemy-Destroyed Artillery on Convoy Route**





convoy reached them. They were about four or five miles from Baldy, and Bob had just called in Checkpoint Echo.

As the lead vehicle entered the danger zone, Jerry bit down on a freshly lit cigarette and turned around to see if Bill and Gene were as tightly wound as he was. Bill waved obscenely back to Jerry, whose jeep was about 30 yards ahead.

About half way through the 200 – 300 meter stretch of road, it happened. There was an earthshaking explosion. Bob stopped the jeep immediately and called on the radio for a Medevac flight. Jerry grabbed his M-16 rifle and ran back. Bob watched the flanks of the convoy for any hostile fire.

Jerry was stricken. Behind the truck, the Vietnamese prisoners were sprawled out, both on and off the road. Several severed body parts were lying among them. Jerry felt dazed and weak and did not want to go around the truck and out into the pasture where he knew his buddies would be.

But he went. Jerry found that Gene Zugelter was lying off to the left of the truck, about 100 feet from the road. The explosion had thrown Bill Fenton an additional 50 feet.

Gene was unconscious but groaning. Jerry looked over at Bill; he did not appear to be as badly wounded as Gene.

Gene's mouth had been injured and his teeth badly shattered. Jerry carefully turned Gene's mouth to the side, scraped the teeth and blood away so that Gene would not choke.

Jerry saw that one of Gene's legs was badly wounded around the knee. He tied his bandage and his shirt around the wound to staunch the flow of blood. A medic from the convoy assisted Jerry.

Jerry prayed that Bill was in better shape than Gene. After about fifteen minutes, the Dustoff chopper touched down. Jerry helped one of the crew members load Gene onto a stretcher and on board the chopper. He saw that Bill was already stretchered and on board also.

A few minutes later, another helicopter arrived to evacuate the Vietnamese prisoners, none of whom survived.

After pulling themselves together, Bob and Jerry led the remainder of the convoy safely on to LZ Ross and then back to LZ Baldy. Before they returned, they received a radio message that one of the MP's had died. Jerry was shocked later to learn that it was Bill Fenton. He had thought that Gene's injuries were far more severe.

Bill Fenton's death deeply affected the platoon. They responded to the tragedy in different ways. For Roger Sudbury,

#### Enemy-Destroyed Equipment on Convoy Route



there was survivor's guilt. He says, "After Bill died, I volunteered for every hazardous mission I could. But I survived anyway."

For the rest of the platoon, and for the brigade, enemy attacks on the convoys, on the firebases and elsewhere in their area of operations continued through the summer.

Roger recalls that Bill had wanted to return home to Connecticut and work for his father. The family owned several motorcycle shops and a construction business. Bill also wanted to return home because he had a fiancée waiting for him. They intended to get married a month after Bill returned from Vietnam.

Jerry Widiker remembers that Bill was everyone's brother. Jerry and Bob Corey both remember that Bill had a way of keeping everyone amused with his jokes and funny stories. Roger Sudbury remembers Bill as a "by the book" MP.

Gene Zugelter has no memory of the explosion. The last thing he remembers is driving down the road. He believes that he survived in part because the canvas top of the vehicle had been removed. He only recalls that he woke up in Japan a month later.

When Gene did wake up, he learned of his injuries: severe head trauma, both jaws broken, his back broken in three places, a gut full of shrapnel, a broken hip with his right leg now two inches shorter and affected by paralysis, a broken arm, a broken leg and more shrapnel over his body.

Gene remained in the hospital in Japan for five weeks. His parents flew there and greatly assisted him and other wounded soldiers on the ward. Gene was then flown to a hospital in Valley Forge until January 1970 when he returned to Ohio.

Perhaps miraculously—or as a testament to a soldier's grit and determination, Gene is still alive as of this writing (mid-2023). His wounds, of course, are still with him today. The story of Gene's recovery was told in full by his sister in the September 1969 issue of Reader's Digest.

Specialist Fourth Class William Charles Fenton, Junior, 20 years old, from Wallingford, Connecticut was one of 124 Military Policemen killed in action in Vietnam. Bill rests in All Saints Cemetery, North Haven, Connecticut. His name and the names of twelve other 23rd MP Company soldiers are listed among the 58,318 men and women on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial—The Wall.

*Dale Meisel served as First Platoon Leader and PM Operations Officer with the 23rd MP Company, Americal Division, Vietnam.*

#### Enemy-Destroyed Tanker on Convoy Route





# MPs Serving at the United States Army Drill Sergeant Academy Earn the Order of the Marechaussee

STORY BY SFC SCOTT M. HURLEY, UNITED STATES ARMY DRILL SERGEANT ACADEMY  
PHOTOS BY DANNY SCHUMPERT, FORT JACKSON PHOTO LLC



**M**ilitary Police Noncommissioned Officers train the future of the Army while serving as Drill Sergeants at the three MP Battalions at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. They also serve as Drill Sergeants in Basic Combat Training (BCT) units at the other three major Army Training Centers (ATC), Fort Jackson, SC; Fort Sill, OK; and Fort Moore, GA. The Army selects Military Police NCOs, or they volunteer to serve 24-36 months on the trail. Once cleared by Human Resources Command (HRC), they attend the nine-week Drill Sergeant Course at the United States Army Drill Sergeant Academy (USADSA).

The USADSA mission is to educate, train, and mentor Noncommissioned Officers to assume the role of a Drill Sergeant within the Initial Entry Training



environment (IET). The USADSA trains approximately 2,800 Drill Sergeants annually to support all BCT, AIT, One Station Unit Training (OSUT), the Army Reserve Drill Sergeant Program, and the Army National Guard Recruit Sustainment Program.

The 128 Drill Sergeant Leaders chosen from across all 22 Centers of Excellence (COE) and ATC locations after being endorsed by their respective COE or ATC Command Sergeants Major (CSM) execute this mission. Once recommended, these Drill Sergeants will be prescreened for eligibility and then travel to Fort Jackson, SC, to attend the 13-day Drill Sergeant Leader (DSL) selection process. This process culminates with a selection panel consisting of the Center for Initial Military Training (CIMT) CSM, the USADSA Commandant, the Deputy Commandant, and two other ATC or COE Nominative Command Sergeants Major.

At the end of the selection process, only a handful of these Drill Sergeants make it through the rigorous vetting process. The USADSA is working hand in hand with Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) to change the culture of BCT. The Commandant of the USADSA, CSM Rickey G. Jackson, is leading this charge by hiring only the most dedicated Drill Sergeants with the highest level of character. The Drill Sergeants selected have similar characteristics and attributes. They are NCOs who understand treating Soldiers with Dignity and Respect, coupled with high standards and challenging training, is the most effective way to build cohesive teams.

The role of the Drill Sergeant has an impact on the Total Army that is almost immeasurable. This privilege of serving as a Drill Sergeant is not to be taken lightly and is the most rewarding position held during an NCOs career. Over their 24 months on the trail, they will directly impact the transformation of thousands of civilians into competent and confident Soldiers. While serving as a DSL, they will directly impact hundreds of future Drill Sergeants across the entire IET Enterprise. DSLs will teach, coach, and mentor up to 120 Drill Sergeant Candidates every class. These new Drill Sergeants will go on to train 100,000 Soldiers annually to continue strengthening the three components of the US Army.

The Drill Sergeants from the Military Police Regiment recommended to attend this selection process are selected at a higher rate than other Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). This is testimony of professionalism and dedication throughout the Noncommissioned Officers in the MP Regiment. Military Police Drill Sergeants are currently filling 13 of the 128 DSL positions. There are 190 MOS that can fulfill this role; having Military Police Drill Sergeants fill more than 10% of these positions indicates where we are today as a Regiment.

If having the highest selection rate and the number of MP Drill Sergeants serving at the USADSA wasn't enough, Our MPs continue to find a way to lead from the front and set the standard for the NCO Corps to emulate. MPs







continue to set a high standard, as three of the six platoons at the USADSA are led by MPs who were hand selected to fill the Senior Drill Sergeant Leader (SDSL) role. The MP Senior Leaders are Sergeants First Class David Benitez, Scott Hurley, and Charles Lucania. SDSs lead up to 16 DSLs and supervise the teaching, coaching, and mentoring of up to 120 Drill Sergeant Candidates throughout the nine-week Drill Sergeant Course.

While serving in this demanding assignment, our MPs continue to develop themselves. Within the last year, we had MPs graduate courses such as Mission Command Digital Master Gunner (MCDMG), Master Fitness Trainer (MFT), Master Marksmanship Trainer (MMTC), one earned

the Expert Soldier Badge (ESB), and two completed their bachelor's degrees.

To recognize their level of excellence and their representing the Military Police Regiment honorably, four of these NCOs were nominated to receive the Order for the Marechaussee. On 24 February 2023, the USADSA sponsored an Order of the Marechaussee presentation. Our Regimental Command Sergeant Major, RCSM Shawn A. Klosterman, traveled to Fort Jackson, SC, to present the following: Order of the Marechaussee in Bronze to SDSL (SFC) David Benitez Jr.; DSL (SFC) Gregory E. Hand; former DSL (SFC) Charles E. Webb and Order of the Marechaussee in Steel to DSL (SSG) Dylan W. Thillemann.



# U.S. Army MP Officer Graduates from FBI National Academy

**U**.S. Army Military Police Regimental Association announces Major Joshua P. David graduating as a member of the 286th session of the FBI National Academy. The graduation took place at the National Academy in Quantico, Virginia on June 8, 2023. Fewer than one percent of law enforcement officers qualify to attend the program across the nation.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy offers ten weeks of advanced communication, leadership, and fitness training. Participants must have proven themselves as high-performing professionals within their agencies to attend. On average, these officers have 21 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive-level positions.

The 286th session consisted of two hundred and thirty-eight law enforcement officers from 47 states and the District of Columbia. The class included members of law enforcement agencies from 25 countries, five military organizations, and six federal civilian organizations.

“Major Joshua David is the epitome of what we look for in an Army Leader. Poised and driven, Major David continually finds ways to ensure mission success,” quoted LTC Reynolds, 10th MP BN (CID) Commander.

Major David, formerly the Battalion Executive Officer of the 10th Military Police Battalion (CID) stationed at Fort Liberty, NC, successfully coordinated administrative and logistical support across five geographically dispersed CID offices. His role involved facilitating essential resources and assistance to enhance the preparedness of CID field offices and resident agencies, enabling them to concentrate on their intricate investigations. Major David’s upcoming



assignment is at CENTCOM, MacDill, AFB in Tampa, FL.

“I am sincerely grateful for this opportunity to attend a prestigious academy and the lessons I have learned from law enforcement professionals from interagency and international organizations. We need more MP officers to attend the FBI National Academy to grow professionally and develop a professional network with law enforcement agencies world-wide,” said Major David.

Major David is now interconnected with a robust network of FBI and law enforcement professionals that span multiple classes since its inception in 1972. There are over 54k graduates spanning the entire country, to include foreign partners, actively participating in chapters to keep everyone connected and cooperating. This network amplifies the reach of US Army Military Police and provides opportunities for future collaboration and cooperation.



**“Major Joshua David is the epitome of what we look for in an Army Leader. Poised and driven, Major David continually finds ways to ensure mission success.”**

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**Did you graduate from the FBI Academy too? Share your event with the MPRA, email [MPRABeth@gmail.com](mailto:MPRABeth@gmail.com).**

# From MP To Federal Protective Services Director: The Journey of Director Cline

STORY BY ERIN YOUNKIN

Growing up in rural Indiana, Richard “Kris” Cline was exposed to a singular idea for his future, and it was going to college. Though he enjoyed himself and had fun with the friends he made during his freshman year in college, he simply didn’t feel fulfilled.

“My major was business management, and I was bored to death. Plus, I spent all of my money in my first year of college,” said Cline.

The summer after his freshman year of college, Cline returned to his hometown and reconnected with a high school classmate. His friend had joined the Army out of high school and was serving in the Military Police Corps. He shared his experiences of basic training and what life was like as an MP.

“He told me all about the cool things he was getting to do and for me, the idea of being a police officer was awesome. I grew up respecting law enforcement and thought it was a very respectable profession. Police officers were responsible for maintaining public order and protecting communities, but I knew in the civilian world, I couldn’t become a police officer for another few years due to my age,” said Cline.

In his conversations with his friend, Cline learned that the Army was offering what was then called the Army College Fund, which allowed Soldiers to serve for three years and earn money for college. It seemed like a great fit for Cline and the right move for him professionally.

Cline immediately went to the nearest MEPS station where he took his ASVAB test, his physical, and signed a contract to become a U.S. Army Soldier. Without knowing much more than what his friend had told him, he shipped to Fort McClellan, AL on October 14, 1980.

Due to his ASVAB score, Cline was able to select his MOS and without hesitation, chose the Military Police Corps. However, before he was able to begin training as a law enforcement professional, he had to

make it through Basic Combat Training (BCT).

“Basic training was definitely different when I went through it in 1980. I don’t remember them caring a lot about our feelings,” laughed Cline. “We were often pushed to the edge and exhausted, but our Drill Sergeants were preparing us for war. Many of them served in Vietnam and wore 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division combat patches. They took their jobs very seriously.”

Though Cline’s Drill Sergeants were strict and focused, he enjoyed learning from them. He remembers they cared for the trainees and made sure they were prepared.

Between completing BCT and beginning Advanced Individual Training (AIT), Cline visited his family over the holidays and proudly wore his uniform on the plane. Cline had a few other family members who had served in the military, but none of them had made it a long-term career. Cline assumed he would do the same.

## CLINE’S MILITARY POLICE CAREER

During his first enlistment period, Cline experienced the tight camaraderie that develops among MPs and he received training and mentorship from many senior NCOs.

“My senior NCOs really made each Soldier feel like they were a part of the team. They were concerned about your off-duty activities as much as they were about your on-duty activities,” said Cline.

Because MPs enforce laws on other Soldiers Cline noticed that MPs naturally develop a tight knit group. MPs also frequently worked long, demanding hours and he remembers his fellow MPs working until the job was done. Though it seemed daunting at times, he loved every minute of it.

While his original intention was to serve three years and head back to college, Cline always seemed to be presented a new

challenge at every turn. He served tours in Korea, Central and South America, and completed exercises in Germany. He also had many CONUS assignments. He served in a variety of MP positions and carried out several law enforcement roles.

“I learned more at every duty station and in every exercise. I continued to be presented with opportunities to attend schools and expand my knowledge throughout my 20-year Army career,” said Cline.

In 1994, the Army made the move to allow females to join the 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment, known as “The Old Guard,” and allowed them to compete for specialty assignments, including becoming Tomb Guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. At this time, females weren’t allowed to be part of a combat arms unit, so the Military Police Corps was chosen for this task. Cline was selected to become the first MP Sergeant of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Cline boldly declared it the best but most difficult position he’s ever had.

## GUARDING THE TOMB

“I was offered the position of Platoon Sergeant on a Friday and I reported on Monday. I had no Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Identification Badge and was the new guy. I definitely felt like I didn’t belong, but I didn’t want that feeling to last. I knew I wanted to do more than make the schedule and carry out administrative tasks. I figured if I was going to lead them, I needed to earn my badge,” said Cline.

Cline got down to business and asked a fellow NCO to train him. He spent his first two weeks memorizing every word of a seven-page document and learning the arduous task of preparing his uniform. The inspections were meticulous. He had an inspection every morning and he failed every day for two weeks.

At this point, Cline buckled down. He spent hours preparing for his inspection and remembers only sleeping an hour or



two a night. He turned his garage into a staging site for his uniform preparation and was finally able to move to the phase of outdoor training.

"At the end of the training, you really know that those who receive the badge are only there to guard the Tomb. The Tomb Guards are incredibly dedicated to their service and the camaraderie that develops is amazing," said Cline.

During his time at Arlington, Cline was promoted to Master Sergeant and after serving for two years, he was selected to become the MP Operations Sergeant at the Army Operations Center at the Pentagon. It was the only enlisted position in his division.

At his 20-year mark, Cline came down on orders to go to Korea; however, he wanted to talk over this type of decision with his wife before moving forward. At the time, Mrs. Debbie Cline had established herself as an FBI Supervisory Special Agent and was pursuing her career in the Washington, D.C. area.

"We had established a life in the DC area, so it would've been really hard to make such a big change at that time. When I went back to work and discussed my options, they told me about an opportunity to become a contractor if I retired, so that's the path I chose," said Cline.

## LIVING THE CIVILIAN LIFE

The transition was challenging in some ways, but smooth in others. While Cline simply moved to a different cubicle and wore civilian clothes instead of a uniform, those civilian clothes didn't have a place for his senior enlisted rank. Despite a few challenges, his transition went very well, and life was good, but on Sept. 11, 2001, things changed.

The Army Operations Center was two floors below the Pentagon's main floor. Cline and his teammates watched the planes hit the towers and their General Officer directed that all Army posts move to Force Protection Delta. Within minutes of this order, they felt a huge thump. A plane had hit the Pentagon.

The team continued to deploy forces and carry out their work to secure installations despite the chaos happening above them. For Cline and his team, it was a non-stop work environment for a while.

"I was working days and my wife was working nights. We were basically passing

each other on the highway. If we were lucky, we'd get to spend a single day together once a week," said Cline.

However, this would be the turning point in Cline's career. After 9/11, there was a move to stand up the Department of Homeland Security. He was interested in the department's mission and felt like it was a calling to do something more. The department was looking to fill several roles, so Cline applied, interviewed, and was hired.

Cline's experience in the Department of

Most important things Director Cline learned in the military that he has applied in his civilian career:

1. **TEAMWORK** – no one can do any job alone.
2. **DISCIPLINE** – starts the day you arrive at BCT and is a continual part of your career.
3. **RESPECT** – for your peers, those you serve, and those who are senior to you.
4. **DEDICATION TO DUTY** – without this, you'll fail; though it's a life or death situation in the military, civilian teams aren't successful unless everyone is 100% committed to the mission.

Homeland Security is one he wants to share with other service members and veterans. Though it can be a tough pill to swallow, Cline advises service members who are transitioning to adjust their expectations. His biggest piece of advice is to simply get your foot in the door.

"Most agencies aren't going to hire an SES-level position from the outside. Establishing yourself on a team, demonstrating your work ethic day in and day out, and applying things you learned in the military will lead you to success," said Cline.

About 12 months before you know you'll be transitioning out of the military, Cline recommends taking the following actions:

### Begin working on your resume.

Government resumes can only be five pages long now. It may be a good investment to hire someone who has retired from the Office of Personnel Management (OPM)

to help you write your government resume.

**Work to establish your professional network – in-person and online.** Cline recommends joining professional organizations, like the MPRA, and utilizing LinkedIn.

**Take advantage of the SkillBridge program.** It gives you a chance to develop your civilian professional skills and determine if the field is a good fit for you.

Cline has been with Federal Protective Service for just over 20 years, but when Cline took the position, he wasn't sure he wanted to work there more than three weeks.

"There was a lack of accountability and responsibility. No one was taking charge and there weren't any standards. It was the complete opposite of what I had experienced previously, but my wife challenged me. She asked why I wouldn't want to stay and make things better. She changed my outlook on the situation," said Cline.

Though the civilian world is much different than military life, Cline set a goal to continuously work to set standards, much like he'd done in the military. He started at the lowest level and as he gained experience and moved up, he brought those standards with him. Along the way, he learned many valuable lessons.

Mentorship is the key, according to Cline, "finding someone who has experience in your field or industry and learning from them can make a huge difference. In the civilian sector, you have to take a different leadership approach and you have to learn what it means to take care of your civilian team."

Reflecting on his 20+ year career with the FPS, Cline knows he wouldn't be where he is today without his military service. He believes military service instills discipline, teaches respect, and helps you develop a strong work ethic that will serve you well throughout life.

"Serving in the military gave me a path. Without the opportunities I had in the military, I don't know that I ever would've left rural Indiana," said Cline.

The MPRA would like to extend our sincere thanks to Director Cline for sharing his story with us, passing along his extensive knowledge, and for being a lifetime MPRA member!

If you're an MPRA member or you know an MPRA member that should be featured in our Dragoon magazine, please let us know. We'd love to speak with him or her!

## MPRA SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT



## BUILDING DREAMS

Growing up I was often asked the same series of questions: “Do you like seeing the world?” “What is the best place you have lived?” “Where do you hope to go next?” There are many upsides to being in an active-duty family, but for me there is a feature of this lifestyle that has impacted my future career choice. With each move to a new home, I had the chance to ask myself “What would I change about this house?”

Like everyone in the military community, I had my share of odd housing with questionable design choices. What started as a childhood game of discussing where I would install a door, combine two rooms, or move the light-switch became a true academic interest. By eighth grade I had determined that I wanted to work in the building design industry. At each high school I attended, I was able to study the basics of engineering and architecture through career and technical education programs. My many unusual residences provided excellent learning examples for teachers and classmates.

In addition to these courses, being stationed around the world has shown me a huge variety of ways that people live and interact with their community and environment. My family has lived in the heart of major cities, small towns, subdivisions, and the countryside. All these locations had a common need for quality, accessible public space where people utilize services and gather to build community. Unfortunately, I have met many people who have accessibility needs not being served by their communities’ public spaces. With this in mind, my learning focus has shifted away from private homes in need of renovation to creating spaces that are welcoming to everyone, physically beautiful and utilizing the latest in green-living technology.

To achieve these dreams, I will begin my undergraduate degree at Indiana University, Bloomington and study Interior Design and Studio Art. My dorm assignment is a living learning community focused on environment awareness and best practices for green living. Additionally, I will learn



JORSAN MORALES

German language and study abroad in the country where I was born. My goal is to become fluent enough to complete an international internship.

While I have many years and lots of steps to go before my goals become reality, I know that I can look back at my military childhood and say “Thank you” to all the crazy houses that inspired my future.

“Where do you hope to go next?”



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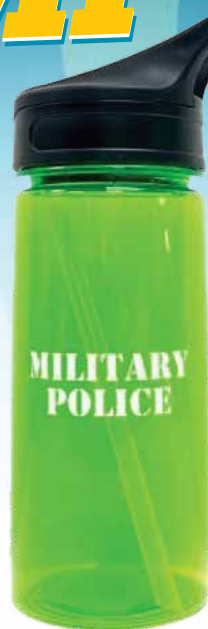
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