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# Regimental Command Sergeant Major

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## *Command Sergeant Major Charles R. Kirkland*



Hello, and Happy 68th Anniversary from the Home of the Regiment! Due to the time of year, I encourage everyone to reflect on our history as the professional Military Police Corps. Although a great deal has changed over the years, there are a couple of constants that prove to be the foundation of our success and relevance to the Army.

The first is our great men and women who make up our ranks; they are the finest professionals to serve in any uniform. I have the honor of traveling everywhere that our military police serve, and I get to hear the great things that you do. The conversations that I have with senior leaders across the Army are very complimentary. Conversations always start with how proud they are of your performance and what we can do to provide them with more of you to enhance their missions. I thank you for representing our Regiment as you do. Please keep those who are serving in harm's way at the top of your prayer list, and extend a hand to the families keeping the home fires burning. Your sacrifices are noted and greatly appreciated.



The second is our capacity to provide law and order as a professional military police force. Let's not lose sight of what truly makes us relevant to the Army. Our law enforcement skills make us unique. Our experiences hone our abilities to think through critical situations, make and communicate decisions on the ground, build trust within communities, understand and enforce standards . . . I could ramble on and on. All of this produces mature, capable Soldiers and leaders who have the mental capacity to effectively operate on the streets of Fort Wherever—from Bagdad to Kabul. Any of us who have been in the Regiment for a while have seen the proverbial pendulum swing back and forth in this area before. Over the past eight years, the pendulum has received its momentum from the effects of our operational tempo. Our focus has justifiably been on winning in combat, and our attention has been placed primarily on combat operations. This has caused an inadvertent skills deficit in our junior NCOs and company grade officers. The lack of experience will continue to degrade our abilities as a professional police force since this population represents our pool of primary trainers and our future. There are a couple of things to think about.

First, your Regiment continues to evolve by "right sizing" the force (military police and Department of the Army civilian police [DACP]), standardizing the size of our battalion formations, implementing training readiness authority, and linking brigades to battalions—to name a couple of the "large rocks," so to speak. To close the training gap, we have increased the number of hours of law and order taught in professional military classes, from one-station unit training through officer and NCO education and functional courses. We have realigned additional skill identifiers within our modified tables of organization and equipment and tables of distribution and equipment, and we plan to imbed law and order additional skill identifiers within all platoon level formations. All of these initiatives—and more—will lay the foundation and bridge the gaps; but they are not the end-all solution. The solution is you.

The total military police family, working together on our installations and abroad, is what will pull all of this together. It's all about relationships and good or bad "personalities." The senior military police leaders from organizations (Directorate of Emergency Services; division provost marshal; separate battalions and brigades; U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command [USACIDC], commonly referred to as "CID") must cross-talk and realize that the mission we perform for the Army is bigger than their slice. Everyone needs to work together to resolve challenges (training and experience opportunities) at the installation and unit levels. Resist the urge to look up for the answers. We can push the "big rocks" at this level, but true individual and leader development takes place inside your grid square. Be innovative; and figure out how to get your Soldiers, NCOs, and officers (in leadership positions) on the road and into provost marshal offices. Gain the experience necessary to hone the critical skills that keep us relevant.

Our DACP men and woman are a critical part of the team; without them, we would not have been able to sustain our installation force protection during this high-operational-tempo period. Large populations of our DACP are former military police. What I ask of our DACP is that you don't forget where you came from! Use your experience and the continuity to assist in the development of your military police counterparts. For our military police, accept that the DACP are members of the team. Work together to protect our communities. Share knowledge so that we all get smarter. And watch each others' backs. We can only get better as a professional organization if these things happen.

*(Continued on page 5)*

*((Regimental Command Sergeant Major, continued from page 3))*

In closing, I would like to say thank you once again for all you do each and every day in the service of your country, the Army, and this great Regiment. On the eve of our 68th anniversary, reflect on our history and recognize what makes us unique and relevant. Stay focused on the mission, and find balance in training. Provide our Soldiers with the skills to fight and survive on the battlefield and with the law enforcement skills necessary to protect our communities, and train indigenous police forces while deployed. Here at the Home of the Regiment, we will continue to work hard to improve all that we do in support of our Soldiers, Families, and mission. Stay safe, and don't forget to enjoy yourselves!

**Of the Troops and For the Troops! NCOs Lead the Way!**