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# Chief, Military Police Corps Regiment, and Commandant, United States Army Military Police School

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*Brigadier General Rodney L. Johnson*

Well gang, it has been almost six months since I last wrote to you and I can't believe how fast the time has gone. As I roll into my second year as chief of the Military Police Corps, I find myself in the middle of an interesting paradox—I'm both more comfortable and more challenged by this job and by you every day. The amazing work you are doing in the field has allowed me to really focus on the changing face of the Army and our role in it. It has been a challenge to find the balance between being a team player in the brigade combat team/units of employment framework and educating our fellow branches on exactly what capabilities we can provide them within that framework. I won't try to buffalo you and tell you that it is not frustrating or that we have found the right formula yet. However, we are working on it and we are getting closer—a large part of that is because of you.

Your performance in the field has been exceptional. I couldn't be more proud of what you have contributed to the reputation and history of our Corps. I am pretty sure that I have said that before. I am even more sure that if you ask me again in six months, I will tell you the same thing. The bottom line is that every day you folks are outperforming yourselves and everyone else. As a result of your accomplishments, everyone wants their own military police support. In that sense, we are victims of our own success. If you were not so good at what you do, such consummate professionals, the Army would not have approved an increase in our force strength from 42,000 to 68,000 over the next five years. The demand for our force in the field is higher than ever, but hang in there. It will get better. As the size of our force increases, the length and frequency of deployments will correspondingly decrease. That is great news and something that all of us look forward to. In the interim, we have to stay focused on our daily mission. As a result, my priorities over the last year have not changed.

They remain: No. 1—Support our troops in the field; and No. 2—Send our units well-trained, solid Soldiers who have internalized the warrior spirit. To

that end, our training and futures development branches are working together to ensure that the lessons learned from the field are reflected in our doctrine and our courses. We must ensure that not only are we providing the best possible training to our Soldiers and officers so they can support their future units, but also that we are providing them the lessons they need to survive and lead their troops in turn. We continue to develop and push to acquire the best and most innovative force-multiplying equipment available. I fully believe that vehicles like the armored security vehicle and the up-armored high-mobility, multipurpose wheeled vehicle and systems like the Common Remotely Operated Weapons System (CROWS) are the equipment our Soldiers both need and deserve. Our directorates are working hard to get this equipment to you in time to make a difference.

Further, we are fine-tuning the force structure and our training to better serve the needs of the Soldiers in the field. The majority of the valuable input we're receiving is coming from you, so again I say, what amazing soldiers you are! You have not only sent your input back via e-mails and letters, but you have also come home and given us your firsthand lessons learned. You have shared your insights with us and with the Soldiers and leaders who are here and preparing to head out to your units. Your input is invaluable when you realize that 52 percent of our one-station unit training graduates last year deployed within 90 days of graduation. You are unarguably leading from the front and pulling this force into the future. I couldn't ask for more.

I plan to continue to strive to understand the issues and challenges that you face and address them with you on a one-on-one basis as I make my way out to where everyone is either stationed or deployed. In exchange, I ask you to continue to challenge me and ask me the hard questions when you see me. I look forward to working with each of you as we take this Regiment to new levels. Thank you for all you do.

**The Military Police Regiment—  
Right Force—Right Now**