

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 18TH MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE
APO 96491

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REGULATION
NUMBER 190-8

MILITARY POLICE

Military Police Operations

1. PURPOSE: To provide guidance to commanders and provost marshals on the concept of military police employment in the Republic of Vietnam as it applies to elements of the 18th Military Police Brigade.
 2. RESPONSIBILITIES: The 18th Military Police Brigade, a major subordinate command of Headquarters USARV, exercises command and control over all non-divisional military police resources.
 3. MISSION: To provide complete military police support, to include physical security and criminal investigative service throughout South Vietnam for US Army forces, within resources; and to exercise command and control of assigned and attached military police units unless otherwise provided.
 4. ORGANIZATION: The 18th Military Police Brigade is organized under COSTAR. It consists of two military police groups, the 16th, 89th and one Criminal Investigation Group (Provisional). All military police are employed on an area support basis. Area support is defined as the conduct of military police operations on a routine basis in a designated geographical area where supported units are located. On occasion, the support may be of a more direct form to a specific unit, however such support is normally for short periods and is on a mission type basis.
 - a. The 16th Military Police Group, consists of the 504th Military Police Battalion (19-35F), the 93rd and 97th Military Police Battalions (19-500E), 981st Military Police Company (SD) and the 177th and 178th Military Police Detachments (19-500E). With these resources the 16th Military Police Group provides area military police support within the I and II CTZ's.
 - b. The 89th Military Police Group, consists of the 716th and 720th Military Police Battalions (19-35F), the 92nd and 95th Military Police Battalions (19-500E), the 212th Military Police Company (SD) and the 179th and 90th Military Police Detachments (19-500E). With these resources, the 89th Military Police Group provides area military police support within the III and IV CTZ's. Operational control of the 716th Military Police Battalion
- *This regulation supersedes 18th MP Bde Reg 190-8, 20 January 1968. This regulation rescinds 18th MP Bde Ltr, SUBJECT: Relocation and Reallocation of Brigade Resources, 10 September 1967.

and the 90th Military Police Detachment is the responsibility of the United States Army Headquarters Area Command, Saigon.

c. The Criminal Investigation Group (Provisional) provides centralized command and control over all non-divisional criminal investigation activities in Vietnam. It is composed of the 40th, 87th, 147th, and 252d Criminal Investigation Detachments. These detachments are located in II and III CTZ's and provide criminal investigation support in the I, II, III and IV CTZ's.

d. In addition, the 458th Transportation Company (PBR), is assigned to and under the operational control of the 18th Military Police Brigade. This company provides security of ports, vessels and inland waterways throughout the four corps tactical zones.

5. OPERATIONS: Military police support is provided on an area basis to relieve combat commanders of police responsibilities not directly associated with combat missions; control and security of base camp areas; and insure complete area coverage.

a. In accomplishing the above, the Commanding Officer, 16th Military Police Group functions as the Provost Marshal, I and II CTZ's, while the Commanding Officer, 89th Military Police Group functions as the Provost Marshal, III and IV CTZ's. Commander/Provost Marshal responsibility thus becomes a dual role for the incumbent (See Appendix A).

b. Each battalion is assigned an area of responsibility based upon its strength, organization and capabilities. The missions performed include: combat operations in an assigned tactical area of operations, combat support provided directly to combat units, PW evacuation, physical security, convoy escort, route reconnaissance, sentry dog operations, military police operations in built up areas, and other routine military police services. Normally, combat support will be provided on a direct support basis as opposed to OPCON or attachment, and the amount provided will be based upon mission requirements.

c. Battalion commanders function as area provost marshals in their assigned geographical areas of responsibility. Provost marshals operating in cities and installations within a battalion area of responsibility will function as assistant or deputy provost marshals under the command and supervision of the battalion commander/provost marshal. The battalion commander/provost marshal will establish military police stations at those locations within his area of responsibility where military police operations are not of sufficient magnitude to justify a provost marshal. The senior military police officer/non-commissioned officer at these locations will function as the station commander.

d. Commanders will insure that the Vietnamese National Police are advised of the conduct of all US investigations wherein the Government of Vietnam has a vested interest. They will be offered the opportunity to participate in a

combined investigation, if desired, and will be kept completely informed, within security limitations, during the progress of all investigations. In addition, the results of each investigation will be discussed with the Vietnamese counterpart to include the actions taken.

e. Commanders/provost marshals at all levels will upon receipt of this regulation insure that major commanders, local senior commanders, Vietnamese law enforcement counterparts and other FVMAF police agencies are briefed on this concept of military police operations and the variety of support available to them. Subsequent briefings will be presented as often as required. These briefings will point out the increased response, flexibility and advantages of the area concept of operation (See Appendix A).

f. Provost marshals at all levels will monitor the criminal investigation program and activities within their areas of responsibility. In addition, each provost marshal and local criminal investigative element will establish procedures to insure both are informed on all complaints and CI cases being conducted.

6. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY:

a. Relocation of units.

(1) Group commanders may relocate on a permanent basis platoon size units, military police stations, and CI field offices without prior approval of this headquarters. Report such action to this headquarters within 24 hours after movement, to include location by grid coordinate.

(2) Group commanders may further delegate this authority to battalion commanders and CI detachment commanders, as appropriate.

(3) The brigade commander retains the authority to relocate company size and higher units as well as the relocation of provost marshal detachments and CI detachments.

b. Commitments.

(1) Group commanders are authorized to make personnel adjustments in existing missions, reporting such action to this headquarters within 24 hours.

(2) Group commanders may assume commitments of short duration involving units of platoon size or smaller.

(3) The brigade commander retains the authority to assume new missions of a permanent nature, all commitments having possible political implications, and commitments involving units larger than a platoon. Termination authority for these same missions and commitments also rests with the brigade commander.

c. Emergencies. In the event of local emergency, group commanders may commit up to one company or equivalent size force for a period not to exceed ten days, immediately notifying this headquarters of action taken.

7. COMMAND RESPONSIBILITY: Inherent in the commander/provost marshal concept is the philosophy that command takes precedence over staff responsibilities. In this connection, commanders/provost marshals will avoid becoming involved in the routine day to day administrative functions of their subordinate provost marshals. Subordinate provost marshals are responsible for the conduct of all military police activities within their assigned geographical areas, and as such, will be appointed as staff provost marshals to the local area/installation commanders. The commander/provost marshal will provide the necessary overall direction and supervision to all subordinate provost marshal activities.

8. PRIORITIES: Brigade resources will be employed in consonance with the three principal priorities of combat, combat support and combat service support as established below:

a. Combat. Offensive and defensive operations within an assigned Tactical Area of Responsibility or Area of Operations.

b. Combat Support.

(1) Direct combat support provided to combat units.

(2) Evacuation of PW's from division and separate brigades and control of PW's in US custody.

(3) Specialized physical security measures critical to accomplishment of combat operation (Examples: security of vessels, ports, inland waterways, pipelines, ammunition depots, supply convoys moving through hostile territory, lines of communication, and tactical operations centers of major headquarters).

(4) Other physical security measures requiring specialized military police techniques or equipment (Examples: security of high value items and major supply depots, other facilities currently using sentry dogs).

(5) Security of installations from hostile attack, wherein units employ techniques of combat units.

c. Combat Service Support.

(1) Discipline, law and order, to include prevention and investigation of crime, confinement of US prisoners, identification and control of individuals entering or exiting major installations, and military police customs operations at selected locations.

(2) Specialized physical security measures for sensitive installations and classified material (Examples: classified weapons or ammunition, radio relay sites).

(3) Security measures capable of being performed by interior guards.

d. Since contingency functions (VIP escort, rear area security, etc.) are not continual functions they will be assigned a priority depending in each instance on the importance or urgency of the task.

9. RELATIONSHIPS AND REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT:

a. The 18th Military Police Brigade will provide military police on a mission type basis operating in a direct support role. Priorities as stated in para 8 are established for all brigade elements and provide the basis for the employment of military police when requirements exceed capabilities.

b. Direct coordination between military police group commanders and the field forces provost marshals and between battalion commanders and division provost marshals is authorized and encouraged. Under normal conditions, requests for support from division provost marshals will be channelled thru the field force provost marshal to the appropriate military police group commander (See Appendix B).

10. SUMMARY: The military police concept in Vietnam is one of flexibility and response. It is based on satisfying the total needs of all US Army elements in Vietnam. The intent of the area concept is to avoid static commitments on a continual basis. It dictates a need to review periodically personnel and equipment resources against mission requirements. Further, it insures the proper and effective utilization of manpower and material in the accomplishment of the overall mission of the military police in the Republic of Vietnam.

11. REFERENCES:

- a. AR 195-10.
- b. MACV Directive 190-1.
- c. USARV Regulation 190-1.
- d. USARV Regulation 195-10.

(AVBGC)

FOR THE COMMANDER:

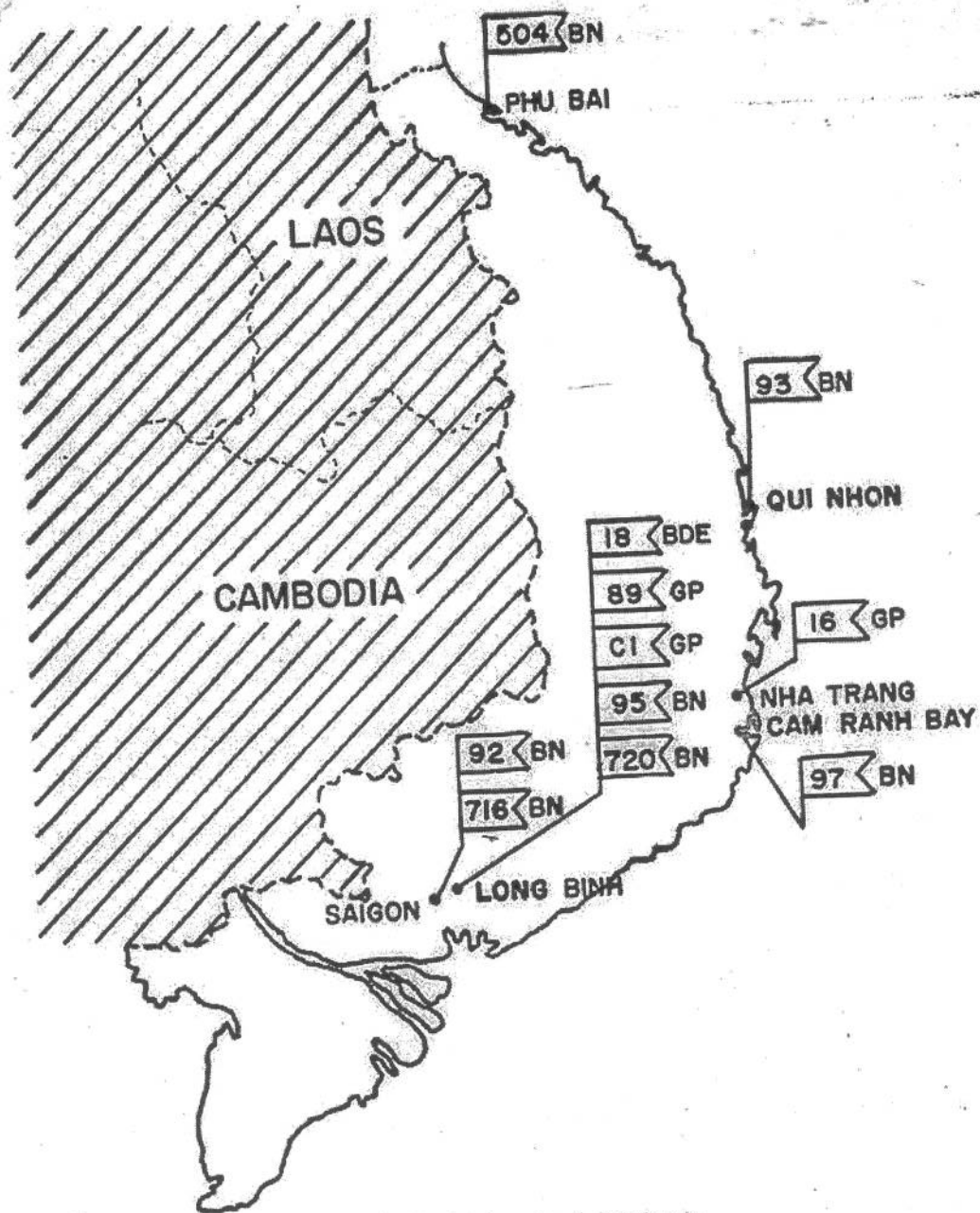
Handwritten signature: J. W. Mitchell
J. W. MITCHELL
CPT, AGC
Asst Adjutant

PAUL B. DURUZ
Colonel, MFC
Chief of Staff

2 Appendices
as

DISTRIBUTION:

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Current Vietnam locations of major brigade units.

SEPTEMBER 1969

"When we got there, the CO said we were going to take the place," Healey said. "I moved up and got as far as the gate. Every time a VC moved from behind a flower pot, I shot him." The MP then made it to the front door of the Embassy and was attacked by a grenade-wielding VC. He cut the man down, but not before the invader threw the grenade which hit Healey in the leg and rolled to the steps behind him. The MP jumped behind the fallen enemy and when the grenade went off the enemy body absorbed most of the blast. Healey looked up in time to see another VC trying to escape over the wall and killed him. "Then another VC tried to get behind the gate, and I shot him, too."

"I saw two more VC come around a corner. I threw a grenade and it landed right in the middle of them. When the smoke cleared there were three bodies."

Healey and two other MPs went after the last VC who had holed-up in the home of the US Mission Coordinator. They opened a door and the VC opened up with an AK-47. So Healey and a Marine guard went to another door, opened it and lobbed a grenade inside. But the enemy shot the Marine and the MP pulled him to safety. Healey then threw a pistol to the US Mission Coordinator who was stranded on the second floor without a weapon.

The MP and an officer threw two tear gas grenades into the house, causing the VC to flee up the stairs where he was killed by the Mission Coordinator.

Healey was later awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions, but every member of the battalion was honored for their part. Shortly afterwards, the battalion received the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, and later, special recognition from Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, who paid thanks to the MPs during a ceremony in which a plaque, honoring the four MPs and the Marine who died in the assault, was placed in the chancery of the Embassy building.

Speaking of these men and the 716th, Ambassador Bunker said, "The alertness, aggressiveness and tenacity of these men during the Viet Cong attack on the US Embassy helped thwart the enemy from their goal of destruction."

The battalion's performance was most recently recognized when, in his first award of this type, President Richard M. Nixon awarded the Presidential Unit Citation to the battalion.

But since the brigade MPs patrol and defend most of the major cities in Vietnam, the other battalions distinguished themselves by repelling many enemy attacks in the country-wide fighting. A combined force from the 504th and 97th MP Battalions helped turn back an enemy assault on the coastal city of Nha Trang. A report from one of the company commanders said that the MPs "quickly adopted infantry-type roles for street and house-to-house fighting."

They also repelled an attack on the Roberts (MACV) Compound in the center of the city. The Nha Trang MPs killed 18 of the enemy without losing a single man.

At that time the huge Long Binh Post complex also came under attack when a large enemy force hit the large ammunition supply depot with a rocket and ground attack.

The VC penetrated the perimeter and a reaction force from D/52d Infantry, 95th MP Battalion, rushed to the area to reinforce the defenders. Following a savage firefight the reaction force confined the VC to one small area of the ammo dump and then flushed them out in a sweep. Men of the 95th also kept the Cogido barge site from being overrun by the enemy.

The 720th and 92d provided convoy security and cleared the roads and highways during the enemy offensive. On the second day after the Tet offensive began, the 720th received six armored personnel carriers, the first for any brigade unit in Vietnam, and pressed them into service within five hours after delivery, barreling through ambushes and escorting reinforcements defending the Cogido barge site.

No sooner had the smoke from the Tet offensive in Saigon cleared when the Viet Cong struck again on 5 May 1968. The MPs of the 716th immediately provided security for US installations and personnel. The MPs also moved convoys through Highway 1A which came under heavy attack.

At least one MP, SP4 Robert L. Scott, found himself in a real-life drama which he will never forget. Scott and several other MPs were engaged in a firefight at the Phan Thanh Gian Bridge in Saigon. The MPs were on the bank of the river and engaging the enemy who were holed-up in several nearby houses facing a small alley.

"Several of us moved up the alley to lay fire on the enemy when a Vietnamese soldier ran past me and began firing on an enemy strong point. I didn't know at the time that he was BG (Nguyen Ngoc) Loan, Chief of the National Police."

During the fight General Loan was wounded and Scott pulled him to safety. The MP took up a position in the house and killed a VC trying to attack him with a grenade. He and the general then escaped through neck-deep water to another house.

Also in the Spring of 1968 another new facet of military police operations came into being when the 458th Transportation Company (PBR) became the first transportation company to be assigned to an MP unit. The company, which operates river patrol boats (PBRs), was assigned to the brigade to aid in the MPs' growing port security commitments.

These PBRs soon became a formidable mainstay of military police operations. The boats were deployed throughout some of the most important ports in Vietnam, including Qui Nhon, Vung Tau, Cat Lai, Newport (Saigon Docks) and Vung Ro Bay.

The PBRs are armed with twin electric .50 caliber machine guns on the bow, a conventional .50 at the stern, and a Honeywell 40mm grenade launcher amidships, in addition to the crew's individual weapons. The craft can travel 32 knots and stop or make a 180 degree turn within its own length. The PBRs are constructed primarily of fiberglass and, although they are propelled by two powerful engines, draft only nine inches of water. This shallow draft characteristic allows passage of the boats over water routes used by even the smallest sampans. To provide a greater capability during limited visibility, the craft is also equipped with radar gear.

The PBRs are manned by five-man crews consisting of two MPs, two personnel from the 458th Transportation

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Company (PBR), and either a Vietnamese National Policeman or a Vietnamese MP (Quan Canh).

The boats patrol harbors and inland waterways to guard against the sabotage of allied vessels by enemy swimmers. The patrols also check debris floating into the harbors for hidden mines. In addition, nearly eight thousand junks and sampans travelling the harbors and waterways are checked by the patrols each month for contraband items and enemy supplies.

Another important function of the patrol boats is providing escort and security for huge ammo barges as they are towed from Cai Lai to the Gocdo ammunition discharge point on the Dong Nai River.

One of the biggest boosts in the MP's police mission was the opening of an Army Crime Lab—only one of four in the world—by the 8th MP Group (CI) on Long Binh Post during July 1968. The laboratory, which now contains six divisions—chemistry, fingerprinting, document analysis, firearms, photography and polygraphic—has saved much time and has provided for quick interpretation of evidence and the administration of justice. Previously, evidence had to be sent to the US or Japan for analysis and, many times, a lab technician had to be flown to Vietnam to testify at courts-martial.

The 8th MP Group (CI) also has five criminal investigation detachments and field offices located throughout the Republic. Ninety-one investigators have opened more than 2,500 criminal investigations since the beginning of 1969, primarily into black market activities and currency and customs violations. Fatal traffic accidents and fatal accidental shootings are also investigated.

In August 1968, BG Gustafson was promoted to major general and transferred to Washington to become The

Provost Marshal General. Taking his place was COL William H. Brandenburg, who still commands the brigade.

The military police worked in relative calm until February 1969, when they again found themselves at the front line of combat.

At 0200 hours, a 720th MP Battalion ambush squad, located on a hill in their TAOR, observed enemy rockets being fired into Long Binh Post. The squad leader, SSG Donald Meador, recalled that they also saw "about 300 VC crossing a small river nearby. We requested artillery. The view from our hill was fantastic, so we could see every move they made. We pinpointed the fire with extreme accuracy. Every round was right on the money."

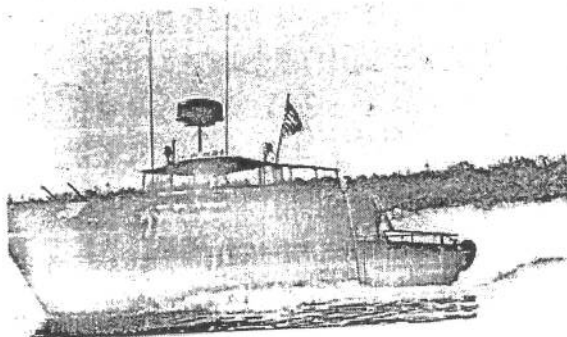
The squad directed artillery fire and air strikes for several hours until they were discovered.

"Then they started to hit us with mortars, RPGs and automatic weapons fire," said SP4 Delbert Austin, "so we jumped into some artillery craters. But the fire got so bad we had to leave the hill and set up a defensive perimeter at the bottom."

Reinforcements from the 199th Light Infantry Brigade helped the squad retake the hill.

Right: A combined police patrol aids victims of a traffic accident.

The patrol includes MPs, Vietnamese National Police and Vietnamese Military Police. Below: A PBR speeds through the rivers near Vung Tau. These swift, maneuverable boats have been very effective in blocking the enemy's river supply routes and in preventing sabotage against allied ships.



In order to monitor the training program and ensure properly motivated prisoners are returned to duty as soon as possible, a clemency board meets weekly to review the records of selected prisoners. At the present time, some 52 prisoners (or one-eighth of the stockade's average population) are granted clemency each month.

Unfortunately, not every prisoner is capable or willing to return to duty with the proper attitude and motivation necessary to make him an asset to his unit. Thus, the second objective of the installation is "to promptly identify those military prisoners who will not, or cannot, respond to correctional treatment, retraining or discipline. For these prisoners, an expeditious release from the stockade, either through separation from the service or transfer to other correctional facilities, such as the Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, best serves the individual and the armed forces. In response to this second objective, the USARV Correctional Holding Detachment was activated on 19 January 1969, and became operational on 1 February. As of 2 June, the CHD had completed action on more than 300 administrative discharges, separating from the service prisoners deemed unfit or unsuitable for further retention in the armed forces.

The modernization of the facility and the introduction of progressive correctional techniques continues daily. With its philosophy that its location in a combat zone is no excuse for failure to maintain the highest standards of modern, progressive correctional treatment, the personnel of the USARV Stockade are meeting the dual objectives of their mission.

The brigade, since its arrival, has escorted many visiting VIPs throughout the Republic. While this is usually an extremely hectic job, with plans constantly changing, it is often the most enjoyable assignment an MP could want—like being actress Ann Margret's body guard. Besides providing security for ex-Vice Presidential candidate GEN Curtis LeMay and Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird, the MPs of the brigade have escorted every Bob Hope Christmas show since the unit arrived in Vietnam. The annual

Hope Show is a tremendous operation, involving most of the seven battalions of the brigade. For Hope's Long Binh visit, three battalions—the 92d, 95th and 720th—joined forces to provide VIP security escorts, crowd control, traffic control, and, of course, the front stage honor guards.

The show is always a success and, so far, the MP's mission has also been successful, with only a few minor incidents among the audiences. The show has provided entertainment for many thousands of servicemen over the last three years.

In April 1968, MG Gustafson, now The Provost Marshal General, returned to his old command and said he was "pleased and impressed with the progress of the brigade since I left Vietnam in August, particularly in its convoy and security missions."

The general also said he was continually seeking to improve the Military Police Corps, by taking advantage of the MP's new status to enlarge Military Police Corps school quotas and establish new schools. In Vietnam, the brigade has adopted this policy by setting up "on-the-scene" training programs for all new arrivals, and also a comprehensive week-long physical security survey course which teaches MPs to evaluate physical security measures and advise field and depot commanders.

Since the first award was presented in October of 1966, individual members of the brigade have won 303 decorations for valor. These include two awards of the Distinguished Service Cross, 42 awards of the Silver Star, 49 Soldier's Medals, 102 Bronze Stars with "V" device, and 108 Army Commendation Medals with "V" device. In addition, units of the brigade have been presented with 14 unit decorations, including a Presidential Unit Citation, a Valorous Unit Award and 12 Meritorious Unit Commendations.

The professionalism with which the 18th MP Brigade has accomplished its many and varied missions played a major role in the recent designation of the Military Police Corps as both an arm and a service.

The military policeman has always performed his duties with pride and professionalism and, though thrust into many unfamiliar roles, often unexpectedly and within the span of seconds, the 18th Military Police Brigade Military Policeman has more than upheld these standards.

Commanders of the 18th MP Brigade



COL Guidera



BG Moore



BG Gustafson



COL Brandenburg

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