

Military Police: The Force of Choice

EWS Contemporary Issues Paper

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To

Major R.F. Revoir, CG 9

19 February 2008

Report Documentation Page

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

1. REPORT DATE 19 FEB 2008		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED 00-00-2008 to 00-00-2008	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Military Police: The Force of Choice				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) United States Marine Corps, Command and Staff College, Marine Corps Combat Develop, Marine Corps University, 2076 South Street, Quantico, VA, 22134-5068				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

The Marine Corps should adopt the Army's stance on employing Military Police (MP) because Marine MP operate using the same doctrinal MP functions, undergo the same training, have the same equipment, and similar to Army Military Police, there is an increasing demand for Marine MP to fulfill specific duties in the current combat operating environment.

Background

Military Police across the Armed Forces are continuously identified as a critical military occupational specialty (MOS) shortage yet are repeatedly called upon to complete a myriad of tasks which include an increasing role as a fighting force in combat, providing support during the aftermath of natural disasters and providing humanitarian assistance during world-wide contingencies. However, Military Police duties continue to operate augmented with other MOS.

Moreover, within the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) there is a tendency to limit Military Police to guarding gates and regulating traffic. USMC Military Police are far more capable than operating as gate guards due to their tremendous mobility and fire-power through unit equipment, capabilities, training, and, most of all, through doctrinal Military Police Functions.

The U.S. Army has identified the need to increase Military Police units and will have 21 additional combat support Military

Police Companies by the year 2010. This increase is a direct reflection of the Army's assessment for the greater need of Military Police on the battlefield. Since the start of the War on Terror, the Military Police Corps has deployed over 75% of its deployable units including National Guard and reserve units. The increase in their Military Police units is due to the Army's desire to ensure that their Military Police are used across the full-spectrum of military operations.

Military Police Functions

First, the Marine Corps should adopt the Army's mentality on employing Military Police because Marine Military Police use the same doctrinal MP functions as outlined in Field Manual (FM) 3-19.4.

As a combat multiplier, both Marine Corps and Army Military Police support maneuver through the five MP doctrinal functions; Maneuver and Mobility Support Operations (MMSO), Area Security (AS), Police Intelligence Operations (PIO), Internment and Resettlement (I/R), and Law and Order (L&O). Each function consists of several sub-functions significantly contributing to Military Police, as an agile, flexible, and versatile force which is able to adapt to any mission or environment. Military Police have the capability to support single-service operations in addition to joint, multinational, and interagency activities.

In the Marine Corps there is a trend of limiting Military Police to guarding gates and performing roles within law enforcement. This is often the case, in part, due the Marine Corps' placement of Military Police as a sub-element within the Logistics Combat Element (LCE); the end result being that the Military Police are not readily available or thought of for use by maneuver elements. Awareness of Military Police Functions by maneuver commanders would allow for greater employment of MPs across the full spectrum Marine Corps operations.¹

Maneuver and Mobility Support Operations (MMSO) are primarily conducted to ensure uninterrupted movement of personnel and equipment throughout the battle space. MMSO includes support to breaching operations, passage of lines, straggler control, dislocated civilian control, route reconnaissance and surveillance, main supply route regulation enforcement, and special circulation control measures.

Area Security (AS) is designed to protect forces, facilities, and critical functions. AS includes recon operations, screening missions, surveillance, counter recon, area damage control, checkpoints and roadblocks, response force operations, enemy delay, battle handover to a tactical combat force, critical site, asset, and high-risk personnel security,

¹ FM 3-19.4, Military Police Leader's Handbook

convoy security, force protection/physical security, antiterrorism, and cordon and search operations.

Police Intelligence Operations (PIO) is conducted primarily to gain police, criminal, or combat information. Information is collected from the bottom-up and turned over to Military Intelligence to be placed in a reportable format. PIO includes IPB Support, Police Information Assessment Process (PIAP), Information, Collecting, and Dissemination, Joint, Interagency, and Multi-National Coordination.

Internment and Resettlement (I/R) consist of the guarding, protecting, and accounting for people who are captured and confined by U.S. forces. I/R includes Enemy Prisoner of War (EPW) handling, civilian internee (CI) handling, U.S. Military prisoner handling, populace and resource control (PRC), and dislocated civilian transportation and care.

Law and Order (L&O) duties encompass all matters relating to the enforcement of laws and directives, in addition to conducting investigative work and ensuring a lawful and orderly environment during military operations. L&O tasks include law enforcement, criminal investigations, and L&O training to include support to host nation (HN) police.

Overall, increased recognition of the MP functions throughout the Marine Corps to maneuver commanders would increase proper employment of Military Police during operations.

Military Police Schools and Training

The Marine Corps should adopt the Army's stance on employing their Military Police considering the numerous Marine Military Police that attend the U.S. Army Military Police School (USAMPS).

Today, both Marine Corps and Army Military Police receive formal MP training through USAMPS at the Maneuver Support Center (MANSCEN) in Fort Leonard Wood, MO. Marine Military Police have representation in almost every iteration of the courses conducted at MANSCEN. This provides the opportunity for both Marine and Army Military Police to work side-by-side in a joint environment. The joint training available at MANSCEN also allows for a greater continuity of Military Police performance given the complexities of joint missions regularly conducted in the current operating environment. This opportunity however, can only be achieved with the understanding that the Marine Military Police are given a chance to maximize the education received through USAMPS upon their return to the fleet.

Courses provided through USAMPS include classroom, practical exercise, and significant field exposure that encompass a wide range of diverse instruction. Various sub-courses and training available at Fort Leonard Wood include but are not limited to the following:

- Military Police Basic Training/Advanced Individual Training (AIT)
- Military Police Officer Basic Course (OBC)
- Military Police Captain's Career Course (MPCCC)
- Antiterrorism Officer Course
- Crisis/Hostage Negotiations
- Advanced Crime Scene Investigative Techniques
- Conventional Physical Security Course
- Criminal Antiterrorism & Police Intelligence Management Course
- Field Tactical Police Operations Course
- High Risk Personnel Security Course
- Military Police Investigations
- Military Working Dog Handler Course
- Protective Services Training & Antiterrorism
- Special Reaction Team Course-- Phase I and Phase II (Marksman/Observer)

Overall, the courses available at USAMPS gear towards preparing Military Police Marines and Soldiers to expertly fulfill their duties in a tactical and garrison environment. USAMPS courses reflect the tremendous diversity of the MP by highlighting the capabilities of Military Police, ultimately developing the MP as a capable warrior, able to perform duties equally in garrison as well as on the battlefield.²

Military Police Equipment and Capabilities

The Marine Corps should adopt the Army's mentality on employing Military Police because Marine Military Police perform their duties with similar capability sets due to maintaining the same equipment and combat platforms.

² U.S. Army Military Police, <http://www.wood.army.mil/usamps/>, (accessed 17 December 2007, 2045 hrs.)

In general, Military Police capabilities consist of combat operations through the employment of mobile combat systems containing three to four Marine or Soldier teams operating independently or in concert, and having vehicle crew-served and individual weapons capable of defending a position against dismounted infantry. One MP company, from the Marine Corps or the Army, is capable of conducting but is not limited to the following:

- Controlling an area up to 360 km of main, axial, and alternate routes.
- Area security of 2,000 square km of rural terrain, 800 square km of high density urban terrain, or 1,000 square km of terrain outside a main operating base's designated security area of responsibility.
- Security of 12 critical sites/ facilities or storage areas.
- Guarding of up to 2,000 EPW in a holding area. Control of dismounted refugee movement of up to 150,000 per day.
- Battlefield L&O for 75,000 non-divisional personnel.
- Detention of 700 U.S. military prisoners.³

Military Police as a highly-mobile, flexible fighting force have vehicle platforms, night vision devices (NVDs)/close combat optics (CCOs), and weapons systems which provide versatility and flexibility on an ever-evolving battlefield. Standard equipment for a MP company includes: Highly Mobile Multi-Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs); various NVDs/CCOs including the AN/PEQ, AN/PAQ-4, and the ACOG; in addition to various weapons systems including the

³ Military Police Capabilities Brief, <http://www.wood.army.mil/>, (accessed 16 December 2008, 1904 hrs.)

MK19 40mm Heavy Machine Gun (HMG), M2 .50 Caliber HMG, M16/M4 5.56mm Semi-Automatic Rifle, M203 Grenade Launcher, M249 Semi-Automatic Weapon (SAW), and the M240 7.62mm Medium Machine Gun (MMG).

And, while the Army MP has more equipment per their Modified Table of Organization (MTOE) this is only relative to size as there are more Army Military Police. The Marine Corps Military Police have the same equipment and thus, the same capabilities per MP company exist in accordance with (IAW) their Table of Equipment (T/E) as the Army MP company does IAW with their MTOE.

Military Police Employment in the Current Operating Environment

Overall, Marine Corps Military Police operate using the same doctrinal MP functions, undergo the same training, and have the same equipment as Army Military Police. Therefore, Marine Military Police are capable of performing duties to meet both the demands of garrison in addition to fulfilling their role in a combat environment.

Indeed, there is an increasing demand for Military Police to fulfill specific duties in a combat theater as it has been identified that MP skills, equipment, training, and capabilities are critical in the current operating environment (COE) and are specifically vital in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

In 2006, Multi-National Corps-Iraq (MNC-I) decided that the Iraqi Government needed to focus more in policing their community. Due to that fact President George W. Bush designated 2006 as the "Year of the Police." With the new mission at hand MNC-I realized the increased need for Military Police "type" units in order to function as the primary trainers for the Iraqi Police (IP). This transition went through several different approaches; some Commanders believed that the Infantry would be able to attain the same results in training the Police, while other Commanders believed that there was a need for specialized Iraqi Police Advisors (IPAs). However, in both cases the on-ground Commanders realized that the Infantry could not fully train police tactics and that the IPAs could not fully train the military aspect of policing based on the Iraqi environment. In this case, Military Police were the common ground between the two. At that time, Iraq was divided into 18 provincial areas of operation; Multi-National Division-Baghdad (MND-B) being the focus area with outlying areas such as Multi-National Forces-West (MNF-W) and Multi-National Division-North (MND-N) all having their specific priority. As the initial phases of the Year of the Police completed, the evolution of Iraqi Police training became Police Transition Teams (PTTs). According to MNC-I, a Police Transition Team comprised of a Military Police squad consisting of 12 MP Soldiers; each having a specific

responsibility in coaching, teaching, and mentoring IP. MNC-I then conducted a mission analysis realizing that additional MP assets would need to be allocated for MNF-W. Once the analysis was complete, MNC-I decided to send two additional Army MP companies to assist the Marines in order to help support the commander's intent on PTT.⁴

PTT operations allow MEB/BCT units to conduct combat operations without taking away from their combat power. Military Police provide highly mobile and lethal weapons platforms which, in turn, serve as a combat multiplier for the MEB/BCT. In OIF, Military Police also develop and disseminate police intelligence and atmospheric conditions in support of MEB/BCT intelligence gathering operations. Furthermore, they coach, train and assess the Iraqi Police; increasing AO security and stability and providing route reconnaissance and surveillance, increasing survivability. The Military Police act as a conduit between the MEB/BCT and Iraqi Police during operations. Moreover, they support the commander's intent and tactical objectives for assigned AO.⁵

⁴ LTC Peter Lydon, U.S. Army, former Senior Iraqi Police Liaison Officer to MNC-I

⁵ 759th Military Police Battalion, *Tactical Standing Operating Procedures (TACSOP)*

In the COE, the demand for Military Police, both Marine and Army alike, continues to increase and, in the performance of their doctrinal duties, MP are looked to provide necessary support in the conduct of combat operations in addition to training and advising host nation (HN) police. However, the numbers of Military Police within the Marine Corps are not increasing rapidly enough to meet the demand. One solution is to model the Army's intent of increasing MP units to a certain level within a specified time-frame.

Another solution is better employment of Marine Corps Military Police. Whereas the Army's focus is dedicating all MP assets towards conducting PTT operations, Marine Military Police duties continue to become heavily absorbed in the performance of garrison duties on the home-front or as Camp/Forward Operating Base (FOB) security in theater. The Army is meeting the demand by augmenting Military Police with civilian contractors to check Identification Cards (IDs) at gates in addition to hiring Department of the Army (DA) Police to conduct L&O on CONUS installations.

Counter-argument

The Marine Corps should adopt the Army's stance on employing Military Police (MP) given that Marine MP operate using the same doctrinal MP functions, undergo the same

training, have the same equipment, and similar to Army Military Police, there is an increasing demand for Marine MP to fulfill specific duties in the current combat operating environment.

However, dissimilar to the Army, the number of personnel within the Marine Corps Military Police MOS is few. The Army recognizes the organization as a Military Police "Corps", maintaining several MP brigades, while the Marine Corps does not have a Military Police unit above a company size. This, in part, is why the Marine Corps relies so heavily on Army MP doctrine, schools, and training.

Also, unlike the Army, the Marine Corps does not typically operate as a sustaining force. The Marine Corps is even more Infantry centric than the Army due to the nature of how the Marines fight; more quickly available to respond to world-wide contingencies given their light, expeditionary character. The Army however, as a larger, heavier force, typically acts more as a sustaining force; occupying an Area of Operation (AO) for a longer period of time in order to ensure stability. This is, in part, a reflection of how the Army uses its Military Police differently than the Marine Corps.

Conclusion

Overall, the Marine Corps should adopt the Army's stance on employing Military Police (MP) because Marine MP operate using

the same doctrinal MP functions, undergo the same training, have the same equipment, and similar to Army Military Police, there is an increasing demand for Marine MP to fulfill specific duties in the current combat operating environment. With an increase in Marine Military Police units, equipment, and personnel the relative combat power within the Marine Corps has the potential to also increase allowing Military Police to operate within the full spectrum of their functional areas and within military operations making the Military Police Corps the force of choice.

Bibliography

¹ FM 3-19.4, Military Police Leader's Handbook

² U.S. Army Military Police, <http://www.wood.army.mil/usamps/>,
(accessed 17 December 2007, 2045 hrs.)

³ Military Police Capabilities Brief, <http://www.wood.army.mil/>,
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