
Chief, Military Police Corps Regiment, and Commandant, United States Army Military Police School



Brigadier General Rodney L. Johnson

Well, it's been almost a year since I took over as chief of the Military Police Corps and I can't believe how fast the time has gone. Over the course of the last 10 months, this Regiment has been continually on the move. In an attempt to keep up, I have spent a good deal of that time doing the same, visiting you at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Lewis, Washington; Fort Bliss, Texas; Iraq; and Afghanistan, just to name a few. My travels remind me of a great quote often attributed to Mahatma Gandhi: "There go my people. I must hurry and catch up with them, for I am their leader." That is truly how this year has felt to me. Our folks have been doing such great things, and I often feel like I'm just trying to keep pace with all of you.

Since June of last year, I have seen our soldiers training across the globe and seen those efforts come to fruition on the battlefield. Iraq and Afghanistan are just two of the many locations where our troops are effecting changes that are directly impacting the course of nations. I have watched our soldiers and their families prepare to deploy and have been fortunate enough to witness some homecomings. I have spoken to units filled with privates who haven't even seen their barracks room yet, deploying for their first time. I have visited units deploying for their second or third time, filled with seasoned veterans who can probably tell me more about the war now than I can tell them. I have also had the distinct honor to be both saddened and inspired by those soldiers and families who have made the ultimate sacrifice for strangers in another country. Their loss is one that we feel and honor across the Corps daily. It's both uplifting and humbling to know we have such fine men and women in our ranks. They, and you, truly are leading the Military Police Corps Regiment into the future.

These experiences have only reinforced my top two priorities: No. 1, support our troops in the field; and No. 2, send our units well-trained, solid soldiers who have internalized the Warrior Spirit. To that

end, our training and futures development branches are working together to ensure that the lessons learned from the field are reflected in our doctrine and our courses. We must ensure that not only are we providing the best possible training to our soldiers and officers so they can support their future units, but also that we are providing them the lessons they need to both survive and lead their troops in turn.

We continue to develop and push to acquire the best and most innovative force-multiplying equipment available. I fully believe that vehicles like the armored security vehicle and the up-armored high-mobility, multiwheeled vehicle and systems like the common remotely operated weapons system (CROWS) are things our soldiers both need and deserve. Our directorates are working hard to get this equipment to you in time to make a difference.

The growth and transformation of the Regiment is an ongoing process, but we are well on our way to increasing our force by almost 64 percent, going from 43,000 to more than 67,000 in the next seven years. Take heart, help is coming. Further, we are fine-tuning the force structure and our training to better serve the needs of the soldiers out in the field.

The majority of the valuable input we're receiving is coming from you, so again I say, what amazing soldiers you are! Leading from the front and pulling this force into the future. I couldn't ask for more.

I plan to continue to strive to understand the issues and challenges you face and address them with you on a one-on-one basis as I make my way out to where everyone is either stationed or deployed. In exchange, I ask you to continue to challenge me and ask me the hard questions when you see me. I look forward to working with each of you as we take this Regiment to new levels. Thank you for all you do.

Assist – Protect – Defend