

## **MILITARY POLICE LAW AND ORDER OPERATIONS**

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### **Preface**

One of the most important missions the Army has is to maintain its readiness. Unit readiness rests on the morale, discipline, and training of its soldiers. It rests equally on having quality soldiers and their families feel good about life in the Army community. Our soldiers and their families must have a safe and secure environment in which to live, work, and train. The military police (MP) accept that challenge daily.

MP protect the Army's assets through active physical security measures. And MP undertake a vigorous economic crime program. They guard the Army's people and installations against terrorist threats. Their initiatives in crime prevention and family advocacy and their "work friendly" attitude show they care about soldiers and their families. MP unstintingly fulfill their law and order mission, knowing it to be vital to the Army's success in combat.

This field manual (FM) discusses each element of the MP law and order mission. It addresses law enforcement operations, investigations, confinement of US military prisoners, and terrorism counteraction. This FM will assist MP in understanding how each of these elements is an essential part of their law and order mission. Commanders will find it useful in understanding how MP help support the fulfillment of command responsibilities.

Because many aspects of the MP law and order mission are undertaken largely to provide a safe environment for the total Army community, much of the discussion in this FM is devoted to MP law and order responsibilities in a peacetime environment.

The proponent of this publication is Headquarters, US Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). Submit changes for improving this publication on Department of the Army (DA) Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) and forward it to Commandant, US Army Military Police School, ATTN: ATZN-MP-DML, Fort McClellan, Alabama 36205-5030.

Unless otherwise stated, whenever the masculine gender is used both men and women are included.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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	Page
<b>PART ONE THE MP LAW AND ORDER MISSION</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1. THE PROVOST MARSHAL'S LAW AND ORDER PURVIEW</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Implementing MP Operations .....	<b>9</b>
Organizing the PM Office .....	<b>9</b>
<b>2. EXTENDING MP SUPPORT</b> .....	<b>17</b>
Augmenting Resources on the Battlefield .....	<b>17</b>
Enhancing Support on the Installation .....	<b>18</b>
<b>3. RESOURCING MP OPERATIONS</b> .....	<b>28</b>
Understanding the Command Budget Process .....	<b>28</b>
Developing the Installation Command Operating Budget .....	<b>34</b>
<b>4. MANAGING MILITARY POLICE INFORMATION</b> .....	<b>35</b>
Understanding the Criminal Intelligence Cycle .....	<b>36</b>
Collecting and Releasing Information .....	<b>37</b>
Using Military Police Management Information Systems .....	<b>39</b>
Developing and Using MP Information Files .....	<b>40</b>
Using Other Information Sources .....	<b>42</b>
<b>PART TWO LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS</b> .....	<b>44</b>
<b>CHAPTER 5. HAVING AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION</b> .....	<b>45</b>
Exercising Authority and Jurisdiction .....	<b>45</b>
Protecting Legal Rights .....	<b>49</b>
<b>6. UNDERTAKING PREVENTIVE PROGRAMS</b> .....	<b>55</b>
Crime Prevention .....	<b>55</b>
Absentee/Deserter Program .....	<b>70</b>
Wildlife Law Enforcement Program .....	<b>70</b>
MP Customs Information Services .....	<b>70</b>
Disaster Relief and Area Damage Control .....	<b>72</b>
<b>7. PLANNING ENFORCEMENT MEASURES</b> .....	<b>73</b>
Collecting, Compiling, and Using Selective Enforcement Data .....	<b>74</b>
Acquiring Data from MP Reports and Forms .....	<b>77</b>
Preparing MP Reports .....	<b>78</b>
<b>8. OPERATING PATROLS</b> .....	<b>83</b>
Community Protection and Assistance .....	<b>83</b>
Patrol Methods and Means .....	<b>84</b>
Patrol Distribution .....	<b>86</b>
Patrol Shift Design .....	<b>92</b>
<b>9. CONDUCTING SEARCHES AND SEIZURES</b> .....	<b>93</b>
Determining Scope of an Authorized Search .....	<b>93</b>
Determining Articles Subject to Search and Seizure .....	<b>96</b>
Conducting Entry and Search to Protect Persons or Property .....	<b>97</b>
Conducting an Identification Search .....	<b>97</b>

	Page
Conducting an Automobile Search .....	98
Conducting an Area Search.....	99
Conducting a Consent Search.....	100
Conducting a Search of Abandoned Property .....	100
Conducting a Trash and Garbage Container Search .....	100
Conducting a Search of Premises Without Right to Privacy .....	100
Conducting a Fire Search.....	101
Maintaining Status Quo or Freezing the Situation.....	101
Conducting a Body Cavity Search .....	101
Seizing Body Fluids.....	101
Conducting a Frisk .....	101
Conducting Inventories .....	102
Conducting Inspections .....	102
Conducting Raids.....	103
<b>10. CONDUCTING APPREHENSIONS .....</b>	<b>108</b>
Authority to Apprehend .....	108
Apprehension of Juveniles.....	109
Means of Apprehension .....	109
Execution of an Authorization to Apprehend .....	111
Search in Relation to an Apprehension.....	112
<b>11. EMPLOYING MILITARY WORKING DOG TEAMS .....</b>	<b>114</b>
Patrol Dog Teams .....	114
Narcotics Detector Dog Teams .....	116
Explosives Detector Dog Teams .....	117
<b>12. ENFORCING CUSTOMS LAWS AND REGULATIONS .....</b>	<b>119</b>
Military Customs Inspectors.....	120
Customs Operations Procedures.....	121
<hr/> <b>PART THREE INVESTIGATIONS .....</b>	<hr/> <b>124</b>
<b>CHAPTER 13. LAW AND ORDER INVESTIGATIONS .....</b>	<b>126</b>
Investigating Domestic Disturbances.....	126
Investigating Drug and Controlled Substance Abuse.....	129
Investigating Possible Rape Offenses .....	129
Investigating Possible Child Abuse and Neglect .....	131
Investigating Suicide Threats and Attempts .....	137
Investigating Reports of Abnormal Behavior.....	138
Investigating Customs Violations .....	139
<b>14. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS .....</b>	<b>141</b>
Determining Purview .....	141
Conducting Criminal Investigations .....	142
Preserving the Custody of Evidence .....	144
Disposing of Evidence .....	145
Supervising Military Police Investigators .....	148
<b>15. INVESTIGATIVE MEANS AND MEASURES .....</b>	<b>151</b>
Gathering Criminal Intelligence .....	151
Using and Providing Criminal Intelligence.....	153
Conducting Interviews and Interrogations .....	153
Performing Surveillance and Covert Operations .....	156

<b>PART FOUR</b>	<b>CONFINEMENT OF US MILITARY PRISONERS</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>CHAPTER 16.</b>	<b>FIELD CONFINEMENT OF US MILITARY PRISONERS</b>	<b>160</b>
	Operating Field Detention Facilities	160
	Operating Field Confinement Facilities	161
	Expediting Disposition	162
<b>17.</b>	<b>INSTALLATION CONFINEMENT AND US ARMY CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES</b>	<b>164</b>
	Installation Confinement Facilities	164
	US Army Confinement and Correctional Facilities	166
<b>PART FIVE</b>	<b>TERRORISM COUNTERACTION</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>CHAPTER 18.</b>	<b>PLANNING TERRORISM COUNTERACTION</b>	<b>168</b>
	Antiterrorism	168
	Counterterrorism	171
<b>19.</b>	<b>PROTECTIVE SERVICES</b>	<b>174</b>
	US Army Protective Services	174
	Protective Services Details	175
	Protective Services Principles	178
	Protective Services Defense Fundamentals	179
	Protective Services Operations	180
	Protective Services Detail Responsibilities	184
	Protection on Foot	188
	Protection On-Site	189
	Protection During Travel	189
<b>20.</b>	<b>BOMB THREATS</b>	<b>190</b>
	Telephone Bomb Threats	190
	Mail Bombs	192
	Suspicious Items	193
	Personnel to Notify	193
	Emergency Operations Center	193
	After-Action Procedures	197
<b>21.</b>	<b>SPECIAL REACTION TEAM</b>	<b>198</b>
	Emergency Operations Center	199
	Equipment	201
<b>APPENDIX A</b>	<b>MP STATION DESIGN</b>	<b>207</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>MILITARY POLICE FIREARMS QUALIFICATION</b>	<b>211</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>PRESENTING STATISTICAL DATA</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>EXTRACT OF A LOCAL PROTECTIVE SERVICES DETAIL EQUIPMENT LIST</b>	<b>219</b>
<b>GLOSSARY</b>		<b>221</b>
<b>REFERENCES</b>		<b>225</b>
<b>INDEX</b>		<b>230</b>

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PART ONE

## THE MP LAW AND ORDER MISSION

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The MP Corps provides the Army a wide range of diverse support. On the battlefield MP provide commanders combat, combat support, and combat service support. Both “an Arm and a Service,” the MP Corps plays an important role in battle. But MP also play an important role in supporting commanders beyond the successful resolution of battle. Through their law and order mission MP continue their active support of Army commanders by ensuring the existence of the lawful and orderly environment units need to maintain combat readiness. MP performing law and order operations extend the commander’s command and control. They aid commanders in obtaining and maintaining combat proficiency. They prevent diversion of military resources. They suppress the chance for criminal behavior; they protect and assist the military community. And they help commanders ensure US forces are disciplined troops of high morale.

In a theater of operations MP conduct law and order operations only when the combat commander requires it and when battle intensity permits. During intense continuous combat, like that expected near a main battle area or in a developing theater of operations, MP are most needed to expedite and conserve vital resources for combat forces. In intense combat the commander’s priority of need is most often for MP combat and combat support operations. MP are employed more often for battlefield circulation control (BCC), area security, and enemy prisoner of war (EPW) operations and less often for law and order operations. But a commander’s need for law and order operations depends on the tactical situation. And it depends on the level of command involved and the location of the command on the battlefield.

In a peacetime environment MP conduct extensive law and order operations. These operations support commanders’ order and discipline in the field and on installations around the world. The performance of these operations impacts even beyond the maintenance of law and order. Many peacetime law and order operations and subelements embody basic methods, measures, and techniques MP use to carry out their BCC and area security missions. For example, operating a traffic control post (TCP) is a measure basic to the MP missions of BCC and area security. Operating TCPs is also basic to the MP law and order mission. MP conducting law and order operations in a peacetime environment are consistently exercising battlefield skills.

In peacetime as well as in combat MP provide commanders with a well-armed, communications-intensive, and highly mobile asset. While combat ready, the MPs’ professional orientation ensures their ability to operate with restraint and authority, within probable cause, and with a minimum use of force. This makes MP ideally suited as a response force in civil confrontations or disorders, in terrorist counteractions, and in low-intensity conflicts in a noncombat area.

Away from conflict, wherever US forces are located, the MP Corps is the protector and assistant of the military community. MP efforts are directed to ensuring a lawful and orderly environment. MP help ensure commanders have troops, equipment, and supplies when and where they need them to maintain readiness. By their efforts to preserve the law, MP help the commander ensure a high standard of order and discipline within the commander’s units. By their efforts to assist and protect the military community, MP help ensure a high level of well-being among the commander’s troops.

MP provide commanders with the support they need wherever and whenever it is needed. In peace and war MP help commanders ensure a lawful and orderly military environment. MP enforce laws. MP investigate disorders and suspected crimes.

MP confine US military prisoners. MP take counteractions against terrorism. And always, MP are prepared to quickly expand their law and order operations into their full-scale battlefield range of combat, combat support, and combat service support operations.



Military police help the commander get his people, supplies, and equipment where he needs them when he needs them. MP help relieve the commander's burden of providing security and protection for critical persons, facilities, and equipment. MP are the initial response force to criminal and enemy attempts to demoralize, terrorize, or sabotage the military community or its operation. MP relieve commanders of the responsibility for detaining and safeguarding prisoners and MP reduce opportunities for crime. Only the magnitude and purpose inherent in each operation changes from peace to war.