Chief, Military Police Corps Regiment, and Commandant, U.S. Army Military Police School

Brigadier General David Phillips

Greetings from the home of the Regiment! As we ring in the New Year, we are entering our eighth year of the War on Terrorism. Throughout the first decade of this century, military police have engaged the enemy in offensive operations at the strategic, tactical, and operational levels of warfare. From our newest Soldiers (many of whom were in elementary school on 9/11) to our most seasoned leaders who served during the Cold War, members of the Military Police Corps Regiment are at the forefront of the fight.

The 8th, 11th, and 42d Military Police Brigades are currently forward-deployed in support of ongoing combat operations in Iraq. And the 18th Military Police Brigade only recently redeployed to Germany following a third Operation Iraqi Freedom tour, which was fifteen months in duration. Across the Regiment, we have groomed our future senior leaders the hard way—by multiple combat deployments with limited dwell time at home stations.

I have seen the phenomenal capabilities of our military police Soldiers and families firsthand. The burden of being a Soldier in an Army at war is unlike the burdens of any other career. The weight of the daunting responsibility is placed directly into the rucksacks of our military police, but also into the homes of their loved ones. The pain of separation and stress of deployment can be seen in the faces of our Army spouses and children. My wife Dawn (an Army spouse for more than three decades) and I have personally experienced the difficult trials and tribulations faced by those of you who are serving in this Army at war, and we are proud to be a part of such an organization.

The senior leaders of our Regiment are striving to maintain a voice in determining future Army requirements. We are working hard to ensure that military police are well trained and well equipped. There has been exceptional improvement in military police interoperability—especially with our maneuver support peers. Together, we are shaping doctrine for the current fight and the myriad of threats on the horizon. We are assigning proven combat leaders and creative thinkers to the home of the Regiment to assist in setting conditions for Soldiers out to the year 2019. If Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom represent 25-meter targets, then we are maintaining flexibility for changing threats at 100, 200, and 400 meters and beyond. We are also working hard to speak with one combined Military Police Regimental voice so that the Army has a firm and detailed understanding of our relevancy now and in the future.

Our unique skills are not replicated in civil law enforcement or elsewhere in military services. We must leverage our unique abilities and function as a part of the larger Army team. We must reemphasize that the Military Police Corps Regiment is the resident expert in community policing and law enforcement. Many deploying brigade combat teams visit civilian police departments (rather than their own directors of emergency services or military police subject matter experts) for training and advice on how to establish and perform community policing. This threatens our relevancy. The U.S. Army Military Police School is focusing on law enforcement training to improve relevancy. We are also embracing new and creative law enforcement and joint initiatives outside our comfort zone.

Overall, the future of the Military Police Corps Regiment is very bright. A new generation of young leaders is increasing the versatility of our Regiment through active engagement, creativity, and improvements in the status quo. This new generation is calling for the pendulum to swing toward increased law enforcement training, but not at the risk of forsaking combat skills. As a result, programs of instruction are being updated to develop warrior leaders who understand law enforcement and community policing, yet can also fight kinetically and with technological savvy. The new leaders are challenging those of us who soldiered against the Warsaw Pact on the plains of Germany to transform and update. Personally, I enjoy the challenge and feel confident that we are developing brilliant young leaders to ultimately replace us. I encourage those of us who have finite periods of time left in senior leadership positions to cultivate and nurture our young.

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As an important side request, if you hear of a wounded military police Soldier from our career field (regardless of component) who is facing a medical discharge or military occupational specialty reclassification, immediately notify the Regimental Command Sergeant Major and me. We will weigh in and support all attempts for the wounded warrior to remain within Military Occupational Specialty 31. Regardless of the extent of injuries or physical limitations, we **can** find positions where wounded Soldiers can serve as an integral part of our Regiment. Don't leave them to face the medical board process on their own. Let us know when you learn about one of our own fighting to remain in the family. We will be the reinforcing fires.

Of the Troops! For the Troops!