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# Chief, Military Police Corps Regiment, and Commandant, U.S. Army Military Police School

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## *Brigadier General David Quantock*

Welcome to another edition of *Military Police!* I hope everyone enjoys, or better yet, learns something from the articles published in this issue. With all the great things going on in the Regiment, it is imperative that our leaders take the time to share the lessons learned while out in the field. It is also a great professional-development tool to train officers and NCOs on the art of publishing in a professional bulletin. One battalion commander made it a required bullet on support forms for his officers to share their lessons learned with the Regiment. This is a great technique to share lessons learned, programs, and perspectives while providing professional development. I encourage all leaders to build similar officer and NCO professional-development requirements in your units. And as an added bonus, we can benefit from printing this great information in *Military Police*.

I would like to bring everyone up to date with excerpts from my regimental review speech during the 66th Military Police Anniversary Review. During the review, I spent a few minutes discussing where the Military Police Corps has been, where we are today, and where we are going in the future, culminating with the seven imperatives (or lines of operation) that we are pursuing to remain the Force of Choice.

Our Regiment dates back to the Revolutionary War—always there to support the Army at war but disappearing when the conflict was over. It was not until 1941 that the Military Police Corps Regiment became a permanent branch of our Army. For 66 years, Regiment Soldiers have performed superbly in support of our Nation's struggles in World War II; Korea; Vietnam; Grenada; Operations Just Cause, Desert Shield, and Desert Storm; and the current War on Terrorism. In each conflict, the Military Police Corps contributed immeasurably to the warfight as a versatile combat support arm.

However, the Regiment was not without periods of challenge, when we as a Corps were grasping to find our identity. In the early 1980s, we were largely a law enforcement force who also operated prisons and performed missions like securing nuclear-weapon depots. But as a combat support arm, we had limited doctrinal use. However, that all changed in the mid-1980s when, faced with the threat of outsourcing and extinction, a few of our military police leaders changed the focus of our branch to combat-oriented missions where we would become the infantry of the rear area in the traditional linear battlefield. In fact, we have become so enamored with it that, for years now, we have almost completely focused on area security and maneuver, mobility, and support operations, letting our law enforcement skills atrophy.

Today, we find ourselves in the most complex combat environment ever, fighting a tough and diverse enemy who is completely bent on our destruction. Our combat skills have manifested themselves in awards from the Distinguished Service Cross to countless awards for valor, while the importance of our law enforcement, criminal investigation, and detention roles and missions are unquestioned. As our branch continues historical growth, the number of company-size combat support units will increase from 120 to 186 by 2011, nearly a 33 percent unit growth. And the growth is in more than combat support companies; internment/resettlement units and criminal investigation units will also experience tremendous growth.

We have more than 8,200 Soldiers deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba—nearly 20 percent of our total force. What you will find in these locations is a force of multifunctional military police Soldiers—a force that is providing essential combat support to brigade combat teams, operating more than 300 Iraqi and Afghan police transition teams, providing oversight and training to thousands of policemen, and providing care and custody to more than 25,000 detainees in Iraq, while also conducting significant detainee operations in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay.

Tomorrow, our future is equally as bright, but there is much work to be done. We must focus on our seven imperatives:

First, we must create officers and NCOs who are multiskilled leaders in law enforcement, internment/resettlement, criminal investigation, and maneuver support operations. We must provide these leaders with

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a professional military education and career opportunities that facilitate their development into adaptive and flexible warrior, law enforcement, criminal investigation, and corrections experts.

Second, we must fully implement all aspects of police intelligence operations as the principal integrating function that provides the combatant commander with a stream of critical intelligence that must be fully integrated into the common operational picture. We must work with the entire intelligence community to ensure that full integration is realized. Police intelligence operations are generated by military police Soldiers on the ground, Criminal Investigation Division agents operating in forensic labs or conducting a myriad of complex investigations, and internment/resettlement specialists conducting counterinsurgency operations inside the wire—all linked by the power gained from leveraging biometric identification instruments and a common intelligence backbone called the Distributed Common Ground System. These links, combined with the additional police intelligence structure of the brigade combat teams, ensures a capability that is already showing tremendous promise on today's battlefield.

Third, as the Army's proponent for nonlethal weapons, we must continue to push for the rapid distribution of the latest technology to the warfighters in the field. We are now a full-spectrum Army and must be as good at influencing the proper behavior as we are at terminating improper behavior.

Fourth, we need to deliver the best possible capability to military police Warriors by upgrading and ungunning the armored security vehicle and fielding the appropriate number of mine-resistant, ambush protection vehicles, while keeping our eye on the rapid development of the joint light tactical vehicle. Additionally, we must provide our military police Soldiers the right mix of lethal and nonlethal capabilities and the most capability and flexibility to meet the complex environment of the future.

Fifth, we must rebase our battalions and companies to provide two kinds of Army installations—those with the majority of Department of the Army military police and those with combat support military police companies. This will provide more military police companies with the ability to deploy, while still providing the training venue required to maintain our law enforcement skills.

Sixth, we must add a military police battalion to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, as part of the Maneuver Enhancement Brigade [MEB]. This will provide a tremendous opportunity to take the latest lessons learned from the battlefield and inject them directly into the training base—not just the information, but the experienced people as well—moving our units from a U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command to a U.S. Army Forces Command without having to move the family.

And finally, we must continue to operationalize the Military Police School through a War on Terrorism and expeditionary mind-set that is focused on bringing training to the Soldier through mobile training teams and leveraged technology. We must train our military police brigade and battalion headquarters before sending them to the fight—a luxury enjoyed primarily by combat arms units.

In summary: Today, I see the Military Police School as the Department of the Army Law Enforcement Center; tomorrow, I see the Military Police School as the Department of Defense Center of Excellence. Let there be no doubt—the reason for the success of our Regiment is not due to any gadget or piece of equipment, but rather the courageous performance of dedicated military police patriots who manage to accomplish the impossible under some of the most complex and dangerous conditions. I am proud to be associated with them and the great families that support them. Thanks to all of you for your dedicated and selfless service to your Military Police Corps, our Army, and our Nation.

Before I close, I want to remind everyone of our Military Police Warfighter Challenge Week coming up the last week of April (see the schedule of events on page 8). If you remember, I divided the Regimental Week into two separate annual events. In April, we will have the Warfighter Challenge, our Military Police Conference, and the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Please mark 21–26 April 2008 on your calendars. Hope to see you there!

***Assist, Protect, Defend  
Warrior Police!***