
Regimental Command Sergeant Major



Command Sergeant Major Jeffrey Butler

Greetings from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri—the home of the Regiment and your U.S. Army Military Police School. I stand and salute you all as we celebrate the 66th Anniversary of our great Military Police Corps Regiment.

If you have passed through Fort Leonard Wood recently, you have undoubtedly heard the term *Warrior Police*. Initially, the Commandant and I originated the term as a motto used when ending meetings at the U.S. Army Military Police School. However, the term has since been adopted to reflect both a mind-set and a skill set required by the Corps to be successful in our myriad of missions. All Soldiers must be Warriors, first and foremost. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines a warrior as “a man engaged or experienced in warfare.” My definition would be “a Soldier trained to fight, survive, and win on the battlefield.” Merriam-Webster defines police as an organized civil force “concerned primarily with [the] maintenance of public order, safety, and health and [the] enforcement of laws . . .” and “. . . charged with prevention, detection, and prosecution of public nuisances and crimes.” In the Army, military police are charged with this mission. We conduct law enforcement, investigative, and force protection duties that preserve order in our ranks and on our installations. We can never lose sight of the fact that we are the Army’s police. This is a Military Police Corps Regiment competency that we must train, maintain, and build on.

Historically, we have had groups of military police Soldiers who spend most, if not all, of their careers in law enforcement or on the combat support side of the fence. This works only when our missions are cleanly split and only require one aspect of our capabilities. But that is not what we face today in the War on Terrorism. Military police Soldiers must be equally skilled in law enforcement and combat support. Today, a military police squad that rolls out of a base in Iraq will employ its tactical prowess to maneuver and fight its way, if necessary, to an Iraqi Police Station where it is tasked with coaching, teaching, and mentoring a foreign and culturally different police force. Someone told me a long time ago that “you can’t teach what you don’t know.” We, as a Corps, need to refocus our efforts on becoming law enforcement professionals. The Army looks to us for criminal investigation, corrections, detainee operations, and law-and-order expertise; but this does not mean that we stop training on warrior battle tasks, drills, and tactical military police functions. We must balance the training time that we have to address all aspects of training. Military police skills need to be increased through a variety of approaches. Institutionally, we need to address this in one-station unit training, the Noncommissioned Officer Education System, and the Officer Education System. But we are not going to solve this problem in the schoolhouse alone. From an assignment perspective, we need to look at providing Soldiers with a variety of military police assignments that build military police pentathletes—Soldiers equipped with experience from both tactical and technical positions. Of course, this only works with senior leader support and the use of the “pentathlete approach” on future promotion boards to select our best-qualified Soldiers for advancement. Additionally, unit level training programs need to address law-and-order operations as a critical mission-essential task list duty that has direct implications for our Soldiers—at home and deployed. The next time you hear Warrior Police, think about what it means to our Corps and our Army. It is not just a slick motto or a catchy response to accompany a salute. Warrior Police is about who we are and what we are asked to do for our Nation.

We continue to solicit your feedback on military police training in order to remain relevant in our missions and provide the tools our Soldiers need to be successful around the world.