



Private 2 Richard McLamb stands watch over the Fallen Soldier Memorial and the wreath dedicated in remembrance of fallen 16th Military Police Brigade Soldiers.

# 16th Military Police Brigade's (Airborne) 40th Anniversary

*By Captain Phillip Valenti*

The 16th Military Police Brigade (Airborne), during the unit's 40th anniversary celebration, left a memorial at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to remind future military police warriors of their predecessors' sacrifices. The anniversary celebrated the brigade's history while honoring fallen comrades. Events included the dedication ceremonies of the Fallen Soldier Memorial and the Sergeant First Class Wentz J.H. Shanaberger III Military Police Complex, brigade and battalion command sergeants major changes of responsibility, an airborne operation, and the 16th Military Police Brigade (Airborne) Ball.

The brigade's anniversary was marked with two historic dedication ceremonies. The first ceremony dedicated the military police complex. "This complex means more than just moving into a new facility. It is the first time the 16th Military Police Brigade (Airborne) has had a permanent place to call home," said Colonel John Chambliss, brigade commander.

The \$51.7 million complex consists of barracks to house 427 Soldiers, brigade and battalion

headquarters, seven company operations facilities, and a law enforcement center on a 45-acre site. The complex is dedicated to the memory of Sergeant First Class Shanaberger, a recipient of the Silver Star for actions during combat in Iraq.

"Sergeant First Class Shanaberger is a hero that gave all in the performance of his duty. The memory of Sergeant First Class Shanaberger is clearly of honor, duty to country, and fellow Soldiers. In keeping with these values, we want to advocate to our Soldiers that serve today and those that will serve in the future, this is the definition of selfless service," said the brigade commander.

After the dedication of the complex, a luncheon was held to honor the Shanaberger family, including Shanaberger's widow, Corey, who accepted a framed picture of the new facility from the brigade commander. In addition, the brigade unveiled its Fallen Soldier Memorial. The Soldiers' names engraved on the memorial cover the nation's conflicts from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and the Global War on Terrorism.

“Just as the World War II, Korean, and Vietnam memorials testify to the spirit and sacrifice of past Soldiers, this memorial honors the legacy of the Soldiers of the 16th Military Police Brigade (Airborne), both past and present, who fought and sacrificed so much for our great nation. They placed the mission first, they never accepted defeat, they never quit, and they never left a fallen comrade on the field of battle,” said Colonel Chambliss.

Also present for the dedication were Vietnam veterans from the brigade’s 23d Military Police Company, who had donated funds to help create the memorial. Their presence at the ceremony and other anniversary week events helped strengthen the bond between past and present paratroopers of the brigade. In addition to these solemn ceremonies, the brigade conducted several other events, including a change of responsibility for both the brigade and the 503d Military Police Battalion (Airborne) command sergeants major. The ceremony took place during a brigade run led by Brigadier General Rodney L. Johnson, commandant of the U.S. Army Military Police School and chief of the Military Police Regiment. He was in attendance for all of the brigade’s anniversary events.

The run began at dawn with Command Sergeant Major Jeffrey Butler as the senior enlisted Soldier in the brigade and Command Sergeant Major Brian Lambert as the senior enlisted Soldier in the 503d. As the run progressed, Butler relinquished responsibility of the brigade to Lambert, and Lambert relinquished responsibility of the battalion to Command Sergeant Major Donald Gower. Butler prepared to move onto his next position as the ninth Military Police Regimental Command Sergeant Major.

The brigade concluded its anniversary celebration by performing an airborne operation on Luzon Drop Zone at Camp Mackall, North Carolina, and entertaining its guests during the anniversary ball. The ball was filled with an atmosphere of excitement as the Commander’s Cup victors were announced and awarded their trophies. The Commander’s Cup is a series of physically demanding events in which the brigade’s companies compete against each other to earn victory. The rest of the evening was packed with fine dining, dancing, and words of wisdom and encouragement from Brigadier General Johnson.

---

*Captain Valenti is the public affairs officer for the 16th Military Police Brigade (Airborne).*



**The family of Sergeant First Class Wentz J. H. Shanaberger III cut the ribbon marking the opening of the military police complex named for him at Fort Bragg.**