



The Professional

A Warrior's Journal

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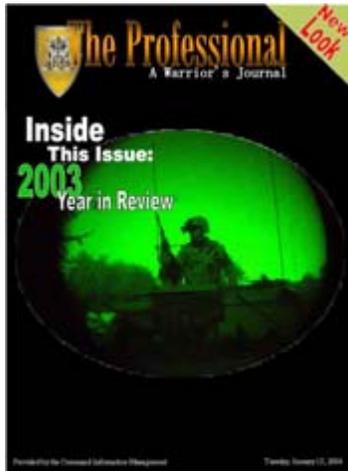
2003

Year in Review



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"The Crossing"

Color Pencil Relief filter in Photoshop
Original Photo from a MP Platoon River Crossing in Haiti

Future Columns...

Readers,
These are just a few ideas we are tossing around as future columns for "The Professional". If you have suggestions please let us know.

Kevin.T.Riley@us.army.mil



Managing the
Information
Super Highway

Our Army Values
in Action



Common Cents
Investing



Rhetoric Lessons...

"U.S and Allied forces liberating Iraq will attempt — more or less simultaneously — to end combat operations, cork public passions, disarm Iraqi Battalions, bury the dead, generate electricity, pump potable water, bring law out of embittering lawlessness, empty jails of political prisoners, pack jails with criminals, turned armed partisans into peaceful citizens, rearm local cops who were once enemy infantry, shoot terrorists, thwart chiselers, carpet-baggers, and black marketers, fix sewers, feed refugees, patch potholes, get trash trucks rolling and accomplish all this under the lidless gaze of Peter Jennings and Al-Jazeera."

National Review Online

Parting

Shots

I have always been judged or have been taught to judge my subordinates, peers, and superiors under the basis — would I want to be in combat with that person?

Lead Article by SSG Bachman, 143 MP Co



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A FOND FAREWELL
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THE WARM EMBRACE
170th MP Co

As I sit here in Baghdad, Iraq writing this article, I look about and I am in awe at what the brave young men and women of the Connecticut National Guard's, 143d MP Company have accomplished and continue to accomplish. I remember joining this unit in January 2000. Being an eight and a half year veteran in the Marine Corps, I have always been judged or have been taught to judge my subordinates, peers, and superiors under the basis, would I want to be in combat with that person. The big question that I had was, did the men and women of the 143d MP Company have what it takes to go into combat and survive? I had pondered that question at many Weekend Drills and Annual Trainings. February 7, 2003 came and my question would soon to be answered. The men and women of the 143d MP Company were activated for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Most would have thought a National Guard unit would be sent to a rear area base to provide security or some other support functions out of immediate harms way. The opposite occurred to Connecticut's 143rd MP Company. They found themselves traveling the long road to the Heart of Iraq, BAGHDAD; attached to the 709th MP BN, regular Army, also known by their call sign "WARRIOR". Upon reporting, our active duty brothers probably wondered if this National Guard unit had what it took to meet the challenges usually fulfilled by active duty units. The answer was quick to follow. Within a week the MPs of the 143rd were conducting combat patrols in the chaotic streets of Baghdad; twenty-four hours a day, conducting raids, cordon and search operations, check points, and joint patrols with a barely functioning Iraqi Police force; running day to day operations at Police Stations and training Iraqi Policemen in regards to all facets of law enforcement. All the while enduring scorching summer temperatures reaching in the high 130 degrees; witnessing comrades wounded by roadside improvised explosive devices, mortar attacks, grenade attacks and ambushes. In a country that turned violent and chaotic, the men and women of the 143d MP Company proved themselves without a doubt to be professional warriors in the truest sense. I find it hard to imagine being with any other unit anywhere else at this moment in time except with the 143d MPs.

I chuckle as I think back several months ago when the 143d MP Company was assigned to the 1st Armored Division; attached to an 82nd Airborne to continue combat patrols, raids, etc... and were met with a common question as we worked shoulder to shoulder with these combat arms soldiers, "Where you

(Continued on page 4)

WARRIORS



(Continued from page 3)

stationed out of?" we would respond "Connecticut", a look of puzzlement, would appear on their face, then they would follow up with the next question, "What Army Base is in Connecticut?" The answer with a grin "None, we are National Guard". They were shocked. Not only had they come to trust and respect us, but they also liked working with us. That in itself for an airborne infantryman to admit about a Military Policeman is almost unheard of, and then to top it off we were National Guard left them rethinking the old image of the lazy, untrained, undisciplined Guardsmen. I would watch my squad interact with Delta Company, 1/325 82nd Airborne and seeing my soldiers bond with the regular Army soldiers, knowing we all shared a common bond. We worked together as a team Regular Army

and National Guard in the mean streets of Baghdad. Our assignment with them lasted the entire summer; the time of the year when crime in Baghdad was at its highest; another professional

"What Army Base is in Connecticut?" The answer with a grin, "None, we are National Guard."

notch in our gun belts.

Upon returning to the 709th MP BN. the 143d was assigned a great responsibility; shaping, training and reforming of the

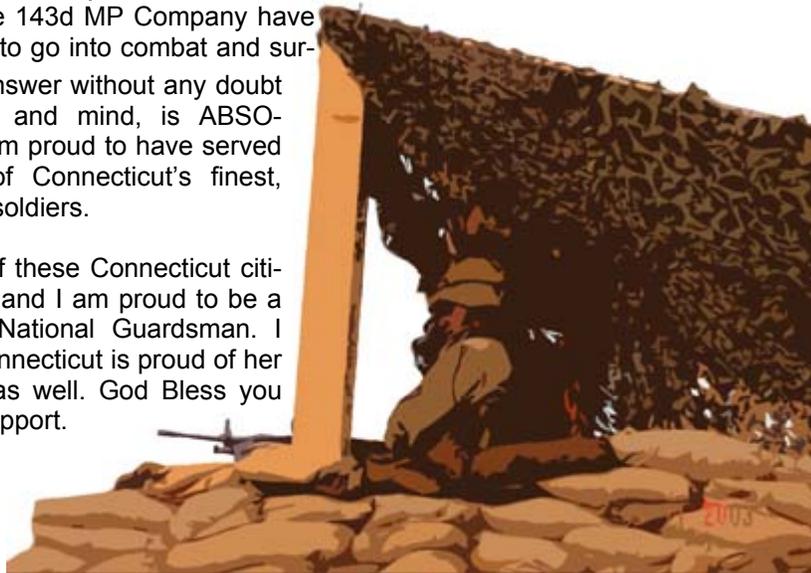
Iraqi Police Force and their Police Stations day to day operations. They met the challenge head on, having civilian law enforcement professionals in the ranks, the task was perfect. The 143d MP Company trained Iraqi Police in tactics, ethics, and daily patrol operations of a law enforcement agency. Police Station operations proved to be a daunting task but not impossible. The 143d was one of first units to claim that, due to their efforts, their stations were operationally ready to be handed over to the Iraqi Police to run on their own. With little more than two and a half months remaining in theater, I look around at the faces of these men and women and see a sense of pride in a job well done. They have overcome the shock of a year long

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deployment, a deployment that put them into a hostile environment, extreme weather, and harsh living conditions. They have adapted, improvised, and overcome all obstacles in order to accomplish the mission. I stand proud with these men and women, knowing they have given their all in blood, sweat, and tears in a combat environment. Now I can finally answer the question that has been with me concerning my National Guard family; did the men and women of the 143d MP Company have what it takes to go into combat and survive? The answer without any doubt in my heart and mind, is ABSOLUTELY! I am proud to have served with some of Connecticut's finest, professional soldiers.

I am proud of these Connecticut citizen soldiers, and I am proud to be a Connecticut National Guardsman. I know that Connecticut is proud of her Guardsman as well. God Bless you all for your support.



Homeward Bound

With redeployment fast approaching, the daily operations of the 615th MP Co are beginning to increase with a sense of excited urgency. Soldiers continue to conduct their daily reconnaissance and surveillance patrols out in sector; MP teams are conducting inventories of equipment, cleaning platoon property, and preparing TDA property for the incoming unit. When squads return from reconnaissance and surveillance patrol out in sector the soldiers and leader's day is just beginning; vehicles and weapons are prepared for the next day's mission and then the focus shifts to redeployment activities.

Each day more and more of the units' equipment is being packed out with an

emphasis on having only mission essential items in use by the time the relief in place process begins early next month. While NCOs continually urge soldiers to mail home all unnecessary items, the commander is urging leaders to keep their soldiers heads in the game, "We are not done with our mission until we step foot onto the airplane taking us to Germany." The soldiers and leaders in the unit all know that now is not the time to make a careless mistake - so

close to redeployment. Meanwhile the First Sergeant and operations section is ensuring the redeployment benchmarks are met as the end of the hardship of deployment edges inevitably closer. Leaders at all levels are paying the price of long hours and careful planning now to reap the dividends of seeing all of their soldiers reunited with their families in the very near future.

As all this occurs in Iraq, the Family readiness group (FRG) that has tirelessly supported the unit throughout this deployment with care packages, letters, and banners for the soldiers, prepares for the arrival home of their loved ones. Month after month the FRG continued to send package after package to the company for distribution to all soldiers. For single soldiers this act of kindness will not soon be

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WARRIOR ETHOS

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team.

I serve the people of the United States and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.

I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.

(Continued from page 5)

forgotten. A care package was always a welcome sight after a long day of patrolling in the unforgiving heat, irritating dust, and spine tingling sound of rounds popping in the not so far off distance. To the family and friends who supported us during this deployment we thank you and look forward to seeing you soon.

Until then, the mission presses onward without pause. The soldiers whose duty it is to execute know that soon they will be in the arms of their loved ones. When the time comes for the Bloodhounds to turn the mission over to the incoming unit every soldier will leave Iraq knowing that they have played a major part in history by restoring freedom to a formerly oppressed nation. As one soldier put it so eloquently, "every returning unit has a story to tell, some stories are better than others, this one is better than most!"

The Giving Spirit

While our time left here in Baghdad winds down, the 527th MP CO would like to extend our thanks to the many individuals and groups that contributed their time and effort to making quality of life improvements for the soldiers deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. More often than not, these contributions were not requested but given freely by individuals who cared about our deployed soldiers.

Some of the contributions include seemingly limitless amounts of personal hygiene items. Those items were especially appreciated; particularly early in the war, when supplies were limited, post exchanges were non-existent, and showers were few and far between. Those personal hygiene items sent from home were critical then and even now when the variety of items available here in theater are limited. To all of the individuals that helped keep our supply constant, the company sends its thanks.

A very grateful thank you goes to our Family Readiness Group for their ever vigilant efforts in supplying the company with socks, underwear, and sports bras. Those contributions not only added to soldier morale but also increased soldier readiness. The company would also like to thank the FRG for the time taken in preparation of the pillows sent to the soldiers as well as the holiday gift packages. A special thanks goes out to all

those who contributed for their untiring work as a member of the FRG. You all have been a key link between the soldiers and spouses in the rear throughout the deployment.

The holiday times were especially difficult for soldiers as they thought back to previous years spent

"Until then, the mission presses onward without pause. The soldiers whose duty it is to execute know that soon they will be in the arms of their loved ones."

with loved ones and family members. This year we celebrated the holidays with countless care packages and gift items made and sent to all of the soldiers. What another great contribution to soldier morale! A visit from the owner of Ranger Joes at Christmas time was a pleasant surprise for the company. That visit was followed up with free t-shirts for everyone courtesy of Ranger Joe himself.

The 527th MP CO would also like to thank to the students, faculty and staff of Plumb Elementary School, Giessen Elementary School and the students of various elementary schools, numerous churches/congregations, and Veterans associations all over the United States for their non-stop support and thoughtful prayers throughout the war. It was wonderful for the soldiers to know that they were heroes to everyone back home.

Thanks are also in order for the Giessen Red Cross Office, Community Bank and 284th BSB ACS office. Your packages, cards and letter were very much appreciated. Thanks for being so involved in the welfare of your community and our families.

It would be impossible to name all of the individuals that contributed to the success of the 527th MP CO during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Please know that your contributions did not go unnoticed and were greatly appreciated. We couldn't have done it without you. **Strike Deep!**

CPT Andy Rodgers

A Fond Farewell

I want to take this opportunity to thank every individual, every company, our outstanding Family Readiness Group, and every family member that supported Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 709th Military Police Battalion during its deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Your letters of support, boxes of supplies, and continuous cheer and good will in supporting our troops, on many occasions seemed an invisible support that braced this unit through its arduous journey in Iraq.

Demonstrating a talent for organizing projects in support of the troops from a Thanksgiving poster to individually wrapped single soldier gifts decorated in painstaking detail; the Family Readiness Group never let our thoughts wander to far from the fact that we are all loved, cherished, and missed. Thank you for allowing us to accomplish the mission, unhindered by doubts and uncertainties in the lives we live 1000 miles away.

I also want to extend a warm thank you to Girl Scout Troop #1124, Pfizer Incorporated, University of Texas at San Antonio College of Business, San Antonio Community College Nursing students, Notre Dame Club of San Antonio, and Sign-a-Rama for their contributions to the Operation Shoebox Santa. Every soldier in HHD received a shoebox filled with books, and DVDs and other often missed comforts from home. The compassion and concern your organizations have shown is representative of a renewed patriotism and bond the American people have built with its fighting sons and daughters dressed in camouflage.

CPT Rudolpho "Rudy" Sandoval

The Warm Embrace

Since the beginning of our deployment, the 170th Military Police Company has received overwhelming support from a variety of people and organizations who have greatly contributed to the success of our mission. First and foremost, we have to thank the spouses of the outstanding soldiers of this unit for their commitment to family and their monumental faith in their nation and its armed forces. Thanks to all of our supporting units; the 504th MP BN, the 220th MP

BDE, 3/2 CAV Squadron, 2 BCT, CPA— Regional Security Officer (COL Bird), CPA— Force Protection Cell (MAJ Miller and MAJ Beckett), KBR, Task Force 4/64 Armor, and ultimately to the 709th MP BN and the 18th MP BDE who took us under their wing and made us feel a part of the team.

A huge thanks and many blessings to the Christian Heritage Academy, June Koenig, to the Whittin Middle School 5th Grade Class, Aki Velez, the Lacey Seventh-Day Adventist Church, to Marge and Wayne Voelker, Eilene Pugh, to Florence High School, Brenda Gregory, to Andree and Neil Erickson, to the Lacey Lakes Elementary School 5th Grade Class, to the American Red Cross, the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, and to the Washington State chapter of the Salvation Army. Your thoughtful and timely contributions during the holidays had an incredible impact on all of our lives.

We also want to thank those of you who participated in the Holiday gift drive. Know that because of your efforts, Baghdad and its children are feeling the warm embrace that is only felt in gifts given from the heart. The 170th Military Police Company is honored and bears with great pride, the duty to represent our nation in its endeavor to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Iraq. Simply to know that we are making a difference and giving others the opportunity to live with the basic freedoms our forefathers believed all men to be endowed with, is a rewarding experience in which we all have been given an opportunity to play a role.

We can not finish this article without giving special thanks to our outstanding Family Readiness Group and our Rear Detachment. While it is impossible for us to mention everyone who in one way or another contributed to our success and well being, we would like all of you to know that your contributions have not gone unnoticed. The soldiers of the 170th MP CO are eternally grateful to have such support from all of you. Our only request is that you continue your support for those who will be replacing us. Keep them in your prayers like you have the 170th, and hopefully with all of your help we will create a better reality for the Iraqi people. God Bless you and never forget that we could not have done what we have without your commitment.

The 170th Military Police Company



Military policemen and women pass out traffic tickets, help dependent children of military personnel across the street and check identification cards. The appearance of a military policeman at some event automatically connotes the relatively benign role of monitoring civil order or directing traffic.

It is now time, however, to recognize that the military police of the U.S. Army are also combat soldiers. It is time for MP unit leaders engaged in combat operations, those in military police brigades, MP battalions, division MP companies and combat support companies, to put on the green shoulder tabs (or green cloth loops) that denote commanders of combat formations. Today's military police are no longer engaged solely in the rear areas. They are as much in the midst of battle as any combatant. They are equipped to fight as infantry. In fact they are even more heavily armed since their basic weapons are a rifle and a pistol. They are also more mobile than foot soldiers with their up-armored Humvees and armored security vehicles. These vehicles deploy with machine guns and Mark 19 automatic grenade launchers. The firepower of a military police combat support company lacks only mortars to approach that of a light infantry battalion.

Green Tabs for Combat MPs

Army Magazine
January 2004

By Brig. Gen. Raymond E. Bell Jr., AUS retired

Almost every time one picks up a newspaper or magazine that has an article about Iraq or Afghanistan, the words "military police" (MP) jump out of the printed page. Casualty lists with the names of military police killed in action are appearing too frequently. Media photographers seem to favor MPs conducting armed searches as subjects. Proposals and entreaties for more military police are popping up in analyses of the current and future U.S. Army force structure. News of MP units called to active duty from the Army National Guard and Army Reserve frequents hometown releases and makes national publications.

But if the military police are getting increased publicity, their role in today's combat environment is hardly touched upon. That they are engaged in a fighting mode is glossed over. The MP image is still wrapped around the mission of law and order.

It comes as no surprise to the MP that his or her time in the crucible of battle has arrived. Military police know from the time they begin their advanced training that their duties will not be confined to placing handcuffs on recalcitrants' wrists or filling out incident reports. They are taught to possess the same combat skills as the infantry soldier and, to be sure, more is required of them than the rifle-equipped soldier. In addition to the rifle, they must master the pistol, not an easy task to accomplish.

"It is now time, however, to recognize that the military police of the U.S. Army are also combat soldiers"

The need for a greater military police presence in combat operations is also not new. As long ago as the invasion of Panama in 1989 when non-linear combat began to become the norm rather than the exception, it was recognized that military police were a versatile force of choice,

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even when battle was in progress. The situation in Haiti in 1994 really accentuated the importance of a heightened MP presence within the U.S. Army. It is a matter of record that then President Clinton called for more military police to be sent to the country when the situation began to deteriorate. The lessons learned in these former involvements bore real fruit when the United States entered the fray in Bosnia. There, military police operated effectively side by side with infantry and armored troops in peace-enforcing efforts.

The time is long past, however, when steps should have been taken to increase the number of active duty military police. Because the full capability of MPs is still not properly used, there has been much talk and little action to increase corps strength.

The burden of employment has thus fallen more and more on the National Guard and Army Reserve military police.

It is argued that more MPs are needed, but it is the mind-set that must be changed first. Commanders at all levels must recognize military police as combat soldiers as they go about employing them in the combat role for which they are already trained. The green tabs should be placed on MP unit leaders' shoulders in recognition that they are equals with their combat branch counterparts when it comes to commanding their units in battle. In fact, instead of having military police combat support companies in the MP force structure, the companies could well be called combat police companies. These companies as presently organized have more mobility, firepower and communication capability than light infantry bat-

talions, yet they have but a fraction of the light infantry battalion's manpower. In addition, by increasing the number of armored security vehicles in these companies, much needed increased vehicular protection is attained.

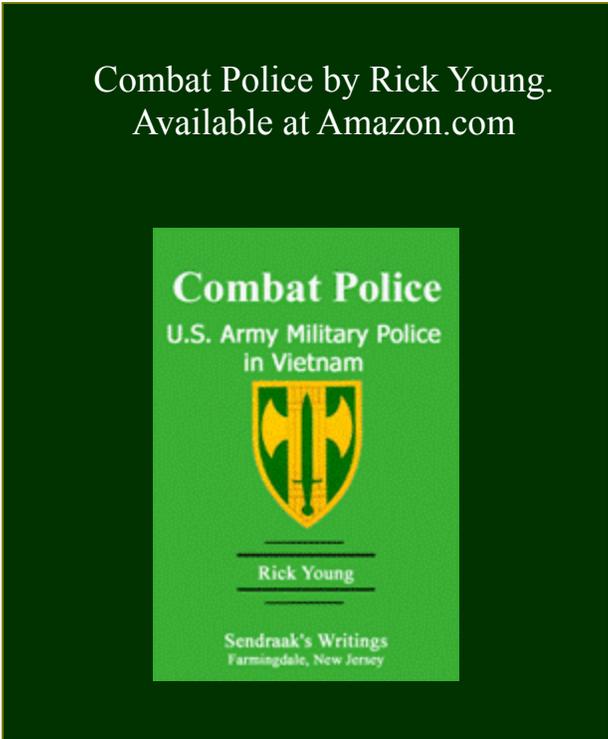
Some may question placing the military police on a status level approaching that of the infantryman, but competitions for soldier and noncommissioned officer of the month and of the year, in major commands, often see MPs taking the honors. Since the competitions are non-branch specific, the results clearly demonstrate that military police easily stand tall with their combat arms counterparts. They are truly combat soldiers. Until their potential is fully recognized, however, they will continue to be seen by the uninitiated as soldiers who are more concerned with issuing traffic summons than doing battle against terrorists and guerrillas.

Present day warfare so intertwines stability and reconstruction with traditionally recognized battle that what constitutes a combat arm has become vague. No longer, for example, can troops transporting beans and bullets be considered purely service support. They must be able to find their way about the battlefield and, when attacked, defend themselves.

The 507th Maintenance Company's experience in Iraq is a stark example of the present state of warfare. Military police, long considered combat support, but not on the same plateau as engineers, aviation and signal troops, presently find themselves more at risk even than most artillery units. MPs must be prepared, just like engineer soldiers, whose leaders wear green tabs, to fight as foot soldiers anytime in hostile territory. By doctrine, to be sure, military police

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“Because the full capability of MPs is still not properly used, there has been much talk and little action to increase corps strength. “



(Continued from page 9)

stand in the front ranks of first responders when service support units become incapable of defending themselves. On vulnerable lines of communications, as found in Iraq and Afghanistan, MPs must often go it alone in defeating ambushes, mines and roadside explosives.

According to green tabs to military police leaders commanding such units as divisional MP platoons or squads in combat support companies in itself does not make military police a combat arm. The

police leaders because of gender.

Finally, it seems a bit ironic that while the combat arms all have crossed weapons in their distinctive insignia -- crossed rifles for infantry, crossed arrows for Special Forces, crossed sabers for cavalry and armor, and crossed cannons for artillery - the only other branch with crossed weapons is not a combat arm. The weapons, of course, are the crossed pistols of the military police, officially a combat support branch.



granting of such recognition would in no way detract from the status enjoyed by combat arms branch leaders. It does not adversely affect U.S. Army regulations, Department of Defense directives, or congressional stipulations about women in combat. Women have held leadership positions in the military police combat support companies for years. In fact, women graduating from the U.S. Military Academy are choosing to be commissioned into the MP branch fully aware that they will most probably be sent in harm's way sometime in their military careers.

It should be noted that the subtle distinction which places women in charge of combat formations has been lost in the artillery, where women have held or hold, for example, command positions in air defense units. So there should be no cogent argument to be made for denying green tabs to military

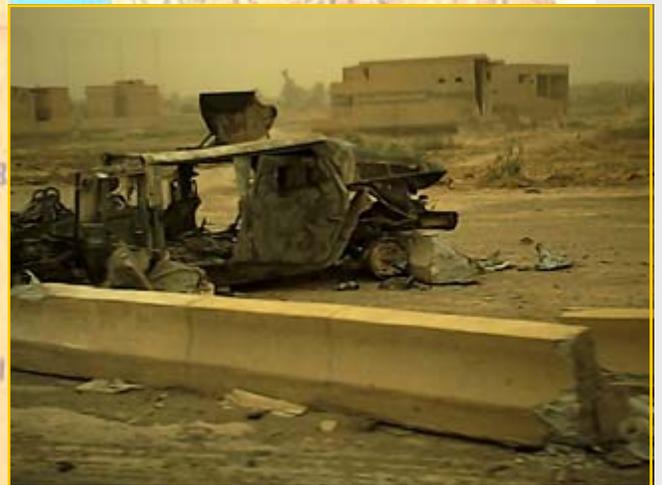
If it, for some reason, is inopportune to elevate military police to the ranking of a combat arm, it is nevertheless certain today that MPs and their leaders are just as likely to see combat in the same way as any infantryman or tankner or cannoner. Let us, at the very least then, put green tabs on the shoulders of our military police unit leaders who command those MP units who are most likely to do battle with the enemy.

2003 - Year in Review



22 March-- The Battalion crossed the Line of Departure at Lane 5 at 0900L. En route to a location just south of Tallil AFB where they spent the night. Early the next morning they moved to the first Corps Holding Area just outside Tallil AFB where they occupied space in the 3BDE, 3ID's rear area. Among the dozen prisoners inherited from 3ID was an Iraqi Air Force Brigadier General who one of the first Iraqi Generals captured in the war. He had been the base commander of Tallil AFB.

23 March Thru 10 April-- As the only MP BN operating in Iraq, the 709th provided convoy escorts from the Kuwait border to the 3ID rear near Karbala. During this time Saddam Fedeyeen who remained in control of the cities of Nasiriyah, Samawah, Najaf, Diwaniyah and Hillah. Attacks were so severe and numerous that the 82nd and 101st were called in to enter these cities and destroy the Fedeyeen



26 March-- Provided the screen along the MSR's west of Nasiriyah in conjunction with the US Special Forces and the USMC to destroy enemy forces as Marine units cleared the city ending a serious threat from noncompliant forces

2003 Year in Review



25 March— Elements of the 709th Military Police Battalion and the 511th MP Company boarded 11 striped down Black Hawk Helicopters and were flown from Camp New York to Tallil AFB to relieve the 3d Infantry Division Military Police from the EPW holding area. While not overly dramatic, this was the first air insertion of the war for the 101st.



24 April-- Moved the Battalion HQ to Tikrit and into the former Presidential Palace with the 4th Infantry Division who were trucking up from Kuwait. To replace the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force who had recently finished clearing the city. In Tikrit, the Battalion assumed the mission to defend Balad Airfield, which would become one of the largest Logistical Supply Areas (LSA) in Iraq.

3 May-- Before operations could move into full swing in Tikrit, the Battalion was ordered to Baghdad and given the responsibility of providing Law Enforcement and training for the Iraqi Police officers on the West side of the City



11 April-- Conducted the first meeting with local Sheiks along the major Main Supply Routes (MSR) to encourage them to reduce attacks. Attacks initiated from within cities under control of the Sheiks dropped dramatically following the event.



2003 Year in Review

Baghdad and Vicinity



19 May-- Operation Strike Cafe was the first combined operation between the IPS and US Military Police. Supported by 1-9 FA (3ID), MWD and Apache attack helicopters raided a store believed to be storing weapons. It marked the first anti-criminal raid directed to reduce rampant crime that had gripped Baghdad following the fall of the Regime.



7 Aug-- MPs and IPS were the first units to respond to the VBIED attack at the Jordanian Embassy. This was the first high visibility Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) in Baghdad; there would be several more to follow.

Multiple VBIED attacks across Baghdad target the ICRC and multiple Police Stations. Catastrophic attacks destroy two police stations. In the 709th sector, there was one attack which was mitigated by the force protection status of the police station and an alert MP on the roof who diverted the attacker to a less advantageous approach.

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2003 Year in Review



30 Nov - 10 Dec BN supported operation Iron Hammer in 1AD's targeting of rocketeers and other FREs who had conducted multiple attacks against CPA Headquarters. There have been no rocket attacks into the Green zone since the operation and attacks against Coalition have reduced significantly as well

21 Oct Near daily attacks through various means against MPs patrolling the Abu Ghraib area and the Abu Ghraib Police Station.

23 Oct BN suffered a complex attack in Abu Ghraib involving IEDs, Mortars and RPGs in approx. 2 hours. Two vehicles were damaged and one destroyed, Three seriously wounded MPs

26 Oct Mortar attack against the Abu Ghraib Police station killed one MP and seriously wounded two others

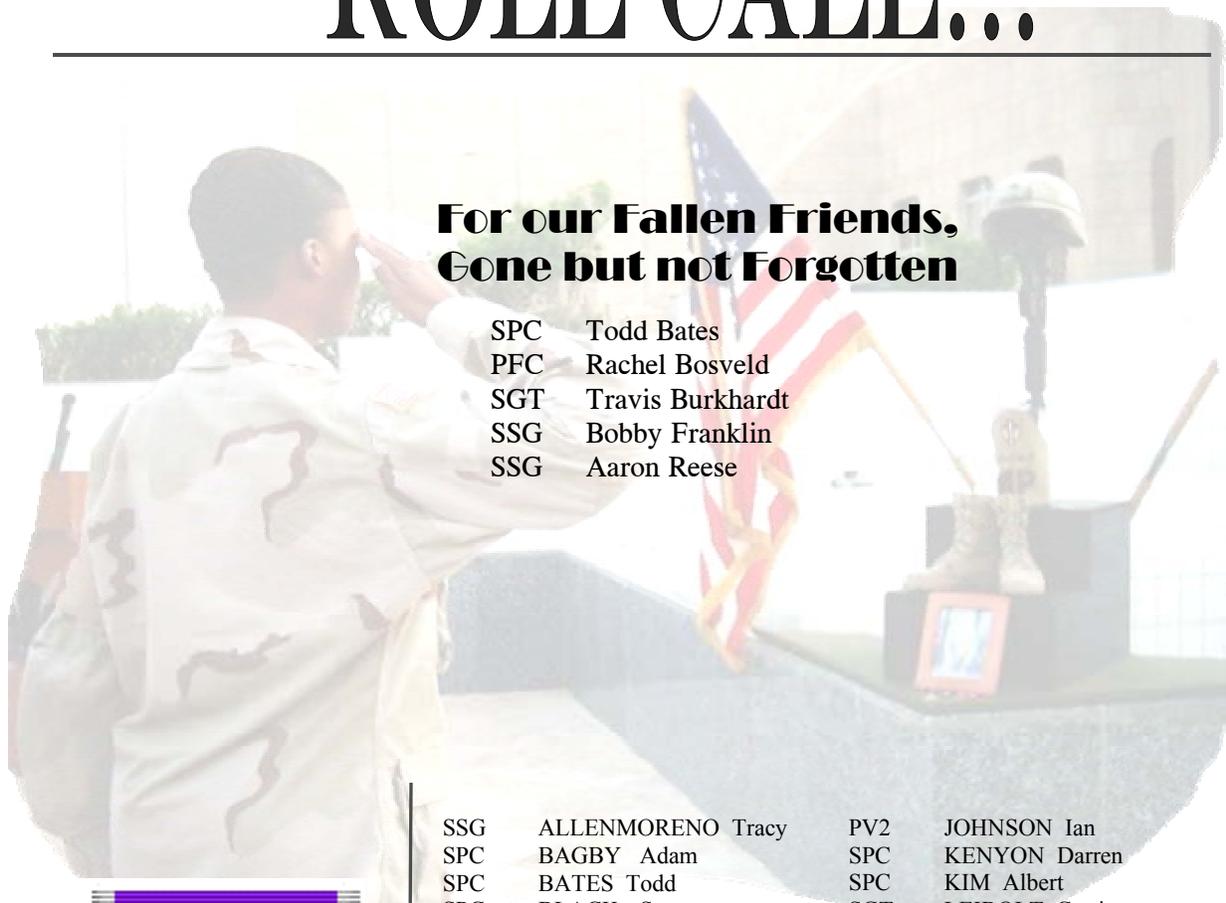
31 Oct MPs supported 2-70th AR in destroying the Abu Ghraib market after FREs attacked the Estonian PLT there.



ROLL CALL...

For our Fallen Friends, Gone but not Forgotten

SPC Todd Bates
 PFC Rachel Bosveld
 SGT Travis Burkhardt
 SSG Bobby Franklin
 SSG Aaron Reese



SSG ALLENMORENO Tracy	PV2 JOHNSON Ian
SPC BAGBY Adam	SPC KENYON Darren
SPC BATES Todd	SPC KIM Albert
SPC BLACK Steven	SGT LEIBOLT Carrie
PFC BOSVELD Rachel**	PV2 LENEHAN Donald
SGT BURKHARDT Travis	SPC MONROE Shawn
PFC BUSBY Christopher	CSM PAFF Dale
PV2 CARPENTER Jimmie	SGT PAREDES Jason
PFC CLARK Joshua	SPC PAROBECHK Joseph
SGT COLON Christopher	SPC RAUCH Todd
SGT CRAIN Johnny	SSG REESE Aaron
PFC DANIELS Shelly	SSG ROMEO Anthony
SPC ENGLAND Shawn	CPT SAMUELS Gregory
SGT FELTS Tracy	PFC SCHWARK Matthew
SSG FRANKLIN Bobby	SPC SEGRUE James
SSG GARLAND Charles	SGT STARON Michael
SPC GOMPH Jeremiah	SGT THORNE Jimmy
PFC GONZALEZ Juan	SGT TROTTER Robert
PFC HACKETT Patrick	SPC UNDERWOOD Scott
PFC HAYES Matthew	SGT WALLACE Eugene
SPC HIBBS Eric	PV2 WABREK Steven
SPC HIGGINS Mark	SGT WALSH Jessica
SSG HIMSEY Michael	SPC WEBB William
PFC HOLT Brian	SGT WHITEHOUSE Phillip
SSG HONAKER Charles	PFC WICHOWSKI Bartosz
1LT HONG Michael	PFC ZAMPAGLIONE William

** With Oak Leaf Cluster

JOHN F. GARRITY

Commander's Corner

BRAVERY. COURAGE, VALOR, HONOR, DUTY

Dear family members and loved ones of the soldiers assigned to the 709th Military Police Battalion,

THANK YOU

There is no way I can express my heartfelt thanks for all of your support during this deployment. Each of you has contributed to the success of the 709th Military Police Battalion. Your cards and letters, your packages, your e-mails, and your phone calls have kept what is most dear to us in our minds while we have served here in Iraq. Many of you have passed the addresses of soldiers who do not receive much mail to people who wanted to write to soldiers. Your acts of kindness have made a huge impact in the lives of these soldiers. There are others who have asked local businesses to donate items to make our lives better here in Baghdad. Every item we received was used to the benefit of the whole battalion. There are so many examples of individual acts of kindness I could not begin to list them. Please know in your hearts that you made a difference in our lives.

You are all selfless servants. You shoulder so much of the burden back at home yet you continue to lend your support to us while we are away. The Army family continues to grow stronger every day – YOU make that possible.

We all have much to be thankful for. The freedoms we enjoy as Americans are guaranteed by soldiers who are willing to defend our way of life. You are the foundation that gives soldiers the ability to serve our Nation. When Americans thank their servicemen and women, they do not understand the incredible support we receive from our families and friends. Believe me, soldiers understand. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

We miss all of you dearly but our job is not done yet and as much as we wish we were home, we must continue to protect this city from terrorism and the evil men who do not want freedom to survive.

On behalf of the brave, courageous, and selfless servants who call themselves, "Warriors", I thank you for your continued support of our mission and our soldiers here in Iraq.

Your loved ones from the HHD, 709th MP Bn (Hanau, GE), 143rd MP Co (CTARNG), 170th MP Co (Fort Lewis, WA), 527th MP Co (Giessen, GE), and 615th MP Co (Grafenwoehr, GE), miss you very much and can't wait to be in your arms again. You are all in our hearts and prayers.

This month we prepare to redeploy the HHD, 527th, and 615th MP Companies. Within a few weeks, your loved ones from these units will be in your arms again.

May God bless each of you today and every day.

With deep appreciation,

John F. Garrity
Lieutenant Colonel, Military Police
Commanding

