

VIGILANT TIMES



18TH MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE



Feldjaegers and MPs strengthen partnership



A platoon and a three-Soldier color guard from the 527th Military Police Company, 709th MP Battalion, 18th MP Brigade had the privilege of participating in a Feldjaeger Change of Command ceremony Nov. 2 at Castle Schleissheim in Munich, Germany.

Command of Feldjaeger Battalion 451 was passed from

German Lt. Col. Kai Hadlich to German Lt. Col. Thomas Speck.

Feldjaegers are the German equivalent of U.S. Army military police. The U.S. and German forces have created a tradition of working closely with one another, a tradition which was strengthened with the participation of MPs in the Feldjaeger ceremony.

The ceremony was presided over by German Brig. Gen. Johann Berger, deputy commander, Defense Command IV, and attended by members of the royal family of Bavaria, 18th MP Bde. leadership, former commanders of Feldjaeger Battalion 451, friends, family and political and business representatives

See Feldjaeger page 3

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From the Commander's desk



During this special holiday, Tracie and I offer our heartfelt thanks to you--our Brigade Family. Whether active duty, Family member, or civilian, we are grateful for your extraordinary sacrifice and commitment to serve and defend the United States and to protect the freedoms every American enjoys. Our Families are a vital part of our brigade's success, which is why we are forever thankful for their contributions and sacrifices.

It has been an exciting and challenging year for this Brigade. From Afghanistan to Normandy the 18th Military Police Brigade has proven its tremendous ability to accomplish any mission assigned. The Operational Tempo has been fast and furious. As we try to slow down a bit and enjoy this time of thanksgiving, I challenge each member of our Brigade Family to find the

time to reflect on their family and give thanks.

As always, many of our servicemen and women are deployed around the world and will spend this holiday away from their Families. I ask you to keep these Soldiers and their Families in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to protect and secure liberty and freedom for all of us.

Tracie and I again wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving. We are proud to serve with each and every one of you.

Respectfully,
Thomas P. Evans
"Vigilant 6"

A note from the CSM



First, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very Happy Thanksgiving. We all have so much to be thankful for so please don't forget to thank your loved ones and reflect on and appreciate everything we have.

The past six months have been very busy for the Ever Vigilant Brigade and the next six months will be too. Our Soldiers are doing amazing things every day and I am extremely proud of them and proud to be your Command Sergeant Major.

Of course, none of our accomplishments could be possible without the great support we get from our Families. As we continue to build our team, as new members arrive and others PCS—we must ensure we keep the lines of communication open. I'm looking forward to this Newsletter as being one of the means to do that.

Again, Happy Thanksgiving and please enjoy a fun and safe holiday season!

Respectfully,

Vigilant 7

“Superstars” prep for deployment

The Rough Riders are on the road to war! In preparation for the deployment of Battalion HHD, we have set up our rear detachment leadership and staff. MAJ Samuel Harvill, coming from commanding USACF-E, is the rear detachment Battalion Commander. The rear Sergeant Major will be MSG Stogner, who hails from the 212th MP CO. In preparation for deployment, HHD “Rough Riders” conducted a change of command on October 14th. CPT Stephanie Reeves passed the guidon to 1LT Ryan Goltz. 1LT Diana Benton will command the rear detachment.

The Rough Riders FRG is standing up and very active under the leadership of Mrs. Ruth Banks. The FRG held a Fall Fest on October 30th with costumes, trick-or-treating, a cake walk, and games. We have many plans for activities during the deployment and are still building our membership. The unit held a “readiness rodeo” on October 26th for all



95th MP Bn. Soldiers conduct convoy live fire exercise in Grafenwoehr, Germany.

Soldiers and their Families to receive information from community representatives related to the deployment.

At the Superstar Battalion Hail and Farewell on October 29th, the Rough Riders hailed five people and farewelled another five. The farewells included SFC Daniel Stoner from the S3; CPT Michael Mounce, who will attend the Military Police Captain's Ca-

reer Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; MSG Paul Shaw, who is leaving the S3 Sergeant Major position to serve as the Senior Military Instructor at an ROTC unit in Boston; CPT Stephanie Reeves, who left HHD Command to work in the Brigade S1; and MAJ Richard Cranford, who is handing the Battalion Executive Officer position to MAJ Michelle

Goyette.

HHD has also welcomed CPT Jeffrey Sprunger, who will go forward with the S3; CPT (CH) Drew Arrington, who will serve as the forward chaplain for the battalion; SFC Gabriel OrtizGarcia, the S4 NCOIC; and CW1 Richard Smith, our Property Book Officer.

Rough Riders!

28th Transportation Battalion Update

Greetings from Coleman Barracks! The 28th Transportation Battalion, perhaps the most storied battalion in Mannheim, wishes everyone a safe and Family filled holiday season. For the first time since 2003, the En Temps Battalion has all of its companies home with the redeployment of 70th Transportation Company, the last unit in USAREUR to return from a fifteen month deployment. The 70th Soldiers flew into Ramstein on Friday, October 16th, and the chilly morning air was like permanent air conditioning after more than 450 days in the desert. In fact, the last few months have been full of redeployments for the 28th Trans Battalion as HHD, 68th Trans Company, 69th Trans Company, and 51st Trans Company all returned from OIF.

The 28th Trans Battalion wasted no time diving right back into the German community. The Griffins put on their last ever Community Halloween Run & Walk on BFV, starting outside the Commissary, on 30 October. Ghosts, ghouls, goblins, and Michael Jackson costumes stretched throughout the

community as Soldiers and their Families ran and walked through the housing areas on Sullivan.

The 28th Trans Battalion will prepare the final Thanks-



giving feast to be served at the Coleman DFAC. There will be food, fun, and seating for all as the 28th Trans DFAC is expecting record numbers this year.

The battalion will also support USAG Mannheim by opening the Sullivan Barracks DFAC and preparing Thanksgiving dinner for the Signal units and their Families.

Continuing through the

community, sports teams from the 28th Trans Battalion have had a great showing in what is likely their last season.

The softball team, made

playoffs on Saturday, October 24th. SSG Love, the coach, says the HHD team plans "to go all the way".

It hasn't been all play and no work in the battalion. The 515th Trans Company, preparing for a deployment next summer, has been working hard delivering HMMWVs across the brigade and participating in a German Schutzensnuhr with a partner unit. They also found the time to hold their own High Roller Challenge, a chance for Soldiers to compete against one another in team competitions.

Finally, many of the Soldiers returning from down-range have had the opportunity to participate in the Warrior Adventure Quest. These WAQ activities, including paintball, canoeing, and skiing, provide Soldiers with an opportunity to wind down from a deployment mindset with team building activities in a controlled environment. So far the activities have been a hit with the Soldiers, and the battalion looks forward to continuing these opportunities.

up of 13 Soldiers and led by SSG Simpson, won the Mannheim Community Championship after beating out the previously undefeated 95th MP Battalion. The team then went on to take fourth place out of twelve teams at the USAREUR championships. We're expecting similar success from the various 28th Trans Battalion football teams as they started their

Feldjaeger (cont'd)

from the local community.

With a level of pageantry unique to German ceremonies, the scene of the event—the garden of Castle Schleissheim—was made more grand by the many traditional German elements that were a part of the ceremony.

The bold and decorative uniforms of the Royal Bavarian (Infantry) Household Regiment stood out prominently through the morning fog with

their striking colors and ornate decorations. Also adding to the distinctiveness of the ceremony was the presence of a civilian salute battery dressed in traditional garb, who carried traditional, large-caliber, Bavarian guns, which they used at the end of the ceremony to render honors.

For the U.S. servicemembers in attendance, despite the many difference between a U.S. and a German ceremony, there were

elements that were noticeably shared by the two services. The passing of the unit's colors from Berger to the incoming commander was a familiar sight, as was the pass and review of the troops by the outgoing and incoming commanders.

For the Soldiers of the 527th MP Co. this ceremony was a unique opportunity to stand beside their counterparts and strengthen the partnership be-

tween U.S. and German forces while joining together in recognizing the accomplishments that have been made with past leadership as well as those to come under the new leadership.

Events such as this are one of the many ways that the MPs and the Feldjaegers are able to strengthen their partnership and cement their commitment to its continued growth.

9th Detachment

The variety of training events we have participated in over the last few months have helped to improve the overall morale within the unit. We have noticed an increase in the initial and mid-term Soldiers inquiring about "Present Duty Assignment" re-enlistment options.

Additional training support requirements have allowed our Soldiers the opportunity to share their DETOPS expertise with 173RD BCT JMRC Rotation and 1st Armored Division's MRX as they prepare to deploy.

The Unit FRG has been a success story since my first meeting. A recent highlight was the FRG-sponsored cook-out. Some of the topics covered were an etiquette information briefing for military formals, fund raisers, and healthy dieting. We concluded October with a Change of Responsibility ceremony on the 29th at the Coleman Gym.

In November, we welcomed home SSG Amber Smith, who deployed with the 172nd BCT.

We are excited to have five Soldiers volunteering as coaches for the Mannheim High School this

winter.

This month we scheduled a guest speaker from Vilseck to educate the FRG and BOSS participants on the Army Casualty Program.

In December, we are planning a Christmas Party for the unit on the 12th, and transitioning into the White Cycle. My primary focus for December is to ensure that all Leaders and Soldiers are well educated on Suicide Prevention and to ensure that Soldiers spend maximum time with Family members and loved ones.



MAJ Chad Goyette,
commander, U.S. Army
Correctional Facility-Europe



CH (MAJ) Brian Reck,
Chaplain, 18th MP Brigade

A thought from the Chaplain

"The self that any of us doubts, feels ashamed or guilty about, is not really who we are. Your self doubts about you, aren't about you at all, but about a misconception of yourself."

—Terry Warner *Bonds that Make Us Free*

Most every problem or conflict that afflicts our life is due to a misconception of how we see ourselves. The way we perceive others and the way they see us is blurred by that same false perception.

Scheduled Retreats:

70th Trans: 7-9 December 2009
(Couples/Singles Sauerland Stern Hotel in Willingen)

HHC 793rd: 4-6 December 2009
(Couples Sauerland Stern Hotel in Willingen)

HHC 95th: 23-25 January 2010
(Couples/Singles; Edelweiss Lodge, Garmisch)

HHC Brigade: 4-6 February 2010
(Couples/Single Parents; Edelweiss Lodge, Garmisch)

Honoring the Honor Guard

The 529th Military Police Company 'Honor Guard' ran in the beginning of FY 2010 with a bang, jumping right into weapons qualification training during the beginning of October, qualifying over 90% of its Soldiers on their assigned weapons systems. Also during this month the unit provided flawless color guard support to the 68th Annual Military

Police Corps Ball, comprised of senior noncommissioned officers assigned to the unit.

In December, the color guard will provide ceremonial support in Belgium.

The 529th Military Police Company wishes all Friends and Families of the Honor Guard a safe and happy holiday season as we approach the winter months.



Operations around the brigade

I know this will not come as a surprise to anyone, but the Ever Vigilant Brigade has been busy and very productive over the past few months.

After the success at the 65th Anniversary of the Normandy Landings in June the Brigade returned to Mannheim to begin focusing on preparing the 95th Headquarters Detachment and the Brigade Headquarters for deployment. In July the Brigade staff conducted a Battle Command Seminar with General (Ret) Hendrix and personnel from the Battle Command Training Program from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. During the three day event the brigade staff received support in developing the staff functions and systems they will need to use during the upcoming deployment.

In August many of the systems and computer programs that were discussed at the Seminar began to arrive at the brigade and sections began training on and implementing those systems. Also in August the Brigade hosted the Provost Marshal General

and supported the Provost Marshal's Pig Roast on Grant Circle.

September and October saw many changes within the Brigade as both the 793rd MP Battalion and the Correctional Facility had Changes of Command. Additionally, the 566th Postal Company deactivated and the 272nd MP Company returned to the continental United States. In September, the Brigade did find some time to play as hard as we work at the Brigade Golf Scramble, which raised money to defray the costs of the MP Ball. In October, the brigade hosted the MP Ball and in keeping with the year of the Non Commissioned Officer, was entirely led by NCOs from the BDE; it was an unqualified success.

September and October were also significant months in the deployment preparation of both the 95th MP Battalion and the Brigade Headquarters. The 95th MP Battalion received first hand training on the Police Training Team mission they will assume when they arrive in Afghanistan. As a part of the PTT instruction, the MP Regimental Commander and Command Sergeant Major, who had recently returned from a visit to Afghanistan, briefed the Soldiers on the progress and

the room for improvement within the Afghan police force. Another of our significant training events was the Brigade HQ participation in "Unified Endeavor" a training simulation conducted by III Corps that included three divisions and two separate brigades of which the 18th MP BDE was one.

The tempo has slowed slightly as we head into the holiday season but some significant events are ahead. The Headquarters Detachment of the 28th Transportation Battalion changed command on 20 November followed by the 515th Transportation Company on 24 November, just in time for Thanksgiving. In December the 793rd MP BN will officially case the battalion colors in preparation for their move to Alaska and the 95th MP BN HQ will conduct their Mission Rehearsal Exercise as the culminating event before their deployment.

The operational tempo for everyone in this brigade is very high and its success is due to the hard work and dedication of everyone on the team whether they are wearing a uniform or not.



"THE OPERATIONAL TEMPO FOR EVERYONE IN THIS BRIGADE IS VERY HIGH AND ITS SUCCESS IS DUE TO THE HARD WORK AND DEDICATION OF EVERYONE ON THE TEAM"

793rd to return to CONUS

The 793rd MP Battalion will be standing up its colors in Alaska in the next month, and as their time here in Germany comes to an end, it seems proper to reflect on the battalion's history within the 18th MP Brigade.

The Soldiers and leaders of the Spartan Battalion have contributed an immeasurable amount of time and effort into success

after success for the brigade.

They and their Families have sacrificed and stayed strong through numerous deployments and missions.

The Spartan Soldier is a shining example of what it means to be Army Strong and to live the Army Values.

While their presence at the brigade will come to an end, the Spartan spirit will live on.



793rd MP Battalion Soldiers stand in formation during the battalion's Change of Command ceremony in September .

From a small town, to the big time

When Spc. Daniel Micek competed at the Department of the Army-level Soldier of the Year competition in October, it was the culmination of an impressive journey.

Micek, a military police Soldier with the 615th Military Police Company, 709th MP Battalion, 18th MP Brigade, was named the U.S. Army Europe and Seventh Army Soldier of the Year at a ceremony at the Village Pavilion on Patrick Henry Village, August 27.

Micek's journey to the DA competition at Fort Lee began almost a year ago, when he won his company's Soldier of the Month board.

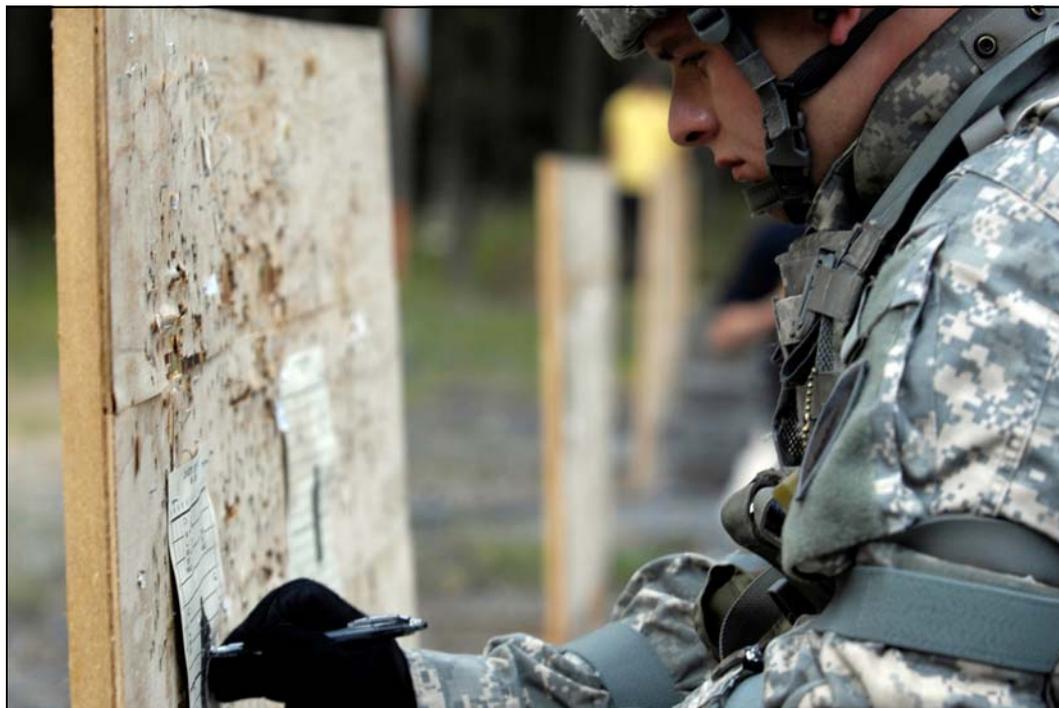
But, if you look back far enough, the true journey began in Silver Creek, Nebraska, Micek's hometown. It was there that Micek says he decided that he wasn't meeting his potential.

"I just wanted to do something with my life, make something of myself... I wanted to do something that people don't normally get to do," Micek said.

To meet that end, Micek enlisted as an MP in the Army. With just over two years in service, it is safe to say that Micek has accomplished more than most and earned the opportunity to do things that many people don't get to do.

As an MP, Micek pushed himself to do more and be more. After his success at the company-level boards, Micek tried out for the company's Warfighter team. It was here that he would get the push that he says he needed to reach his current level of success.

The Warfighter team trains



heavily for the annual Warfighter Competition at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Training six days a week on warrior tasks and drills, obstacle courses, Army knowledge and physical training is not for the weak-hearted.

With Micek's success at the boards, however his status as a Warfighter was postponed and he trained with them under the affectionate title of "Boardfighter". The team he trains with, Micek says, is a big reason he has been able to do so well.

With every competition, the requirements and the intensity have increased, asking more and more of Micek physically and mentally. His teammates and his sponsor, Staff Sgt. Jason Nepa, push him and motivate him through it all, he says.

"The USAREUR SOY/NOY was pretty intense," Micek said, noting that at one point,

"They didn't give us a standard because they wanted to see what our own personal standard was."

As the winner of the USAREUR competition, it is clear that Micek holds himself to a high personal standard and has the drive and the skills to compete at the Army level. But, Micek sees his title as something more than an individual accomplishment

"I really don't feel like I'm the best Soldier in USAREUR," Micek said. "I know there's a lot of people downrange fighting the war. For me, I'm just trying to represent them."

Once the DA competition ends, Micek will continue on to the next chapter in his career going downrange and testing those warrior skills he has trained long and hard at firsthand. Micek has extended his tour with the 615th MP Company so that he can accom-

pany them on their deployment next year.

But, as he moves on to the final level of competition, Micek looks back at the past year and says the entire process that has led him here has been a blessing and a truly rewarding adventure.

"Personally, it's a really good experience," Micek said. "I mean, I've enjoyed every moment of it. "Everybody is really proud of me; the Warfighter team, the company, my family back home, friends."

And true to his modest nature, Micek seems to give more credit to those around him than he does to himself—his Warfighter team especially. To hear him speak of it, the attention he gets, whether he believes he deserves it or not, can be surprising to him at times. "Honestly," Micek says, "I'm kind of humbled by it."

Holiday mailing deadlines!

The holiday season is approaching quickly, as are the deadlines for mailing those beloved holiday cards and packages.

To ensure packages from Europe and deployed locations reach their stateside destinations by Christmas, Installation Management Command Europe Region postal operations officials say packages must be mailed by the proper deadline.

The maximum weight allowed for any package shipped through the military postal system is 70 pounds.

In addition, the combined length and girth (the circumference of the item at its widest point) of the package must not be more than 130 inches. Each mail category, however, has its own limits.



- Nov. 27 for space-available mail (SAM) parcels.
- Dec. 4 for parcel airlift (PAL) parcels.
- Dec. 11 for priority mail and first class letters.
- Dec. 18 for express mail military service



An FRSA thank you to our Volunteers!

Hi, for those of you who may not know me, I am Danitza James the Family Readiness Support Assistant for the 18th Military Police Brigade.

During this Thanksgiving season I would like to thank all of our Soldiers, Families and Volunteers that make the Family Readiness Group a success, your endless support

empowers Families to overcome day-to-day challenges and to cope with deployments.

I encourage you to continue making a difference in someone's life and to not forget that you *are* making a difference in someone's life. I challenge all of those who are not involved in your unit FRG's to contact your unit

FRG representative or myself and find out in what way you can help.

We are all part of a team—the EVER VIGILANT Team!

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Useful Websites!!

Whether you've been stationed in Germany for years or have just arrived in country, the following websites can be helpful in making your overseas tour easier.

From school schedules, to booking medical appointments online to Red Cross information, there is a wealth of knowledge and resources available to you through these pages.

www.militaryonesource.com

www.eu.dodea.edu (DoDDs schools)

www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil

www.commissaries.com

www.tricare.mil

www.tricareonline.com

www.redcross.org



AROUND THE BRIGADE



Clockwise from bottom left: HHC Fall fest; MAJ Dennery at Staff team-building exercise; CSM Curfman and CSM (Ret.) Armour at the MP Ball; CPT Anderson and his wife, Rochelle, after assuming command of the 615th MP Co.; ADAC driver's training for junior enlisted MPs at Hockenheimring; 527th MP Co. Soldiers participate at Feldjaeger change of command in Munich.

Visit us online for even more brigade updates!
www.18mp.army.mil

Scheduled Events and Holidays

November

20 NOV: HHD, 28th Trans BN, Change of Command

24 NOV: 515th TC Co., Change of Command

24 NOV: 21st TSC Newcomers Brief in K-Town

26-29 NOV: Thanksgiving Holiday

December

1-14 DEC: HHD, 95th MP BN Mission Rehearsal Exercise-Grafenwoehr

3 DEC: HHC, 18th MP BDE Schutzensnur -Mainz

8 DEC: 793rd MP BN Colors Casing Ceremony

19 DEC: Brigade Commander's Holiday Reception

21 DEC: Begin half-day holiday schedule

21 DEC-4 JAN: HHD, 95th MP BN Block Leave

24-27 DEC: Christmas Holiday

31 DEC: Training Holiday

January

1-3 JAN: New Year's Holiday

4 JAN: Tax Center support begins. Holiday Schedule ends

5-13 JAN: 709th MP BN Range Density

6-7 JAN: Brigade Commander's Conference

9 JAN: 21st TSC New Years reception

15-18 JAN: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

25 JAN-5 FEB: 615th MP Company and 630th MP Company Mission Rehearsal Exercise-Grafenwoehr