



The career of Major General Paul M. Timmerberg (Retired) is legendary in the U.S. Army Military Police Corps. The remarkable impact of his thirty-four years of valorous and distinguished service on the force protection role and law enforcement mission of military police resulted in his second Army Distinguished Service Medal upon his retirement on 31 August 1983 and his induction into the U.S. Army Military Police Corps Regimental Hall of Fame on 24 September 2002.

Paul Timmerberg was born in Montgomery City, Missouri, on 17 August 1927. On 4 March 1949, he entered the Army Officer Corps as a graduate of Officer Candidate School. He completed multiple combat tours in Vietnam and other overseas tours in Japan and Germany, holding command positions at every level of command up to and including brigade level.

In a period of constrained resources in the 1970s, when the value of the Military Police Corps as a separate branch was questioned at the highest levels of the Army, the professionalism, integrity, and fairness projected by Major General Timmerberg was influential. As the senior military police officer on active duty and the commander of one of twelve Army major commands (MACOMs), his unifying actions within the Army were at the forefront of the decision to continue the designation of the Military Police Corps as a permanent branch of the U.S. Army.

In September 1975, about one year after the Army Provost Marshal General was permanently disestablished, Brigadier General Timmerberg assumed command of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (USACIDC). There was serious dissension in the field between MACOM provost marshals (representing senior four-star commanders) and worldwide regional commanders of the relatively new, stovepiped USACIDC. In the eyes of Army civilian and military leadership, command and control issues regarding Army law enforcement had undermined the effectiveness of the Military Police Corps. In response, Major General Timmerberg established the requirement to continuously inform field commanders and their provost marshals about ongoing investigations—a command and control need he had perceived from an opposing vantage point during his previous assignment in Europe.

This unified concept in the conduct of worldwide criminal investigations met the Army's need for discipline, law, and order and gained the immediate acceptance of senior Army field commanders. Major General Timmerberg's demonstrated success resulted in an unparalleled Army command tenure of eight years, with promotion to major general in June 1978. His eight-year tenure as a MACOM commander (completed just before his retirement) restored the confidence of Army leadership in the Military Police Corps and confirmed the value of the Corps after the disestablishment of the Provost Marshal General. Throughout his term as the commanding general of USACIDC, the four Secretaries of the Army and three Chiefs of Staff under whom he served universally regarded USACIDC as the preeminent Department of Defense criminal investigation element, lavishly praising Major General Timmerberg.

As he held positions of increasing responsibility throughout his long career, little did Major General Timmerberg realize that he would eventually become one of just a few distinctive icons in the storied history of the Military Police Corps. In Major General Timmerberg, the Army leadership saw the best of the Military Police Corps—and the Corps had a leader whose strength, character, and balance brought calm and healing to one of the most divisive periods in Corps history.

Major General Timmerberg and Dorothy, his wife of nearly sixty years, have four children (Doug, Debbie, John, and Mark), twelve grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Awards and Decorations		
Distinguished Service Medal with oak-leaf cluster	National Defense Service Ribbon with one oak-leaf cluster	Six Overseas Service Bars
Legion of Merit	Korean Service Medal	Republic of Vietnam Army Distinguished Service Order, First Class
Bronze Star Medal with three oak-leaf clusters	Vietnam Service Medal	Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal, First Class
Air Medal with "V" Device and six oak-leaf clusters	Army Service Ribbon	Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross
Meritorious Service Medal	United Nations Service Medal	Unit Citation with Palm (three awards)
Army Commendation Medal with four oak-leaf clusters	Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 Device	Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation
Meritorious Unit Commendation with two oak-leaf clusters	Overseas Service Ribbon	Republic of Korea Cheonsu Medal
Army of Occupation Medal	Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal, First Class	Order of National Security Merit

Colonel Lowrey (Retired) is the editor of Retired Military Police Officers Digest. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland and a master's degree from Pennsylvania State University.