

Carlisle Barracks police celebrate MP birthday

By Thomas Zimmerman 01 October 2018



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Organized by Svend Sheppard, a Supervisory Police Officer and Detective here, the event allowed attendees to share stories of their times as MPs and talk how the role of the force has evolved over the nearly-80 years of service.

U.S. Army Military Police History

A Provost Marshal General's Office and Corps of Military Police were established in 1941. Prior to that time, except during the Civil War and World War I, there was no regularly appointed Provost Marshal General or regularly constituted Military Police Corps, although a "Provost Marshal"

can be found as early as January 1776, and a "Provost Corps" in 1778.

The Military Police Corps is one of the youngest branches of the United States Army. It was officially established on September 26, 1941. Its traditions of duty and service establish its solid foundation as recognized professionals in our armed services. Soldiers have been performing police duties from the time of the Revolutionary War when these duties were assigned mainly to a mounted police force called the "Troops of the Marechaussee." Soldiers in the Veterans Reserve Corps and Provost Corps performed military police duties during the Civil War. Military Police served with distinction in the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict and Vietnam.

As a result of their distinguished service in Vietnam, the Military Police Corps was designated as a combat support branch on October 14, 1968. Since Vietnam, the versatility of the Military Police Corps has made it a "Force of Choice" for use in low intensity conflicts and operations other than war in which our nation has been involved, such as Operation Urgent Fury, Grenada and Just Cause, Panama.

During Operations Desert Shield and Storm and Provide Comfort, Military Police provided area security, conducted battlefield circulation control, and exercised custody over thousands of Iraqi prisoners of war.

Since 1991, the Military Police have assisted in restoring hope to Somalia and upholding democracy in Haiti, maintaining order in war-torn Bosnia, as well as conducting patrols, operating checkpoints, and conducting investigations in an effort to keep the peace in Kosovo. After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Military Police Soldiers have been in constant action providing security and mobility support, police operations, and internment on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, and guarding our Nation's enemies at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Our Military Police have developed their professional skills through realistic training and experiential learning during installation policing and corrections. With seventy percent of the Military Police force residing in National Guard and U.S. Army Reserves, our Military Police are critical operational reserves and are ideally postured to conduct Homeland Defense and Defense Support to Civil Authorities missions.

As one of the most deployed branches of the service, the Military Police Corps will continue to be recognized as professional "Warrior Police" who are the Army's experts at promoting law and protecting the force both at home and abroad across the range of military operations.

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