

A Preview of Coming Attractions at the Military Police Corps Museum

By Mr. Jim Rogers

The US Army Military Police Corps Museum will open a special exhibit later this year featuring the branch symbols, including the crossed pistols, brassards, branch plaque, US Army Military Police School coat of arms, military police badge, regimental coat of arms, and regimental crest. Featured artifacts will include two original Harpers Ferry flintlock pistols, various collar and lapel insignias, representative devices, pins, historic armbands, and the original regimental flag.

Pictured at right is a collar device for the high-collar service uniform worn by military police officers from 1922 to 1923. This dark bronze version was produced immediately after the authorization of the crossed pistol design as the military police branch symbol in April 1922. This collar insignia is 1 ¹¹/₁₆ inches wide and has a safety pin style attachment. This version was replaced in 1923 by a gilt version. This officer's military police insignia, along with an enlisted version, were the earliest crossed pistol insignias in use by military police Soldiers. The number on the back of the pin is an early museum catalog number. This artifact will be on display along with many others to portray the story of the military police symbols.

The Military Police Corps Museum is on the southeast corner of Nebraska and South Dakota avenues. It is open to the public from 0800 to 1600 on weekdays and 1000 to 1600 on Saturdays. It is closed on Sundays and federal holidays.



The Military Police Captains Career Course- Reserve Component

By Major Andrea Sampson

In May 2004, the commanding general (CG) of the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) directed the creation of a new Reserve Component (RC) Captains Career Course (CCC) to replace the Officer Advanced Course (OAC). Schools and centers Armywide are developing and starting new Reserve Component CCCs.

The main difference between the two courses is that the CCC incorporates the five learning objectives and the combined arms exercise (CAX) from the Combined Services Staff School (CAS3) into its curriculum. While OAC prepared an officer to be a commander and CAS3 prepared an officer to serve on a staff, the CCC equips officers for both. The active Army made the change several years ago, thus eliminating its CAS3 requirement. The RC, which includes the US Army Reserve and the Army National Guard, is just now converting.

Currently, RC military police officers take several Army correspondence courses through www.atsc.army.mil; attend a two-week resident phase at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; and then attend a two-week CAX at any of several installations. The Military Police Captains Career Course-Reserve Component (MPCCC-RC) will consist of three distance learning phases and two resident phases. One of the directives from the CG, TRADOC to the commandant of the US Army Military Police School (USAMPS) was to make the MPCCC-RC experience mirror that of the active Army as much as possible. While time constraints required that some lessons be dropped, the course material, practical exercises, and quality of the two courses are now very similar. The five phases of the MPCCC-RC are as follows:

- Phase 1 consists of TRADOC-mandated common core tasks. Twenty-one tasks ranging from ethical decision making to mortuary affairs support will be delivered via TRADOC-developed distance learning. Students will have until the end of Phase 5 to complete this phase.
- Phase 2 consists of military police-specific training and combined arms lessons. Students must complete Phase 2 before attending Phase 3.
- Phase 3 is the first resident phase. Students will execute several training exercises without troops (TEWTs) that focus on employment of forces at the company level, including area security, offense, defense, and maneuver and mobility support operations. Some TEWTs are conducted in the Janus Battle Simulation Program while others are round table exercises. Students will also become familiar with new military police equipment and practice fire planning.
- Phase 4 consists of several logistical, maintenance, and administrative lessons as well as an introduction to the military decision-making process (MDMP). Students must complete Phase 4 before attending Phase 5.
- Phase 5 is the second resident phase, containing the Warfighter capstone event. Students complete several MDMP exercises, receive training on traditionally dynamic subjects such as brigade combat teams and the enemy, and learn how to use the Maneuver Control System-Light (MCS-L). The MCS-L is one of the Army's tools to collect, coordinate, and act on near real-time battlefield information and to graphically visualize the battlefield. Using the MCS-L, students will negotiate the Warfighter capstone event, the Maneuver Support Center's CAX.

The MPCCC-RC is a great improvement over the military police OAC for many reasons. It replaces traditional correspondence courses, which are generally text-only documents, with narrated, animated lessons and filmed speakers accompanied by slide shows. Students will actually be taught the material rather than just having the material given to them. Each lesson will include a practical exercise or quiz. Some of the practical exercises are fairly sophisticated. For example, in the “Develop a Physical Security Plan” practical exercise, students will “drag and drop” the appropriate physical security measure at the appropriate location, based on what they learned in the lesson. Interactive role-playing exercises will be incorporated into the curriculum. Students will be required to interact with their small groups and small group leaders to complete the exercises. Instructors will be available to answer questions about the material.

A learning management system (LMS) gives MPCCC-RC these improvements. An LMS is basically a virtual campus. The Maneuver Support Center is piloting Blackboard™, a brand of the LMS that is widely used throughout the Department of Defense and the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps and on civilian campuses. Once registered through the Army Training Requirements and Resource System, students will log in to the USAMPS Blackboard™ site to complete course material. Lesson completion will be tracked and quiz scores will be automatically entered. Blackboard™ hosts collaboration tools for staff exercises, a discussion board, and links to instructors. Course content can be easily updated to reflect changes in doctrine. The interactive nature of Blackboard™ allows timely lessons learned and new tactics, techniques, and procedures to be included.

One of the best features of Blackboard™, however, is its reach-back capability. Students will be able to review course material at any time. Even after the course is complete, students can choose to take a lesson over again to maintain proficiency. Since the material taught in MPCCC-RC is meant to sustain an officer’s educational needs for many years, the ability to relearn lessons is crucial. The course is currently structured to take 18 months, spread over 2 fiscal years, to complete. Although there are still some challenges to be resolved, there is no doubt that MPCCC-RC will greatly enhance a military police officer’s education and will result in a stronger, better-trained Military Police Corps.

Major Sampson is a course manager in the Command and Tactics Division, Directorate of Training and Leader Development at USAMPS. She previously served on active duty as a platoon leader in Germany and an operations officer at Fort McClellan, Alabama. She then served in the Missouri Army National Guard as an operations officer, commander, and deputy provost marshal. She is now a member of the Active Guard Reserve.



Basic Officer Leadership Course: An Essential Element to Transforming the Officer Education System

By Major James Wilson

At a time of enormous change in the Army, when transformation is occurring across the spectrum, the Officer Education System (OES) is no exception. The transformation of basic officer training has been underway for the past few years and is intended to provide a foundation of training and experience for all Army officers before they attend their proponent branch schools. The new basic-level OES features three phases of the Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC).

Basic Officer Leadership Course I

BOLC I consists of training that officers get at their commissioning source, such as the Reserve Officer Training Corps; the US Military Academy; or active duty, US Army Reserve, or National Guard officer candidate schools.

Basic Officer Leadership Course II

BOLC II is a six-week course that endeavors to give Army officers in all branches a foundation of basic and common core training and experience. The mission of BOLC II is to develop competent and confident small unit combat leaders. Lieutenants will learn individual responsibility, self-discipline, and self-respect and begin to live the Army's seven core values. At BOLC II, they will—

- Learn the customs, heritage, and traditions of the service.
- Develop the knowledge and skills necessary to survive on today's battlefield.
- Develop a physical fitness ethic.

The Army is finalizing its program of instruction for BOLC II. The final multisite implementation began in January at Fort Benning, Georgia, and Fort Sill, Oklahoma. BOLC II for all officers will begin in the first week of June 2006.

The US Army Military Police School (USAMPS) is the only Maneuver Support Center (MANSCEN) proponent school participating in the final multisite BOLC II initial implementation. USAMPS is scheduled to receive approximately 25 lieutenants into BOLC III in March 2006. BOLC III will completely replace the Military Police Officer Basic Course (MPOBC) in late July. The plan is that officers arriving from BOLC II will have a common foundation in military training upon which to build. The job of USAMPS will be to add the military police-specific skills the officers will need to be successful platoon leaders.

Basic Officer Leadership Course III

BOLC III is the branch-specific phase of training for each newly commissioned lieutenant and will be conducted within a week of completing BOLC II. Some of the most significant changes between MPOBC and BOLC III will be the amount of time the officer will spend at USAMPS. MPOBC lasts 17 weeks while BOLC III will last only 10 weeks. USAMPS has an approved program of instruction for military police BOLC III. The obvious changes eliminate or reduce instruction from MPOBC that will be conducted in BOLC II, primarily common core tasks. The new focus at USAMPS for BOLC III will be on military police-specific training.

A word picture used in a briefing early in the course sums up the expectations of military police lieutenants who graduate from BOLC III. "Graduates . . . possess the technical and tactical skills, physical fitness and leadership qualities required to successfully lead platoons. They are familiar with the five functions of the Military Police Corps, and are trained on the most critical tasks required of a platoon leader. These officers demonstrate a thorough understanding of, and willingness to live by, the Army values and a firm grasp of the foundation of a competent and confident leader."

Major Wilson is chief of the military police officer basic leader branch at USAMPS, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Since joining the Army in 1983, he has served in a number of assignments, including cannon crewman with C Battery, 2/12th Field Artillery Battalion, Fort Sill, Oklahoma; commander of the 170th Military Police Company, 504th Military Police Battalion, Fort Lewis, Washington; and executive officer, 709th Military Police Battalion, 18th Military Police Brigade, Hanau, Germany. He holds numerous awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Iraqi Campaign Medal.

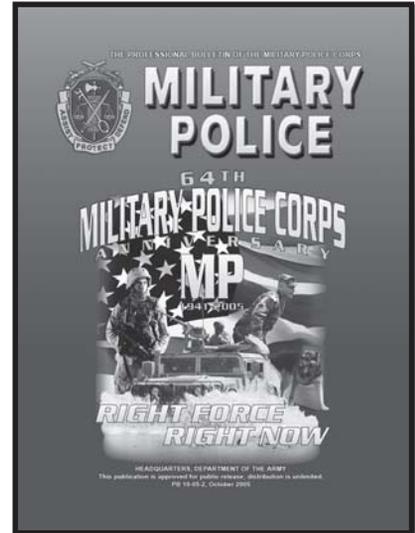
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