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Military Police Corps marks 76th birthday

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Soldiers, civilian employees and friends of the 15th Military Police Brigade celebrated the 76th birthday of the Military Police Corps Sept. 26 at the Frontier Conference Center with a birthday cake-cutting and awards ceremony recognizing 13 people.

Col. Dawn Hilton, 15th MP Brigade commander, said September is the month of the military police. She said other regimental activities included the second annual MP Competitive Challenge at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and a senior leader conference.

“We had two of our soldiers (Staff Sgt. Michael Skaggs and Spc. Codie Jackson) from the 705th MP Battalion recognized for finishing in the top four at the warfighter challenge competition,” Hilton said. “The cake-cutting ceremony gives us an opportunity to formally recognize our soldiers, civilians and support personnel who help us do our mission each day.”

Hilton said the celebratory activities were also designed to highlight the many elements that make accomplishing the military police mission possible. She said the work done by all of the support personnel is essential to mission success.

“We’ll have the Military Police Ball this Friday and celebrate,” Hilton said. “The primary purpose of the month is to honor the Military Police Corps, but taking this opportunity also to thank everyone for their hard work is important, too.”

Concurrently, Sgt. 1st Class Walter Phillips, the S-3 special projects noncommissioned officer for the 40th Military Police Battalion (Detention), was monitoring the completion of a 76-mile run to honor each year of the existence of the MP Corps. Phillips said groups of soldiers from each of the battalion’s five companies took turns carrying the battalion colors and company guidons around Trails West Golf Course.

“We came up with the idea to run a mile for each year the corps has been around,” Phillips said. “The cooler weather is good for running. It’s going well.”

Pfc. Anthony Clark, HHC, 40th MP Battalion, was among a group of soldiers who completed a segment of the run. He said it was a good way to celebrate the MP Corps.

“We are carrying the colors 76 miles — one mile for each year to celebrate the Military Police Corps 76th birthday,” Clark said. “Our group handed them off to another team from our company to keep it going until we finish.”

During the awards ceremony, the Order of the Marechausee in bronze was awarded to Command Sgt. Maj. John Fair, 705th MP Battalion (Detention). Fair said the award represents a culminating event for soldiers serving in the MP Corps and recognizes the virtues of professionalism, morality and integrity.

“I would just say, nobody gets here alone,” Fair said. “I have been doing this for 24 years, and the only reason I am (receiving the award) is that I have had leaders like those in the 15th MP Brigade who put me here.”

According to the U.S. Army Military Police Corps Regimental Museum website, the Military Police Corps is one of the youngest branches of the United States Army. Officially established on Sept. 26, 1941, military police have served in the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam and ever conflict since.

Military Police continue to provide security and mobility support, police operations and internment at Army installations around the world.



PHOTO/ PRUDENCE SIEBERT/FORT LEAVENWORTH LAMP

Sgt. Tirrell Ingram, 291st Military Police Company, 40th MP Battalion (Detention), followed by Spc. Ty Dornbusch, Pfc. Trevor Gibbs, Pfc. Jesus Sanchez and Spc. Michael Sackett, runs along Biddle Boulevard to hand off the battalion colors to Spc. Zachary Johnston during a 76-mile run by soldiers in the 40th MP Battalion to celebrate the U.S. Army Military Police Corps 76th birthday Sept. 26 by Trails West Golf Course. The run started at 4:30 a.m. and continued throughout the day until the battalion colors and unit guidons had gone around the course a total of 76 miles. Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp

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