

# 728th Military Police Battalion in Hawaii

*By Sergeant Lindsey R. Cox*

## Warfighter Officer Professional Development

Officers of the 728th Military Police Battalion, 8th Military Police Brigade, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, participated in an officer professional development exercise held at Kahuku Training Area, Hawaii, 29 April 2010. The purpose of the training, which was organized by the 728th Military Police Battalion training officer in charge, was to refine basic Soldiering tasks and enhance troop-leading procedures.

The morning began when the officers received a telephonic alert, directing them to report to the battalion in full combat gear at 0300. After conducting platoon level rehearsals, they departed for a 3-mile foot march to a designated landing zone. Moments after their arrival, three CH53 Sea Stallion helicopters transported the officers to the Kahuku Training Area, where they conducted a joint air assault exercise in conjunction with Marines from the Marine Corps Base Hawaii at Kaneohe Bay.

After completing the air assault mission, the officers secured the drop zone. The group then performed a tactical movement up a steep, rugged mountain. Their next mission involved securing a new Afghan police station and conducting a key leader engagement. “We need to be focused on dismounted operations and prep[are] the battalion for its road to war, said the 728th Military Police Battalion operations and training officer (S-3). “Soldiers should get away from the safety net of our mobile foxholes.”

After successfully executing the key leader meeting, the officers conducted a quick after-action review. They were then transported back to Schofield Barracks to conduct a hasty attack. While at the attack site, the officers performed dry, blank, and live-fire exercises that instilled them with confidence in their equipment and leadership abilities.

“The stressful environment gave us a taste of what our Soldiers do every day downrange. It made me appreciate them and their hard work,” said the 728th Military Police Battalion adjutant (S-1). “. . . it allowed us to evaluate our physical fitness level and abilities and test our small unit tactics,” she added.

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## Military Police Participate in Torch Run

Soldiers of the 728th Military Police Battalion participated in the Troy Barboza Law Enforcement Torch Run held at Fort DeRussy, Hawaii, 28 May 2010. The purpose of the “Troy Barboza Run,” which is organized by the Honolulu Police Department, is to build awareness for Special Olympics and raise money for Special Olympics Hawaii.

Chief Richard LaMunyon, chief of police, Wichita, Kansas, founded the “Torch Run” in 1981; and the torch is now carried by law enforcement officers—referred to as “Guardians of the Flame”—in all fifty states and more than forty foreign countries.

In 1987, the Honolulu Torch Run was named after fallen Honolulu police officer Troy Barboza, who volunteered as a Special Olympics soccer and basketball coach and participated in the first Torch Run in Hawaii. The Troy Barboza Run is the only torch run in the world to be named after a fallen police officer.

The run consisted of a 3-mile route that began at Fort DeRussy at 1800, wound through Waikiki, and ended at the University of Hawaii baseball stadium. Thousands of patrons and tourists lined the route, cheering on the colors, guidons, and cadence-calling formations of the Soldiers of the 728th Military Police Battalion who had the privilege of carrying the torch during this year’s event.

While a circling police helicopter spotlighted the formation, a police escort directed the Soldiers into the baseball stadium at the University of Hawaii, where the opening ceremony for the Special Olympics was already underway. The crowd cheered as the battalion and the rest of the run participants entered the stadium. The Honolulu chief of police then lit the torch to officially open the games.

According to Captain Russell Smith, commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, more than 380 friends, family, and Soldiers of the 728th Military Police Battalion participated in the run and the warfighter battalion raised about \$7,000 to support the Special Olympics Hawaii program.

The 558th Military Police Company—which was deployed in Iraq at that time—also conducted a torch run and raised money from their forward operating base at Al Asad. However, due to mission requirements, their run took place a week after the one in Hawaii. Most of the Soldiers of the 558th had participated in the run the previous year, and they remembered the cheers and applause of the crowd and the appreciation of the Special Olympics athletes. Therefore, they were quick to donate and participate this year. At 0530 one morning, with temperatures already hovering above 90°F, more than 150 Soldiers from the 558th Military Police Company took to the streets of Al Asad in the name of Special Olympics Hawaii. Though missing the torch, island breezes, and cheering crowds, the Soldiers felt as if they still made a significant contribution to the organization. And they were right—for the second year in a row, the 558th was the top 728th Military Police Battalion and 8th Military Police Brigade contributor, raising more than \$3,750 from downrange.

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*At the time these articles were written, Sergeant Cox, who is a signal systems support specialist, was the team chief; command, control, communications, and computer operations (S-6); 728th Military Police Battalion. She is currently the alternate telecommunications officer, 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Sergeant Cox is working toward an associate's degree in general studies from North Central Institute, Clarksville, Tennessee.*

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