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Welcome to another great issue of *Military Police*! Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to write articles for our professional bulletin. This is one of many great ways to get the latest information out to the field. Our Military Police Corps Regiment has never been busier in its history! Military Police officers, noncommissioned officers, and enlisted Soldiers continue to make incredible contributions to our Army and our Nation in the prosecution of the War on Terrorism. I could not be more proud of your contributions, selfless service, and patriotism! The Military Police Corps Regiment accounts for only 4.8 percent of the total Army, but rarely a day goes by that there is not a call for one or many of our units to perform operations. This is great news for the health of the Regiment, but it also places a premium on leadership. It is leadership that I would like to focus on in this issue.

In my 27 years of Army travels, I have learned a few things—good and bad—about leadership. I have seen units—regardless of the load that you place on them (you cannot put enough rocks in their Soldiers' rucksacks)—that execute missions far above the standard. In other units (thankfully, there are very few), pebbles in their Soldiers' rucksacks break the units' backs. What is the difference between these units? Simply put, it is leadership! As I conduct leadership seminars at the U.S. Army Military Police School, it is obvious that all Soldiers know what separates great leadership from poor leadership, yet there are still occasional leaders who don't execute great leadership attributes. What is the cost of poor leadership—great Soldiers and leaders leave the Army. I would like to expound on a few points that are key to effective leadership. We all need to be reminded of these key points from time to time.

First, all leaders—team leaders through senior commanders—must understand that they are servants to their Soldiers first and foremost. It is not the opposite. How many of us have seen leaders who feel that, because of their positions, they have been anointed by God? Being a leader is a privilege, not a right. And being a caring and compassionate leader is a critical component to effective leadership!

Second, leaders must be absolute ethical and moral role models for the Soldiers they lead. The old saying that “the farther you go up the flagpole, the more your butt is exposed” is absolutely correct. Your personal conduct, during duty and off duty, is watched. Soldiers watch their leaders and do, more or less, what is tolerated and/or displayed by the people they admire.

Finally, leadership is a 24/7/365 commitment. Good leadership requires that leaders share the same risks and hardships as their Soldiers. Tactical fights are not won at the keyboard composing e-mails or sitting in a heated or air-conditioned tactical operations center. The tactical fight is won with Soldiers and their leaders executing at the point of the spear with blood, sweat, and tears. Of all the attributes of effective leadership, this one makes the most difference on the battlefield—the difference between units whose Soldiers can carry the big rucksacks full of rocks and those whose Soldiers can't carry pebbles.

Thank God we have a Regiment that exemplifies the characteristics I have outlined. In order for us to continue to be the “Force of Choice,” we must continue to produce, retain, and develop the greatest Soldiers and leaders in the Army! This is our ultimate goal at the Military Police School—a goal that is forged and nurtured in the field.

I get the opportunity to in-brief new Soldiers entering the Army and, near the end of their one-station unit training, take them on a run. My message to them is always the same:

“I love being a Soldier, and the title I am most proud of is ‘Soldier.’ As a Soldier, every day you have a direct impact on World events; you can't say that in every civilian occupation. In the end, you can say your life meant something other than making a bunch of money.”

I am sure many of our new Soldiers understand my message; they get the selfless service part. Now it's up to all of us to provide them with the outstanding leadership they deserve.

In closing, the most honored duty I perform as a general officer is being part of the final tribute we pay to our Fallen Warriors. On one such occasion, I was presenting a flag to a widow. Her words to me were so inspiring that I would like to share them with you. As I finished my presentation, she grabbed my arm and said, "Please tell the President not to pull out of Iraq until the job is finished or my husband's life will have been lost for nothing." We don't have a say about whether or not we stay in Iraq, but we sure have a say about how we dedicate ourselves to the cause every day, doing whatever we can to ensure ultimate victory in the long war. Thank you for your service and your contributions to making our Army the greatest land power that the world has ever known.

