

10th Military Police Battalion in Iraq: Job Well Done!

By Captain Andrew Stipp

The Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 10th Military Police Battalion (U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command [USACIDC], commonly referred to as "CID") (Airborne), Fort Bragg, North Carolina, recently returned from a September 2008–July 2009 deployment in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The detachment served as the command and control element for the CID task force assigned to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. The task force was comprised of the 24th Military Police Detachment (CID), Fort Rucker, Alabama; 38th Military Police Detachment (CID), Fort Hood, Texas; 41st Military Police Detachment (CID), Fort Carson, Colorado; 348th Military Police Detachment (CID), Fort Dix, New Jersey; and 481st Military Police Detachment (CID), Kaiserslautern, Germany. The battalion provided protective services and felony criminal investigation support in Iraq (for the Multinational Division–West, Multinational Division–Baghdad, and Multinational Division–Central–South), Kuwait, and Afghanistan.

The 10th Military Police Battalion coordinated and supervised 881 criminal investigations (with a 90 percent success rate) and recovered \$15.7 million in stolen and diverted property during the deployment. Among the investigations were a number of high-profile cases that garnered national media attention. For example, the 24th and 348th Military Police Detachments (CID) led an investigation into the electrocution death of a Soldier. Their collaboration with numerous federal law enforcement and private agencies resulted in a larger investigation into questionable maintenance practices of a major defense contractor. The 38th investigated the murders of three Soldiers by an Iraqi security forces soldier. The detachment coordinated with various commanders, the Armed forces medical examiner, and the Multinational Corps–Iraq Law Enforcement Forensics Laboratory to collect and quickly process critical evidence in support of prosecution efforts of the Iraqi criminal court. The tireless efforts of the 38th resulted in a death sentence for the perpetrator. Agents also provided extensive protective service detail support to the Secretary of Defense, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Secretary of the Army, and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Although the deployed mission of the 10th Military Police Battalion was largely the same as the mission at home, the deployed environment often presented unique challenges for special agents. Lieutenant Colonel Kerrilynn A. Corrigan, former battalion commander, described those difficulties. "One challenge for the battalion was gaining a true understanding of the different levels of support between the three different commands—U.S. Army Central (ARCENT), U.S. Forces–Afghanistan, and Multinational Force/Corps–Iraq," she said. "... our mission support evolved as U.S. forces moved from combat operations to a more permissive state . . . U.S. Army CID took on a role to conduct joint investigations with the Iraqi CID." Lieutenant Colonel Corrigan went on to cite an example of a joint investigation involving a Soldier who was murdered outside the confines of the forward operating base.

Chief Warrant Officer Five Brian Chmielewski, the battalion operations officer during the deployment, recalled many ways that agents demonstrated their flexibility and creativity during investigations. "Agents,



Investigator processes a crime scene.

many times, had to find alternate means to conduct an investigation from the school-taught method,” he said. “[They] routinely had to use their ingenuity to figure situations out.” Chmielewski cited two specific examples—one in which an agent telephonically instructed a civilian contractor on how to shoot crime scene photos and another in which a staff officer helped CID agents process evidence at a mass murder scene. While these practices were atypical with regard to investigative protocol, they were effective in accomplishing the task at hand.

Agents and Soldiers of the 10th Military Police Battalion consistently found ways to develop and implement solutions to ongoing and peculiar problems. Command Sergeant Major Andre Proctor, the battalion command sergeant major, specifically recounted the efforts of two noncommissioned officers in advancing systems for collecting and processing evidence and tracking down disbanded units to obtain delinquent Department of the Army Forms 4833, *Commander's Report of Disciplinary or Administrative Action*. “[These noncommissioned officers] did an outstanding job with identifying these systemic problems and coming up with effective resolutions,” he said. He also indicated that the two agents were responsible for implementing an automated tracking system for new evidence and successfully disposing of 1,600 pieces of evidence.

By adapting and overcoming each obstacle, the 10th Military Police Battalion provided vital support to ongoing military operations in Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan. CID agents and support Soldiers provided thorough, meticulous investigative support and dedicated, professional protective services support to commanders in all locations. Their redeployment was quickly followed by a change of command from Lieutenant Colonel Corrigan to Lieutenant Colonel David E. Heath. As the battalion prepares for its next deployment to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, the new leadership is committed to building upon the past successes of the unit to ensure future mission accomplishment.

Captain Stipp is the supply officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 10th Military Police Battalion. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, and a master's degree in business and organizational security from Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri.