

## The Bond of Friendship

By Major Julian P. Charvat

Since the early 1970s, the U.S. Army Military Police Corps Regiment and the Royal Military Police of the British army have exchanged officers. In the early 1980s, the British exchange officer and a small-group leader became friends, and by 1996, they were the leaders of their respective regiments. The friends, Brigadier Ian Fulton and Brigadier General David Foley, decided to formalize the relationship between their two organizations.

Traditionally, the British army had held alliances with armies around the world, but it could only formalize such relationships with British Commonwealth countries. The Royal Military Police decided that there should be some formal way of recognizing



the relationship between the U.S. Army and the U.K. armies, so they posed the question to the U.K. Ministry of Defence. Approval was given for a new idea—a Bond of Friendship.

The Bond of Friendship was signed by Brigadier Fulton and Brigadier General Foley in Chichester, West Sussex, England—the home of the Royal Military Police—on 15 March 1996. This was the first official Bond of Friendship ever signed. To mark the anniversary each year, the British exchange officer and the U.S. Army Military Police Corps Regiment chief traditionally toast the friendship with port, the British toasting drink.



**Brigadier General Stephen Curry and Brigadier Maurice Nugent shake hands after re-signing the Bond of Friendship.**