

Military Police Celebrate the 11th Annual Warrior Police Challenge Week

By Ms. Allison Choike and Sergeant Anthonie R. Seymour

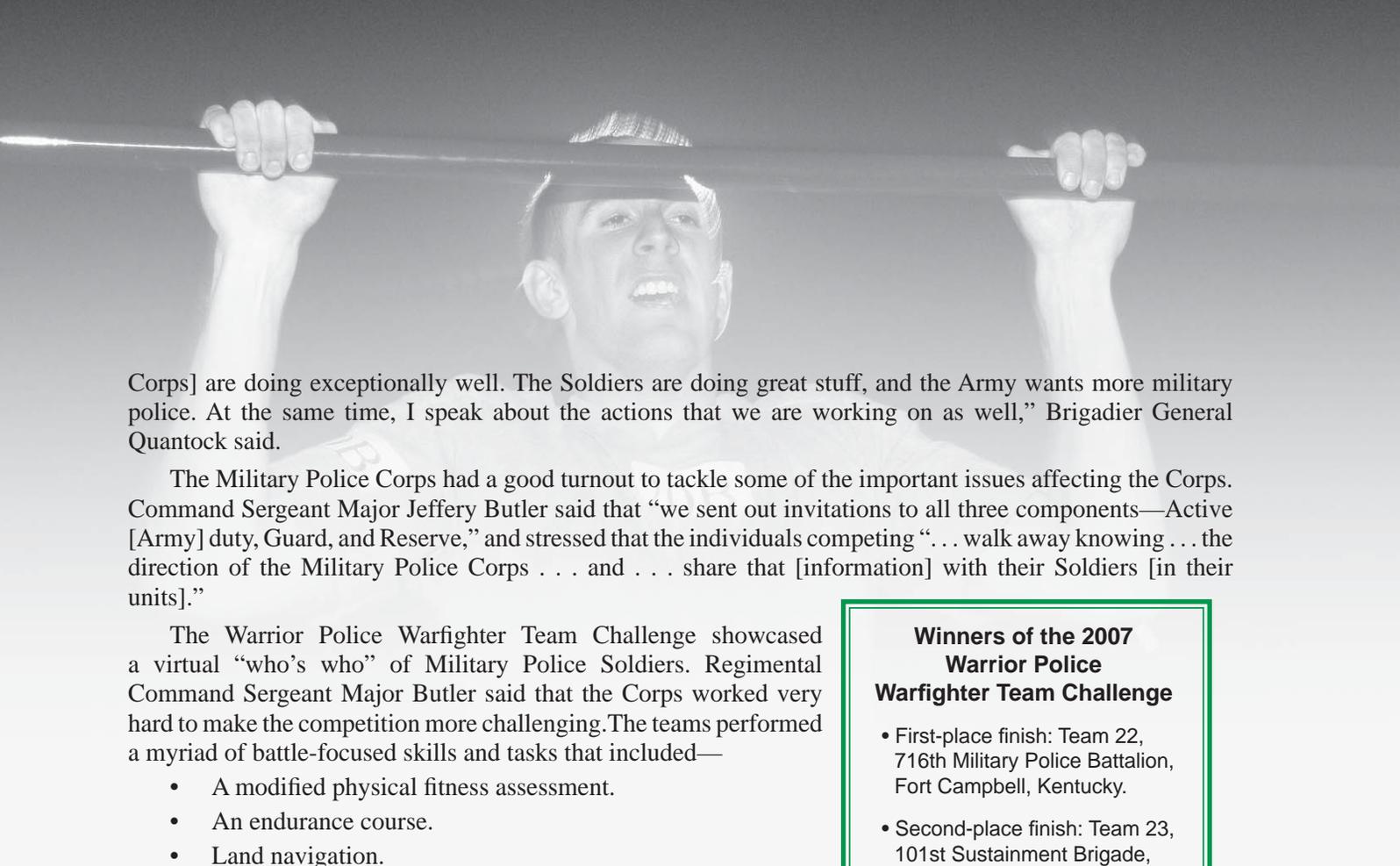
The 11th Annual Warrior Police Challenge Week drew the best the Military Police Corps Regiment had to offer 25–29 April 2007 at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

The events included a Regimental strategic forum, Hall of Fame induction luncheon, senior leader discussion of lessons learned and, the culminating event of the week, the Warrior Police Warfighter Team Challenge.

According to Brigadier General David Quantock, Chief of the Military Police Corps Regiment and Commandant of the U.S. Army Military Police School, there were so many activities crammed into the September 2006 Regimental Week that some events were moved to April. “. . . the problem was, everything was going on in one week. It just became so much, and you really were not having as much fun as you were wanting. We were racing from one event to another. By separating it [the events] into two different venues, we can just slow it down and enjoy it a lot more,” he said. Regimental Command Sergeant Major Jeffery Butler said that the Regiment would still celebrate the anniversary of the Military Police Corps in September with a Regimental run, social ball, and golf tournament.

According to Brigadier General Quantock, the Regimental strategic forum was not a conference but, rather, a “. . . strategy forum because it is interactive. When you go to a traditional conference, you sit there and listen to a bunch of briefs and then you go home. [In the Regimental strategic forum] we all share ideas and figure out how to tackle some of the tough issues that we face every day. It is a great synchronization of ability where we are bringing in people from all different kinds of theaters with all kinds of different problems.”

During the strategic forum, Brigadier General Quantock gave a state of the Regiment address. “I give it once a year and state how well the Regiment is doing. It is great for me, because we [the Military Police



Corps] are doing exceptionally well. The Soldiers are doing great stuff, and the Army wants more military police. At the same time, I speak about the actions that we are working on as well,” Brigadier General Quantock said.

The Military Police Corps had a good turnout to tackle some of the important issues affecting the Corps. Command Sergeant Major Jeffery Butler said that “we sent out invitations to all three components—Active [Army] duty, Guard, and Reserve,” and stressed that the individuals competing “. . . walk away knowing . . . the direction of the Military Police Corps . . . and . . . share that [information] with their Soldiers [in their units].”

The Warrior Police Warfighter Team Challenge showcased a virtual “who’s who” of Military Police Soldiers. Regimental Command Sergeant Major Butler said that the Corps worked very hard to make the competition more challenging. The teams performed a myriad of battle-focused skills and tasks that included—

- A modified physical fitness assessment.
- An endurance course.
- Land navigation.
- Weapons assembly.
- A 15-kilometer road march.

The competition ended on 27 April at Gerlach Field. In the stands, Soldiers celebrated the finish of the warfighters. “It is . . . a great celebration of the warrior police effort,” said Regimental Command Sergeant Major Butler. And Brigadier General Quantock couldn’t agree more. “This is great for the young Soldiers in the stands watching what Warrior Ethos means and what giving every ounce of your energy toward a goal means. This is what being a Soldier is all about.”

**Winners of the 2007
Warrior Police
Warfighter Team Challenge**

- First-place finish: Team 22, 716th Military Police Battalion, Fort Campbell, Kentucky.
- Second-place finish: Team 23, 101st Sustainment Brigade, Fort Campbell, Kentucky.
- Third-place finish: Team 9, 92d Military Police Battalion, Fort Benning, Georgia.

Kudos to the Guardsmen of the 342d Military Police Battalion

The best of the best compete in the Warrior Police Warfighter Team Challenge. And it might surprise you who made the cut. Sergeant Adam Norton, Private First Class Randolph Steadman, and Private Jonathon Montgomery led the 342d Military Police Battalion, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, to a 5th place finish out of the 30 teams selected to represent their units in the Challenge.

Sergeant Norton, a member of the Missouri Army National Guard, was assigned to the 342d after he and 33 fellow guardsmen volunteered for a two-year, Active Army tour to fill the void left by Soldiers deploying with the 463d Military Police Company. Sergeant Norton, formerly an artilleryman assigned to Company B, 1/128th Field Artillery, Kirksville, Missouri, sought to overcome the “part-time Soldier” stereotype and earn some credibility as a military police Soldier. And the Warrior Police Warfighter Team Challenge seemed just the way to do both. “I volunteered; everyone had a chance,” Sergeant Norton said. “I wanted to participate [in the Challenge] to show everyone that the National Guard [Soldier] is just as good as anyone else.”

After a teammate’s injury prevented the 2006 Warfighter team from finishing in the top three (the team placed 14th and, eventually, withdrew from the competition), Sergeant Norton’s dream of a good finish in his team’s first competition faded, but his standing in the unit was a firm reality. “He’s [Sergeant Norton] shown that he’s not content with just sitting around,” said Staff Sergeant James Havelin, the noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) of the 2006 Warfighter team. “A lot of people—Active Army and National Guard—are happy just sitting [around] . . . , not doing anything; [Sergeant] Norton has shown that’s not good enough for him.”

This 2007 competition presented Soldiers with new challenges. “Last year was easy. I just did what I was told to do,” Sergeant Norton said. “After I was promoted, I switched roles. This year, I had to tell them [the team members] what to do.” Not only was Sergeant Norton inexperienced in leading the team for the competition, but the team members were also inexperienced. “I’m straight out of basic training; but when I got here, I didn’t even make it into the building when I was asked if I was going to try out for Warfighter,” said Private First Class Randolph Steadman. “I didn’t want to do it, but I didn’t want the first impression [of the members of the 342d] to be ‘the new guy is lazy and doesn’t want to do anything.’ The more I got into it, I thought . . . this could be a good deal. He [Sergeant Norton] was training the lower enlisted when he got promoted,” Private First Class Steadman said. “Then it was decided that he would lead our team, and all three of us started training together.”

Although it might have seemed as though the blind were leading the blind, Sergeant Norton put what little experience he had garnered from his first Warrior Police Warfighter Team Challenge together with his drive to do the best he could. “This was my first leadership role, and I didn’t really know what I was doing. I just kind of winged it,” Norton said. “We came prepared though. We brought a poleless litter in one of the rucksacks. If someone had gone down, we would have carried him and drug the rucksack back if we had to because there was no way we were not finishing.” Though it would prove unnecessary to carry a team member, their preparedness would pay in spades later.

“When we came to a scenario where we had to transport someone who was injured, instead of having to secure a litter at the medical facility, head back to the patient, and then have to head all the way back to the facility again; we just pulled out our litter, [and] placed the casualty on ours,” Sergeant Norton said. “The judges’ jaws dropped.”

But despite hard work and dedication, there was one area where the 463d Military Police Company could not compete—combat experience. Nearly half of the 90 Warfighter participants had been deployed to either Afghanistan or Iraq, and the team felt that this lack of combat experience was their greatest deficiency. But Sergeant Norton is still very proud of his team’s performance. “I went in as a never-deployed [noncommissioned officer] NCO, and I had two fresh-out-of-[advanced individual training] AIT Soldiers on the team. Evidently, we must have done something to impress the judges, and I feel great about this accomplishment. We are one of the top five teams in the Regiment.”

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