

18th Military Police Brigade

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‘Strike Deep’ MP Co. says goodbyes, heads for Afghanistan

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HOHENFELS, Germany – In the Hohenfels Training Area’s gym here, an uncommon stillness filled the air. Heads were bowed and the fluttering of American flags came to a slow stop. The echo of the chaplain’s voice filled the room, and the nearness of deployment became a little bit more real.

In the coming weeks the Soldiers of the 527th Military Police Company would be leaving for their second deployment to Afghanistan in three years. At their deployment ceremony on April 7, the unit took a moment to reflect on the importance and tradition of their mission.

The unit last deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2008. Overall, in the Global War on Terror, the “Strike Deep” Soldiers have two Operation Iraqi Freedom deployments under their belt as well, which adds to the legacy of this unit.

Lt. Col. Roger Hedgepeth, the commander of the 709th MP Battalion, noted the long history of wartime service the 527th MP Co. has participated in.

“From Calcutta, India, in World War II to Saigon, Vietnam, and the Tet Offensive, the ‘Strike Deep’ Soldiers have bravely taken the fight to the enemy wherever and whenever it was needed,” Hedgepeth said.

As the Soldiers of the 57th MP Co. furled their guidon during their deployment ceremony, they took note of the history, traditions and spirit that are embedded in their colors.

“The 527th Military Police Company is a battle-hardened formation,” Hedgepeth told the crowd of family and friends. “It has always faithfully answered the call to arms, time and time again.”

In preparing for their deployment, the Soldiers have dedicated countless hours to making sure they are primed for their mission. Capt. Rebecca Doak, the commander of the 527th MP Co. noted all of the long nights, weeks in the field, situational training exercises, convoy live fires and combat outpost live-fires the unit had taken on during its train up.

The training meant days and nights of sacrifices, not only for Soldiers, but for their Families as well.

“Army Families carry a great burden for our nation, and I thank you for your unwavering love and care of your Soldiers,” Hedgepeth told the crowd.

But, the long days and nights of training would pay off, Doak told the Soldiers, saying, “You are trained, you are ready and you are well led.”



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Jordan Pelayo, 1, waves a flag for his father, Pfc. Hector Pelayo, a Military Police Soldier with the 527th Military Police Company, 709th MP Battalion, during the unit's deployment ceremony April 7 in Hohenfels, Germany. The "Strike Deep" Soldiers will be deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in the coming weeks.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Adrienne Burns, 18th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs)



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Capt. Rebecca Doak, the commander of the 527th Military Police Company, and First Sgt. James Brown, the first sergeant for the 527th MP Co., furl the unit's guidon during a deployment ceremony April 7 in Hohenfels, Germany. The "Strike Deep" Soldiers will leave in the coming weeks for their second deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Adrienne Burns, 18th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs)



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Capt. Rebecca Doak, the commander of the 527th Military Police Company, 709th MP Battalion, addresses her troops during a deployment ceremony at the post gym April 7 in Hohenfels, Germany. Doak will lead the "Strike Deep" Soldiers on their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Adrienne Burns, 18th Military Police Brigade Public Affairs)