



# Exercise Patriot Justice

*By Sergeant Michel Sauret*

With good Soldiers comes good training, and good training needs facilities, equipment, and land to be successful. The 11th Military Police Brigade had all of those things at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, for Exercise Patriot Justice throughout June 2006. Patriot Justice included the efforts of eight military police units to ensure that their Soldiers were competent in detaining prisoners and protecting disaster victims while using the training sites provided by the U.S. Army Reserve Command and Fort McCoy. Because of the large scale of the training, which included more than 600 Soldiers using two training areas, the 800th Military Police Brigade joined the 11th as a backfill to support the mission.

“The biggest challenge was to manipulate and merge different units to collaborate on one mission,” said First Lieutenant Stephen M. Anest, the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 800th Military Police Brigade. Part of his job was to manage and support the staff to ensure that the training went smoothly. The training was divided into two phases. The first phase concentrated on individual learning, which meant each Soldier learned how to perform the tasks. This phase lasted about six days, most of them spent in classrooms. The second phase included the collective efforts of the Soldiers, who applied their skills in a hands-on environment. Together, the two phases lasted 14 days.

Patriot Justice focused on the technical aspect of training so that the military police Soldiers would know how to perform their tasks. During internment training, the Soldiers learned how to inprocess, transport, and care for detainees. A portion of the training was spent using nonlethal weapons to control detainees,

responding to riots, and handling unexpected emergencies. Throughout the exercise, Soldiers learned not to underestimate their enemies and how to deal with aggressive resistance.

“We know they’re going to put up a fight and not comply. We’re just going to have to control them,” said one Soldier after finishing a class on riot control.

Time was also spent on resettlement, which showed Soldiers how to help displaced persons. The course reminded the military police of the importance of sheltering civilians, either foreign nationals or U.S. citizens, who may have been left without a place to live after a catastrophe. Some of the other scenarios during the collective phase of training covered—

- Response to sniper attacks.
- Road control.
- Response to improvised explosive devices and other attacks.

Because of the large-scale and ambitious efforts of Patriot Justice, a lot of land was needed. That is why the 11th Military Police Brigade secured two forward operating bases (FOBs)—FOB Bernice and FOB Don. Together, they added up to 12 square kilometers of land. The sites were not meant to reproduce a desert-like environment but to create a setting where Soldiers could train with good results. FOBs Bernice and Don were equipped with tents, barbed wire fences, power generators, gates, control towers, showers, and sanitation stations. Only the fences, which had been set up by civilian contractors, were in place before the 11th Military Police Brigade arrived. The Soldiers did the bulk of the work on the rest of the site, helping to keep costs down.