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# Military Police Transformation

By Lieutenant Colonel Eric Belcher

**Transform** *v.* 1. to alter markedly the appearance or form 2. to change the nature, function, or condition

**Transformation** *n.* an act or instance of transforming or the state of being transformed

Webster's II, 1984 <sup>1</sup>

*The words “transform” and “transformation” have been heard a lot lately, but what do they really mean for the Military Police Corps? The definitions above give a broad view of these commonly used words, but the Army’s current transformation is about more than just changing “the nature, function, or condition” of its forces. The Human Resources Command is doing more than just altering the appearance and form of Army forces, and it is doing this to better support the Global War on Terrorism while simultaneously transforming the Army. It is synchronizing the personnel management system to the Army’s battle rhythm to support a nation at war. This is not business as usual. The Army is transforming while it fights and that requires a cultural change in how personnel are provided for the force. The Army is changing its culture and will do so quickly to ensure that it optimizes capabilities and becomes more joint and expeditionary in nature. The Military Police Corps has an enormous role to play in this culture change.*

The Army is changing the way it organizes to fight. Active duty brigades will transform into 38 modular brigade combat teams (BCTs) and 5 Stryker BCTs (SBCTs) by the end of fiscal year (FY) 2007. The National Guard will have 34 BCTs by FY09. A decision on whether or not to add five more BCTs to the Active Army will be made in FY06. These BCTs are standardized designs and can easily tailor themselves for specific operational and tactical requirements. There are four types of BCTs: heavy, light, Stryker, and airborne-air assault. Each has a broad range of capabilities and is designed to function independently from other organizations with much of its support being organic. Through transformation, the Military Police Corps will inactivate all division military police companies. However, organic to the brigade troops battalion of each BCT will be a 41-soldier military police platoon. This new platoon will have three squads with four teams each and will serve as a template for the

future design of all military police platoons to standardize platoon structure throughout the Military Police Corps.

Each BCT will have a military police planning section consisting of a captain (provost marshal) and a sergeant first class to plan, coordinate, integrate, and synchronize military police support for brigade operations. This team will also help the brigade staff assimilate additional military police units if the need arises to plus-up military police forces for a mission set. Further, the provost marshal and sergeant first class will help the military police platoon leadership to plan, train for, and execute military police missions. Additionally, the provost marshal is a special staff officer to the brigade commander. He has additional unique responsibilities that include Title 10 and regulatory compliance and reporting requirements for law enforcement and criminal investigations, antiterrorism, physical security, and detainee operations.

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The Army will manage most of the BCTs through the life cycle process, which means a three-year tour for soldiers assigned to these brigades. The old way of managing careers and timelines will change. Lieutenants will get promoted to captain while in the brigade. Many military police soldiers will be promoted and will serve in positions not normally associated with their ranks. The personnel management system is being transformed to ensure that careers are only positively affected by these changes.

The focus and changes associated with going to brigades managed through the life cycle process will make the Army more relevant and ready. It will provide more cohesive and combat-ready formations. It will also provide a more stable and predictable lifestyle for soldiers and their families, make combat units more agile and tailorable, and provide more high-demand units and skills. Since the Reserve Component is also transforming, there will be commonality across the entire Army by FY10.<sup>2</sup>

Division and corps headquarters are changing as well. The new Unit of Employment X (UEX) will replace the current division headquarters and will have modular command posts with greater capabilities. It will also absorb some of the capabilities from the corps headquarters, which is also being eliminated. More specifics will follow, but the current UEX design has a provost marshal cell of 13 soldiers, an increase from the 6 found in the current divisions.

The good news does not stop there. The Military Police Corps (Active Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard) will see a significant increase in force structure and authorizations over the next six years. To support Army operational requirements, the increase of Active Army units and the accelerated activation of selected Reserve Component units will occur during the next three to four years. In support of near-term actions, the Office of the Provost Marshal General, the US Army Military Police School (USAMPS), and the Army's force management personnel are urgently developing the implementation plan for Army leadership approval. Within a few months, new military police units will activate as a result of the internment/resettlement (I/R) redesign approved by the Army Chief of Staff and the decision made by senior Army leadership to increase the size of the Military Police Corps within

all Army components. The current phased plan calls for—

- Accelerating Reserve Component unit activations.
- Activating five Active Army military police combat support battalion headquarters.
- Activating three Active Army I/R battalion headquarters.
- Converting the eight programmed Active Army military police guard companies to combat support military police companies.
- Activating 13 new Active Army combat support military police companies.
- Activating additional Active Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID) detachments.

All of this will occur while planning for the return of selected military police units from Europe to the United States.

Between January and July 2005, the Army National Guard will activate the following units up to two years earlier than originally planned: a military police brigade headquarters in California and three military police companies, in Alabama, Louisiana, and Georgia. Between March and September 2005, the Army Reserves will accelerate activation of the following units up to one year early: an I/R battalion, a combat support battalion, a military police company, and a law and order detachment.

The bulk of near-term military police force changes are Active Army activations and conversions that will begin in early FY06. Five law and order detachments will be used as partial bill-payers, and they will convert to combat support battalion headquarters. (Units at Fort Stewart, Georgia; Fort Drum, New York; Fort Riley, Kansas; and Fort Benning, Georgia, will convert in FY06. A unit at Fort Bliss, Texas, will convert in FY07). In FY06, regional confinement facility table of distribution and allowances (TDA) headquarters at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and Fort Lewis, Washington, and the US Disciplinary Barracks TDA battalion headquarters at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, will be used as partial bill-payers to activate I/R battalion headquarters. A fourth I/R battalion headquarters will be activated at Fort Leavenworth in FY07. Eight Army National Guard companies will convert

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to combat support companies. (Companies at Fort Stewart; Fort Drum; Fort Lewis; Fort Riley; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and Fort Eustis, Virginia, will convert in FY06. A company at Fort Hood, Texas, will convert in FY07.) From FY07 through FY09, 13 new combat support companies and 10 new CID detachments will activate. This is a total of 40 military police units either activating or converting from now through FY09.

The total military police personnel authorization gains from the FY04 Military Police Corps end state through the currently projected FY11 end state are approximately 9,714 for the Army National Guard; 1,145 for the Army Reserves; and 3,835 for the Active Army.

In addition to the aforementioned force structure changes, USAMPS is also redesigning the combat support company. The company is—

- Going from four platoons to three platoons.
- Staying with three squads, but increasing from three to four teams.
- Adding a weapons platform for the platoon sergeant.
- Moving the fourth lieutenant from platoon leader to company executive officer.
- Reducing total personnel strength from 179 to 171.

The redesign also includes adding a liaison noncommissioned officer (NCO) and an I/R NCO to

the combat support battalion operations and training section.

There is one aspect of the Army's culture that will not change. Soldiers will remain the centerpiece of all units. They are the most effective, flexible, and adaptive asset the Army possesses, and everything is designed to support them. Soldiers will fight and win in whatever organization to which they are assigned. They must be properly trained, equipped, and informed as they accomplish the mission.<sup>3</sup>

The current transformation in the US Army and the Military Police Corps is significant. These changes will do a great deal to support the Global War on Terrorism while helping to synchronize the Army's personnel battle rhythm to support a nation at war. Adding military police force structure and changing Army units to more efficiently accomplish future missions is not only prudent, it is timely and necessary. These changes will help all of the great military police men and women serving our country in foreign lands. The relevance and significance of the Military Police Corps remain very strong. The added and adjusted force structure should ensure that the future Military Police Corps remains ready to assist, protect, and defend wherever and whenever necessary.

#### **Endnotes**

<sup>1</sup> Webster's II New Riverside University Dictionary, Riverside Publishing Company, 1984.

<sup>2</sup> Summarized from the Army Campaign Plan, 2004.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.