



MPRA

THE DRAGOON | Fall/Winter 2024



From Dreams to Duty

MPRA The Dragoon

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Vol 32, No 3.



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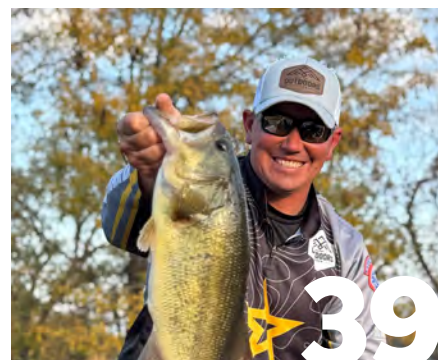
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Mission

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

Vision

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

Values

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

From the Executive Director



Rick Harne
First Sergeant (Retired)
MPRA Executive Director

On behalf of our members, families, and friends, I would like to welcome you to this edition of the Dragoon. With 2025 right around the corner we will once again be unveiling some new initiatives and programs.

We also want to congratulate CSM William M. Shoaf on his selection to serve as the Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Training Center, Fort Jackson, SC. CSM Shoaf will depart in 2025 and we wish him nothing but the best but we are going to get some more work out of him before he departs.

A very important reminder, please visit our website and check out the newly released Honors Program Regulation. Please review and nominate some of our great Military Police for these awards and get them the recognition they deserve. I would also like to welcome SGM(R) Cindy Lisbon to the Board of Directors and we look forward to working with her in all our future endeavors. As you will read in Beth's article below we want to thank and congratulate Erin Younkin and Stacie Marshall for their many, many years of service to the MPRA and best of luck in their future. They have left an impact and many of our successes can be attributed to their work.

Holidays can be a difficult time for many. Please check on each other, a simple call or text may be all they need. We need you in 2025!

Thank you to our Senior Advisory Council, Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers for always doing what is best for our Soldiers and their families. Story after story could be told on what the MPRA does for Soldiers and their families across the Regiment.

In closing, we need your help 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 share stories both, past or present, to us as we would love to share.

A NOTE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER



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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!

I would like to sincerely thank both Mrs. Stacie Marshall of Hill Design Co and Mrs. Erin Younkin-Redington for their continuous support and years of dedication to the MPRA. Stacie has been the Creative Designer for the Dragoon and our website for MANY years and will be truly missed as she embarks on a new chapter as the Senior Design Manager with Andy's Frozen Custard. Erin has taken the MPRA to new heights with our Marketing and Branding, especially our social media and will be taking on a new position as the Chief Communications Officer with Goodwill Industries of Kansas. These two professionals have been true "life savers" for not only me but for the association and they will both be missed. As we bid farewell to them, we look forward to the new adventures of the MPRA as we move into 2025.

Beth Harmon
MPRABeth@gmail.com

SUBMIT NEWS & PHOTOS

mprabeth@gmail.com

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

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From the President



Charles Williams

Colonel (Retired)
MPRA President

On behalf of our National Board of Directors (BOD) and our over 7,200 members I welcome you to our Fall/Winter 2024 edition of the Dragoon. In addition to our quarterly magazine, we invite you to follow us on our various social media platforms.

We would like to congratulate our most recent inductees on their induction into the Military Police Hall of Fame. Class of 2024 included MG(R) David P. Glaser, MG(R) John F. Hussey, BG(R) Brian R. Bisacre, CSM(R) Richard C. Morris, CSM(R) Richard A. Woodring, MSG(R) Patrick V. Garland, and posthumously PFC Patrick J. Brems. You can read more about each of these individuals on our website: [Regimental Hall of Fame](#).

As the incoming President of the Military Police Regimental Association, I am honored and excited to continue the great work of our previous leaders and continue to make a difference for our Military Police Soldiers, Families, and Civilians. I want to personally thank our previous President, CSM(R) Dorsey Newcomb for his many years of continued Service to our Regiment, our Army, and especially the Association.

Our team would also like to thank COL Kevin Payne for his service as a member of the BOD and would like to welcome SGM(R) Cindy Lisbon as our newest member on the team.

On January 1, 2025, the MPRA will be implementing the following changes to our overall membership.

- All Military Police Soldiers graduating Advanced Individual Training will be gifted a 2-year Membership.
- Each Order of the Marechaussee Awardee will receive 2 free 2-year Memberships to distribute as they desire.

The key to both membership initiatives is and will be to retain these new members. The Soldier Programs Committee anticipates at least 20% will renew their membership after the initial 2 years are complete.

***The Association sends electronic reminder notices to our expiring members at 90, 60, 30, and 7 days prior to a member's expiration date.

Our scholarship opportunities are ongoing. The MPRA Excellence in Education Scholarship (in conjunction with the Office of the Provost Marshal General) is open until March 31, 2025. The scholarship opportunities for immediate family members will open on January 1, 2025, and will also close on March 31, 2025. Specific details for each of these scholarship opportunities can be found on our [Scholarship Page](#).



BUGLE CALL...You heard it here first; the Military Police Badge will be a **NEW** product with our [MPRA Gift Shop](#) in 2025! The specifics are still being finalized but be on the lookout once it's launched and available for purchase.

Our Team asks that you continue your support for the Association by renewing your individual membership, keeping your contact information updated with us and encouraging others to join our professional organization. We also ask that you stay connected with us through our various social media platforms, website, and/or email. We want to keep you informed as to what we are doing as an organization and we want to hear from you about how we can better serve our members and the Military Police Corps. We remain committed to being the premier Military Police professional organization fully aligned with the Army and Military Police Corps visions and recognized as relevant by Military Police Leaders, Soldiers and Families throughout the Regiment.

We ALWAYS welcome more articles from the field for inclusion in the Dragoon. The [Dragoon](#) is a great platform for you to share the many great stories about your Soldiers, your units and their accomplishments. We transitioned to an exclusively **DIGITAL** format which allows for article submissions to include live links to video footage or to your organization's various online platforms.

Thank you for your service and your continued support to our Regiment.

We wish all of you the best and a safe Holiday Season.



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FROM STRUGGLE TO STRENGTH:

A WEIGHT LOSS JOURNEY TO BECOMING A BODYBUILDER

STORY AND PHOTOS BY: CHRISTINA CHRISTIANSEN

The journey from being overweight, at 230 pounds, while in the military, to becoming a dedicated bodybuilder is a story of resilience, commitment, and personal growth. This was not just a physical transformation, but also a mental and emotional one. This journey showcases how I overcame both internal and external obstacles to achieve a goal that once seemed impossible. Achieving a lean, muscular physique requires a lifestyle overhaul and this experience reflects the sweat, struggle, and satisfaction that accompany this change in my lifestyle.

At 230 pounds, daily activities that once seemed easy like climbing stairs, bending down, or playing with my children became a struggle. The extra weight not only affected my physical health but took a toll on my self-confidence. Being diagnosed with polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) on top of all of it didn't help my situation either. I remember avoiding mirrors because the sight of an unhealthy body made me feel terrible. This dissatisfaction eventually sparked a realization; it was time for a change.

The motivation to begin a weight loss journey often comes from within, but there are external factors as well. The realization occurred after a doctor's visit and hearing the risks associated with obesity. This became a wakeup call, because I wanted to make sure that I was healthy for my children. I also desired to be a role model for my soldiers and show them that self-discipline and hard work can lead to amazing transformations. Whatever the catalyst, the decision was made. My journey would not only focus on losing weight, but also building muscle and strength to be a leader for my soldiers and family.

One of the hardest parts of this journey was making sustainable changes to daily habits. It started with diet, the foundation to any body transformation. Processed foods, sugary snacks, and unhealthy fats were replaced by lean proteins, vegetables, whole grains, and fruit. Caloric intake was carefully managed, with a focus on creating a caloric deficit to start losing weight.

Workouts were also introduced but, in the beginning, I started with boxing and MMA training before my introduction to bodybuilding. I trained at Title Boxing in Killeen and then was invited to train with a team called "Wrecking Crew" as an MMA fighter. I trained with them for 6 years before PCSing to Fort Leonard Wood and started training with Parabellum MMA in Waynesville, MO. I was scheduled to debut in two fights in Springfield and Kansas City, but both my opponents pulled out of the fight last minute. This really upset me because I trained so hard and my coach was phenomenal. We were ready to take on



anyone and to watch all that work go to waste was very frustrating. An associate of mine recommended that I take up bodybuilding as a sport and stated that at least I wouldn't have to worry about the venue running from me.

Strength training became the cornerstone of this phase. Compound exercises such as squats, deadlifts, bench presses, and pullups were introduced to work multiple muscles groups at once. Each muscle group was trained with intensity, and dedication to a weekly schedule became crucial. Rest and recovery also became important, as the muscles needed time to rebuild and grow. Alongside the workouts, the diet changed too. Instead of a calorie deficit, a lean bulking phase began, focusing on high protein meals, complex carbohydrates, and healthy fats to fuel muscle growth.

My first competition was in Nashville in August of 2022 in the Women's Physique division. My coach at the time was a very inexperienced coach and towards the end of my preparation did more harm than good on my physique. Although I did win, it was by default because I had no other competitors against me. I knew I needed to decide on hiring an experienced coach who knew how to prep women with PCOS. Fortunately, I hired my good friend and former Drill Sergeant, MSG Rodney Alfred. He has his MS in Exercise Science and Human Performance, BS in Business Administration, and has been in business as the owner

of BeFit Killeen transforming people into bodybuilding athletes since 2012.

Mental toughness was built by celebrating small victories along the way. Lifting heavier weights, eating more food than before, seeing changes in the mirror, and hearing encouragement from friends and family. Together, Rodney and I took everything that was done to my body during the last prep and developed an amazing transformation. My second competition in 2023 was in Austin, Texas but this time I was in the Wellness division. I took first place in my classes but did not win the overall. I was very proud because this time I had competition and felt I earned my victories.

In the 2024 season, I faced so much adversity in my personal life and it affected my preparation. I told my coach that I didn't want to compete. I didn't feel that I was mentally ready to handle the prep and focus on training. I left like my life came crashing down and I was stuck for a while. My coach and teammates were very supportive and continued to encourage me to train and I did. I needed to keep my mind occupied from the hurt and disappointment I was facing. I continued to train hard, support my children with football and JROTC, and working my job at III Corps.

This past October, I competed at the San Antonio Classic and won first place in all my classes and took two overall medals. It was such an emotional victory for me because it taught me that this journey became more than physical fitness, it was a testament to perseverance, learning discipline, and building a positive self-image. The strength gained in the gym was mirrored by the strength gained in overcoming self-doubt and negative self-talk.

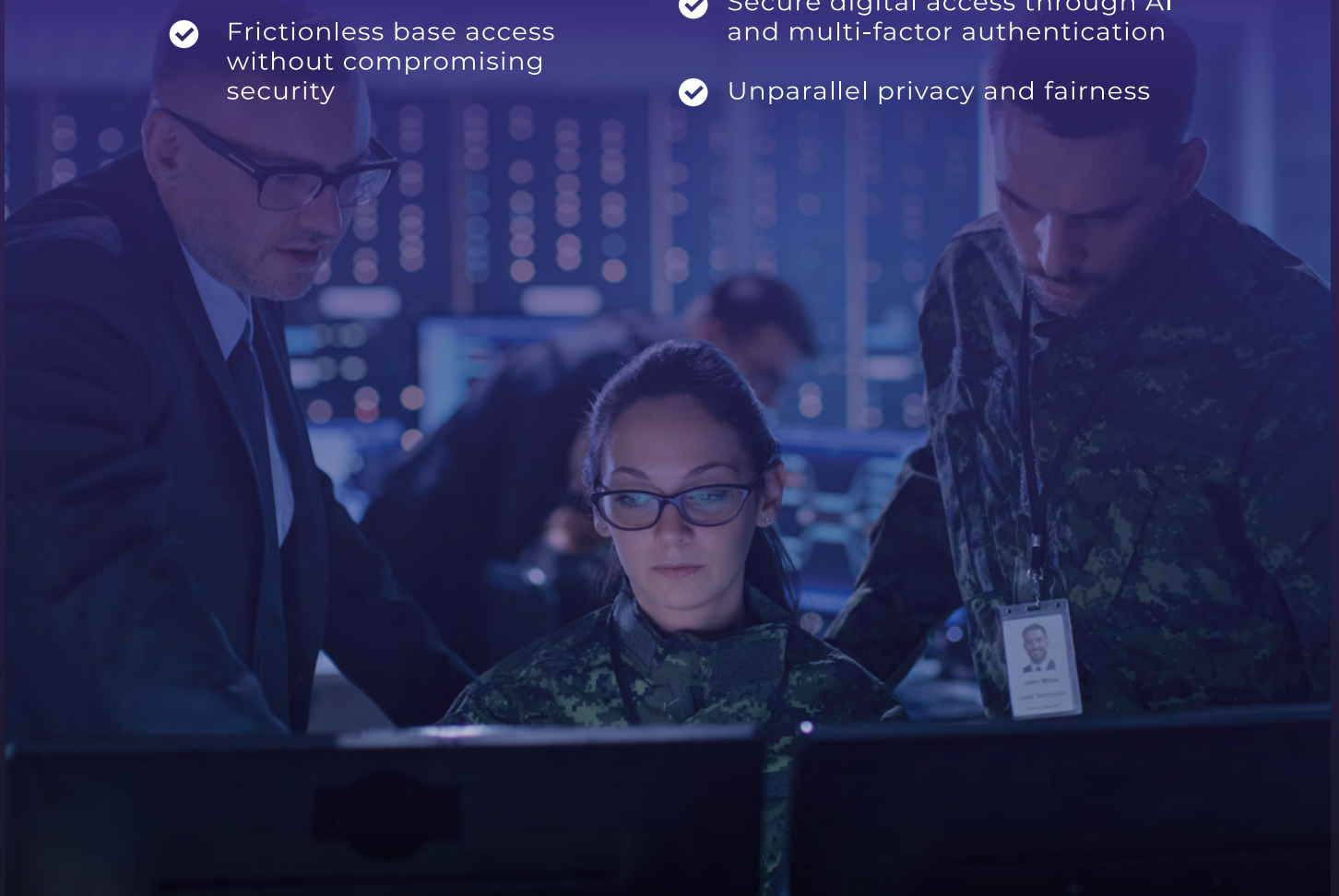
Becoming a bodybuilder after starting at 230 pounds taught me strength, resilience, and a commitment to self-improvement. It's a reminder that while the journey may be long and difficult, each step brings a person closer to their goals. The physical changes are impressive, but the mental growth and personal pride that accompany this journey are the real rewards. This transformation exemplifies the power of setting ambitious goals and pursuing them relentlessly.





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HONORING LEGACY:

Military Police Inactivation / Activation

Story and Photos by Spc. Dawson Smith



U.S. Soldiers serving in the 97th Military Police Battalion, 1st Infantry Division conducted an inactivation, activation and patching ceremony at Cavalry Parade Field on Fort Riley, Kansas, Sept. 27, 2024

An imperative piece to the Army staying ahead of its potential adversaries is to transform its force structure to fight and win whenever called. As the Army shifts its focus from counterterrorism operations to large-scale combat operations, its force structure will change to modernize and continue transforming force capabilities.

“As the Army evolves and adjusts its demands, changes to our core structure are inevitable,” said Col. Travis M. Habhab, 1st Infantry Division chief of staff. “With the inactivation of these three companies in the 97th MP Battalion, the Army will only get better.”

The inactivation of the 287th, 300th and 977th Military Police Companies is a strategic decision that reflects changes in military priorities, structure and capabilities. It disables the units from performing their usual functions or operations. On the other hand, the activation of Law Enforcement Activity, 1st Infantry Division, shows its operational status by assembling and organizing personnel, equipment and resources to make it ready for action.

“This activation ceremony shows the Military Police commitment to law enforcement and being able to provide that as an asset to the commanders and also combat support companies,” said Capt. Abigail Adamski, the commander of Law Enforcement Activity, 1st Inf. Div.

The 97th MP Battalion has been deactivated and reactivated multiple times since its first activation in June 1945. While active, they were called to action in the Korean War, Southeast

Asia and the Cold War. The battalion served in the Korean War until its inactivation on 20 March 1953 and received two Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations. The 97th MP BN reactivated on Fort Riley, KS, in 2005, and later deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where they received the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

“The activation allows the commander the opportunity to assess the readiness and discipline of the unit,” said U.S. Army Capt. Justin Harmon, a human resource specialist assigned to the 1st Inf. Div.

Over the last decade, the 97th MP Battalion has continuously contributed to law enforcement duties and Military Police operations, ensuring the safety and security of Fort Riley and the community.



Michigan Army National Guard Introduces Unit Ministry Dog to Aid Soldier Resiliency

Story by 2nd Lt. Paige Bodine



Penny, a therapy dog with the Michigan Army National Guard, provides emotional support to soldiers during training exercises and events at Fort Custer, November 2024. Trained through the Puppies Behind Bars program, Penny works alongside Chaplain Adam Lavigne to foster resilience and well-being among servicemembers. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 2nd Lt. Paige Bodine)

Soldiers may have spotted a furry new face around the Michigan Army National Guard—a four-legged addition that’s already making an impact. Penny, a small black Labrador, is no ordinary dog. Trained as a service animal through the Puppies Behind Bars program, Penny now works alongside Chaplain Adam Lavigne, from the 177th Military Police Brigade Unit Ministry Team, bringing comfort and companionship to soldiers. Offering emotional support in moments of stress, anxiety, or solitude, Penny is a “pawsitive” presence, helping servicemembers find peace in challenging times.

“Penny’s job is to brighten peoples’ day, and she does it phenomenally,” said Lavigne. “She has a unique way of lifting spirits and changing the atmosphere wherever she goes.” Military chaplains play a crucial role in supporting soldiers’ spiritual, emotional, and mental well-being, often acting as a bridge during challenging times. For Chaplain Lavigne, this mission took on a new dimension after seeing the profound impact therapy dogs had on fostering connection and resilience among soldiers. Chaplain Lavigne first encountered the idea of therapy dogs through a friend who had introduced one into a military setting in 2014. The impact this had on her soldiers left a lasting impression on him, and he began to wonder how a dog could serve to connect with soldiers.

“I thought that having a dog would be a unique tool to connect with soldiers,” Lavigne said. “The culture today has changed, and we need to try new ways to help address mental

health issues and build resilience.” Recognizing this, Chaplain Lavigne asked former brigade commander Colonel Lanczy if he would be open to the idea of a therapy dog for the Guard. “He said, ‘Absolutely,’” Lavigne recalled. From there, he began securing the necessary approvals.

Penny came to Chaplain Lavigne through Green Haven Correctional Facility in New York, where inmates participate in Puppies Behind Bars, a program allowing them to raise and train service dogs for military and first responders. “The training lasted a couple of weeks, and I spent hours working with Penny in a maximum-security prison,” said Chaplain Lavigne. “The puppy raisers taught us how to work with the dogs. Penny’s raiser is serving 20 years to life. The prison had no air conditioning and many other challenges, but it was rewarding to complete the training and return home.”

Lavigne recalled one of the puppy raisers sharing, ‘This process has made me feel like a human again.’ The program not only prepared Penny for her future role with the Guard but also gave the inmates valuable skills and a renewed sense of purpose.

As a therapy dog, Penny has quickly become a beloved presence among soldiers. She accompanies Chaplain Lavigne to meetings, training exercises, and events, adding a calming influence wherever she goes. “One of Penny’s strengths is her ability to recognize when a soldier needs extra support,” Chaplain Lavigne explained. “Sometimes, when someone’s had a rough day, she’ll curl up on their lap, offering them comfort in a way words can’t.” Therapy dogs like Penny are especially beneficial for today’s generation of soldiers, who often face unique mental health challenges and stresses.

“We’re seeing more soldiers open up and seek help for stress and anxiety,” Lavigne shared. “This generation is more attuned to the importance of mental health, and therapy dogs offer a way to support them that feels approachable and safe.” He added, “There’s something powerful about an animal’s non-judgmental presence. A dog like Penny can make it easier for soldiers to let down their guard and just feel, even if it’s just for a few minutes.” Additionally, Penny’s presence has helped Chaplain Lavigne connect with soldiers from all backgrounds, regardless of their faith. “Soldiers who might not usually stop by my office now come in just to see Penny,” he said. “She opens the door for important conversations, allowing soldiers to talk about life and check in without feeling pressured.”

Penny’s role, while still new, has a lasting impact in supporting soldier wellness. Though Chaplain Lavigne currently covers Penny’s expenses himself, he is hopeful that as her role becomes more established, the Guard will be able to officially support her. “She’s an experiment,” Lavigne said, “a way to find new methods of addressing mental health and building resilience for our soldiers. She’s truly changing lives.”

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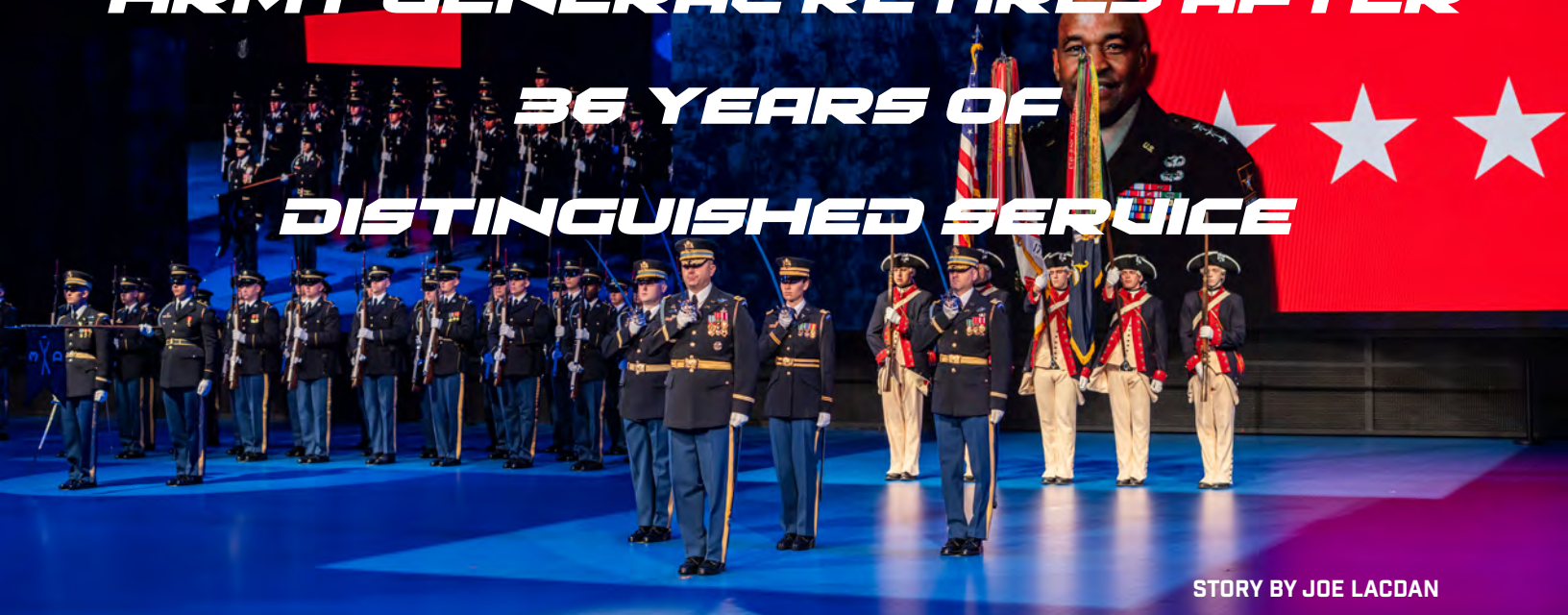
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ARMY GENERAL RETIRES AFTER 36 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE



STORY BY JOE LACDAN

Photo by Cpl. Christopher Grey | Soldiers assigned to the 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) and The U.S. Army Band, "Pershing's Own," provide ceremonial support for a senior general officer retirement ceremony in honor of U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Kevin Vereen, Deputy Chief of Staff at Conmy Hall, on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va., on Aug. 28, 2024. The 41st Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Randy A. George, hosted the ceremony.

When Lt. Gen. Kevin Vereen faced the most difficult moments of his life, he turned to the Army. And Vereen, in turn, helped the service weather some of its most challenging periods.

Vereen lost a spouse, his father and many friends during his 36 years in service. But he said the Army family always welcomed him back after the tragedies.

"Through life's heartbreaking events, I hold to what has kept me and given me solace: and that was staying on the Army team," Vereen said during his retirement ceremony on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall.

To improve the quality of living standards for Soldiers and their Families, Vereen led the Army's Quality of Life Task Force formed in 2022. The effort saw an increase in investment in installation infrastructure, housing and barracks, more access to child care and better support for military spouses.

The general served as commander of Army Recruiting Command, guiding the Army through some of its most difficult recruiting years for the service, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing.

To help the Army combat against harmful behaviors, Vereen incorporated the Army Resilience Directorate into the Army G-9 which manages Army prevention and resilience programs. Vereen also led the execution plan for the service's installation redesignation commission.

"You've been an incredible leader for our Army, and you've had some super tough [general officer] assignments these past couple of years," Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy A. George said. "I've always been impressed with your positive outlook, your genuine concern for our troops and their families. And then when it's really tough, one of the things that [stand out] is just how much of a team player you are, caring about everybody else."

Vereen's assignments included stints as Commandant of the Army's Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Provost Marshal General of the Army Criminal Investigation Command in Washington, D.C. before assuming his final posts as leader of Army Recruiting Command and Deputy Chief of Staff G-9.

Lt. Gen. Kevin Vereen and his wife, Monica are honored by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Randy A. George during Vereen's retirement ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Aug. 28, 2024. The son of Army Green Beret 1st Sgt. John Vereen, Gen. Vereen grew up in Fayetteville, North Carolina before commissioning into the Army as a field artillery officer in 1988. Vereen went on to become a Military Police officer with assignments in Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Fort Carson, Colorado; and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

"When I decided to join the Army, my initial plan was only to do four years with a goal of leveraging the experience and seeking another career," Vereen said. "But it was the camaraderie, the friendships and that competitive spirit that ... the Army created, that gave me the inspiration to continue."

Before becoming the Commandant of the Army's Military Police School, Vereen had three assignments at Fort Leonard Wood, with positions that included Chief of Quality Assurance for Military Police Training, Director of Plans and Operations for the U.S. Army Military Police School and Commander of the 14th Military Police Brigade.

"Kevin, you represent the very best of our Military Police Corps, of our General Officer Corps, and our Army," GEN George said. "You understand what Army life is through and through, and have committed to making every community and every organization you are part of a better place to work and to live." "As a Military Police officer, you have taken on the toughest challenges and done so with an open mind to make yourself and those around you better," George added.

Two of Vereen's brothers also retired from the Army. Vereen's eldest son, Kevin, served in the Army and his youngest, Kirkland, is a field artillery officer with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Liberty, North Carolina.

The service honored Vereen's spouse, Monica, with the Superior Public Service Medal for her volunteer work with the Army Office of the G-9 from 2017 to 2024. Vereen praised his wife for making sacrifices in her career so that Vereen could fulfill his Army duties. "One of the smartest, most focused, visionary persons that I know," Vereen said. "I'm lucky to have you by my side. Thank you for juggling your career and your profession, making sacrifices, and being with me on this journey."



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RCWO Philip E. Tackett Excellence in Policing Award



(Left to Right) SGM Richard Brinkley, 1SG Joshua Delgado, MAJ Andrew Jazbec, 1SG John Liddle, CSM (R) Richard Woodring, LTC Phillip Mason, RCWO Angela J. Rulewich, Mrs. Paula Tackett, Commandant COL Charles Green, CSM (R) Casey Freeman, Mr. Keith Shumate, RCSM William Shoaf, CSM David Parthemore, MSG Bennie Smith, MSG Cornelius DeLoach

The Regimental Command Sergeant Major and Commandant hosted an Honors Ceremony to award the RCWO Philip E. Tackett Excellence in Policing award to Chief of Police Keith Shumate who was unable to attend during Regimental Week. Chief Shumate recently retired as the Fort Campbell Chief of Police after 21 years of Civilian Service preceded by 21 years as a Military Police Soldier. He served from Private to First Sergeant on active duty and Patrolman to Chief of Police as a Civilian. Mrs. Paula Tackett and Mrs. Beth Harmon, the late CW5 Tackett's wife and daughter, were on hand to witness the inaugural awarding of the RCWO Philip E. Tackett Excellence in Policing award.

Additionally, the USAMPS leadership had the honor to award CSM (R) Casey Freeman the Order of Marechaussee in Gold for his significant contributions to the Regiment over his 27-year career culminating as the Provost Marshal Sergeant Major at OPMG and the Army Corrections Command Sergeant Major. The ceremony was widely attended by the Battalion and Garrison DES leadership.



RCSM William Shoaf, Commandant COL Charles Green, CSM (R) Casey Freeman, Mrs. Donisha Freeman, CSM (R) Richard Woodring



RCWO Angela J. Rulewich, RCSM William Shoaf, Mrs. Paula Tackett, Mr. Keith Shumate, Mrs. Shumate, Commandant COL Charles Green

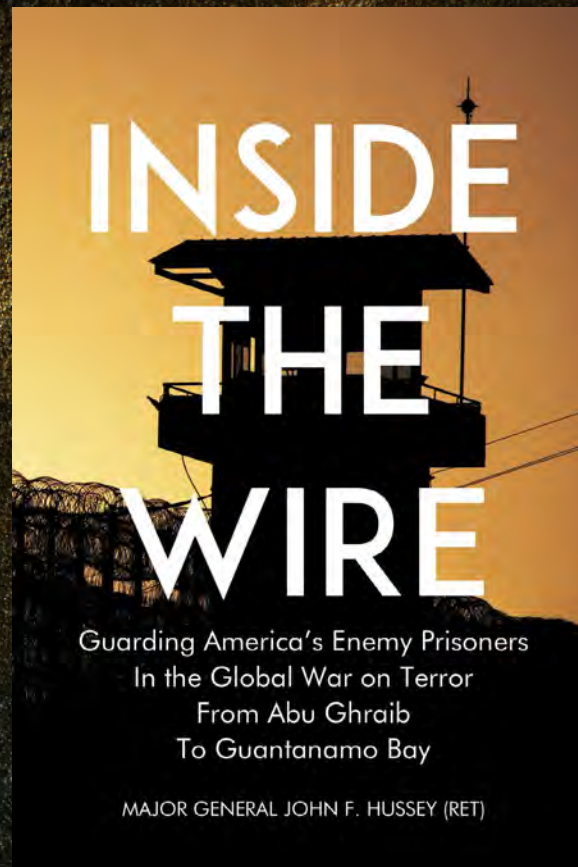


COL Green and RCSM Shoaf attended the FVEYs Provost Marshal (PM) Conference in Australia from 28-31 Oct. The conference, hosted by the PM for Australian Defense Forces – Group Captain Terry Lewis, was attended by the Canadian PM (MG Trudeau), UK PM (BG Pringle), New Zealand PM, UK Major Crimes Investigation Unit, AUS Joint Police Unit Commander, AUS 1 MP Battalion Commander, and the G3/5/7 from 200th MP CMD. In addition to the aforementioned attendees LTG Natasha Fox, Chief of Personnel for the Australian Defense Force (ADF), opened the conference to update on key initiatives within the ADF.

In addition to the conference, members from each delegation participated in a Detention Operations / Captured Persons TEWT, attended an ADF MP graduation ceremony, and the principles of each country attended a dinner cruise hosted by the Defense Forces Chief of Naval Operations.

Overall, another great conference with our most important partners.

COL Charles Green and the Australian Defence Force Provost Marshal Group Captain Terry Lewis



A fascinating must-read book for anyone interested in the challenges of the U.S. military. In what has become the never-ending Global War on Terrorism, a consequence often forgotten is that the U.S. must be prepared to handle captured and surrendering enemies. Either combatants or non-combatant civilians, they become our “EPWs” — Enemy Prisoners of War — whom we must house, clothe, feed, and protect for months or even years.

Major General John Hussey is one of the U.S. military's most experienced officers in detention operations, having served in Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantanamo Bay. His experiences as the commanding officer at Abu Ghraib and Deputy Commanding General at Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) gave him a first-hand view of the challenges of operating EPW camps.

Inside the Wire reveals Major General Hussey's career in the military and his rise through the ranks to take on the leadership roles at Abu Ghraib and GTMO. In riveting detail, you will read how troops must prepare for detention operations, how EPW camps must be designed, and how our soldiers must learn to deal with prison riots and enemy attacks. Hussey ultimately offers his advice on how the US must be better prepared for EPW operations in the future.



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8th Military Police Officer Attributes Success to Brother-in-Arms

Story & Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Hammond



2nd Lt. Corey Vo, 728th Military Police Battalion, 8th Military Police Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command poses for a photo outside the Schofield Barracks Provost Marshall Office on Oct. 25, 2024. Vo commissioned in the Army as a Military Police officer in May 2023 and currently serves as the platoon leader for 1st Platoon, Law Enforcement Activity – North.

According to the History Channel's article "How the End of the Vietnam War Led to a Refugee Crisis," around two and a half million refugees were resettled around the world, including more than a million in the United States.

Among the displaced refugees were the parents of 2nd Lt. Corey Vo, a Military Police officer with the 8th Military Police Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command.

"As I remember the story, my parents met at a refugee camp in Thailand," said Vo. "They were trying to escape Vietnam and found each other at the camp, and both eventually immigrated to the U.S. in California before I was born."

Vo traces his family's military service to his grandfather, who served and fought alongside U.S. forces during the Vietnam War in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

"My grandfather fought with the U.S. as a ranger during

Vietnam," said Vo. "Our relationship deepened once I commissioned. We talk about how training was for him back then and how we train in the Army now."

Vo's upbringing alongside his two older brothers set in motion a strong intrinsic desire to push himself, and he contributes a lot of his success to the influence they had on him.

"You can tell his upbringing has driven his character as a leader today," said Sgt. 1st Class Sean Young, platoon sergeant, Law Enforcement Activity – North, 8th MP BDE. "His maturity level and leadership prowess are higher than the average lieutenant I have come across in my career."

Vo attributes his early success in the Army to his older brother and fellow Army officer, Capt. Colby Vo. "My brother always pushed me to be better. That was his job as my older brother. He would say that if I was not better than him, he did not do his job right," said Corey Vo. "Seeing him commission in the Army put

the idea in my head. I had to make sure it was something I truly wanted to do for myself. I've always had my brother there to mentor me and guide me to do better."

Vo followed his brother and commissioned as a Military Police officer after graduating from California State University of Long Beach in 2023 with a degree in communication.

"You know I love communication," said Vo. "I tell my Soldiers that every day and they work the roads here on Schofield Barracks. They should be practicing their interpersonal communication skills daily. As an MP we interact with everyone, and you never know someone's situation at the time. So, continuing to develop and having my Soldiers continue to develop those skills brings a bonus to the fight."

Vo's love for communication and conflict resolution fit seamlessly into his day-to-day mission of leading Soldiers and supporting law enforcement activities across Schofield Barracks and neighboring installations.

"Lieutenant Vo is the type of leader that you can give a task, commander's intent and envisioned end state; then he will execute," said Cpt. Alexa Hernandez, commander, Law Enforcement Activity – North, 8th MP BDE. "That has allowed LEA-N leaders to focus on the bigger picture knowing that our trusted leaders at all echelons can accomplish the mission with no fail."

Vo continues to receive the highest praise from all those who work with him, and as expected, he defers the accolades and ensures his team receives all the credit.

"As a platoon leader, I'm always trying to put my best foot forward. I hope I am an asset to my company," said Vo. "I want my commander, platoon sergeant, and Soldiers to look good. I do everything I can to make sure they have everything they need whether that's professionally or in their personal lives. My team is my main focus and being the best for them drives me."

Vo's humble roots is what grounds him. He wants to be the best he can for the ones he serves and it's evident in the relationships he's cultivated with those closest to him.

"Mentoring junior officers can be hard, especially if they are not humble and unwilling to learn; with Lieutenant Vo it's easy," said Young. "As his senior enlisted advisor, he makes my job easy. He's always ready to learn, to step up and be an example for Soldiers, and has no problem asking for help if he needs it. I have been blessed and fortunate to have him as my officer."

As the 8th Military Police Brigade continues to transition organizationally, officers like Vo stand out within the foundation as someone Soldiers can look up to and leaders can depend on.

"Corey is the right choice to highlight the great work our junior leaders are doing," said Hernandez. "Sometimes being a Platoon Leader and executive officer can be a very 'thankless' job and we as leaders do not thank them enough. Taking the time to highlight this only shows that we are entrusting our junior leaders with the work they are doing every day!"



2nd Lt. Corey Vo (middle), 728th Military Police Battalion, 8th Military Police Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command stands with his grandfather, brother, and sister-in-law following commissioning as a Military Police officer in the Army, May 2023. Corey now serves as a platoon leader for 1st Platoon, Law Enforcement Activity – North at Schofield Barracks, HI.

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ARMY CID TRAINS POLISH STATE CYBER POLICE IN ŁÓDŹ POLAND

STORY BY THOMAS B. HAMILTON III



From left: Capt. Łukasz Walczak, Digital Forensic Examiner Section Lead, Central Office for Combatting Cybercrime; Digital Forensic Analyst Michael Mazzone, Digital Forensic Examination Cell - Europe (Germany); Special Agent Matthew Miller, Cyber Field Office - International (Italy); - Maj. Piotr Łopaciński, Director, Central Office for Combatting Cybercrime.
Courtesy Photo Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division

Personnel from the Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division, Cyber Field Office-International, and the Digital Forensic Examination Cell-Europe led training sessions with the Polish State Cyber Police, Central Office for Combatting Cybercrime (CBZC) November 4-8, 2024.

At this training session Special Agent Matthew Miller of the Cyber Field Office - International and Digital Forensic Analyst Michael Mazzone of the Digital Forensic Examination (DFE) Cell - Europe, trained 40 Polish State Cyber Police Officers on DFE techniques, Cyber Threat Intelligence, Open-Source Intelligence, and Cryptocurrency Forensic tracing.

This international law enforcement exchange is the direct result of the ongoing relationship Army CID maintains with the NATO Military Police Center of Excellence in Bydgoszcz, Poland. Earlier this year Army CID Special Agents were also invited to present at the NATO Military Police Crime Investigation Forum and to lead the 2nd NATO Digital Evidence Handling and Investigation Course.

"Army CID will take every opportunity to work and train with our international allies and advance the profession of Law Enforcement," said Assistant Special Agent in Charge Calder Roberson, Cyber Field Office-International. "Collaboration is key to combatting cybercrime, where the perpetrators frequently attempt to exploit national and organizational boundaries."

Exchanges such as this increase U.S. and Polish investigative capacity, contribute to the Army's readiness by sharing its analytical and technological superiority and strengthens the partnership Army CID has developed with the Polish National Police.

The Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division is the Army's federal law enforcement agency with 3,000 personnel at 124 locations worldwide working to prevent and investigate criminal activity targeting Army people, resources, capabilities, and communities.

Learn more about Army CID, see career opportunities, and connect with us via [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#), and [X](#).

ARMY DEMONSTRATES NEW RAPID REMOVAL OF EQUIPMENT INITIATIVE 1ST TIME OVERSEAS

STORY AND PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. KAVON PRUNTY



U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 8th Military Police Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, await inspection during a Rapid Removal of Equipment demonstration at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Dec. 10, 2024. The R2E is a new Army initiative that helps units quickly get rid of extra gear, share equipment with other units, and send broken items to Army depots for repair. The 8th MP Brigade is slated to carry out the first utilization of the R2E outside the continental U.S. in January 2025.

The Army demonstrated its Rapid Removal of Equipment initiative using units of the 8th Military Police Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command from Dec. 9 to 13, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

This demonstration took place ahead of the first execution of the Army's new initiative scheduled January 2025 for four 8th MP companies, and other units on Schofield Barracks, which are inactivating due to the recent Army force restructuring.

The R2E initiative allows units to turnover unwanted equipment to Army field support battalions and move it off site for further processing to reduce the burden of storage, maintenance and accountability.

"It's an extremely important process because it's helping us get rid of excess equipment that the Army is saying we no longer need, freeing up Soldiers from unnecessary maintenance and

having equipment that they don't need," said Sgt. Maj. Jacob Huerta, the G-4 sergeant major for the 8th TSC.

Soldiers moved vehicles and equipment to the 728th MP Battalion's motor pool for the R2E inspections. The inspectors checked for deficiencies and then moved to an off-site location for additional paperwork and out-processing procedures, completing the process.

"For the 8th MP Brigade, they are modernizing and outfitting our formations with new equipment when it comes to comms, weapons, and, more importantly, vehicle platforms," said Maj. Brandon Ratner, the executive officer of the 8th MP Brigade.

MILITARY POLICE TRAIN DURING YAMA SAKURA 87

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SPC. BETHANY CRAVALHO



U.S. Army Soldiers assigned to the 382nd Military Police Detachment and 422nd Military Police Company, 96th Battalion, 11th Brigade, pose for a photo under the Sagami gate during Yama Sakura 87 at Sagami General Depot, Japan, Dec. 11, 2024. The MP's conduct patrols and other related law enforcement duties, while collaborating with gate guards, local nationals, Japanese contractors and the Japanese National Police during the Yama Sakura 87 exercise.

U.S. Army Military Police (MP) with the 382nd Military Police Detachment and 422nd Military Police Company, both with the 96th Military Police Battalion, 11th Military Police Brigade, flew halfway across the globe this December to support Yama Sakura 87, an annual trilateral training exercise involving U.S. Joint Forces, the Japan Self-Defense Force, and the Australian Defense Force.

Members of the MPs provided law and order and security for the military service members training on Sagami General Depot, a U.S. Army post located in the city of Sagami, Japan. They deployed not only to support this exercise but also to validate their own unit's capabilities and prepare for future deployments.

"Building cohesiveness with a local force is truly a great task," said 1st Sgt. Brian Reaber, a Military Police officer assigned to the 422nd MP Company. "Our primary job is going out into the field and doing missions that require training other entities, such as local governments or countries. Right now, we are working

the roads as a law enforcement entity; it's our first mission for future potential deployment going overseas."

Reaber filled the role of provost sergeant during this exercise, the overall senior enlisted advisor to the commander and provost marshal. As a first sergeant, Reaber is also responsible for the overall training of the company.

The MPs conducted patrols and other related law enforcement duties while collaborating with gate guards, local nationals, Japanese contractors and the Japanese National Police during the Yama Sakura 87 exercise, said Reaber.

According to Sgt. Austin Thom, a Military Police officer assigned to the 382nd MP Detachment, MPs at Sagami General Depot worked with the Japanese National Police (JNP) to investigate a traffic collision that took place just outside the front gate. He found the JNP to be very thorough and well trained.

"Community relations is a very big thing - understanding the people you are working with," said Spc. Bailey Rethaber, a Military Police officer assigned to the 422nd MP Company. "Not only military members, but (also) civilians."

On patrol, MPs regularly return baseballs, softballs, soccer balls that have been hit over base fences to local national children playing sports at a bordering community park.

"It feels good to not always be in the headspace of: 'I'm just here for law and order' but helping the community in standard ways with anything they need is really nice," said Rethaber.

According to Captain Alexander Lopez, the commander of the 422nd MP Company, in-country MPs from the 88th and 901st Military Police Detachments brought stun gun training, military working dog handling training and upcoming oleoresin capsicum (also known as pepper) spray training to the MPs stationed at Sagami General Depot. Training in Japan is a great opportunity because it allows the MPs experience working with local nationals in an area different from the United States.

Spc. Samiya Soutien, a military working dog handler assigned to the 901st MP Detachment, and her military working dog Malna, a Belgian Malinois, conducted a controlled drug and explosives detection exercise on several vehicles at Sagami General Depot.

"Canines can be utilized for multiple things... (Such as) either patrol or detention. We have two different types of canines: explosives or drugs," said Spc. Soutien. "We are also tracker certified with our dogs, so we can do tracking, scouting and building searches."

Regularly training military working dogs for explosive hazard detection in different environments is key to prepare them for explosive detection, as repeated training in similar environments may train them to only search for specific stimuli. Because of this, training in as many new environments as possible leads to a higher hazard detection success rate.

"Doing this exercise builds a whole new understanding of how to do law enforcement in a whole different environment," said Lopez. "Especially when it's not your country of origin, it gives you an understanding of what the community relies on and what they believe is right or wrong. Being able to respect other people's customs and courtesies, as well as making sure you do your job and enforce the law and keep order, is extremely important."


Spc. Christopher Herrera, a Military Police officer assigned to the 382nd MP Detachment, has been able to meet people from different backgrounds here in Japan. The level of respect and politeness the local nationals had for everyone around them was different from what he's experienced in the states.

"You're on an American base, in a foreign country," said Herrera. "We have to understand that there is a different set of laws and agreements between the two countries and they have to be ob-

served in a certain way while you're on assignment here on the base, and also when you're off duty, outside the base."

From going on patrols, conducting Military Police training, and interacting with both military members and civilian entities, Military Police at Sagami Depot have earned respect and trust in the community, which is the foundation of establishing law and order.

"Our role is to build a sustainable bond between us and the Japanese," said Reaber. "We want to make sure that we have good connections and leadership today and maintain connections in the future."



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50th MP MWD Takes Flight with Cajun DustOff

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Karen Sampson



A training collaboration brought together UH-60 Blackhawk crew and critical care flight paramedics from Cajun DustOff, 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment, and handlers and canine partners from the 50th Military Police Military Working Dog Detachment to conduct intensive rehearsals of MWD combat casualty care, aeromedical evacuation and hoist training, at Maks Army Airfield, JRTC and Fort Johnson, La., Nov. 18-21.

A training collaboration brought together UH-60 Blackhawk crew and critical care flight paramedics from Cajun DustOff, 1st Battalion, 5th Aviation Regiment, and handlers and canine partners from the 50th Military Police Military Working Dog Detachment to conduct intensive rehearsals of MWD combat casualty care, aeromedical evacuation and hoist training, at Maks Army Airfield, Nov. 18-21.

"50th MP MWD mission is commonly narcotics, explosive detection, patrol, and apprehension," said Sgt. 1st Class Linda Chong, critical care flight paramedic and company instructor. "In this situation, we learn to extract an injured canine or handler with a hoist unit on the Blackhawk."

She said the mission for Cajun DustOff and 50th MP MWD at the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Johnson is unique.

"Cajun DustOff and 50th MP MWD share the search and rescue mission for the state of Louisiana and some surrounding areas," she said.

Both scenarios require the flight crew and medics to use a hoist to insert and extract personnel efficiently from areas with difficulty landing the aircraft.

"Cajun DustOff flight medics instructed the military working dog handlers on familiarizing their canines with the harness and evacuation seat needed for hoist training; we showed the handlers how to maneuver safely on the outside of the aircraft and how to load and unload," Chong said. "The dog teams were able to hop in, sit down, buckle themselves in, undo their buckles, and then hop out and walk away from the aircraft."

Chong said it is essential to learn how they're supposed to walk out when the blades of the UH-60 are turning. For flight medics and crew to maintain readiness with aeromedical evacuation operations, hoist training is required every 90 days to build proficiency and effectiveness and ensure members are ready to respond to medical emergency missions anywhere, said Chong.

"In the past two and a half years, we've launched five times for search and rescues," said Sgt. 1st Class Steven Simmons, detachment sergeant and company instructor. "With that being said, the military working dog team is inserted and can search the ground areas as we're circling, searching with our infrared camera."

Chong and Simmons trained the company's flight medics and crew while instructing the dog handlers with repetitive loading and off-loading.

On the third day, the flight personnel and MWD teams repelled and extracted the MWD teams from approximately 90 feet. One medic comes down on the hoist, and the crew is the hoist operator; the pilots hold a good hover.

Simmons said that by working with the MWDs, medics get to train in skills they don't often get exposure to. "Medics and crew benefit more from training with the military working dog teams than simulators," Simmons said. He said it benefits the MWD to have exposure to flight in a training environment. "The dogs and handlers need to be more familiar with the aircraft in case they need to use us for any mission set."

COL. KERFOOT WORKS TO TRANSFORM THE 89TH MP BRIGADE

STORY BY CAPT. JASON GARRISON

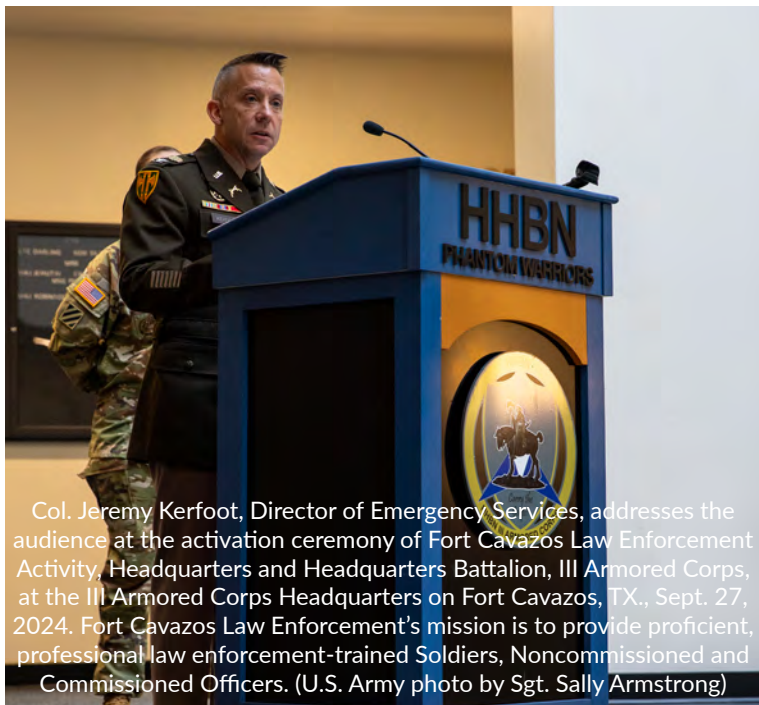
The success of the U.S. Army's law enforcement, security, and protection activities rests within the Military Police Corps. They provide a myriad of functions, to include stability operations, detentions operations, and maneuver and mobility support. The Military Police Corps leads the way in securing the Army's readiness at home and abroad.

At Fort Cavazos, the safety and protection of the installation is regulated by the 89th Military Police (MP) Brigade. This formation is commanded by COL Jeremy E. Kerfoot, a career Military Police officer, and a graduate of the FBI National Academy. Currently, the 89th is spread across five installations, with battalions at Fort Bliss, TX, Fort Carson, CO, Fort Riley, KS, and Fort Cavazos, TX, as well as a military working dog detachment at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. With such a large and distributed force, Kerfoot relies heavily on dispersed mission command to enable his leaders and Soldiers to use disciplined initiative to accomplish their mission.

"I have to empower commanders and leaders at echelon to do what they need to do to be a leader", said Kerfoot. Ability to exercise mission command with his subordinate, dispersed battalions helps to ensure all missions, law enforcement or combat support, are accomplished and Soldiers are supported.

Throughout the year, Kerfoot conducts quarterly in-person visits to the battalions of the 89th MP Brigade, and weekly touchpoints with his team online. Whenever he visits the formations, he works to have an open dialogue with every Soldier he encounters. Kerfoot wants his service members to express their honest opinions and views about issues they are facing, which helps him gain a greater understanding of the mission from their vantage point.

"From my particular seat in the 89th, having to work with multiple commands and agencies to get support to Soldiers, I have a healthy dialogue with Soldiers and several different garrison and division leaderships to make sure that our Soldiers are supported to do the main functions that they do - whether it's law enforcement or combat support", said Kerfoot.



Col. Jeremy Kerfoot, Director of Emergency Services, addresses the audience at the activation ceremony of Fort Cavazos Law Enforcement Activity, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, III Armored Corps, at the III Armored Corps Headquarters on Fort Cavazos, TX., Sept. 27, 2024. Fort Cavazos Law Enforcement's mission is to provide proficient, professional law enforcement-trained Soldiers, Noncommissioned and Commissioned Officers. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Sally Armstrong)

One of the unique capabilities of the 89th is their ability to operate at the squad level. This requires detailed training plans and execution, and a continual refinement of core competencies. Kerfoot desires to create better proficiency in the combat support roles of his Military Police formations by extending the training and development time for assigned personnel in their respective area of expertise. With the ongoing transformation of the Military Police Corps, this is driving the battalions to enable larger combat formations on an extended battlefield. The squad level structure of the Military Police Corps aids in executing missions in a contested environment, which allows them to engage in all elements of the human domain. This could be as simple as meeting with local law enforcement to build relationships or as complex as a protecting a brigade size element in a large urban area. Military Police possess the unique capability of creating security flexibility while also producing operational reach for a commander by protecting and preserving a unit's organic combat power.



Capt. Sabrina Mortell, commander of Fort Cavazos Law Enforcement Activity, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, III Armored Corps, and 1st Sgt. Devon Robinson, first sergeant of Fort Cavazos Law Enforcement Activity, uncasing the guidon during the activation ceremony of Fort Cavazos Law Enforcement Activity at the III Armored Corps Headquarters on Fort Cavazos, TX., Sept. 27, 2024. The unit guidon is significant in many ways; the history, traditions and accomplishments of the unit are embedded in it. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Sally Armstrong)



CPT Sabrina Mortell, commander of Fort Cavazos Law Enforcement Activity, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, III Armored Corps, and 1st Sgt. Devon Robinson, first sergeant of Fort Cavazos Law Enforcement Activity, after the activation ceremony of Fort Cavazos Law Enforcement Activity at the III Armored Corps Headquarters on Fort Cavazos, TX., Sept. 27, 2024. The unit guidon is significant in many ways; the history, traditions and accomplishments of the unit are embedded in it. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Sally Armstrong)

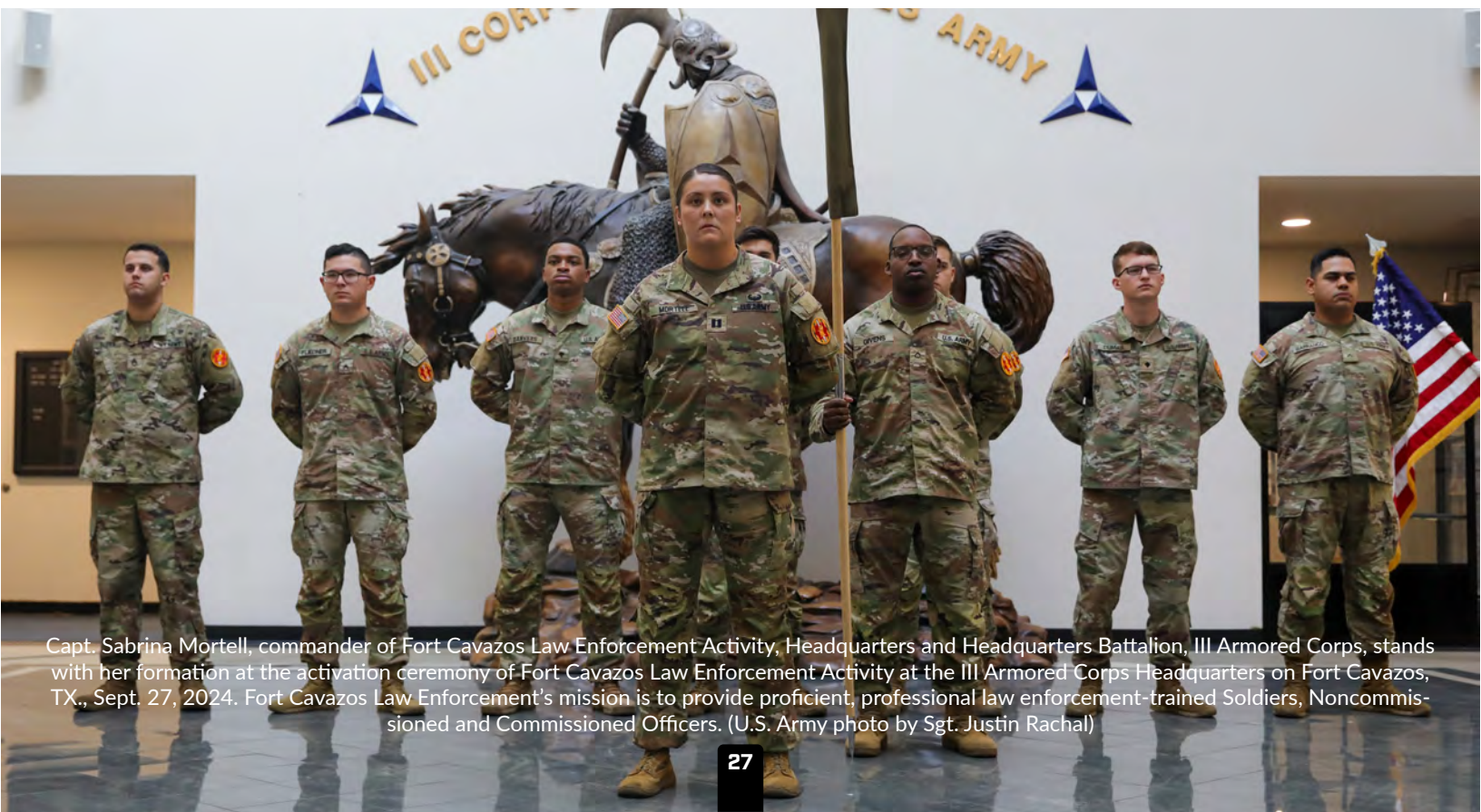
"Anything we do from here on out is a focus on how we can get better at law enforcement competencies...take an MP officer doing law enforcement and put him on station for two to three years at a time – creating a more professional Soldier that's not torn between jumping from law enforcement to combat support and back", exclaimed Kerfoot. The desired end state is to alleviate the divergence of switching between the two roles of law enforcement and combat support. If this is achieved, Kerfoot believes this is a step in the right direction towards the enhancement of law enforcement training and police professionalism at our installation as well as increasing support to maneuver and

operational effectiveness.

"We're going to see higher levels of Police training opportunities, whether it's Military Police Investigations (MPI), additional assets to get after traffic management, crime reduction and prevention...all of these protection and policing skills will be added to the repertoire by having more permanence in the law enforcement mission for each Soldier that joins our law enforcement companies at installations", said Kerfoot.

Recently, like other formations across the Army, the 89th MP Brigade activated a Law Enforcement Activity (LEA) into the Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion (HHBN), III Armored Corps (IIIAC). The LEA's task and purpose is to assist, protect, and defend the community at Fort Cavazos. This unit will partner with the Department of the Army Civilian Police, Directorate of Emergency Services (DES) and other first responders to serve the community and installation.

The 89th MP Brigade, under the leadership of Kerfoot, is changing to meet the operational needs denoted in the "Army of 2040" initiative, which is meant to transform Army formations while in contact.



Capt. Sabrina Mortell, commander of Fort Cavazos Law Enforcement Activity, Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, III Armored Corps, stands with her formation at the activation ceremony of Fort Cavazos Law Enforcement Activity at the III Armored Corps Headquarters on Fort Cavazos, TX., Sept. 27, 2024. Fort Cavazos Law Enforcement's mission is to provide proficient, professional law enforcement-trained Soldiers, Noncommissioned and Commissioned Officers. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Justin Rachal)

What It's Like as Military Police on Patrol



Ride along with Cpl. Scheibe as he explains his duties as a Military Police (31B). He makes it a priority to put people first and hear every side of every story. [Watch Video](#)



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Protecting the Supply Chain: The Army Law Enforcement Enterprise's Contribution to Contested Logistics

By LTC Kiana Carr



The Army Law Enforcement (LE) Enterprise consists of the Military Police (MP) Corps and Department of the Army Criminal Investigation Division (DACID), with oversight, guidance, and correctional services provided by the Provost Marshal General (PMG) and Army Corrections Command (ACC). The collaborative efforts of each organization play a critical role in the U.S. Army's overall mission, responsible for providing proactive and reactive law enforcement efforts, and security operations to support Army operations that protect personnel, facilities, and resources.

The enterprise provides materiel and non-materiel solutions to Contested Logistics by aligning with the Sustainment Transformation priorities: Decision Dominance, Autonomous Distribution, Demand Reduction, Advanced Power, Maritime Operations. By taking a deeper dive into the MP Corps and DACID,

we see how their capabilities advance the Army sustainment operations in contested logistics environments.

Each support Decision Dominance by providing real-time intelligence and situational awareness to sustainment commanders, allowing for informed decisions about logistics operations. They enhance Autonomous Distribution by securing and protecting autonomous logistics systems from cyber threats and physical attacks. Additionally, the MPs and CID agents contribute to Demand Reduction by identifying and mitigating potential threats to logistics operations, reducing the demand for resources and minimizing the risk of logistics disruptions. Securing and protecting advanced power systems from cyber threats and physical attacks, ensuring the reliability and continuity of power generation and distribution supports Advanced Power. Finally, MPs and CID agents support Maritime Operations through logistical

and area security to protect maritime logistics systems, including ports, terminals, and convoys, from piracy, terrorism, and other threats.

By aligning with these priorities, the MP Corps and DACID ensure the success of Army operations in contested logistics environments.

Protecting the Freedom to Sustain

Freedom of movement is the freedom to sustain. Protecting these efforts requires a robust and proactive approach to security operations. The U.S. Army Military Police (MP) Corps' line of efforts play a vital role in safeguarding the freedom of movement for logistical operations, ensuring that sustainment forces can operate effectively and safely across multi-domain environments.

MPs enhance decision dominance for Commanders by conducting threat and vulnerability assessments, which identify and mitigate potential disruptions to supply lines and critical assets in contested environments. Through their expertise in force protection, route reconnaissance, and deterrence tactics, MP units facilitate joint operations and interagency collaboration, enabling the Army to maintain a secure and resilient logistical posture.

Integrating their capabilities with advanced technologies enhances situational awareness and enables rapid response to emerging threats, thereby protecting the freedom to sustain and ensuring decision dominance and operational effectiveness in large-scale combat operations (LSCO).

Proactive Sustainment Security

Proactive sustainment security is a critical component to achieve predictive and precise logistics. The DACID plays a vital role in safeguarding logistics operations by dispatching organic teams to conduct criminal investigations, logistical security, crime prevention, and drug suppression. Conducting thorough investigations into crimes and incidents that affect military resources and operations, DACID identifies and mitigates vulnerabilities within the sustainment framework, such as insider threats, cyber-attacks, and sabotage. Consider forensic analysis and digital forensics. Both help identify and track down cyber threats that could compromise the integrity of supply chains, while their expertise in physical security assessments identify vulnerabilities in logistics facilities and depots.

Intelligence gathering and analysis capabilities support proactive threat detection, enabling the Army to anticipate and prepare for potential threats to sustainment operations. This includes analyzing trends and patterns in crime and incident data to identify potential hotspots and vulnerabilities, as well as conducting threat assessments to identify and prioritize potential risks. For instance, DACID's threat assessments assist with identifying

areas of high risk for terrorist attacks or sabotage, allowing the Army to take proactive measures to secure logistics operations and personnel. DACID's capabilities in conducting criminal investigations and managing evidence contribute to the accountability and oversight necessary to deter criminal activities that could disrupt sustainment efforts in contested environments. By holding individuals accountable for crimes and incidents that affect military resources and operations, DACID helps maintain a culture of integrity and responsibility within the logistics community. Furthermore, DACID's investigative support enhances overall mission readiness and operational security, aligning with the Army's objectives to sustain forces effectively in contested environments.

Beyond the Brassard and Badge

In a contested environment, MPs and DACID play distinct roles in supporting sustainment operations. While MPs focus on providing general law enforcement, traffic control, and force protection to maintain order and security in military installations and operational contexts, CID agents specialize in conducting in-depth investigations into felonious crimes that could compromise the integrity of logistics operations. For instance, in a contested environment, MPs might focus on:

- Conducting security patrols to deter and detect potential threats to logistics operations at the Sea and Aerial Ports of Embarkation and Debarkation
- Providing traffic control and convoy security to ensure the safe movement of personnel and equipment
- Maintaining order and security in military installations and operational contexts

In contrast, CID agents might focus on:

- Conducting detailed investigations into felonious crimes such as theft, fraud, and crimes against persons
- Employing forensic techniques such as digital forensics, DNA analysis, and ballistics analysis to gather evidence and build cases
- Collaborating with other law enforcement agencies to prevent and respond to criminal activities that could impact sustainment operations

Another way to leverage CID agents' capabilities could be the execution of thorough background checks on personnel and contractors to ensure the safety of personnel and resources and identify potential insider threats. The background checks assist Commanders with identifying potential security risks, monitoring personnel and contractors for potential security threats, and providing security clearances for personnel and contractors.

When Commanders are empowered with the combination of MP and DACID expertise in law enforcement, security, and investigations, they gain critical layers of protection for sustainment operations in a contested environment. While MPs

focus on maintaining order and security, CID agents specialize in addressing vulnerabilities that could impact sustainment operations, making both entities an essential component for targeted threat mitigation within the Army's logistical framework.

Power of Partnership

Unleashing the full potential of the Army's law enforcement capabilities, in the face of LSCO, ensures the success of sustainment initiatives. By engaging in preemptive collaborative efforts, MP and DACID can pool their expertise and resources to identify and respond to potential threats to logistics and sustainment operations. Joint training exercises identifies opportunities to:

- Conduct joint patrols to detect and deter potential threats to critical supply locations
- Respond to simulated cyber-attacks on logistics systems
- Conduct joint investigations into theft or sabotage of military equipment

Establishing integrated operations centers is another key aspect of the MP-CID partnership. The ability to share real-time intelligence and situational awareness can optimize threat assessments and resource allocation. Arming Commanders with shared intelligence on potential threats to logistics operations, increased response efforts to incidents such as theft or sabotage, and threat assessments to identify vulnerabilities in logistics operations, positively influences their decision-making with logistical operations.

Developing standardized operating procedures for incident response and security measures is also crucial. By establishing clear guidelines and protocols, CID and MP can ensure that both entities are aligned in their objectives and prepared to address challenges in a contested environment. Clear protocols for securing critical supply locations and coordinated efforts to deter criminal activities and incidents will minimize incidents that may compromise logistical operations.

Regular cross-agency briefings and threat assessments are also essential to fostering open communication and collaboration between CID and MP. By sharing intelligence and best practices, both entities can stay ahead of potential threats and ensure that logistics operations remain secure.

Pushing Forward

Moving towards increasingly complex and contested logistics environment, the Army LE Enterprise stands as a critical barricade against threats to our sustainment efforts. Through the combined efforts of the MP Corps and DACID, we can provide a robust and proactive approach to security operations, protecting the freedom to sustain and ensuring the success of Army operations in contested logistics environments.

of Decision Dominance, Autonomous Distribution, Demand Reduction, Advanced Power, and Maritime Operations, we can leverage the power of partnership to unleash the full potential of our law enforcement capabilities. Together, we will stay ahead of potential threats, minimize the risk of logistics disruptions, and ensure the integrity of our supply chains. The Army LE Enterprise is a shining example of the Army's commitment to protecting its personnel, facilities, and resources, and we will continue to work tirelessly to support the success of Army sustainment in contested environments.

LTC Kiana Carr is currently the Reserve Affairs Chief for DACID, at Quantico, Virginia. She previously served as the Mobilization Plans and Policy Chief for the US Army Reserve Command, at Fort Liberty, North Carolina. She is a graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff College, and holds a master's degree in business and organizational security management from Webster University.

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A Career in Loss Prevention After Military Service

By: SFC(R) Gary L. Schlotthauer



A career in loss prevention offers Military Police (MP) Soldiers a chance to apply their law enforcement and leadership experience in a civilian setting. While the transition can be rewarding, it comes with challenges, especially when balancing your leadership skills with a lack of technical expertise in retail operations. This guide covers key areas of loss prevention, from leveraging your soft skills to understanding operational shrink, and highlights how certifications can help—but won't guarantee—success.

What is Shrink?

In retail, the stores must annually audit the inventory. Shrink is the difference between what was sold and what is in the store. Having shrink is not a good thing. This term refers to the amount of merchandise that is lost. This loss can be caused by theft or sloppy operational processes. The goal is to have less

than 1% of shrink per year but, in today's operational environment, most stores are running between 3% and 4%. This equals three to four million dollars of lost merchandise.

Soft Skills: An asset but they won't land you the job alone

Your time as an MP has provided you with valuable skills in leadership, problem-solving, and communication—skills that are critical in loss prevention. You've led teams, made difficult decisions, and maintained order in high-pressure situations. These abilities are essential because, in loss prevention, you often need to lead and influence without formal authority.

Your experience in de-escalating conflicts will serve you well in this field. In loss prevention, managing shoplifters or potential theft situations requires calm and clear communication. I used my skills learned as an MP to defuse confrontations with shop-

lifters using the same skills that had helped me handle volatile situations during my military career. My calm demeanor led to a peaceful resolution without the need of force.

In this role, you'll frequently need to influence without direct control, which can be frustrating, especially if you're used to the clear chain of command in the military. However, your leadership experience enables you to motivate others and drive results even when you're not formally in charge. MP Soldiers often adapt well to this challenge, making their soft skills a crucial asset in the field of loss prevention.

The Challenge of Hard Skills: Filling the Gaps

One of the biggest obstacles for MP Soldiers is the lack of directly transferable hard skills in the retail environment. Many technical aspects of loss prevention, such as inventory management systems, and movement of cameras are not covered in military training. This gap can make it harder for you to land senior positions, even with years of leadership experience. One MP Soldier I worked with found it difficult to secure a management role because he lacked hands-on experience with retail operations, despite having led large teams in the Army. I got my chance based on my degree and soft skills.

Retail companies often prioritize technical knowledge and familiarity with industry-specific tools and processes. Without these, you may find yourself starting in a more junior role, such as a loss prevention associate, and working your way up. In some cases, I've seen MP Soldiers with exceptional leadership abilities passed over for promotions in favor of candidates with more direct retail experience.

To advance in loss prevention, you'll need to bridge this skills gap by gaining experience in retail operations. Starting in an entry-level position may be necessary to build this foundation. Alternatively, earning a four-year degree in business or criminal justice can help you bypass some of these challenges, potentially positioning you for a management role from the start. A way around this is to secure a part-time Loss Prevention job at a junior role while still in service.

Theft Prevention: It's More Than Just Catching Shoplifters

Theft prevention is a core part of loss prevention, but it involves more than simply apprehending shoplifters. Your background as an MP gives you an edge when it comes to gathering intelligence and identifying theft patterns. I've seen MP Soldiers apply their investigative skills to uncover organized retail crime rings, using surveillance and data analysis to track and deter repeat offenders.

Sometimes, direct confrontation with shoplifters isn't an option. This is where recovery without detention comes into play. In these scenarios, the goal is to put enough pressure on the suspected thief that they abandon the stolen goods without you needing to physically intervene. One Veteran I worked with excelled at this, using a combination of presence and observation

to make potential shoplifters reconsider and discard stolen items before leaving the store.

Intelligence gathering is another area where MP Soldiers excel. Your experience in law enforcement investigations translates well to retail theft prevention. By tracking known theft patterns and understanding high-risk areas, you can develop strategies to reduce losses and protect the store's assets more effectively than those without your background in surveillance and intelligence.

Operational Shrink: The Hidden Problem

While theft is a visible issue, operational shrink—loss caused by poor processes or errors—is a much larger challenge. Your experience in logistics and systems management can help you tackle this hidden problem. I once worked with a Veteran who identified inefficiencies in a store's receiving process, where merchandise was being miscounted and causing significant shrink. The challenge here is your ability to influence peers on how to do "their job" better. However, if not done right it can seem you are telling them what to do and they will push back. Unlike the Military there is no Senior Leader that will make them do their job right. Instead, they will say their failure is your failure to influence.

Operational errors can also mask internal theft, making it difficult to detect and address. I used my investigative mindset to track down a recurring problem where employees were mislabeling inventory. By implementing better tracking systems, I was able to reduce internal theft and improve overall accountability within the store.

MP Soldiers are also accustomed to working in resource-constrained environments, which is common in retail, where tight budgets and limited staffing create operational challenges. Your adaptability and attention to detail allow you to identify inefficiencies, correct them, and prevent preventable losses that often fly under the radar due to poor processes.

Leadership Without Authority: The Influence Game

In loss prevention, you'll often be expected to lead without formal authority. In the military, you had clear command structures, but in retail, you're responsible for guiding store operations without direct control over staff. MP Soldiers, however, are well-suited to this challenge because of their ability to influence and lead from within. I quickly gained the trust of store managers by delivering consistent results, proving that my strategies were worth following. However, this required me doing a lot of work outside the scope of Loss Prevention.

Building effective relationships is key to loss prevention. Your time as an MP taught you the value of teamwork and collaboration, which is just as important in this field. I was able to turn around difficult loss prevention situations by quickly establishing rapport with store staff, leading to smoother operations and better cooperation in preventing shrink.

Your mission-oriented mindset also keeps you focused on reducing shrink, even when obstacles arise. Retail can be chaotic, with many competing priorities, but MP Soldiers excel at keeping their eye on the end goal and pushing through challenges. This tenacity is invaluable when you're trying to balance loss prevention duties with other store demands.

Loss Prevention Courses and Certifications: Helpful but Not a Magic Pill

Loss prevention courses and certifications can be beneficial, but they aren't a guaranteed path to success. Programs like the Loss Prevention Foundation's certifications can help you learn the industry's technical side, such as using surveillance tools, conducting investigations, or understanding retail operations. These certifications are a good way to demonstrate that you've taken steps to bridge the gap between your MP training and the civilian job market.

However, certifications alone won't land you a job, especially if you lack practical experience in the retail world. I've seen Veterans earn multiple certifications but still struggle to move beyond entry-level roles because they didn't have hands-on retail experience. Certifications are useful tools, but they must be combined with on-the-job experience to show you can apply what you've learned in real-world situations.

In short, certifications can help get your foot in the door, but they won't automatically qualify you for high-level positions. Employers want to see that you can translate your knowledge into results—whether it's reducing shrink, improving processes, or influencing store operations.

Degree and Career Growth: The Path to Senior Roles

For MP Soldiers looking to advance quickly, a four-year degree can make a significant difference. Many companies prefer loss prevention managers who have degrees, allowing you to skip entry-level roles and start in management. I had my degree before I retired from Service and was hired directly into a loss prevention manager role.

Even without a degree, there's plenty of room for career growth in loss prevention. Many in this field eventually move up to higher roles, such as regional managers or even corporate security positions. Your military experience gives you a strong foundation for leadership, and with time, you'll find opportunities to advance into more senior roles.

Final Thoughts

Loss prevention offers a stable, long-term career path with growth opportunities. As you gain experience and develop skills in leadership, investigation, and operational efficiency, you'll find these skills transfer well to other industries, giving you options beyond retail loss prevention in the future.

Transitioning from the military to loss prevention is a rewarding, but challenging, journey for MP Soldiers. You'll need to leverage your soft skills, fill gaps in technical knowledge, and earn relevant certifications or degrees to build a successful career. By applying your military background to real-world retail challenges, you can carve out a meaningful role and grow within the industry.

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REPLICAS



BY JASTRO

MP Soldier Reflects on Service, Veterans Day as Fourth-Generation Service Member

Story by Sgt. Alexander Chatoff

Recently celebrating Veterans Day, stories of bravery, honor and sacrifice come to mind, reminding people of the legacy carried by the nation's service members.

Within the ranks of the 89th Military Police Brigade, one Soldier's journey stands out. Sgt. Justin McBride from the 410th Military Police Company, 720th Military Police Battalion, 89th MP Bde., a fourth-generation service member, embodies a deep family tradition of military dedication. This legacy, passed down from great-grandfather to grandfather, then to father and son, reflects a steadfast commitment to serve. McBride's story honors not only his family's lineage, but also the enduring values shared by generations of veterans who have chosen to serve

and safeguard freedom. McBride's lineage of service stretches back nearly a century, beginning with his great-grandfather, Henry McBride, serving in World War II. This commitment to serve was then passed down to Justin's grandfather, Michael McBride, who carried forward the torch in serving the United States.

"From my dad's side, my great-grandfather served during World War II as a 'Seabee' (Sailors in naval construction battalions) doing construction as the Navy's version of an engineer, where he was enlisted for six years," Justin said. "The main conflict he fought in was the Guadalcanal campaign in the Pacific theatre. My grandfather served in the Army during the Vietnam War,

Chief Petty Officer Henry McBride, Sgt. Justin McBride's great-grandfather, smiles during his service in World War II. (U.S. Army photo provided by Sgt. Justin McBride)

Inspired by his family's lineage, Lt. Col. Kevin McBride, Justin's father, continued the long history of service joining the Army in 1990 as a 11M, or a Bradley Fighting Vehicle Infantryman.

After his initial tour in the Army, he enlisted in the Louisiana National Guard and rose to the rank of captain as an Infantry officer. During his time as an Infantry Officer in the guard, he was mobilized several times to assist in the evacuation civilians and securing cities and towns before, during, and after hurricane landf in Louisiana. Kevin also deployed to Iraq in 2010, where he led an Infantry company. Kevin joined the U.S. Army Reserves in 2016, and in August of this year, he took command of the 3rd Battalion, 485th Infantry Regiment, at Fort Moore, Georgia, where he resides now.

"Someone from my family in each generation has stepped up to serve the nation," Kevin said. "I thought it was important for myself that I joined the military to continue that tradition and keep the tradition alive."

Justin's lineage and his father's career may seem intimidating to some, as the pressure of continuing service may be high. However, Justin dismisses this pressure to join.

"My father never explicitly pressured me to join the military," Justin said. "I was very present with my father and his Soldiers during his time as a captain. I remember spending weekends in the motor pool as a young boy looking at so much cool Army equipment and vehicles. Many of his Soldiers showed me the camaraderie and brotherhood that the Army life brings. That family environment inspired me to want to continue the legacy of service that my great-grandfather began."

Justin enlisted in the Army in 2021 as a 68W, or Combat Medic. His service profoundly shifted his perspective on veterans, allowing him to see them in a new light through his own commitment to serve.

"To me, Veterans Day is a remembrance of all the generations of warriors that came before me," Justin expressed. "It's a day to remember the people I've served with, along with those my father, grandfather, and great-grandfather served beside."

For many, Veterans Day is a time to reflect on the courage and dedication of those who have served in the military. Kevin shared how this day holds personal significance for him and serves as a powerful reminder of the legacy left by his father and grandfather.

"Veterans Day is a special day for those that served to be recognized for their sacrifice and service to the nation," Kevin said. "Personally, Veterans Day helps keep the memory of my family's service alive and reminds us of the sacrifices made."

With veterans in his family, Justin's appreciation for those who choose to serve runs deep, making it especially important for him to honor them.

"My grandfather's generation were fighting in a politically

unpopular war in Vietnam," Justin said. "Many of those Soldiers did not get a 'welcome home,' or 'thank you,' from the general public."

"So, every time that I would see anybody wearing a veteran hat or t-shirt, no matter what era they served in, I always make sure to thank them and tell them I am glad they came home safe," he added.

Justin spends his free time volunteering at the Belton Lake Outdoor Recreational Area at Belton with Warrior Adventure Quest, a Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation program that gives active-duty members, veterans and their families a chance to enjoy Lake Belton and take part in outdoor activities like kayaking, horseback riding and paintball.

"When I volunteer, I usually take veterans out to meet the horses," Justin said. "Once they pick out a horse, we teach everyone how to groom them, how to saddle them and then we take them on a ride on a trail around Lake Belton."

For Justin, serving in the military is more than a job; it's a way to honor his family's legacy of service. He feels a deep sense of responsibility and pride in continuing the tradition of military service in the family.

"I wear my family's name on my uniform," Justin said. "I represent my family name now, and it is important I honor that name and the generations of service members in my family that served before me. It is my turn to build that legacy and carry that torch that was handed down to me when I joined the service."



Sgt. Justin McBride from the 410th Military Police Company, 720th Military Police Battalion, 89th Military Police Brigade (left), and his father, Lt. Col. Kevin McBride, with the 3rd Battalion, 485th Infantry Regiment commander (right), pose together at the conclusion of Sgt. Justin McBride's promotion ceremony Aug. 6, 2024, at Fort Cavazos, Texas. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Justin McBride)

Around and About Fort Drum: Gherardini Military Police Station

Story by Michael Strasser



Fort Drum's Gherardini Military Police Station is named after a military police Soldier who died during combat in Vietnam and was posthumously awarded the Silver Star. Spc. Sergio John Gherardini, from Kings County, New York, served with the 66th Military Police Company, 93rd MP Battalion, 16th MP Group, 18th MP Brigade.

Fort Drum's Gherardini Military Police Station is named after a Military Police Soldier who died during combat in Vietnam and was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

Spc. Sergio John Gherardini, from Kings County, New York, served with the 66th Military Police Company, 93rd MP Battalion, 16th MP Group, 18th MP Brigade.

The Vietnam War saw an expansion of MP duties into combat support missions where Soldiers provided direct tactical and logistical assistance to commanders throughout the theater of operations.

On Jan. 30, 1968, the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces began a series of coordinated attacks against several targets in South Vietnam, and Gherardini died during an enemy ambush.

According to his Silver Star citation, Gherardini and other members of his unit were moving through the city of Qui Nhon aboard a truck when they were attacked by insurgents from both sides of the street. Gherardini leaped from the vehicle to find cover, and he saw several Vietnamese soldiers roughly 100 meters away in the line of direct fire.

Gherardini rushed to aid the fallen soldiers, and he was struck by enemy fire. Wounded, he continued his advance while placing fierce counterfire on the Viet Cong. Upon reaching the casualties, Gherardini pointed out enemy positions to his teammates and then administered aid to the wounded.

As the fighting intensified, Gherardini eliminated an enemy automatic weapons position, killing three insurgents in the process. In his attempt to rescue his fallen comrades, Gherardini was mortally wounded.

In January 1991, the Fort Drum Memorialization Board convened and received command approval for the naming of a new two-story, state-of-the-art Military Police station and public safety building after Gherardini. His name was among the nominees submitted by the Military Police historian at Fort McClellan, Alabama.

Fort Drum and state officials, community members and several of Gherardini's family members attended a dedication ceremony for the building on April 18, 1991. His mother cut the ribbon on the new facility.

2024 Military Police Corps HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Each year the Military Police Corps Regiment solicits nominations for the U.S. Army Military Police Corps Regimental Hall of Fame. Commissioned Officers, Warrant Officers, Enlisted Soldiers, or Professional Civilians who have served in or supported an Active, National Guard or Reserve Military Police unit are eligible for nomination.

The Military Police Corps Regimental leadership proudly announced this year's inductees as Major General David Glaser, Major General John Hussey, Brigadier General Brian Bisacre, Command Sergeant Major Rick Morris, Command Sergeant Major Rich Woodring, Master Sergeant Patrick Garland, and posthumously Private First Class Patrick Brems. This year's inductees bring the total number of distinguished leaders enshrined in the Military Police Hall of Fame to 132.

The MPRA joins the regimental leadership in congratulating each of these inductees and their families on this outstanding milestone in their service to our Regiment and this great country. In keeping with promoting the history and preserving the traditions of our Regiment the MPRA is proud to maintain a current place on our website where you can view the names, pictures, and citations for all 132 Hall of Fame members.

We invite you to visit the site at www.mpraonline.org to see this collection of Military Police heroes and to read about their legacies. Although the United States Army Military Police School is the proponent for the MP Hall of Fame, the MPRA encourages everyone to review the outline of the prerequisites, process, and regulatory requirements and consider nominating those you feel to be deserving of consideration for this great honor.

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A man wearing a grey baseball cap with the 'U.S. Army OUTDOORS TEAM' logo, sunglasses, and a grey and black long-sleeved shirt with a large yellow star and 'U.S. ARMY' text. He is holding a large, golden-brown bass fish vertically in front of him. The background is a blurred forest with autumn-colored trees.

Military Policeman from Fort Knox Catches Top Finish at Competition

Story by Jerry Merideth

Army Master Sgt. Joshua Watkins, assigned to the U.S. Army Outdoors Team, U.S. Army Accessions Mission Support Battalion, U.S. Army Marketing and Engagement Brigade, reels in a top finish during the National Professional Fishing League Stop Five angling competition at Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri which took place Oct. 23-25, 2024. Photo by Jerry Merideth U.S. Army Marketing and Engagement Brigade

Master Sgt. Josh Watkins, a Military Policeman with the U.S. Army Outdoors Team, U.S. Army Accessions Mission Support Battalion, U.S. Army Marketing and Engagement Brigade, recently achieved a second-place finish on day one of the National Professional Fishing League Stop Five angling competition at Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri which took place Oct. 23-25, 2024, catching 5 fishing weighing 15 pounds each.

On day two, Watkins slipped in the rankings to 24 after only managing to catch two keepers weighing a combined total for 3 pounds, 2 ounces.

"This is a tough time of year at Lake of the Ozarks. I've never seen the lake fish so tough. I had to fight for each of those two fish on day two," Watkins said.

Watkins returned for Day Three ready to compete and was able to secure a Top 20 finish, placing 18th among 120 anglers.

He credits his comeback to his determination and confidence that he has in his fishing ability.

Watkins considers Lake of the Ozarks his home lake where he feels most comfortable. Watkins had been stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri to attend basic training, advanced individual training, served as a drill sergeant, and came back to the same basic training battalion to serve as a first sergeant there.

The chance to compete and finish out the season at Lake of the Ozarks near Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri was a full circle moment in his career -- back where he started many years ago. Watkins retires next year after 20 years of service.

Not only did MSG Watkins secure an overall 18th finish, but he was also surprised by his wife, Cheryl, and daughter, Emery, on stage with a beautiful shadow box that captured his love for bass fishing with the Military Police Corps.

Watkins' wife, Cheryl read her speech to commemorate her husband's career over the past 20 years, highlighting his numerous accomplishments. Watkins ended the presentation with a moment of silence for six soldiers that he lost in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars that he displays with their dog tags on the side of his bass boat.

Fellow Army Outdoors Team member, Master Sgt. John Branch said Watkins was relentless throughout the competition.

"MSG Watkins is the hardest working angler I have ever been around," Branch said. "He is the first person at the boat ramp in the mornings and usually the last to leave.

"Lake of the Ozarks is what would be considered his home lake," Branch said. "He used his history and knowledge of the lake to his advantage. It was awesome to see him have a great event on a lake he has spent so much time on and loves so much. This

was the toughest bite we have encountered in a tournament by far this season, a true testament to him being able to keep mentally focused and trust his instincts."

Watkins credits the Army with helping him pursue his passion of fishing. "I have been fishing most of my life as long as I can remember, Watkins said. "I really didn't start tournament fishing until I was a first sergeant at Fort Leonard Wood," Watkins said. "The Army has really helped in molding me into the angler I am now. Due to moving with the Army I was always having to fish different bodies of water. You realize that all lakes don't fish the same. Versatility is a must when fishing at the level Master Sgt. Branch and I do now for the Army Outdoor Team as we continue to show that anything is possible and there are endless opportunities in the US Army."

The Army Outdoors Team supports Army outreach and recruiting efforts across the United States and includes the Army Parachute Team and Army Marksmanship Unit.

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Arizona National Guard Company Returns from Deployment in Kuwait Just in Time for the Holidays

By Kenzie Beach



Capt. Andrew Pierropaolo - Arizona Army National Guard

Families reunited in a happy homecoming for the Arizona National Guard's 856th Military Police Company. It's been ten long months for the soldiers and their families. "Anytime you bring soldiers across the pond into the Middle East or anything like that, getting everybody home safe, I mean, that's just a win," said Pierropaolo.

Over 150 Arizona National Guard soldiers who had been deployed in Kuwait were reunited on Nov. 16 just in time for the holidays.

"Ten months doesn't sound like it's going to be long, but it feels like forever. Very excited to have him home and safe," said Lt. Joseph Zwemke as he embraced his family with newfound peace. "A lot of emotions being back in a place where you don't have to always be on guard and always watching everyone's back."

One of many families, the Miller girls searched through a busy crowd for Staff Sgt. Adam Miller - a father and husband. "It was a rough year, that is for sure. I just (feel) relief. Just excitement and relief," said Breanne Miller, Staff Sgt. Miller's wife. "It's a weight off my shoulders to have my partner back."

The Miller girls have their dad home. "It's the best feeling in the world. I didn't think I would cry, but they got tears out of me," said Staff Sgt. Miller.

Nine-month-old Roslynn was born 2 weeks before the family's second deployment. The moment he'd been looking forward to was filled with excitement, anticipation and nerves. "Especially since these two only know me as a camera for the last nine months," Miller said. For 2-year-old Wrenleigh it didn't change a thing. "She just yelled, 'Daddy! Daddy!' That was amazing," he said. Being back stateside and reunited comes with new perspective. "There are so many things you take for granted and you don't really realize the time spent. Just the commitment as husband and wife first before parents and making memories and showing our girls what it's all about and just, you know, living the American dream with these babies," Breanne said.

I asked a lot of these soldiers today what they're most looking forward to now that they are home. For many of them it's the quality time with family, especially ahead of the holiday season.

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"MPRA NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM"

Article and Photos Courtesy of the MPRA Rainier Chapter



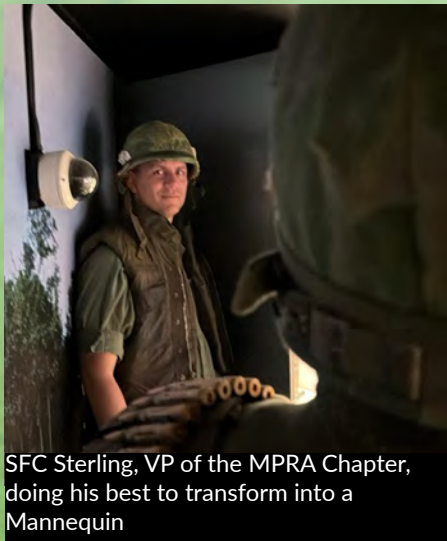
CPT Christina Bevilaqua and her Husband John Portraying Early American US Army personnel adjacent an Artillery Piece from "The Pig War"

The Lewis Army Museum hosted a memorable "Night at the Museum" event in support of the Rainier Chapter of the Military Police Regimental Association. Set against the historic backdrop of the museum, the evening offered a unique opportunity for Soldiers and community members to come together in support of two meaningful causes: the Lewis Army Museum and the Rainier Chapter of the MPRA.

Soldiers from the Battalion brought history to life by dressing in period-appropriate uniforms and performing small, interactive vignettes that showcased the proud heritage of Military Police through the years. As families and kids moved through the museum, they were greeted with candy and stories, adding to the night's excitement. It was a night of camaraderie, community, and purpose—supporting our Soldiers and preserving military history.

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SFC Sterling, VP of the MPRA Chapter, doing his best to transform into a Mannequin



Some remedial training is in order



Members of the MPRA Rainier Chapter, and the "Friends of Willie and Joe" Historical Organization gather in the Historic Foyer of the Lewis Army Museum prior to the inaugural "Night at the Museum."



1SG Charles Kohler portraying the common Vietnam War Infantrymen, and LTC Robert Green stepping back into his own Legacy, and reprising his role as a US Army Drill Sergeant



SFC Haley, receives "the business" for being discovered with contraband intended for the Children of the JBLM community



Members of the Historical Initiative demonstrate a scene commonly encountered in Late WW2 where German Wehrmacht Soldiers surrendered on masse to Military Police Soldiers as they closed in on Hitler, and Germany.



Spc. Branden Eddy, 728th Military Police Battalion, 8th Military Police Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command stands for a photo after graduating from the University of Nevada Reno with a bachelor's in criminal justice. Eddy, now a Military Police officer, enlisted in the Army in 2023 to pursue a life of service.

8th Military Police Brigade Soldier Follows Childhood Path to Army Service

Story and Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Hammond

Spc. Branden Eddy, a Military Police officer with the 728th Military Police Battalion, 8th Military Police Brigade, knew early in life that he wanted to serve and protect.

"I knew at a young age I wanted to be in law enforcement," said Eddy. "Me and my siblings struggled when we were young with multiple issues and I knew when I grew up, I wanted to be a part of the change, I wanted to see in the world."

Eddy started his life of service early, volunteering as a youth soccer referee at the age of 12, spending his summers as a life-guard, and joining the local fire department's explorer program in high school.

"His internal drive to help others and genuine care and concern for others, and honesty are at the fabric of who Branden is," said Erin Eddy, Branden's mother. "His grandfathers also served in the military during Vietnam, and he enjoyed learning about their experiences. Branden has great pride in them and now serving himself."

After graduating high school, Eddy earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Nevada, Reno.

"I was torn between a life of service or mechanical engineering," said Eddy. "I love to build things, but in college, I realized math is not my thing, so I decided to focus on criminal justice. I loved seeing how laws fell into place, learning how the intent behind the laws were meant to preserve life not destroy it."

With his criminal justice degree in hand and unable to attain sponsorship into a local police academy, Eddy began to see military recruiters.

"My best friend joined the Air Force and so I went to see them, but they said I was too color blind," said Eddy. "The Army recruiter told me they had a waiver for that and so I enlisted as a 31B and started my law enforcement career."

Entering the Army as a specialist, because of his college degree, Eddy was immediately asked to perform beyond his rank and did so flawlessly.

"I assumed he came from a prior duty assignment, with at least a couple years of military experience under his belt," said 2nd Lt. Julia Rodriguez, platoon leader, 58th Military Police Company. "He was assigned a class to instruct and said yes ma'am I will

go through the class validation process and teach the class. He ended up instructing the entire company, and it was amazing to see him put himself out there and successfully instruct a class far beyond his time in service peers."

His drive towards excellence stems not only from an intrinsic desire to be the best he can, but also from everyday interactions with people around him.

"Helping people is the best part of my job," said Eddy. "I love making people smile; you never know who's having a bad day. I understand the stigmas with law enforcement. I know many people may not like us, but those interactions where I can bring out a smile or laugh from someone really impacts my day."

Eddy's current assignment offers him the ability to provide many people with their first smile prior to entering military bases here in Hawaii.

"When he is working the access control points, that's a lot of people's first interactions with a Soldier," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael D'Andrea, platoon sergeant, 58th Military Police Company. "This can be a thankless job. When you're interacting with the public, you sometimes see people on their worst days, and we're trying to enforce rules, regulations, and laws during that moment. So, his willingness to want to be an MP, to want to serve and to do it all with a positive attitude is paramount."

Eddy's attitude while interacting with people and his willingness to take on challenging assignments has been noticed by everyone throughout his unit.

"Spc. Eddy has become an outstanding Military Police officer," said Spc. Nathaniel Taylor, first-line supervisor, Military Police officer. "He always seeks the right answer in times of doubt and continues to make disciplined decisions on the road."

Although Eddy looks forward to finishing his initial enlistment and returning to Colorado to pursue a police career back home, his family isn't surprised he made the detour to join the Army.

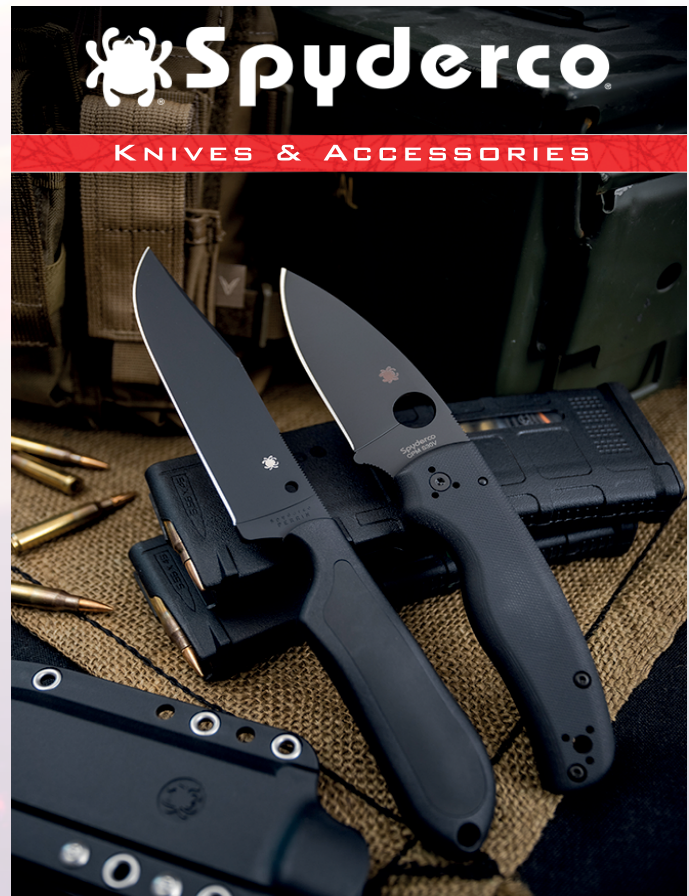
"We were not surprised by Branden's choice to join the military," said Erin. "As a little boy, he wore camo, utility belts, etc., and would play 'Army.' For presents, he requested documentaries and books about different wars and was inspired by the veterans around him growing up."

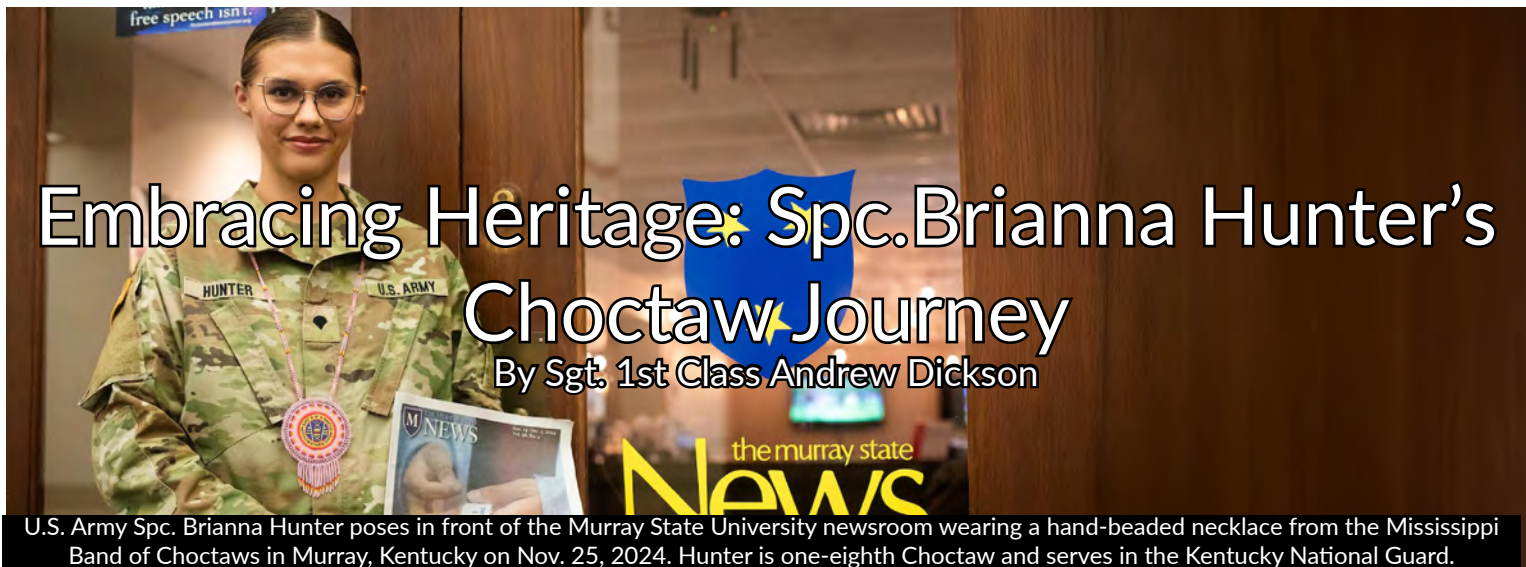
Eddy's time in the Army has been brief, but his growth is seen throughout his family, friends, and fellow servicemembers.

"Branden has become more independent, responsible, and confident," added Erin, who closed our interview with a message to her son. "Your family is proud of you and so is your country."



Spc. Branden Eddy, 728th Military Police Battalion, 8th Military Police Brigade, 8th Theater Sustainment Command conducts access control point operations at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, Oct. 15, 2024. Eddy, a Military Police officer, knew very early in his life that he wanted to pursue a life of service, Volunteering as a youth soccer referee at the age of 12, spending his summers as a lifeguard and joining the Fire Department's Explorer Program in high school.





Embracing Heritage: Spc. Brianna Hunter's Choctaw Journey

By Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Dickson

U.S. Army Spc. Brianna Hunter poses in front of the Murray State University newsroom wearing a hand-beaded necklace from the Mississippi Band of Choctaws in Murray, Kentucky on Nov. 25, 2024. Hunter is one-eighth Choctaw and serves in the Kentucky National Guard.

Learning about self-identity and heritage is a struggle for many young Americans. Sometimes, it takes a special push from family, friends or your community to figure out who you are. Spc. Brianna Hunter, a Soldier with the 438th Military Police Company, 149th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, has always had her heritage present in her family. Hunter is one-eighth Choctaw from the Mississippi Band, whose main council is located in the Pearl River Community northeast of Jackson. Hunter, a senior at Murray State University and the editor in chief of the Murray State News, reflected on the importance of her blood lineage.

That fraction of lineage is important for two reasons. The first reason is to get a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) issued by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs. The CDIB lists the blood degree, or blood quantum, by tribe and contains information such as date of birth and the last four digits of their Social Security number. Blood quantum measures how much "Native American blood" an individual has. In this case, Hunter's blood quantum would be one-eighth.

The second reason is enrolling to be a member of the tribe. The BIA does not oversee the tribe's enrollment process; that is up to the tribe. Each tribe also has its degree of requirements, including blood quantum, a descendent listed on the tribe's base roll, and many other criteria.

According to Hunter, the blood quantum is problematic. "The Native American ethnicity is the only ethnicity in the United States that is recognized by blood quantum," said Hunter. "Livestock and cattle are the only other things that are recognized by blood quantum." Hunter's father was one-quarter, his father is half, and her great-grandmother is from the reservation, full Choctaw. Hunter attended powwows with her father, and Choctaw has always had some influence in her life.

"I was a little kid. I was more of the spectator [because of blood quantum]," said Hunter. "Not like, oh, you're going to go dance and go participate in activities. We're here to watch and learn

about the culture. I knew I was Choctaw, but I always feel like it wasn't reinforced." Hunter has continued to research her tribe connections. "My, I think, fifth great-grandfather, Mushulatubbee, was considered to be the last great chief of the Choctaw Mississippi Band," she said.

Mushulatubbee, according to mississippencyclopedia.org, was a 19th century warrior who led men who supported the United States against other tribes. He also sponsored an academy in Kentucky that would help teach reading and writing in English. When it comes to Hunter's National Guard career, she doesn't find many connections to her lineage and military service. However, she concedes there are some similarities.

"Women were highly valued in the tribes and often provided counsel for decisions regarding tribal affairs," said Hunter. "Women would assist in wars by feeding arrows to the men as they were in active engagement." Hunter added, "Choctaw women have this stereotype of being aggressive, and I see that in myself in my work."

Hunter's husband, Sgt. John Wayne Parish, also serves in the Kentucky Army National Guard. He is currently assigned to the 223rd Military Police Company. "We both deployed together to Kosovo in 2022, and he has just volunteered for another deployment," Hunter said. "With him being gone, yes it has been hard, but I understand the process and what is going on. I don't sit at home worried; I know and understand the expectations because we both serve." Earlier this month, as editor in chief, Hunter wrote an article about her Choctaw heritage and what it means to her. Sgt. Maj. Naarah Stallard, the operations NCO for the 75th Troop Command, read the article and found her at drill. "We talked about the article and Sgt. Maj. Stallard told me, 'Just seeing your pride in your heritage, it makes me want to do better with my kids,'" Hunter recalled.

"I think the biggest thing for me or that anyone can do in claiming their heritage is to inspire others to claim theirs, too," said Hunter. "Because every culture is different and learning and claiming pride in it is important."

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