



MPRA

THE DRAGON

MPRAonline.org FALL 2017



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE
MILITARY POLICE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

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MPRA
THE DRAGON



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CORRECTION: We apologize for the error in the Summer 2017 issue of 'The Dragoon' regarding a photo caption on page 13 that should have been placed on page 9. This error was unfortunately caught after we had gone to print. The MPRA apologizes for the inconvenience this caused. We were able to correct this error in the online version and also wanted to notify our valuable members.

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FROM THE EDITOR



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! The MPRA Dragoon would like to thank those who have contributed to the success of this publication. We are unable to do this without your assistance, contributions, and continued support.

Respectfully,
Beth Bellerby
bellerbyb@mpraonline.org

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 visions and recognized as relevant by Military Police Leaders, Soldiers and families throughout the Regiment.

VALUES

Mutual Respect
Pride in Heritage
Responsible Service
Always Relevant

President's NOTE



On behalf of our National Board of Directors and our 10,007 members we thank you for your service and support of our great Regiment. We are proud to say that we currently have 2,607 Lifetime Members and 17 active local chapters across the Army. As your premier professional Military Police organization we remain committed to supporting Military Police Leaders, Soldiers and Families Army wide while promoting the history and preserving the traditions of the Military Police Corps Regiment. As always, we continue to look for ways to best serve those affiliated with our great Regiment past and present.

The MPRA is a great organization that enjoys tremendous support from many outstanding Soldiers, Families, Veterans and Civilians. This support comes from volunteers who are driven by their pride in our Regiment and their patriotism. Much like our volunteer National Board of Directors and Senior Advisory Council volunteers across our Regiment are the essence of our success. One such volunteer that shaped the MPRA over the years is Brigadier General (Retired) Rod Johnson. BG Johnson has served our Regiment through the MPRA since his retirement from active duty in 2010 as a member of our National Board of Directors and then as a member of our Senior Advisory Council. All of us here at the MPRA extend our heartfelt thanks to BG Johnson for his leadership and his guiding influence on our organization. BG Johnson you are the epitome of a Lifetime Member of the MPRA. Thank you for your mentorship and your service.

A special thanks also goes out to all of those who volunteer to support the MPRA and our Regiment.

As we close out another great year for the MPRA we want to thank you for being a member of our association. We ask that you share with other Military Police Soldiers the value in belonging to their own professional organization. As you will see in this edition of the Dragoon we have adjusted our membership tiers and costs to be more in line with many other national professional organizations.



We believe that we provide a great return on your membership

through our many outstanding programs. Through these programs the MPRA has given back over \$1,000,000 to our Regiment in the past eleven years. Your commitment to the MPRA has made that possible.

This year we have made great progress in reaching our goal of 450 submissions for biographies to be included in the first ever commemorative regimental history book titled the "U.S. Army Military Police Corps Regiment". We still have some work to do and ask for your help in submitting bios and pictures for those that you have known or served with over the years. This limited edition publication will chronicle the rich heritage, history and traditions of our great Regiment and feature many men and women who have served as Military Police since 1941. We encourage all members of our Regiment past and present to submit their biographies or short stories along with "then and now" photos to commemorate their service. We have extended the suspense for bios once again to March 31st, 2018. The book is scheduled to be completed in time for the Regiment's 77th anniversary celebration in September 2018. Our goal is to ensure as many Military Police Soldiers as possible both past and present have a chance to submit their own story and pictures. We also want to make sure Military Police family members of those that have served, retired or fallen know about the opportunity to have their MP commemorated.

We ask that you to stay connected with us through our social media, website, email or telephone. We want you to know what the MPRA is doing as an organization and we want to hear from you about how we can better serve our members and our Regiment.

Thank you for your service and support of our great Regiment.

*Dorsey L. Newcomb
Command Sergeant Major (Retired),
President, MPRA National Board of Directors*

United States Army Military Police School Holiday Message

Sea-son's Greetings from the Martin, Breckinridge and Fitz Families! The holiday season is upon us again. And with it, we say goodbye to 2017 and usher in 2018! We, along with our respective spouses, Chris, Carolyn and Yong, want to wish each and every member of the Military Police Corps Regiment and your Families a very happy and safe holiday season. We sincerely appreciate all of your hard work in 2017. We made considerable strides from previous years and we want to sincerely thank you for everything you do on a daily basis. We want you to know that you are the primary reason the Army continues to recognize the value of our professional Military Police Soldiers and Leaders.

Providing tough, realistic training is a difficult mission, requiring long hours and flexible schedules that oftentimes interfere with your ability

to plan family outings and events. So, beginning the 20th of December our holiday schedule runs through the 2nd of January. We want each and every one of you to make time for loved ones. We completely understand the importance of accomplishing our mission for our Army. But, it is important to take a little down time for yourself with your Families over the course of the next couple of weeks. We have two four day weekends and we want as many folks as possible to take advantage of them. Be safe and return in one piece rejuvenated and ready to continue the mission. Whether you stay in the local area or travel to see loved ones, please do so safely.

We also ask that you keep those who are deployed in mind as well as those who cannot travel to be with loved ones over the holidays. Remember that some of our team

members find this time of year to be very difficult. You know your folks best. If you think the holiday season may cause someone anxiety, make a difference by letting them know you care.

For most, the holiday season presents many opportunities to celebrate, especially when ushering in the New Year. Please enjoy yourselves, but we ask that you do so responsibly. Each and every one of you are professionals and valued members of our team. Don't let your actions put you in an unprofessional situation. Come back next year rested and prepared to continue our noble mission for our Army.

*From our Families
to yours, we wish you all
Happy Holidays and a
Happy New Year!*



**Of the Troops, For the Troops!
Army Strong!**



*BG Donna W. Martin
Chief, Military Police Regiment
Commandant, United States Military
Police School*



*CSM James W. Breckinridge
Regimental Command Sergeant Major*

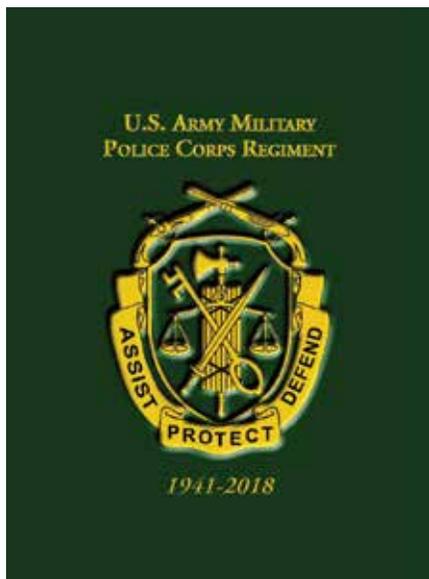


*CW5 Joel E. Fitz
Regimental Chief Warrant Officer*

CALL TO ACTION:

Military Police Regimental History Book

Biography Submissions



The Military Police Corps Regiment's rich history will soon be chronicled in a high quality leather bound history book that will include self-submitted biographies and pictures of individual MP Soldiers and Veterans. This never before published history book will serve generations past, present and future in preserving our history and traditions.

Current and veteran Military Police men and women of all ranks, components and military occupational specialties in the Military Police career management field are encouraged to submit their stories for publication. Widows, widowers, friends, and family members are also encouraged to send in biographical portraits and materials for their loved ones. The book is intended to include any and every MP interested in having their service recorded in this one of a kind publication. There is no cost to submit bios and pictures for the history book. The deadline for submission is March 31, 2018. The book will be published no later than September 30, 2018.

Biographies and brief vignettes are limited to up to 200 words and should provide an overview of the person's military career and/or life after the military.

You may also submit historic photos and general interest stories of up to 1,000 words. This is a great opportunity to share unit traditions or special memories you may have of your service as a Military Police Soldier.

Biographies and photographs can be emailed directly to: militarypolicebook@acclaimpress.com
Please include your name, rank, dates of service and contact information in your email.

You can also mail your submissions to:

U.S. Military Police Corps Book c/o Acclaim Press
P.O. Box 238
Morley, MO 63767

Biographies and photos, should also include your name, address and a caption on the back of each.

If you have further questions about submissions you can call the publisher directly at 573-472-9800.

DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2018

Renovations to First Division Museum at Cantigny

On 26 August 2017 I was privileged to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony at the First Division Museum in Wheaton, Illinois for the completed renovation. The museum at Cantigny Park is part of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation. Colonel McCormick was the former owner and publisher of the Chicago Tribune and a WW1 veteran of the First Division, now the 1st Infantry Division. He fought with it at the first US battle and victory at Cantigny, France.

“The Colonel’s” vision was to create a lifelong tribute to his former Division on his estate, which is named after that battle. The idea for the renovation came about to bring the museum up to date to the 21st Century. Long known as a world-class museum, the Big Red One’s history stopped at the Vietnam era. In order to update the accomplishments of the Division to the present day in a relatively small space, the Director, Colonel (Ret) Paul Herbert, decided to do so not in a chronological way, but rather by the types of missions the 1st Infantry Division soldiers have been challenged with in recent decades. These missions are Military Assistance, Deterrence, Peacekeeping, Counter Insurgency and Battle. Each mission area had a volunteer Subject Matter Expert assigned. Because of my experience in Bosnia and Kosovo as First Sergeant of the 1st Military Police Company, I was selected as SME for Peacekeeping.

The expansion to the museum is meant to be very modern and interactive and will especially appeal to the younger generation. There are artifacts as well, of course - I was able to contribute a MP brassard with the Big Red One Divisional patch. Soldier stories are presented on four video screens or kiosks where the visitor can pick out stories from any of three or four veterans of recent deployments. I was included as a soldier story in the Peacekeeping kiosk and was able to tell a lot of what it was like to be an MP in that type of environment. The 1st Military Police Company, with which I served, did so well on their deployment to Bosnia in 1997 that we were selected as the Best MP Company in the Army, winning the BG J.P. Holland Award. The experience paid off as the 1st MP Co. again deployed to peacekeeping operations 18 months later in Kosovo. Military Police have played a large role in all of the five missions presented, but I feel it is in the Peacekeeping mission that MP’s especially excelled. We became teachers to the combat arms soldiers, since many of the duties required were duties MP’s were specifically trained for and practiced daily.



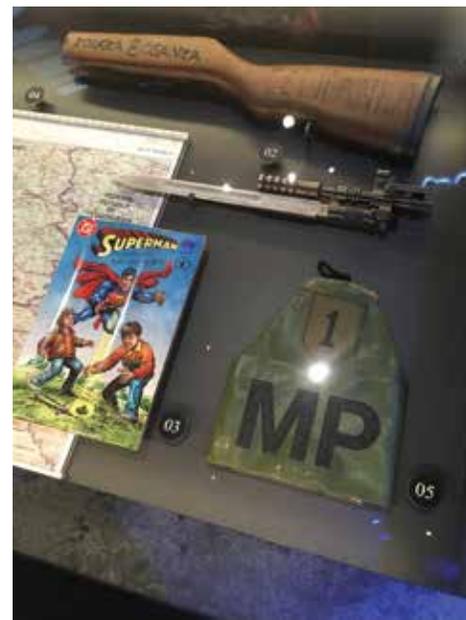
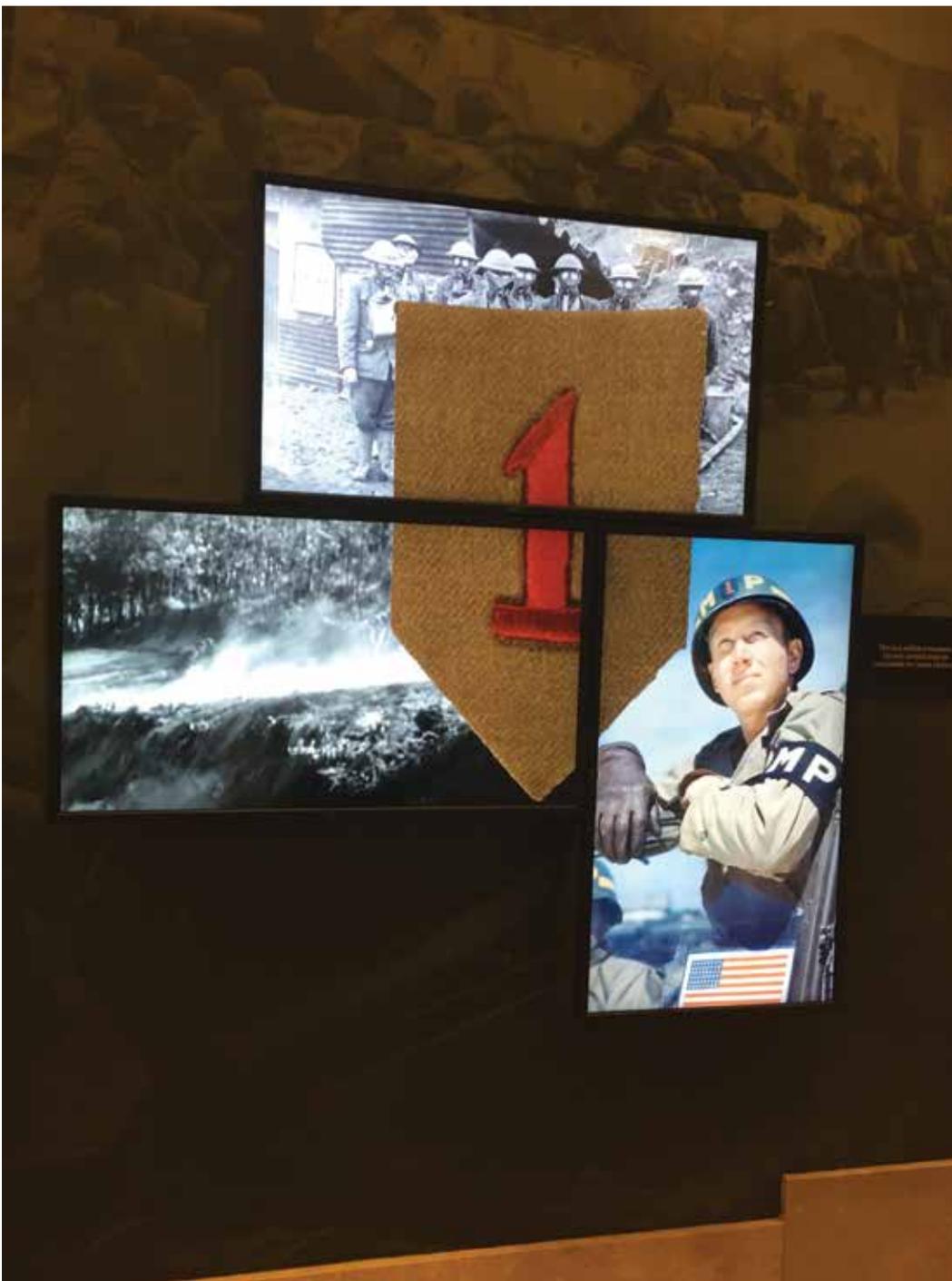
To participate in the entire 3-year museum renovation experience from concept to construction was an honor. As a combat support NCO, I worked alongside combat arms senior NCOs, field grade and general officers representing the other mission areas. They accepted me as a peer. I can assure you that the 1st Infantry Division recognizes and appreciates the Military Police and the skill set they bring to any mission, from Battle to Peacekeeping.

On opening day, after a long day of visiting, strolling the grounds and shopping, I decided to go back into the museum one more time before I departed. At the Peacekeeping area I stood and listened as a mother explained to a 5-year old girl the purpose of a Superman comic book on display that we used to educate Bosnian children about the dangers of picking up unexploded ordinance and mines. I waited until she was done and since I was the one who donated it, I told her that. The expression on the little girl’s face when she connected me with the comic book was priceless.

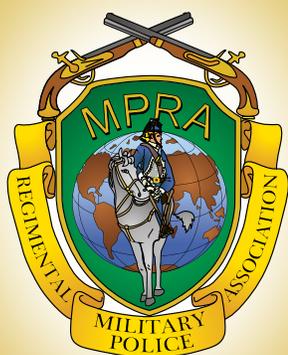
Although I always knew my mission was important and I knew the museum project was important, it was not until that moment that I really appreciated what it all meant. The girl asked me if that was my job in Bosnia to hand out comic books? I said Yes, among other things. As they were leaving I heard her telling her friend that I handed out comic books to help kids. To paraphrase Paul Herbert, as he says time and time again, the museum is to honor those who served in the Big Red One, but just as important, to let the public know that those who served are everyday people who live, work, shop and worship among them and are not video game characters. The museum reflects the contributions and sacrifice that belongs to all of us whether we wear a uniform or not. I think that little girl understood that.

I hope if you are in the Chicagoland area you take the opportunity to visit the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Illinois and stroll the beautiful grounds. You don’t have to have been a Big Red One soldier or veteran to visit. All you need to be is a person who is passionate about learning, understanding and honoring an important part of our nation’s history. Come explore not only 100 years of military history, but US and world history. When you leave hopefully, you will better appreciate the motto of the 1st Infantry Division since 1917; No Mission too Difficult, No Sacrifice too Great, Duty First.

By Jon D. Meinholz, ISG (ret), 1st Military Police Company



Clockwise: WW2 MP on video board in lobby. Photo of me in Bosnia 1997. MP brassard and comic I donated.



Share Your Stories

Please send highlights, accomplishments, or significant events that we can publish in our weekly MPRA Dispatch Newsletter. The MPRA Dispatch gets distributed electronically to all our members. Because of the digital format there is no word max limit.

Contact Mr. Ronnie Richard at rrichard@multibriefs.com

Visit www.MPRAonline.org

COL (R) LARRY SAUNDERS AWARDED GOLD MARECHAUSSEE

The Military Police Regimental Association's Order of the Marechaussee was officially established in 2000 to recognize exceptional dedication, competence, and contribution to the Military Police Corps Regiment over an extended period of time.

The Military Police awards annually one Gold Marechaussee to a very distinguished American, selected, approved and presented by the Chief of the Military Police Corps Regiment, Regimental Command Sergeant Major, and Regimental Chief Warrant officer normally during MP Anniversary Week. The 2017 Gold Marechaussee was presented to Colonel (R) Larry Saunders during the Military Police Regimental Ball. Accepting the Marechaussee on his behalf was his wife Mrs. Sally Saunders.

COL (R) Saunders' distinguished career is measured not only in his accomplishments while he was serving as a member of the United States Army Military Police Regiment, but how well he served his local community.

COL (R) Saunders served in numerous leadership positions prior to his first retirement to include assignments with the 8th Infantry Division, 9th Infantry Division, 25th Infantry Division, and I Corps where he served as the Director for Mobility Operations, Multinational Force Haiti. In 1998 COL (R) Saunders retired from the United States Army. During this time he was selected as the Chief of Police by the Pierce County Sheriff's Department for the then contracted city of Lakewood, Washington. Due to the growth of the community the city of Lakewood decided to have their own independent police force with COL (R) Saunders as the first Police Chief.

In 2008 he was called back to active duty and served as



Deputy Minister for Police Training, Ministry of the Interior, Iraq and Director for Coalition Police Training Assistance for the US Multinational Forces. There he enabled a partnership of institutional training at internationally acceptable standards for over 40,000 Iraq police officers.

Upon his return for his second retirement from the United States Army, COL (R) Saunders poured his heart into volunteerism and charity work within the Lakewood community. His volunteerism ranged from membership in the Lion and Rotary Clubs, helping to establish Rally Point 6 in Lakewood, an organization dedicated to mentoring military service members, veterans and their families. COL (R) Saunders' commitment to veterans' issues was tireless. He took part in the Tacoma-Pierce County chapter of the American Leadership Forum. He understood the importance of strong role models within the community and therefore was active in the Boys and Girls clubs of south Puget Sound and was instrumental in creating a Boys and Girls Club program in Lakewood and Springbrook area. He also helped establish the Gary and Carol Milgard family HOPE Center. Up until his death in January of 2016 COL (R) Larry Saunders dedication to his country, his community and his family were immeasurable.

It is fitting that, we recognize COL (R) Larry Saunders as the 2017 recipient of the Military Police Regimental Gold Marechaussee.



Photos by FLW Visual Information Center



MPs Serve on Capitol Hill

As a young collegian and Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadet at Vanderbilt University, Mariah Smith (now Lieutenant Colonel Mariah Smith) was concerned with finding a way to pay for her education on her own and becoming a Military Police Corps officer. Though her family had a long tradition of Navy service, Smith always favored land over sea. She acted a staff ride to Normandy, France.

Smith was one of the first classes to complete Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Leonard Wood after the Military Police School was moved from Fort McClellan, Alabama and she was in Korea when September 11th happened.

"I watched the first elements make their way to Afghanistan in 2001 and my only concern was that I was going to miss the opportunity to serve in a combat zone," said Smith.

Of course, she could not have known then, but Smith would eventually have several deployment experiences and each would provide her with insight and knowledge that would prove extremely useful.

In 2002, Smith got the opportunity to deploy with the 551st Military Police Company, 716th Military Police Battalion to Djibouti as a Platoon Leader. In early 2003, after five months in Djibouti, they were moved to Kuwait to prepare for the initial invasion of Iraq.

Immediately after returning from Iraq, she attended the Captain's Career Course at Fort Leonard Wood and spent a year in Kuwait as a planner. Upon her return, she attended Airborne School at Fort Benning as a Captain and was the Brigade Provost Marshal for the newly created 4th Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. Smith deployed from Fort Bragg as the Brigade HHC Commander and spent 15 months in RC-East, Khost Province, Afghanistan.

About halfway through her deployment in Afghanistan, Smith received an email that piqued her interest for more reasons than one.

"The email said something about becoming a Congressional Fellow and working in Washington D.C. At the time, it was a fairly small program, so I had a hard time learning about what it entailed, but after such a high op-tempo and four

deployments for my first few years in the Army, staying in one place for a few years was definitely appealing," said Smith.

The Congressional Fellowship application required applicants to submit certain documents, along with an essay. Smith completed the application with strong support from her then brigade commander and was selected for the program.

Then Captain Smith was assigned to work in the office of Congressman Steve Israel (D-NY) who was on the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies as part of the Appropriations Committees.

"As a Congressional Fellow, you have direct interaction with a member of Congress. Many of our elected officials today have limited military experience, if they have any at all, so as a Fellow, your job is to be their "go-to" and provide them with access to the knowledge they need regarding military affairs," said Smith.

Following her assignment with Congressman Israel, Smith was picked up for a utilization tour as part of NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan (NTM-A). Though it meant more time overseas, she was lucky enough to have her dad, Carl Smith, also serving in Kabul at the same time and they were able to see each other frequently. Smith's father had retired from the Navy, but simply felt the need to continue to serve, so he volunteered for a government service position in a deployed location.

After her NATO mission, Smith served in the Army's Soldier for Life office before attending the FBI National Academy, session 256 in 2014. As the 10th MP BN (CID) Executive Officer, she deployed a third time to Afghanistan before she was asked to return to Washington D.C. to serve as an Army Congressional Budget Liaison under the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management & Comptroller (ASA FM&C). This program was created by the 79th Congress (1934-1935) when they directed that an organization be created, that would be separate from authorization

liaison and within the financial management community, to liaison with the appropriators.

The Budget Liaison Office provides support in a variety of ways, including as Army liaisons to the Appropriations Committees, managing Army appeals, advising HQDA leadership and staff, and providing hearing support.

Though Smith has spent the majority of her career working as an MP, she is deeply appreciative of the time she has spent in Washington D.C, working in an interagency environment. She joined the Council

on Foreign Relations as a five-year term member, a program available to national security professionals who are in their 30s. This coming spring she will travel to Israel with the think-tank Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD), an annual trip that mid-career military members can apply for through FDD's website.

"I believe it is incredibly important for military members and all Americans to completely understand how our government operates and how our country runs. Because of this experience, I have a much more extensive knowledge of how congressional committees work, how a defense budget is created, and what happens during each legislative cycle," said Smith.

Service members from all branches are encouraged to apply for Congressional Fellowships. Smith notes that because of the diverse training and experience most MPs have, they make exceptional candidates for the positions. In fact, there are two other MPs currently serving in Washington D.C. as Congressional Liaisons: Lieutenant Colonel Charcy Schaefer and Major Melissa Lewis.

We'll be featuring these two Military Police Officers in future issues of the Dragon magazine, so please keep an eye out for our next issue for more information on this program and how MPs are serving on Capitol Hill.

Story by Erin Kaberline



A CLOSER LOOK AT HARPERS FERRY

Although I grew up in Maryland as a child, it was not until I joined the U.S. Army and the Military Police Corps that I realized the treasure that was so close to home. In May of 2017, when I was home visiting family, I had the opportunity to visit Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. One hot afternoon my wife and I journeyed down the road to visit Harpers Ferry, but in particular to see the Provost Marshal's Office.

Around the city limits we observed many whitewater rafters, hikers, mountain bikers, people walking along the river, some fishing, and some not doing anything except taking photos, but when we arrived at the center of the city we quickly realized parking was at a premium (as were air conditioned buildings we would later discover).

We parked about a mile out of town and headed to the Provost Marshal's Office. We were greeted by role players who were history interns from a local college who were briefing the group on the town's history, the Harpers Ferry armory, and things to see. After the briefing, I shared photos of the Memorial Grove at Fort Leonard Wood, the Military Police Corps, and our connection to this small town in West Virginia.

Harpers Ferry is a small town with small cafes. Many of the original buildings are now museums and it is a tremendous place to visit. Most of the people I spoke with were from the D.C. area and this was part of a tour or military staff rides. I have listed a few history articles and photos and should your travel ever take to the D.C. or Maryland area, make time for this trip.

Story by Rick Harne

Several historical museums now occupy restored 19th century buildings in the Lower Town Historic District of Harpers Ferry. Nearly half a million people visit the park each year. To draw a comparison, 15 million people visit Washington, DC each year. North of the park and across the Potomac River from Harpers Ferry is the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park. The canal, which operated from 1828 to 1924, provided a vital waterway link with areas up and downstream prior to and during the early years after the arrival of the railroad. Today, the canal towpath and park, provide access to the Maryland Heights section of the Harpers Ferry and can be accessed by foot from Harpers Ferry via a foot-bridge constructed by the National Park Service.

If traveling by car travel east from Harpers Ferry on U.S. Route 340 to access points near Sandy Hook, Maryland. Aside from the extensive historical interests of the park, other recreational opportunities include fishing, boating, and whitewater rafting as well as hiking, with the Appalachian Trail passing right through the park. The park adjoins the Harpers Ferry Historic District, as well as two other National Register of Historic Places locations: St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church and the B & O Railroad Potomac River Crossing. In June 6, 2016, the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park was featured on the third 2016 release of the America the Beautiful Quarters series. In the middle of the quarter is a depiction of John Brown's Fort, while the outside has the year (2016), location (Harpers Ferry), and the state (West Virginia).



This building was the residence of the Master Armorer from 1818 to 1838. Before the Civil War, it was a recruiting office, and after the war, it was resident quarters for officers. During the Civil War, Harpers Ferry was under Military Law. "Show your Pass!" was a phrase that would have been heard from Provost Guards (Military Police) who patrolled the streets. Everyone was required to swear an oath of allegiance to the United States to receive a pass. If you did not have a pass, you could be arrested and tried by a military court as a spy.



A pair of 18th century pistols from the Military Police Corps in 1818.



Officer Lehner lived in two worlds: Buffalo Police and Military Police

Before falling asleep at night in their Army barracks in Iraq, Craig E. Lehner and his roommate would review the day's activities. What went right? What went wrong? How could they improve?

That dedication to his military job matched his dedication as a Buffalo police officer, and both lives will be celebrated Wednesday at his funeral in the KeyBank Center.

Lehner disappeared underwater Oct. 13 during a training exercise in the Niagara River with the Buffalo Police Underwater Rescue team and his body was found five days later.

"Craig was our superman," said Michael F. Albanese, the Army National Guard

military policeman who bunked with Lehner in Mosul.

Lehner, a sergeant, knew the lives of the soldiers in his unit depended on vigilance. The Iraq War was winding down when he was there with 105th Military Police Company but improvised explosive devices were a constant hazard.

"Just the amount of confidence he gave off gave you confidence that everything was going to be good," said Albanese, whose friendship with Lehner had begun in 2008 when he entered the National Guard.

Lehner, 34, joined the 105th Military Police Company, in 2000 when he was in his late teens. It was a step toward his goal of joining a local police force.

Then the terrorist attacks occurred in 2001, and he was headed to Iraq in 2003. But an injury during training forced him to remain stateside.

In March 2011, the 105th returned to Iraq, and Lehner was ready to go.

"We did a lot [of] security escorts to bring our majors, colonels and captains out to Iraqi police stations where they conducted advisements with high ranking Iraqi police officials," Sgt. Matthew McCabe said.

The company also served as a "Quick Response Force" when a convoy came under attack, Albanese said. "That involved improvised explosive devices."

Lehner headed a four-member unit that operated a Caiman MRAP vehicle able to withstand explosions.

Yet even in the midst of war, Lehner and his soldiers maintained a sense of humor.

"We called ourselves 'The A-Team.' Craig was 'Hannibal.' I was 'Murdock.' Kyle Orlando was 'Face' and Davon Ottey was 'Baracus,'" Albanese said of the nicknames they gave each from the popular television series and movie of the same name.

At the end of each day before falling

asleep, Lehner and Albanese went over what went right and what went wrong.

"We'd discuss anything from procedures to communication skills. Then he'd say, 'Goodnight Mike,' and I'd say, 'Goodnight Craig.' When we'd wake up in the morning, we'd walk out of our room and tap our motivation board.



"It was piece of cardboard duct-taped above our door with inspirational mom-like quotes, 'Don't forget to take your sweater,' or 'Make sure you're wearing clean underwear,' and 'Momma loves you and watch out for each other.' Every day we'd tap it, walk out and get to our truck and conquer another day."

Albanese said he wants to keep his memories of Lehner "lighthearted," because they had so many happy times together — the cruise to the Caribbean, playing football in a local league and going to movies.

"We'd talked about going back to Iraq someday and doing a reunion tour there, we had so much fun. It was never so much about rank. It was like we were brothers, and I feel like I've lost my older brother," said Albanese, who had served as a military police specialist and has since transferred to the Air Force Reserve.

McCabe remembers how other soldiers approached Lehner if they had a question, even if it had nothing to do with military operations.

"I remember when we were in Iraq and I saw his tattoos. I said, 'My God, this guy has some really good ink.' He referred me to tattoo artist Dustin Lovell," McCabe said.



Members of Craig Lehner's unit, known as the "A-Team" in Mosul. Each member of the unit took a nickname from "The A-Team" television show and movie of the same name. From left are Kyle Orlando, "Face;" Michael Albanese, on roof, "Murdock;" Lehner, with cigar, "Hannibal," and Davon Ottey, sitting in front, "Baracus."

He also recalled how he also was impressed with the approximately 6-foot-tall Lehner's physical condition.

Inspired by Lehner, McCabe started going to the base gym in Mosul and working out under Lehner's tutelage.

"He was a weight lifter, and I learned a lot from him," McCabe said.

The 105th, which holds the distinction of being the first and last Guard unit from New York State to serve in Iraq, returned home on Thanksgiving 2011.

Four years later, the 105th was deployed to the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. It was there in his free hours that Lehner took up SCUBA diving, which ultimately led to him joining the Buffalo Police underwater recovery team.

In 2016, when Lehner resigned from the Guard to focus more on his Buffalo police career, his fellow MPs threw him a going-

away party. But he frequently visited the 105th at the Masten Avenue Armory, and even spoke about rejoining, members of the 105th said.

"I remember he came by the armory in August after we got back from Fort Drum for our annual two weeks of training. He wanted to see how we were doing," Sgt. 1st Class Thomas E. Cashman said. "We've lost a member of our family, and it is terrible, just devastating."

Albanese said that while he and Lehner shared some gentle humor about mothers' comments on their "motivation board" above the door to their barrack room in Mosul, it remains a precious memory. Albanese's mother said Lehner's friendship with her son made all the difference for her son.

"My son Mike joined the military to



find himself, and he said he finally found a friend as weird as him and with the same quirky humor. Craig accepted Mike and he never felt alone," Kim Albanese said.

Describing a photograph on her son's Facebook page, the mother said it showed Mike and Craig in civilian clothes sitting in an empty movie theater wearing 3-dimensional glasses. Beneath the image, her son had written these words in social media shorthand:

"When u join to find urself and u find a friend just as weird and makes u feel accepted and not alone even in an empty theater."

By Lou Michel

“ Just the amount of confidence he gave off gave you confidence that everything was going to be good,” said Albanese.



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202nd Military Police Company Receives Eagle Award

FORT BLISS Tx. – The FORSCOM Eagle Award is given to the MP company scoring the highest against all others in FORSCOM- on and off duty- in areas including weapon qualifications, training requirements, community service, civilian education, unit and individual awards, and soldier discipline.

Although the Soldiers have not received the award yet, Landes wanted to point out how well the unit was doing as he announced their accomplishment during the Veterans Day Ceremony at the parade field on post.

Capt. Melissa Ivanco, commander, and 1st Sgt. Ricky Royals, first sergeant, 202nd MP Company, 93D MP Battalion, were present to receive the great compliment from Landes and are very proud of their unit.

“I’m just really proud of my guys,” said Royals. “It’s their accomplishment. It was a huge accomplishment for them, and they deserve it.”

By Master Sgt. Michel Sauret,



Brig. Gen. Mark Landes, deputy commanding general, 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss, congratulates Capt. Melissa Ivanco, commander, 202nd Military Police Company, 93D Military Police Battalion, Fort Bliss, Texas, for 202nd MP Company achievement in winning the U.S. Army Force Command Eagle Award for excellence Nov. 9, 2017. The FORSCOM Eagle Award is presented to the best, well-rounded MP company, on and off duty, in FORSCOM. (U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Felicia Jagdatt)



Soldiers with 202nd Military Police Company, 93D Military Police Battalion, Fort Bliss, Texas, march off 1st Armored Division's parade field after receiving accolades from Brig. Gen. Mark Landes, deputy commanding general, 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss, Nov. 9, 2017. They have been chosen to receive the U.S. Army Force Command Eagle Award for excellence. (U.S. Army Photo by Staff Sgt. Felicia Jagdatt)

PAPA ROMEO: THE ONLY PODCAST BY MPS, FOR MPS

We all have a story to tell. Where we grew up, how we were raised, events that changed our lives for better or worse.

In the military, our stories reflect who we are as Soldiers and leaders, our view of the world, and the bond we share with our brothers and sisters in arms. It is precisely these stories and the desire to share them that is the driving force behind the podcast Papa Romeo.

Papa Romeo was first aired in June of 2017, as a project between CPT Laura Means and CPT Steven Wynne, who served together as company commanders in the 787th Military Police Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Papa Romeo is the first podcast to provide relevant content to the Military Police Corps that focuses

on the experiences of our Regiment, also serving as professional development platform. It is all about the stories and experiences of MPs as they grew up in the Regiment.

The podcast name is derived from the law enforcement brevity code for “Personal Relief,” Papa Romeo. This name is meant to imply that listeners can take a break from the pressures of their daily lives for some personal development and to connect with our leaders on a more personal level. MPs can listen to Papa Romeo on the drive home, on break, or while working out as a low stress way of consuming professional content.

The first season consists of interviews with COL Jesse Galvan, COL Ross Guieb, RCSM James Breckinridge, LTC Graham Swenson, CSM John Fair, CSM Rebecca Myers, ISG David Baucan, MAJ Laura Mitchell (British Royal Army), and 1LT Christina Hofer. A special panel interview with former RCSM David Stalter, RCSM Harold Burlison, and RCSM Charles Kirkland wraps up the season.

You can find Papa Romeo on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PapaRomeoMP and you can listen to the podcast via iTunes, Podcast Addict, or SoundCloud. Please listen and share with your battle buddies and formations. Laura and Steve plan on releasing more great interviews with Season 2 in January 2018, creating a digital time capsule of the state of the Regiment on the path to the MP Corps of 2020. Here’s to the stories that make up our Regiment!



KENTUCKY MPS PARTNER WITH USVI POLICE FOR HURRICANE RELIEF

WALTON, Ky.— Approximately 120 Soldiers from the Kentucky Army National Guard's 940th Military Police Company deployed to St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands Oct. 1-27, where they assisted with support to civil authorities in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

"We are so very proud of every Soldier of the 940th and the job they do. They are always there to answer the call, regardless of the mission," said Lt. Col. John Blackburn, commander of the 198th Military Police Battalion. "We're glad things came together for us to help the people of the Virgin Islands. Being a part of the team providing support is a proud moment for the 940th and the Kentucky National Guard."

The 940th mission set included presence patrols, critical site security, traffic control and curfew enforcement.

Kentucky MPs worked with the Virgin Island Police Department (VIPD) to enforce curfews, performing an estimated 14,000 joint patrol hours. With extensive damage across the island, security was required at shelters and infrastructure sites. Soldiers also worked traffic intersections across the island as nearly 80 percent of the island was without power, leaving few traffic lights operable.

"This was not only an MP mission, this was a National Guard mission and the 940th played a crucial role in support of local authorities," said Capt. Jared Stakelin, commander of the 940th. "The relationship we built with the Virgin Islands Police Department will be a lasting one and a quality learning experience for this unit."

"Sure, we provided what assistance we could to help the Virgin Islands recover, but we are a better MP company



because of this mission and the people we interacted with."

The 940th was augmented by members of Kentucky's 223rd, 438th and 617th Military Police Companies, and the 1103rd Military Police Detachment.

"It's missions like these that are the reason I joined the National Guard," said Private Dean Gollar. "The people of the Virgin Islands were in need in a big way and we were able to use our training to help them. Everyone there was so happy to have us around, I think we made them feel safe. It was a great experience and I really feel like we made a positive difference."

The Kentucky National Guard sent Soldiers from the 63rd Theater Aviation Brigade to serve in various roles in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Florida following Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Airmen from the 123rd Airlift Wing have also conducted search and rescue and airlift

Pvt. Hannah Highley with the 940th Military Police Company conducts routine traffic stops with the Virgin Island Police Department in St. Thomas, USVI, Oct. 20, 2017. Traffic Control Points were set up across the island to check for stolen vehicles as well as curfew enforcement. Photo By: Sgt. Tosha Cobler

evacuations throughout the Caribbean and currently have aircrews working to assist Puerto Rico with supply deliveries.

Overall, nearly 300 Kentucky Guard members have assisted with relief operations since Hurricane Harvey first hit in August.

By Sgt. Tosha Cobler, 940th Military Police Company

YOU COULD BE THE NEXT MPRA SPOUSE SPOTLIGHT

MPRA Website Blog Spotlight

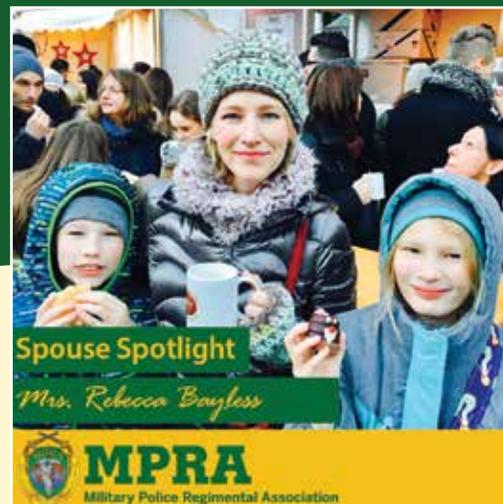
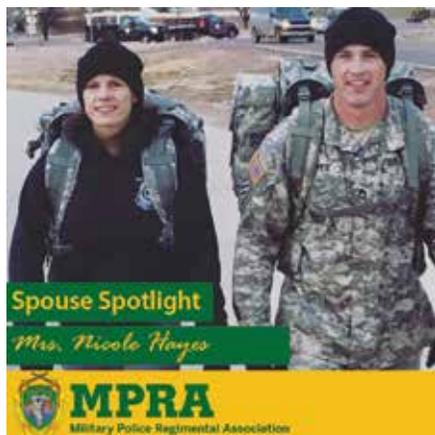
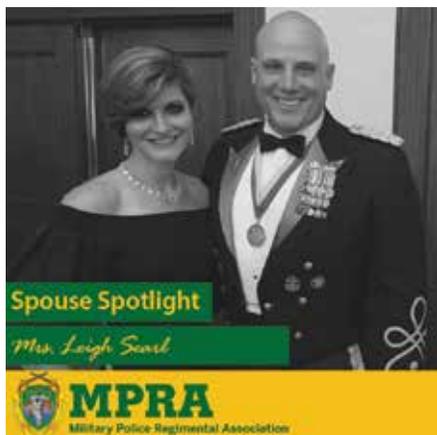
The Military Police Regimental Association (MPRA) is in the process of creating a MP Spouse Spotlight for our blog on our website that will also be shared on our various social media platforms. We would like for you to share your experience and “words of wisdom” with us and the spouses across the MP Regiment. Below is a list of questions that have come to mind.

Questionnaire:

- Tell us about yourself
- How long have you been an MP Spouse?
- What activities have you been involved in as an MP Spouse?
- What recommendations would you give a new MP Spouse?
- What is your favorite memory as an MP spouse?
- What do you do - tell us about your career?
- What has been your favorite duty station and why?
- If you have children, what do you all like to do as a family and how do you make time for family?
- What are your hobbies - what do you do to stay busy?
- If you could visit any place in the world, where would you go and why?

Please send your responses or inquires to Beth at the following:
Email: bellerbyb@mpronline.org or mprabeth@gmail.com

We thank you for your support as we recognize the backbone of your MP Soldier/Leader.



Military Police spouses are an incredibly important part of the regiment. Their unwavering support of their Soldiers who are called to increasingly difficult missions is demanding and challenging. We appreciate all they do and we have plans to begin featuring them regularly on our blog.

We are honored to have Mrs. Nicole Hayes, Mrs. Jade Dietz, Mrs. Leigh Searl, and Mrs. Rebecca Bayless also participate in our MP Spouses Blog. These ladies can attest to the challenges, but provide insight into all the great opportunities that come with being an MP Spouse. We are thankful for their service and hope they enjoyed our new feature.

Will the next Spotlight be on you?

SEE THE MPRA SPOUSE SPOTLIGHT ON WWW.MPRAONLINE.ORG.



California MP Guard members make a difference at fire evacuation center

PETALUMA, Calif. - The presence alone of the California Army National Guard was enough for Deborah L. Dalton to put things into perspective.

As thousands of people flee the Northern California fires — especially those in Sonoma County — hundreds quickly landed at Dalton's 12,000 square-foot facility in Petaluma that quickly became an evacuation site. Normally, Dalton's Cavanagh Recreation Center caters to at-risk youth, where caring adults mentor youngsters into becoming better people.

Dalton and her 12-member administrative staff had to shift gears on the fly. Teachers became hostesses, staffers became waiters and janitors.

Bus after bus started trekking into the compound, unloading fire victims. Cots and sleeping essentials filled the Cavanagh facility beyond its required capacity.

"Oh Lord, it became so overwhelming," Dalton explained. "We've never done this before. We're not trained to be an evacuation center. I could have cried until you guys (the California Guard) rolled up in your Humvees."

Her years mentoring troubled youth kicked in. As evacuees settled in, the potential for disorder filled the center. Dalton noticed tension among the outsiders — young adults, in particular — and avoiding conflict was going to be left in her hands, along with her staff.

Sgt. Keave C. Sham, Spc. Jasmine Tirado, Spc. Joseph Zabala and Pfc. Jennifer Preciado, members of the 870th Military Police Company, 49th Military Police Brigade, California Army National Guard, relax with Marach at the Cavanagh Recreation Center in Petaluma, California, which became an evacuation facility for people fleeing Northern California fires in Sonoma County and adjacent areas. Photos by Staff Sgt. Edward Siguenza.

"We're only women here," Dalton added.

Just outside, several California Guard vehicles pulled up. Local authorities were also on hand, but they're strapped supporting hundreds of other scenarios. So members of the California Guard's

270th and 870th Military Police companies stepped forward to give Dalton and crew a hand. For several days now, they've worked a system where order and peace overrule the fear and unknown.

Dalton said the MPs have been a big help. "Now we know where to route people. Now we have a better idea of what to do. I love you people, and I'm a fan."

The Guard members work around the clock and not just providing security. They carry food and other items into the facility. They move, load and unload vehicles. They talk to the victims, and many of the Guard members are bilingual. Some Guard members, such as the 270th's Staff Sgt. Timothy Barrera, go as far as to play games with kids.

"We can't break our rules, but if there are things that we can help to get done, we do it," Barrera said. "There's a really good feeling here. People keep offering us stuff, but we keep telling them we're here to help you."

Dalton said the MPs have been a big help. "Now we know where to route people. Now we have a better idea of what to do. I love you people, and I'm a fan."

Raging fires in Northern California have killed more than 30 people, scorched hundreds of thousands of acres of land, and displaced several thousands, per the California Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) website in late September and early October. Several of the California Guard's military police units were assigned to assist victims and supporters at various shelters, centers and churches in Northern California cities.

"You know what it is? I think it's just the fact that they're here gives

us peace of mind," Dalton said about the California Guard members. "We just weren't prepared for something like this. This center has never seen anything like it. With them (the Guard members) here, now we can concentrate on what needs to be done."

By Staff Sgt. Edward Siguenza, 69th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Staff Sgt. Timothy Barrera of the 270th Military Police Company, 49th Military Police Brigade, California Army National Guard, discusses the daily schedule with Deborah L. Dalton, executive director of Cavanagh Recreation Center in Petaluma, California. The center quickly became an evacuation facility for Sonoma County residents affected by the Northern California fires. Barrera's team provided security as well as other means of helping the evacuees adjust to their new, temporary home. "It's a blessing to have you people here," Dalton said about the Guard members.



5th MP Battalion (CID) Staff Ride to Normandy

On June 6, 1944, 160,000 Allied Soldiers assaulted a 50-mile stretch of the Normandy coast of France, launching a pivotal effort against Nazi Germany. The Allied armada of 700 warships and 2,500 landing aircraft closed in on beaches. In the first six days, 326,000 men, 54,000 vehicles and 104,000 tons of material came ashore. This year marked the 73rd anniversary of D-Day. To commemorate the 73rd anniversary of D-Day, Soldiers of the 5th Military Police Battalion (CID) conducted a staff ride to Normandy, France.

The staff ride included members from all CID offices across Germany and Belgium. In total, 30 CID Soldiers participated in the event. While the staff ride lasted only nine hours, the event required 10 months of planning and coordination by the 5th MP Bn (CID).

The preliminary study phase began six weeks prior. The staff ride participants received a careful selection of historical references dedicated to Operation Neptune. Major Christopher Hodl, the battalion executive officer, the Battalion S3, MAJ Michael Brimage, and the staff ride facilitator, “Mickey,” conducted more detailed discussions and analyses in order to prepare themselves and the 5th MP Bn (CID) for the visit to the beaches of Normandy. The preliminary study phase included reading excerpts from Stephen Ambrose’s *D-Day and Band of Brothers* and Anthony Beevor’s *D-Day: The Battle for Normandy*. The 5th MP Bn (CID) staff wrote an OPORD for Operation Neptune using today’s doctrinal and operational terms.

The field study phase began at 8 a.m. on June 6, at Point Du Hoc. This is where the staff ride participants began to expand upon knowledge gained during the preliminary study phase. Point du Hoc is a 98-foot high extended bluff that juts into the English Channel, flanking the entire span of Omaha Beach. While at

Point du Hoc, “Mickey” guided staff ride participants around the different 155m gun emplacements used by Nazi defenders against the assaulting 2nd Ranger Battalion (“Rudder’s Rangers”).

Analyzing the terrain at Point du Hoc transitioned into a discussion of Hitler’s “Atlantic Wall,” which was an extensive network of defensive positions spanning



Soldiers pose in front of a monument dedicated to the 29th Infantry Division and 1st Infantry Division at Omaha Beach.

from the German coast into Scandinavia.

While the Soldiers of the 5th MP Bn observed the 2nd Ranger Battalion memorial at Point Du Hoc, they paid homage by moving to the front leaning rest position for 90 seconds of silence. The moment of silence was significant because 90 rangers of the initial 225 survived the climb and subsequent attack on German defenses at Point du Hoc.

After the moment of silence the group headed to Charlie sector of Omaha Beach. The movement to Omaha beach was a 13-mile road march with a 30Ib assault pack. The road march was an attempt to simulate the conditions faced by allied troops. The route took participants along the “Atlantic Wall” where German positions were identified and detailed analysis of the positions occurred.

“I had the opportunity to walk the

same hallowed grounds of those who came before me in Normandy,” said SFC De Antwan D. Young, detachment sergeant, Wiesbaden CID Office. “I walked the enemy and allied bunkers and trenches, I got to see firsthand what those men endured and it was moving. For so many years I used to use my imagination to try and think what I would’ve done in

those situations, but when you’re there seeing it, nothing I’ve mustered up in my head compared to what they went through. I was there to pay tribute to the sacrifices they and their families made.”

“The memorial at Omaha Beach, where they landed, is breathtaking and is just polarizing to see the number of Soldiers we lost, who are buried there,” added Young. “As I walked through the museum, emotions almost got the best of me, because I’m standing in the places where thousands of our military were slaughtered before their feet even hit the beach. They were massacred.

The gut feeling I had was overwhelming and it gave me the opportunity to really reflect on everything in life. This was one of the most moving trips I’ve ever been on and this is definitely one I will not forget. I will never take my freedom for granted.”

Once the unit arrived on Omaha Beach, LTC Joseph E. Elsner, commander of the 5th MP Bn (CID), Hodl, Brimage, and the facilitator, briefed using a terrain model that demonstrated the landings at

Soldiers make their way along the cliffs of Normandy during a 12-mile ruck march.



Omaha and Utah Beaches. After the brief, the staff ride participants “assaulted” Omaha Beach, paying homage to those of the “Greatest Generation” who sacrificed much to liberate Europe.

“I have several familial and personal connections to the D-Day Normandy invasion,” said CPT Kaitlin M. Harrison, the battalion assistant S3. “My family was raised on the memories and stories passed down in our hometown of Bedford, Virginia. It was truly humbling to see where these stories actually occurred.

There were several instances of somber ambiance throughout the ruck march that made it clearly evident the Soldiers from the 5th MP Bn were all thinking and feeling the same. The beaches of Normandy may have appeared a little different than they did 73 years ago; however, the American pride stayed true. It was sincerely an honor to pay our respects to the fallen Soldiers in Normandy. I will cherish this experience throughout my life.”

The 5th MP Bn (CID) “assault” on Normandy Beach consisted of three nine to 10-person squads with two teams. The teams used bounding techniques from the 50-degree waters of the English Channel to the sea wall. “Alpha team down, Bravo team move, we cover” was all that was heard on the beach as the battalion bounded ashore. Although, not the exact conditions faced by Allied forces, the staff ride participants developed a better understanding of how fatigue exacerbated the seemingly insurmountable odds the Allies faced on D-Day.

The integration phase of the staff ride was conducted immediately after the assault while the participants were still wet and shivering on Omaha Beach. Mickey guided the staff ride participants through group discussions focused on two questions: 1) How does seeing the terrain in Normandy enhance previous understanding of the Operation Neptune? 2) What enduring insights can be gained from Operation Neptune that can still be of use today? The discussions allowed the staff ride participants an opportunity to reflect upon sacrifices made on D-Day. The discussions also afforded the participants an opportunity to appreciate the applications of Army doctrine such as the principles of war and characteristics of the offense and defense.

“It’s clear that today’s Army doctrine is rooted deeply in lessons learned from some of history’s greatest battles,” said Elsner. “While the activities on Omaha Beach provided the staff ride participants more insight into weather and terrain conditions on D-Day, the visit to the Normandy American Cemetery reminded participants of those who gave their life in the defense of freedom.

The Normandy American Cemetery is the burial place for more than 9,000 American military members, most of whom died on D-Day. Members of the 5th MP Bn (CID) took the somber tour of the 172-acre cemetery and examined the “Walls of the Missing” where more than 1,500 names were inscribed.

“This place is very overwhelming,” said MAJ Michael Brimage. “My heart raced as I looked into the vast cemetery. I did not fully grasp the enormous cost paid by our forefathers until I saw this resting place.”

By all accounts, the staff ride was a rewarding and educating experience that will not be forgotten. The long planning phase was well worth the effort and a small price to pay compared to the sacrifices of the troops who landed there 73 years ago.

*Story by Cpt Derrick Davis,
5th MP Battalion (CID)*



TOP : Soldiers simulate a Higgins Boat exercise in the cold waters of the English Channel. ABOVE: Soldiers ‘assaulting’ Omaha Beach using bounding techniques. BELOW: Sculpture of Soldier dragging wounded comrade from Omaha beach. (Photos by SPC Joseph Rivers)



National Guard MP and SF fight criminal activity post-hurricane

Jason Archibald is a life-long resident on the island of St. Croix, Virgin Islands. He “lost everything” to a category five hurricane, but he still manages to earn a profitable income post-disaster by working in a local barbershop that’s being powered by generators. But he admits the storm has brought out the worst in some people.

“Of course on the island, there’s looting going on, there’s stealing — people’s generators are being robbed at night,” he said. Bad news for an island with a majority that is still without power.

But Archibald is grateful for the doubled presence of law enforcement by the Virgin Islands Police Department and National Guard MPs.

“I see flashing lights all day and all night — they’re working hard to keep (businesses and homeowners) safe,” Archibald said. “I’m not hearing about anybody being killed or any fatal shootings — so they’re doing their jobs, man.”

Archibald is referencing members of the 252nd Military Police Company, Tennessee National Guard, who conduct patrols within the Estate La Reine to East End Zone area of the island of St. Croix, Virgin Islands. National Guard members are working with the Virgin Islands Police Department on both vehicle and foot patrols.

“For the most part we’re just looking for crimes of opportunity,” said 1Lt. Dana Shears. “Everyone is kind of in this together trying to come out stronger on the other end.”

But MPs workload also includes a range of emergencies and new investigations.

“Some of our military police officers have went on a few different calls such as domestic violence calls, shots fired and some traffic accidents,” added Sgt. 1st Class Leigh Ann Hester, another member



of the Tennessee National Guard.

Traffic control and curfew enforcement is also a part of National Guard duties enforced according to Gov. Kenneth Mapp to “minimize, the delay in cleanup efforts, and ensure the timely distribution of critically needed supplies.” Only essential personnel are allowed on the roadways between specific hours of the day. Violators can and will face consequences.

“We can detain, but we can’t arrest. We’re here to assist the Virgin Islands Police Force. So, violators can be arrested but it’s on a case by-case basis,” said Sgt. Andrew Kinney, a member of the New York National Guard.

Meanwhile a few miles away at the Henry E. Rohlsen International Airport, which began offering commercial flights Oct. 5, Air National Guard security forces

(SF) personnel provide antiterrorism protection and maintain order alongside members of the Virgin Islands Port Authority Police Department. Guardsmen have also supported the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) as the number of passengers has increased. All activities are monitored via security cameras within the National Guard’s newly established Base Defense Operation Center (BDOC). A desk sergeant can also reach all National Guard MPs and SFs on the island by radio from the site.

“Security forces are the eyes and ears who serve as a deterrent,” said Tech. Sgt. Robert Segobia, a member of the Arizona Air National Guard. “Having this show of force mitigates a lot of potential ‘what if scenarios.’”

By Arthur Mondale, Pentagon Staff Writer



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WHO LET THE DOGS OUT

The training certification for Military Police Military Working Dogs is critical to force protection. The Military Working Dog, known as MWD, is used to protect personnel, facilities and equipment. However, the specific purpose of the MWD is to patrol, track and detect explosives and illegal narcotics.

Special Agent Eric Hunter with the Office of Protection Directorate, U.S. Army Africa and MAJ Natalia Mercedes a Foreign Area Officer assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Ghana, along with Ghanaian Armed Forces CPT Gamel Zanlerigu and CPT Ebenezer Ackwerh, took advantage of this training in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

The training, conducted by the 709th Military Police Battalion, consisted of MWD Team Certification and kennel inspections that were observed by the Ghanaian Armed Forces, known as GAF.

The GAF currently operates the GAF National Dog Academy. The academy has 40 dogs that service all agencies in Ghana including GAF, customs, agriculture and other sectors.

The intent of the academy is to become Ghana's premier working dog academy and provide MWD capabilities for all Ghanaian Armed Forces through the continued partnership with U.S. partners.

"The availability of the Office of Security Cooperation to travel with the GAF personnel significantly increased the GAF personnel's overall experience and provided a first-hand country representative to field country specific questions not easily answered by the GAF personnel such as GAF structure, MWD utilization, and the GAF mission as it coincides with the U.S. mission." said Hunter. The GAF will improve this capability through

continued train the trainer and U.S. veterinarian visits to GHA.

The GAF personnel were shown dog team evaluations and observed the first phase of MWD certification of three MWD teams. This phase consisted of basic obedience, gunfire control, controlled aggression, scouting (wanted person searches), and building searches. The training continued with explosives and narcotics detection in vehicles, a warehouse, barracks, open areas, and roadways in woodland environments.

The GAF personnel visited Dog Center Europe, Kaiserslautern, Germany, and toured a veterinary hospital. The GAF received a brief from a veterinarian pertaining to safety, grooming, diseases, parasites, first aid, medication and veterinary clinic procedures.

By SA Eric Hunter, U.S. Army Africa



ABOVE: Duane Stinson, U.S. Army Europe military working dog program manager, demonstrates how to be a decoy in bite training during a multi-national military working dog familiarization training exercise at the Miesau Ammo Depot, Germany. RIGHT TOP:

MAJ Justin DeVanna, assistant director of Dog Center Europe explains to Ghanaian Military Police officers the capabilities of the dog center during a tour of Kaiserslautern Veterinary Treatment Facility, Kaiserslautern, Germany. RIGHT BOTTOM: SA Eric Hunter, center, with CPT Gamel Zanlerigu, left, and CPT Ebenezer Ackwerh. (Photos by SPC Tadow McDonald)



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MP COMPETITION PROMOTES READINESS AND MULTI-COMPONENT COLLABORATION

FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. - Two Arizona National Guard Military Police Soldiers participated in the 2017 MP Competitive Challenge event held here Sept. 16-19.

Forty five of the best MPs from across the nation and Army components converged for the U.S. Army Military Police School-sponsored event designed to challenge their wits and endurance.

"This contest was more physically demanding than I thought it would be," said Spc. Justin Martinez, a team leader in the 860th MP Company in Tucson. "My feet are sore after the first day, and the lack of sleep makes the mental tests that much more challenging."

Each day started with an early rise and an unknown-distance road march to a training area where individual points started accumulating from a series of physical and written exams.

Sgt. Nicholas Jacobs, team leader with the 855 MP Company in Phoenix, explained how the competition was not as simple as running, jumping, rucking and lifting.

"They beat you down, then throw in the mental stuff to see if you can push through and maintain," Jacobs said. "Answers that normally come easily are suddenly hard."

The physical exercises were dovetailed with written tasks. For example, one event started with the day's second four-mile road march – which followed several sand bag carries, rope climbs and shooting events – that ended at a chemical substance chamber. Competitors then donned their protective masks and entered the building. At that point, they began a timed written exam and, upon completion or time expiration, they removed their masks and took a deep breath before exiting the chamber.

Another obstacle stemmed from the diversity of knowledge Soldiers were tested on. In addition to standard military police knowledge, there were questions and tasks related to internment and resettlement, criminal investigations and working dog handler military occupational specialties.

"This competition opens my eyes to the knowledge I don't have," Martinez said. "It points out our soft points and gives me something to think about when I go back to my unit."

Although this event was designed to build esprit de corps and pride in service amongst the various components, there is a practical side, one that demonstrates readiness.

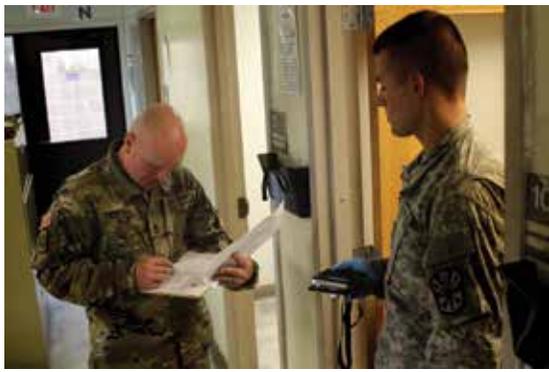
"Competition brings out our individual best," said Lt. Col. William Karlage, Commander of the 850th Military Police Battalion in Phoenix. "It hones our individual skills, and therefore, our ability to fight and win our nation's wars."

Karlage explained how important it is for our Guard Soldiers to collaborate and train with members from the other components. "That's what makes us one Army," Karlage said. "We integrate in training as we would on the battlefield where you can't tell one component from another, all Soldiers working together to accomplish the mission."

"Working with the other components is just like working with any other Soldier," said Martinez of the seamless integration of the multi-component representatives at the competition.

The next United States Army Military Police School-sponsored MPCC is scheduled for Sept. 16-18, 2018, at Fort Leonard Wood.

By Capt. Aaron Thacker



Arizona National Guardsman Sgt. Nicholas Jacobs and Arizona National Guardsman Spc. Justin Martinez are two of 45 MPs from across the U.S. Army competing at this year's event. Jacobs is an Arizona National Guardsman serving as a team leader in the 855th MP Company. Martinez serves as a team leader in the 860th MP Company. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Aaron Thacker)

KNOWLEDGE, LEADERSHIP, COMMITMENT: RESERVE SPECIAL AGENT MAKES HISTORY

FORT MEADE, Md. — The first Army Reserve Criminal Investigation Command (CID) Special Agent was awarded the Basic Army Instructor Badge, Sept. 18, 2017. CID Special Agent Anthony Johnson, a detachment sergeant with the 383rd Military Police Detachment (CID), located in Lakeland, Florida, is not only making history for the MP Corps, but is augmenting the way his fellow Army Reserve agents grow and succeed in their career.

For Army Reserve CID agents, it is hard to obtain seats in active duty schools, such as the Advanced Leadership Course, which is necessary for career advancement. Having Johnson instruct courses provides more slots for Reserve agents so they can attend ALC and progress in their respective field.

“SA Johnson has stepped forward and accepted the challenge of instructing,” said CSM Craig D. Owens, the senior enlisted leader for the 200th Military Police Command. “This shows our active duty counterparts that our program can work.”

A part of the program, that is also groundbreaking, is that Johnson is the first adjunct instructor. This means that he can go and teach courses for a short time and then return to his parent unit and civilian job.

Just because he’s a part-time instructor doesn’t mean he lacks the knowledge of the full-time instructors. Johnson has more than 17 years of civilian law enforcement experience and over 2,900 hours of law enforcement training, and has worked in many different fields. He is currently a crime scene detective, but has worked as a narcotics task force officer, served on a police dive rescue team, and a street crime unit. When it comes to mentoring agents, he offers advice that stems from a diverse law enforcement background to add to their toolkits.

“SA Johnson may have pioneered this for the CID field,” said Owens, “but it’s going to revolutionize how our regular MP’s get their training.”

The plan is to have Reserve MP’s earn an instructor badge, like Johnson, so they can start offering classes. It’s going to take knowledge, leadership and commitment, which is what the badge represents.

With more than 80 hours of instructing time, Johnson also had to attend and pass the Basic Army Instructor Course and the Small Group Instructor Course. He said the toughest part was instructing in front of the “Murder Board,” a panel of at least three instructors with the rank of first sergeant and up.

“It was nerve-wrecking,” said Johnson. “If you’re lucky, you might have students to interact with, but not in my case.”



SA Anthony Johnson, center, a U.S. Army Reserve Special Agent with the 383rd Military Police Detachment (CID), Lakeland, Florida, poses for a picture after receiving the Basic Army Instructor Badge, Sept. 18, 2017. Johnson is the first adjunct instructor for the U.S. Army Military Police School and the first U.S. Army Reserve special agent to receive the BAIB in the MP Corps. (Photo courtesy of SA Anthony Johnson)

Johnson didn’t have any students, and on top of that, he had to randomly pick a class out of a hat. Despite feeling like he could have done better, he did his research and passed.

The bottom line is that all [noncommissioned officers], regardless of their [career field], are expected to know certain combat skill sets, training management, and have the ability to research and lead troops,” he said.

Leading troops is Johnson’s passion. While he says he is proud of being the first Reserve special agent to receive the instructor badge, and being the first adjunct instructor for the United States Army Military Police School, Johnson’s accomplishments weren’t for his own gain.

“When this all started, I didn’t expect to earn an instructor badge, that was just a by-product,” said Johnson. “There’s a lot of instructor time that I preformed that I’m not getting compensated for and that’s okay, because I didn’t do this for me, I did this for my NCO cohort and the betterment of the Army.”

Perhaps Johnson’s accomplishments haven’t affected the whole Army, yet, but it is safe to say that his hard work is benefiting the MP Corp, as a whole.

By SGT. Audrey Hayes, 200th Military Police Command



WELCOME to the MP Corps!

Join us as we celebrate with West Point – The U.S. Military Academy “firstie” class members who were branched to the United States Army Military Police Corps!

On 15 November 2017, the United States Military Academy graduating class of 2018 received their branch preferences during West Point Branch Night. First Class (Seniors) Cadets are required to submit their preferences in mid-October, listing the branches in order from 1-17. Out of the total class of 1006 cadets, 18 future leaders were selected for the Military Police Branch. This year, the branch proved rather competitive with 33 cadets selecting Military Police as their number one choice. Five cadets agreed to

complete 3 years of additional service in order to guarantee their selection in the Military Police Corps. The highest ranking cadet was ranked number 271 out of the total graduating class of 2018. All of the future Military Police Officers from the graduating class of 2018 had Military Police Branch listed in their top 2 at a minimum. We would also like to thank the Military Police Regimental Association (MPRA) for all of the items that were donated to the cadets as a welcoming contribution.



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MPS TRAIN TO PERFECT THEIR FUNCTION, BECOMING MORE PREPARED FOR COMBAT

FORT McCOY, Wis. – More than 600 military police Soldiers trained together this August during one of the largest combat support training exercises of the year run by the U.S. Army Reserve.

Military Police specialize in detainee operations, such as securing enemy prisoners of war, but they also safeguard and feed displaced civilians who lose their homes during times of war.

The training exercise, also known as CSTX, combines Army Reserve units from various functions and specialties

into a single “battlefield” to improve their overall combat readiness to deploy. CSTX runs multiple cycles and locations each year, typically in Wisconsin, California and New Jersey. This particular cycle included more than 12,000 service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps and forces from six partnering nations. Units on the ground specialized in every combat support func-

tion: engineering, defending against chemical warfare, logistics, transportation, water purification and more.

“CSTX has exercised my units in both their military occupational specialty roles as military police, and in basic survivability on a lethal battlefield,” said Lt. Col. Edward Diamantis, commander of the 310th MP Battalion.

In addition to their basic functions, all Army Reserve

units were expected to train on their battle drills, base defense, survivability and defeating the enemy. During typical training exercises, large units aligned to one another don’t often train together, but this cycle was different for the MPs. The 333rd Military Police Brigade came to McCoy and trained with two of its battalions: 400th MP Battalion and 310th MP Battalion.

U.S. Army Reserve Soldier Pv2 Braylon Wilson, 351st Military Police Company uses an ICAM TD100 to process a simulated detainee during Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX) 86-17-02 at Fort McCoy, Wis., August 18, 2017. CSTX includes more than 12,000 service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps as well as from six countries. CSTX is a large-scale training event where units experience tactical training scenarios specifically designed to replicate real-world missions. (U.S. Army Reserve photo by Spc. John Russell)



“This has been a completely austere environment... I think it was pretty unique that the brigade was able to come to an exercise with organic units. Doing this allowed both battalions to be able to validate and be ready, but were able to conduct mission command with its organic headquarters,” said Capt. Deveney Wall, the executive officer to the 400th MP Battalion.

MPs had to operate their missions on a 24-hour cycle while responding to attacks on their bases that came in various forms: chemical, complex attacks and indirect fire. They did this while processing thousands of prisoners through using biometrics

systems, running convoy operations for missions outside the wire and responding to civil disturbances.

Additionally, one of the battalions had to relocate their tactical operations center by packing up their equipment into a convoy of vehicles, and re-assembling their operations tents at a new location. This process, known as a “Jump TOC,” is becoming more common among Army Reserve units as they train to respond quickly to mission changes or potential enemy threats. In this case, the MP battalion had to change mission from securing enemy prisoners of wars to taking care of displaced civilians. Once

they set up the new camp, MPs worked to provide, food, shelter, water, medical care to civilians on the battlefield.

“Fort McCoy and its ranges provided a realistic theater environment that greatly enhances training. The various cell structures, sally ports and towers give Soldiers a true feel for their mission tasks. Also, this year’s emphasis on survivability brought to light the need for more basic infantry-like training in order to survive and win the next conflict,” said Diamontis.

By Master Sgt. Michel Sauret, 200th Military Police Command

Clockwise from top left: U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers Pvt. Rickey Stokes, 800th Military Police Company role plays as a detainee during Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX) 86-17-02 at Fort McCoy, Wis., August 18, 2017. U.S. Army Reserve Soldier Pfc. Shawn Beesley role plays as a detainee. U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers from the 351st, 800th, and 160th Military Police Companies practice forced cell extraction techniques during Combat Support Training Exercise (CSTX) 86-17-02 at Fort McCoy, Wis., August 18, 2017. U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers from the 351st, 800th, and 160th Military Police Companies use a digiD mini 10-print fingerprint device to process simulated detainees.



The Tet Offensive of

1968

During the early morning hours of 31 January 1968 and in a calculated and deliberate violation of the Lunar New Year (Tet) ceasefire agreement, a combined force of Viet Cong guerrillas and regular soldiers of the North Vietnamese People's Army (NVPA) – numbering approximately 80,000 – simultaneously attacked major cities, hamlets, and key military installations from the Demilitarized Zone south to the Mekong Delta (the whole of South Vietnam). The enemy violently attacked the northernmost provincial capital of Quang Tri City; seized and occupied the ancient imperial capital of Hue for 24 days; and committed eleven battalions to assault six key targets in Saigon (to include the US Embassy). The primary purpose of this operation was to secure a decisive battlefield victory by destabilizing the Saigon regime; instigating a popular uprising amongst the general populace; compelling US forces to abandon Vietnam; and “liberating” South Vietnam. To their credit, the senior military leadership of the NVPA engineered a brilliantly synchronized major offensive against the South – which included the use of deception, surprise, speed, and shock action. The Tet Offensive of 1968 represented the most defining moment of



General William C. Westmoreland (Commanding General, MACV) and Ellsworth Bunker (US ambassador to South Vietnam) attend a memorial Service for Military Policemen that were killed during the Tet Offensive of 1968.

the Vietnam War. Although it qualified as a costly military failure for the NVPA, it set the United States on a determined path of disengagement from the war that would ultimately led to the fall of Saigon seven years later (30 April 1975).

Despite battlefield success, American public opinion of the Vietnam War had started to shift in the fall of 1967; the lack of perceived progress in concert with mounting casualties created a credibility gap between the Johnson ad-



Military Police advance along an alleyway to rescue survivors of the ambush near BOQ 3 (31 January 1968).

ministration and the American public; media-military relations were strained at best; and the “Year of the Monkey” (1968) was a presidential election year in the United States. In an effort to instill optimism and bolster and maintain public support, the Johnson administration launched an aggressive “Good News Campaign” program with selected political and military leaders bearing the torch to highlight positive/factual messages – increased stability within the South Vietnamese government; significant progress in the pacification programs; and the enhanced battlefield performance of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN). In recognition of the latter, responsibility for the defense of Saigon was transferred to the ARVN on 15 December 1967. This left the 716th Military Police Battalion and attached elements (the 527th Military Police Company; Company C, 52nd Infantry Regiment; and the 90th Military Police Detachment) as the only US military formation in the capital city. Selective media reporting on the “Good News Campaign” program omitted the “caution flags” that accompanied these measured tones. Instead, the press reported that the enemy was in retreat,

victory was imminent, and there was “light at the end of the tunnel.” (The latter was a term often misattributed to General William C. Westmoreland).

In its entirety, the Tet Offensive was overly ambitious and the multiple attacks on metropolitan Saigon proved especially disastrous. The expectation that the general populace would rise up in revolt never materialized and the



US troops look at the hole blown in the compound wall by Viet Cong sappers beginning the attack on the US Embassy in Saigon on 31 January 1968

North’s violation of the most sacred holiday in all of Southeast Asia alienated the vast majority of the villagers country-wide; ARVN soldiers failed to mutiny; the South Vietnamese government did not collapse; the enemy failed miserably in its attempt to achieve a decisive battlefield victory (sustaining 40,000 casualties in the process – from which the Viet Cong never fully recovered from); and as a result of this catastrophic military defeat, a rift in the NVPA high command emerged.

Although not organized for tactical combat missions, Military Police units would engage the enemy in multiple firefights, roadside skirmishes, and urban warfare. During the course of the Tet Offensive, they would defend key military installations, flush out enemy snipers, conduct security patrols, provide convoy security, and establish critical checkpoints. Responding with quick reaction teams, MP units fought block-to-block, house-to-house, and floor-to-floor – effectively disrupting the enemy’s battle rhythm and providing the margin necessary for infantry and armor units to arrive on the scene. Employing small-unit infantry tactics,



Top, left: Military policemen with a Viet Cong guerrilla captured during the fighting at the US Embassy in Saigon (31 January 1968).



Top, right: Two Military Policemen aid PFC Paul V. Healey during fighting in the US Embassy compound in Saigon at the beginning of the Tet Offensive (January 31, 1968). Healey had been overcome by tear gas deployed by US personnel.

Below: General Abrams (Commanding General, MACV) and CSM Denary (Battalion CSM) attach the Presidential Unit Citation streamer to the colors of the 716th Military Police Battalion during the ceremony conferring the citation to the battalion.

Military Police units fought significant actions at Da Lat, Kontum, Pleiku, Quinhon, Ban Me Thoat, Nha Trang, Bien Hoa, Thu Duo, Vinh Long, Can Tho City, and Soc Trang. During the Battle of Saigon, the 716th Military Police Battalion and its attached units would emerge as the first line of defense in the most intense battle in which Military Police units have ever been engaged. Significant combat actions were fought in the vicinity of Bachelor Officer's Quarters (BOQ) 3, the Phu Tho Racetrack on Plantation Road, the South Korean Embassy, the vicinity of the South Vietnamese Presidential Palace, and the Military

Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) Annex (co-located with Ton Son Nhut Air Base.)

Specialist Fourth Class Charles R. Miller (Company B, 716th Military Police Battalion) and First Lieutenant Gerald L. Waltman, Specialist Fourth Class Ronald P. Kendall, Specialist Fourth Class Alvin F. Toyer, and Private First Class Steven W. Sears (Company C, 716th Military Police Battalion) would each earn the Silver Star for gallantry in action during the desperate fight at BOQ 3. Thirteen MPs were killed in this action and another 13 were wounded. Sergeant Michael A. Grieve and Private First Class Roland M. Bowen (Company A, 716th Military Police Battalion) would each be awarded the Silver Star for heroism in ground combat during the fight at the Phu Tho Racetrack. Serving as a rally point for the Viet Cong, fighting would continue at the racetrack for an additional ten days. More so than any other action of the Tet Offensive, the Battle of Saigon would capture the media headlines. And the attack against the US Embassy – the symbol of American authority and prestige – would be the center of gravity for war correspondents. (An American embassy had not been the target of an organized attack by hostile forces since the Chinese Boxer Rebellion of 1900).

The Viet Cong attack against the US Embassy began at 0245 hours when sappers blew a hole in the compound's perimeter wall and attacked through the



breach. The two MP guards that were on duty (Specialist Fourth Class Charles L. Daniel and Private First Class William E. Sebast) engaged the enemy and immediately alerted the Provost Marshal's office. Daniel and Sebast killed two of the enemy leaders before they were shot in the back by two Viet Cong that were already inside the embassy compound (both of these VC were employed by the Embassy as drivers). The actions of these two Military Policemen enabled the Marine Security Guards time to seal the doors to the embassy building. Despite determined efforts, the Viet Cong were never able to enter the building. Soon after, a Military Police quick reaction force arrived and surrounded the compound. The enemy was trapped; they were unable to enter the embassy building and they couldn't escape from the compound.

Attempts to airmobile an infantry company on the roof of the US Embassy were unsuccessful. At dawn, the order was given to retake the compound. Under the capable leadership of First Lieutenant Frank Ribich, Military Policemen stormed the compound. In the end, 19 dead Viet Cong were found and three were captured. For their extraordinary heroism in recapturing the embassy compound, Private First Class Paul V. Healey was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Sergeant John H. Hook earned the Silver Star. (Both men were assigned to Company B, 716th Military Police Battalion). During the Battle of Saigon, Military Policemen suffered 27 killed and 45 wounded in action; the majority of these were killed or wounded during the first twelve hours of the battle. On 24 February 1968, the Tet Offensive would come to an end with the recapture of Hue – although scattered fighting would continue across South Vietnam for another week. For its extraordinary heroism in ground combat, the 716th MP Battalion and its attached units would be awarded the US Presidential Unit Citation – the first MP unit so acclaimed. Adapting to a different style of warfare in Vietnam, the Military Police Corps would also



Top: The quick reaction force led by 1LT Frank Ribich prepare to assault the US Embassy compound at dawn on 31 January 1968. Bottom: Military Policemen after the battle at the US Embassy in Saigon on the first day of the Tet Offensive (31 January 1968).

be redesignated from a Combat Service Support to a Combat Support Branch on 14 October 1968. This initiative was largely due to its combat success during the Tet Offensive.

*Story by Ronney Z. Miller,
USAMPS/MPCR Historian*



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Corrections MP Earns Coveted Master Recruiter Badge

For only the second time since 2011, a United States Army direct select recruiter became the recipient of the coveted Master Recruiter Badge. In November 2017, Military Police Corrections Specialist Staff Sgt. (promotable) David Barker was notified that he was that recipient and would be receiving this award.

In 2016, Barker was assigned to La Mesa Recruiting Company, Southern California Recruiting Battalion, 6th Recruiting Brigade, in Imperial Beach, California where he is currently performing duties as an Assistant Station Commander. This three-year assignment comes with many challenges, but he enjoys being a big part of a future Soldier's journey to the Army.

"I enjoy being the first contact someone has with the Army and helping them find a way they could serve. I follow up with all of my recruits, usually on Facebook, to see how they're doing. I like to see them become successful," said Barker.

The Army's Master Recruiter Badge was created in 2011, and Soldiers were first able to test for the badge four years ago. This year, 247 Soldiers voluntarily took the test at the battalion level, 44 Soldiers took the hands-on test at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and 23 scored well enough on the test to receive the badge.

The United States Army Recruiting Command's Hands On Performance Test covers the scientific aspects of recruiting. Recruiters are asked to demonstrate their aptitude of 10 recruiting functions.

Barker is quick to point out that simply having a good understanding of the mechanics of recruiting does not necessarily make someone a good recruiter.

"The art of recruiting is so much more than the science of recruiting.



You have to communicate effectively, read a recruit's body language, and have a clear understanding of what they want to know about the Army. It's important that you personalize your conversation with each recruit to provide exactly what they need," said Barker.

Though Barker enjoys talking with recruits, he hopes that his next assignment will allow him to mentor and lead young Soldiers – something he enjoyed in his previous positions.

Barker's military career began when he joined the Army in 2005, after he had been attending the University of California – Los Angeles,

or UCLA, studying criminal justice. When education costs became overwhelming, Barker looked for an alternative way to achieve his dream of working in the criminal justice field.

The U.S. Army provided that opportunity for Barker. Upon enlisting and completing his initial training, he was assigned to the United States Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth and then continued on at Fort Lewis where he worked as a corrections officer at the Northwest Joint Regional Corrections Facility.

From Fort Lewis, Barker deployed to Camp Taji, Iraq. He worked the special housing unit for a year and then returned to Fort Lewis where he was selected amongst his peers to be assigned to the Northwestern Joint Regional Correctional Facility Headquarters' Company as the In-Out Processing Noncommissioned Officer in the Prisoner Service Branch.

In May 2010, Staff Sergeant Barker was first selected by the Department of the Army for a recruiting position and was assigned to Jupiter Recruiting Company, Miami Recruiting Battalion, 2nd Recruiting Brigade, in Jupiter, Florida.

In July 2013, Barker was assigned to the United States Army Correctional Activity – Europe, 18th Military Police Brigade, in Sembach, Germany where he performed duties such as Platoon Sergeant, Watch Commander, Facility Operations NCO, and Squad Leader.

After his tour in Germany, he was again selected by the Army for recruiting duty and found himself in his current position. We send our congratulations to SSG (P) Barker on his recent award! He has set an excellent example for others in our Regiment and as a Lifetime Member of the Military Police Regimental Association.

Story by Erin Kaberline

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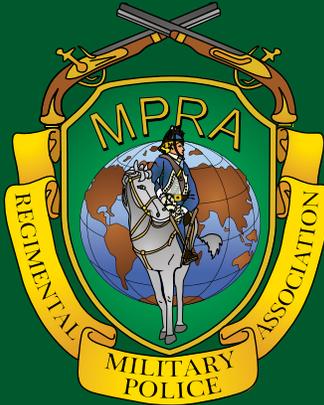
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Virgin Islands dog finds new home with NY National Guard MP

ST. CROIX, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS—Lots of Soldiers bring back a deployment souvenir, but New York Army National Guard Spec. Stefanie DeManincor's souvenir from the U.S. Virgin Islands has four legs, a happily wagging tail, and answers to the name of Ava.

DeManincor, who lives in Scottsville, N.Y. just south of Rochester, was one of 98 members of the 105th Military Police Company who deployed to the island of St. Croix in September. The MPs were there as part of the New York National Guard's response to the Virgin Islands recovery from Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Operating from a Virgin Islands Police Department station in Frederickstead, the New York MPs conducted patrols, curfew enforcement, and crowd control and set up traffic control points to assist the island's police department.

"We did whatever they needed us to do," said DeManincor a traditional National Guard Soldier who works at Paychex in Rochester.

Next door to the police station there was roofless abandoned building where a dozen dogs were "hanging out." The Soldiers tried to make friends with the dogs.

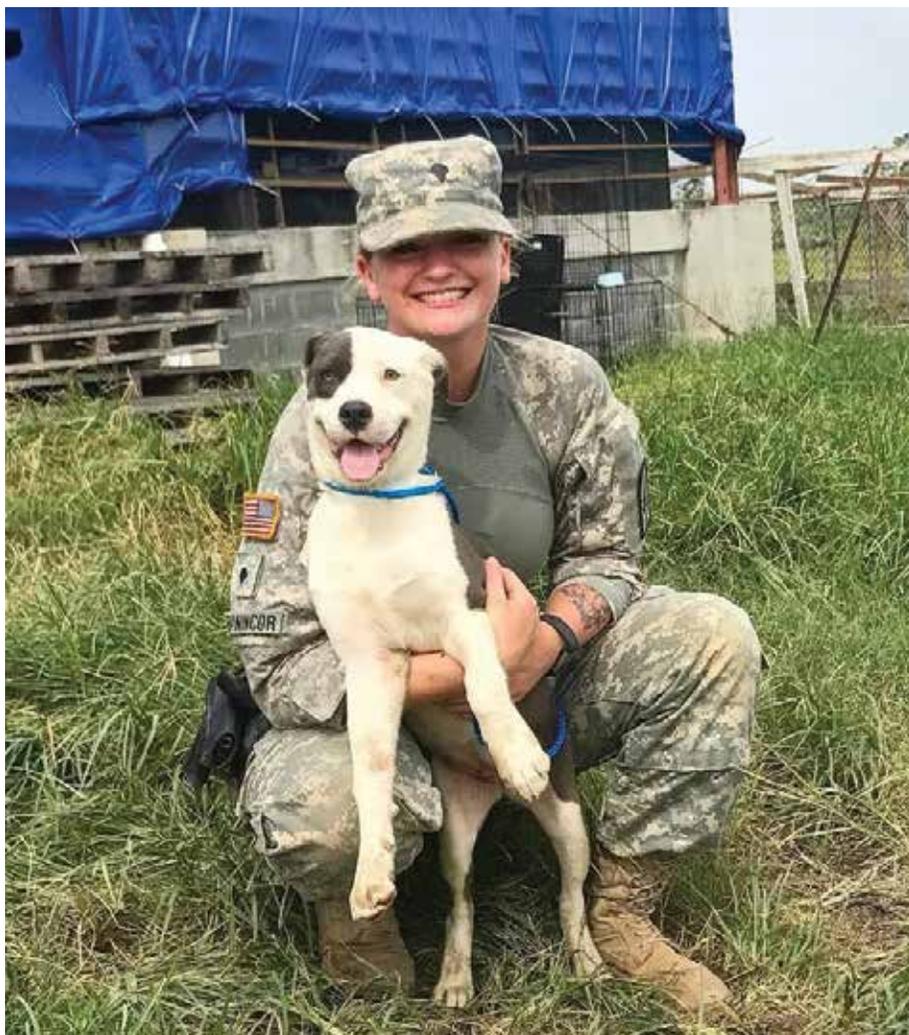
One of those dogs was Ava, a six-month old, brown and white, female pit bull mix, that DeManincor first saw wagging her tail at her from a balcony on that building.

"You could just tell how friendly she was," DeManincor said. "She would come up to us and let us pet her. She was the most friendly one."

The dog was covered in fleas and ticks, but DeManincor was won over. Ava was less fearful than the other dogs, DeManincor said, but that made it more likely that she would wander off and get hurt.

DeManincor wanted to adopt the dog and take her home.

But that meant finding the right people.



New York Army National Guard Spec. Stefanie DeManincor, a member of the 105th Military Police Company, with Ava, the stray dog she adopted during a deployment to the U.S. Virgin Islands. DeManincor and 97 other members of the 105th MP Company deployed to St. Croix in the wake of Hurricane Irma to provide security assistance. (Photos courtesy ASPCA and Spec. Stefanie DeManincor)

Fortunately, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, had sent a response team to St. Croix in the wake of the storms to deal with abandoned and stray animals.

DeManincor found Joel Lopez, the ASPCA's director of planning and field operations, who was heading the team on St. Croix. Lopez found Ava on the side of the road eating a bag of potato chips and looking sad. He took Ava to an emergency shelter the ASPCA had

established at the request of the Virgin Islands department of Agriculture.

Lopez located the owner of Ava and the other dogs, who surrendered rights to them.

DeManincor visited Ava in the animal shelter, got the dog the required shots, and signed adoption papers for the dog from the shelter.

The next step was to get Ava back to New York from St. Croix.

This problem was solved by retired

Navy Commander Sali Gear, a former Navy pilot, a native of St. Croix and a Virginia Beach, VA resident who runs a non-profit organization called Island Dog Rescue.

Island Dog Rescue is basically herself and one other person, Gear said. They work to convince islanders to spay and neuter their dogs, and they also work to find homes on the mainland for unwanted Virgin Islands dogs.

Gear had already chartered a Pilatus plane to fly 20 dogs from St. Croix to Florida. These were “community dogs” for dogs who had an owner but had been separated and needed care. Ava fell into this category.

She was especially happy to help DeManincor bring Ava to her home.

As a veteran herself, and a native of the Virgin Islands, she was really appreciative of the mission that DeManincor and the other 105th MP Company Soldiers were on, Gear said.

So the first stop on Ava’s trip to New York was a plane ride from St. Croix to Florida. The next leg of the trip involved putting Ava and three other dogs on a van traveling from Florida to Charleston, South Carolina, where a friend who is a horse trainer kept Ava on her farm.

Gear then flew her own plane from Virginia to South Carolina and brought Ava back to her house in Virginia

Beach. She spent time with her dogs, Gear said, and got used to people and other dogs.

“Ava was so loved by everyone,” Gear said.

Ava spent two weeks with Gear before DeManincor got back from the deployment to St. Croix. She was ready to drive from Rochester to Virginia Beach to pick up Ava, but Gear had a better solution.

A Navy Captain (O-6) offered to fly Ava to St. College, Pennsylvania in his private plane. That cut DeManincor’s driving time from 10 hours to 4.

So after three flights, and a few weeks, Ava was with her new owner on Nov. 3.

What Gear and Island Dog Rescue did was tremendous, DeManincor said. She couldn’t have afforded to have the dog shipped home on her own, and Gear took the time to send her photographs of Ava while she was still on duty in St. Croix.

Now she and Ava are back home in Scottsville together. Her house is “getting out in the country” so there’s plenty of room for Ava to run, DeManincor said.

“Her temperament is amazing for a puppy. She is adjusting well. She loves to play. She has a favorite toy, a stuffed giraffe,” DeManincor said.

“I was lucky. It all ended up working



New York Army National Guard Spc. Stefani DeManincor, a member of the 105th Military Police Company, with Ava, the stray dog she adopted during a deployment to the U.S. Virgin Islands, at the St. Croix airport on the day Ava and 19 other rescued dogs were flown to Florida. DeManincor and 97 other members of the 105th MP Company deployed to St. Croix in the wake of Hurricane Irma to provide security assistance.

out in my favor,” DeManincor said.

DeManincor also said she felt lucky to be able to go on the mission to St. Croix.

“The mission was what I feel was a once in a lifetime experience,” she said. “It was a great mission.”

“Just being in the unit I have done a lot of cool things. This is probably ranking as the coolest thing I’ve done,” DeManincor said.

“You have to embrace the suck sometimes. But I have gotten a lot of great things out of being in the Army so far,” she added.

Story by Eric Durr, New York National Guard

Ava, the stray dog adopted by New York Army National Guard Spc. Stefani DeManincor.



385th Military Police Battalion Army Ten Miler Team

"TEAM DRAGOON"

The sun had not risen yet when Soldiers from the 385th Military Police Battalion donned their race bibs and began their trek to the start line of the 33rd Annual Army Ten Miler. The air surrounding the Pentagon was thick with record heat and humidity, despite the calendar reading October 8. The competitors shuffled and stretched in nervous anticipation of a daunting race ahead, but not the Dragoons from the 385th. These men and women runners from Fort Stewart, Georgia had spent the past 10 weeks training through the hot Georgia summer. Washington DC weather was mild by comparison.

Some 35,000 runners from across the globe had gathered in the Pentagon's spacious lots along the Potomac River. A solemn invocation was read. The Chief of Staff of the Army, General Mark Milley gave the opening remarks and readied the competitors. A Soldier sang the National Anthem. Helicopters soared overhead in formation. Then, BOOM - the first cannon shot

rang out, signaling America's heroes, the Wounded Warriors, to lead us all out onto the course. The second cannon went off minutes later and the rest of the sea of competitors took off on an arduous route that covered 10 miles of streets and bridges around the Nation's Capitol, its monuments, and its memorials.

The Dragoons, led by LTC Robert Matthews, ran hard and wore the pride of their unit on their backs. In all, 14 competitors raced for the 385th MP BN. SPC Roosevelt Brooks finished first for the Dragoons with a net time of 1:12:13. CPT Christopher Heyward and 1LT Nicholas Ferragonio were hot on his heels with times of 1:13:07 and 1:13:46. All runners finished with personal bests.

Running the Army Ten Miler race that Sunday morning capped off a great weekend. While in Washington DC, the Dragoons toured the Pentagon and met the Provost Marshal General's chief of staff, Mr. H "Tracy" Williams, and the Provost Sergeant Major, Ser-

geant Major Richard Woodring. Mr. Williams led them through the OPMG Command brief, and led a discussion on the Military Police Strategic Plan, 2025. Following the visit to the Pentagon, the team made stops at the National 911 Pentagon Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian National History Museum and the Washington Monument, to name just a few stops.

During the trip, the Dragoon team spotted General (R) Mattis, the Secretary of Defense, while dining at a local restaurant. Secretary Mattis spent a few minutes with the Dragoons, and took a photo with the team. You never know who you'll "run" into at The Annual Army Ten Miler.

The Military Police Regimental Association assisted in offsetting some of the travel expenses for the Dragoons of the 385th.

Story by CPT Ryan C. Timmons



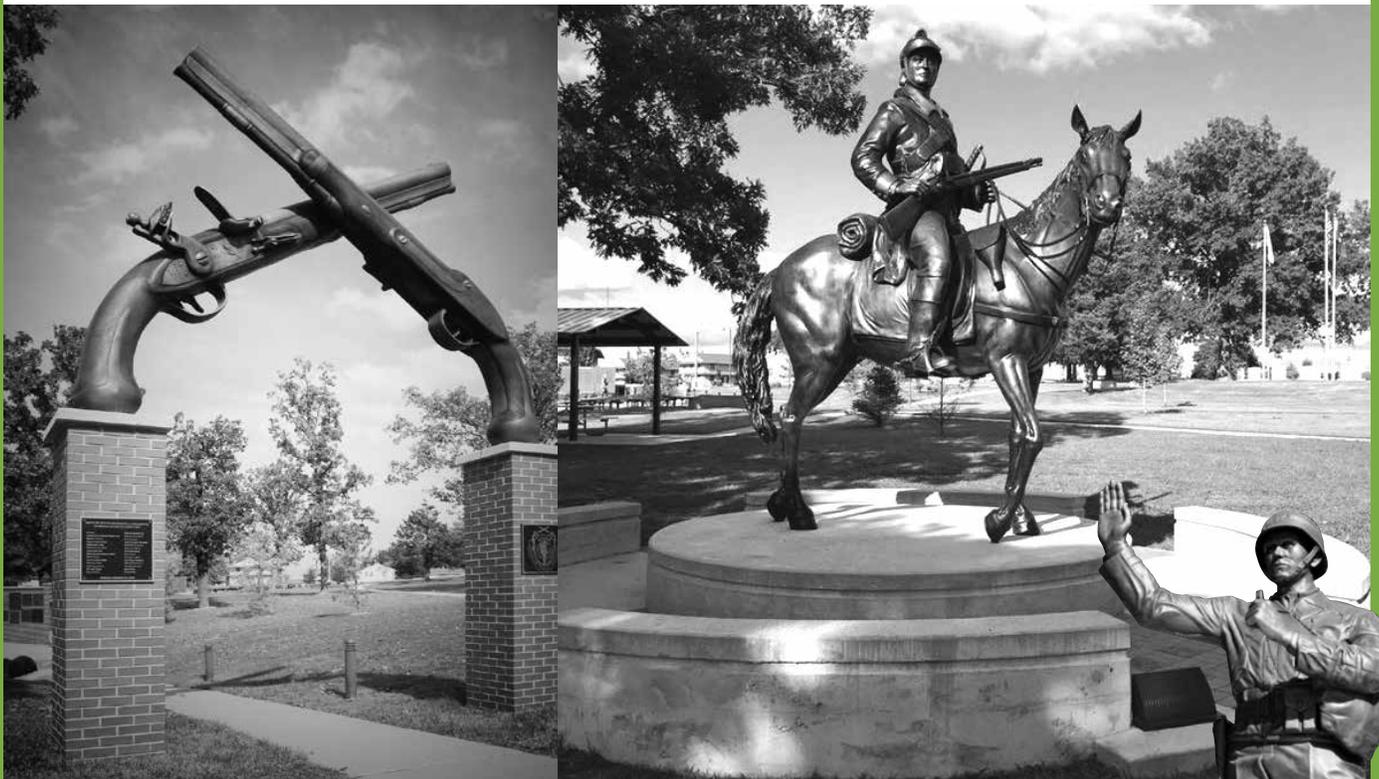




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