

# 49th Military Police Brigade Trains Together for the First Time in Years



*By Captain Jonathan M. Shiroma*

Since the horrific events of 11 September 2001, California Army National Guard military police units have been deployed to fight the War on Terrorism. Now, in 2007, for the first time in years, all elements of the 49th Military Police Brigade are back in the Golden State at the same time, allowing brigade personnel to focus on a vital part of military unit readiness—training.

“It is good to see the Soldiers from the [49th Military Police] brigade and the 49th Military Police Battalion back from Iraq,” said Lieutenant Colonel Peter Cross, Commander of the 49th Military Police Battalion. “The companies have been home for quite some time, but it is good to have everyone together for the first time in probably five years.” Lieutenant

Colonel Cross, who served as the operations officer for the brigade when the unit was stationed in Iraq, is now tasked to prepare Soldiers in the 40th, 270th, 330th, 649th, 670th, and 870th Military Police Companies for stateside missions and possible future deployment missions. In order to make this happen, the brigade brought together all of its military police units in May to participate in consolidated drills at Camp Roberts and Camp San Luis Obispo. The drills focused on warrior task training, military police operations, and convoy maneuvers. “I would say that training takes on more of a sense of urgency once you have been deployed to Iraq,” said Lieutenant Colonel Cross. “You see Soldiers who are going through these classes that don’t think it [the training] pertains to them, and we have a lot of leaders back from war that can convey to them [the Soldiers] that this absolutely pertains to them. One minute you are on your couch at home, and the next minute, you are driving through Baghdad.”

“I am getting more out of this training than I did during my [advanced individual training] AIT,” said Private First Class Brian Todd of the 270th Military Police Company. “The one key thing that makes the difference here is that I am training alongside the Soldiers that I would deploy with.”

“It feels great, I wish [that] I had gone to Iraq with the brigade, because it is obvious that these Soldiers work well together,” said Specialist Daniel Green of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 49th Military Police Brigade. “From what I can see, I could have been part of a great team; and I am looking forward to being part of this brigade.”

With the lessons learned from the consolidated drills, coupled with real-world deployments, the Soldiers of the 49th Military Police Brigade gathered in July 2007 for annual training (AT). “This has given us a great assessment tool, this consolidated drill weekend, for how we . . . perform at AT,” said Lieutenant Colonel Cross.



**Soldiers from the 49th Military Police Brigade sharpen their skills by training.**