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## Fort Leavenworth Corrections Unit Named Best in Army

*By Ms. Rebecca Steed*

A military police company that deployed to Iraq to operate a detention facility has been named the best military police unit in the Army. Among its top achievements, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 705th Military Police Battalion, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, trained more than 2,200 Iraqi correctional officers, cut violence within the detention facility by 300 percent, and thwarted a dozen vehicle-borne improvised explosive device bombings through detection.

HHC, 705th Military Police Battalion, received the Brigadier General J.P. Holland Award on 25 April 2011. The award is named after a former (1953–1955) U.S. Army Europe provost marshal who, after his retirement in 1969, sponsored the award to promote esprit de corps and professionalism in military police units throughout the Regular Army. Brigadier General Colleen L. McGuire, Provost Marshal General of the Army and commander of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, presented the award.

According to the Army Corrections Command, unit achievements that played a key role in the selection for the award included—

- HHC, 705th Military Police Battalion, superbly performed their primary function of providing mission command for the Theater Internment Facility and Reconciliation Center at Camp Taji and, subsequently, the Theater Internment Facility at Camp Cropper. The unit was instrumental in training more than 2,200 Iraqi correctional officers and coordinating and executing the transfer of the Camp Taji Theater Internment Facility and Reconciliation Center and the Camp Cropper Theater Internment Facility to the government of Iraq—both pivotal actions in the restoration of Iraq’s corrections system.
- The HHC deployed independently of its subordinate companies, but performed a strategically important and challenging mission exceedingly well. During a U.S. Army Central detainee operations inspection of the Taji Theater Internment Facility and Reconciliation Center, the unit received a 100 percent pass rate and was lauded for their counterinsurgency program, which yielded a 300 percent reduction in facility violence.
- The Intelligence Section, HHC, 705th Military Police Battalion, received four impact Army Achievement Medals and one impact Army Commendation Medal for accurately identifying U.S. Forces–Iraq targets who were visiting the Taji Theater Internment Facility and Reconciliation Center and for subsequently discovering twelve vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices.

For the second year in a row, HHC, 705th Military Police Battalion, also received the Brigadier General Thomas F. Barr Award, which recognizes the best military police company within the Army Corrections Command. In addition, General Raymond Odierno, the U.S. Forces–Iraq commander, awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation award to the unit for their actions during Operation Iraqi Freedom (2009–2010).

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