



TWICE THE CITIZEN

By
Mark S. Inch



First Lt. Jeffrey Hill, detachment executive officer, 535th Military Police Battalion (Raleigh, N.C.) and correctional sergeant at the Piedmont Correctional Institution in Salisbury, N.C., (on right) and Staff Sgt. Charles Hassell, squad leader and shift supervisor, 535th Military Police Battalion and correctional officer at Pasquotank Correctional Institution in Elizabeth City, N.C., (on left) conduct pretrial and short-term post-trial confinement of U.S. military prisoners at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait.

Editor's Note: The following is based on the observations of the author during several trips to the countries mentioned in the article. Although the author serves on the Department of the Army staff, the opinions and observations within the article should not be interpreted as the official position of the Department of Defense or the U.S. government.

The inherent risks associated with being a correctional officer in one of the nation's varied correctional facilities is well known. Whether employed by a federal, state, county or private agency, correctional officers volunteer to serve in a potentially hostile environment surrounded by offenders who

have demonstrated their capability to commit violence.

Knowingly entering such an environment demonstrates a level of character that honors the chosen profession of the majority of this magazine's readership. But a smaller number of these same correctional officers and staff have volunteered to serve the nation twice, adding the risks of hostile enemy

fire and direct contact with America's enemies to their list of potential employment hazards. These twice-dedicated volunteers are part of the 1.2 million members of the U.S. Reserve Forces and National Guard.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that specifically targeted the civilian as well as the military population of this country, there has been an unprecedented call up of reserve forces to protect the nation and engage the enemy in foreign lands. Whether protecting airports or key infrastructure in the United States, deploying to Germany or other foreign countries to protect U.S. military installations and other vital interests, or participating in direct combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, reservists have performed admirably under very challenging circumstances. These soldiers, as well as their family members, have made personal sacrifices while contributing to the global war on terror.

Correctional Staff As Reservists

Reservists are an integral part of the total U.S. military force structure. A noted strength of these forces is the frequent synergy between soldiers' civilian careers and their assigned military duties. Although the Department of Defense takes great care in meeting its responsibilities to incarcerate and rehabilitate military inmates, fewer than 2,000 active soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen and Department of Defense civilians serve in the corrections field.

Under the current organization, the military personnel who are more likely to perform enemy prisoner of war and detention operations during war reside almost exclusively in the Army Reserve and Army National Guard. Therefore, the synergy between the reservist's civilian employment in the corrections field and his or her duty to confine enemy combatants in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and enemy prisoners of war and civilian detainees in Iraq, when called to duty could not be more evident and essential to mission success.

Yet, this use of the nation's most precious resource — men and women in uniform — comes at a significant cost to civilian communities and correctional facilities. A recent survey conducted by the American Correctional Association and published in the September 2003 edition of *On the Line* found that more than 5,000 civilian correctional staff have been called up for active duty as of April 2003. That same study indicated that there is a potential for the call-up to rise to almost 9,000. Given the fact that most members of any particular reserve unit are generally from the same local geographic region, a single correctional facility could bear the brunt of a single unit call-up. A previous rotation of one military police company to the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay drew heavily from correctional officers in one particular region in Michigan.

But the service provided by these soldiers during the past two years has more than justified the sacrifices and hardships experienced at home. The citizen-soldiers have drawn upon the training and experience they received from their civilian employment to achieve success in Afghanistan, Iraq and Cuba. Although space constraints do not allow for a full accounting of these successes, and some do not relate to the corrections field or simply cannot be published in this forum, several major detention operations deserve special note.

Operation Enduring Freedom

Perhaps most routinely reported in the media is the detention operation in support of Operation Enduring Freedom at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo



Staff Sgt. Raymond McKinley Staples, squad leader, 400th Military Police Battalion (Fort Meade, Md.) and correctional officer at the Dan River Prison Work Farm in Yanceyville, N.C., is performing shift supervisory duties at a jail in Baghdad.

Bay. Since the initiation of the global war on terror, the United States has detained members of the Taliban and al Qaeda network at two successive sites at Guantanamo Bay (often referred to as GTMO). These enemy combatants represent the heart of a former group of militants that oppressed its own people and an international terrorist organization that routinely targets civilians and military personnel worldwide. In short order, the soldiers that deployed to GTMO transferred the operation from the initial temporary facility at Camp X-Ray to a well-run facility at Camp Delta. The metamorphosis from an austere camp to a facility that operates at a high level of safety and security, consistent with confinement's best practices used for nationally recognized accreditation, is due, in no small part, to the contributions of Army Reserve soldiers with corrections experience.

During a recent visit to GTMO by ACA Executive Director James A. Goggles Jr. and Association President Charles J. Kehoe, the soldiers were able to show off the newest camp designed primarily by members of the 300th Military Police Brigade (Army Reserves, Michigan). In a fortuitous coincidence for the Army, the senior noncommissioned officer of the brigade, Command Sgt. Maj. John Vannatta, was called away from his position as superintendent of the Indiana Department of Corrections' Miami Correctional Facility to deploy to Cuba. In a recent edition of *60 Minutes II*, Vannatta was filmed escorting a reporter through the camp as he replicated many of his familiar civilian

responsibilities as a correctional superintendent now in uniform as Camp Delta's "superintendent." As many as 60 other professional correctional officers joined the nearly 1,000 members of the Joint Detention Operations Group to work behind the scenes in key administrative and leadership positions. They provided the benefit of the wealth of their experiences that significantly contributed to the remarkable mission success at GTMO.

But the detention operations at GTMO are only half the equation in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. American soldiers, coalition forces and members of the new Afghanistan army continue to change the permissive environment once enjoyed by terrorist organizations in Afghanistan, which was allowed under former Taliban leadership. Although at much lower numbers than in 2002, members of the 327th Military Police Battalion (Chicago) currently provide detention of those under control of the Combined Joint Task Force 180 (the designation given to the command organization in charge of operations in Afghanistan) personnel. Joined by active Army corrections specialists from all four Army correctional facilities in the United States, these dedicated reservists stand face to face with the ardent enemies of the United States and its value system.

On average, the soldiers work 14-hour days, six days a week, before receiving one day of rest and recuperation. With extreme temperatures and the ever present risk of unexploded mines, it is truly a harsh and challeng-

ing environment. And though often provoked by behavior observed in only the most violent offenders within America's prisons, these soldiers perform their detention mission with the utmost discipline and adherence to the laws and customs of armed conflict, as well as all domestic and international standards for the treatment of detainees.

Operation Iraqi Freedom

More recent, another brigade of Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers answered the call to conduct enemy prisoner of war and detention operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. As members of the Army's 3rd Infantry Division and 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, and soldiers of the United Kingdom dashed across Iraq's border in the drive for Baghdad, on their heels were members of the 800th Military Police Brigade (Army Reserves, New York). Trained to detain enemy prisoners of war, these soldiers and other military police units took control of the remnants of the Iraqi army. They held the defeated Iraqi soldiers until Saddam Hussein's rule had clearly ended, then released the vast majority back to their home cities and families. But the new challenge that faced the soldiers of the 800th again called for the special skill-set of correctional officers.

In June, the 800th assumed responsibility for assisting the Coalition Provi-

sional Authority (CPA) and the emerging Iraqi regime to re-establish its jail and prison system — a daunting task. Last year, Hussein released Iraq's inmate population, and through both neglect and post-hostilities looting, the infrastructure of the Iraqi prison system was drastically degraded. Also, unlike many Iraqi police officers, very few former Iraqi prison guards and administrators returned to work following major hostilities. As a result, CPA and coalition forces are rebuilding the prison system from the ground up. The task to rebuild the correctional work force and prison system runs concurrent with the ongoing activities of the Iraqi police and coalition forces that have taken into custody thousands of offenders, who have committed misdemeanors to major felony-level crimes against other Iraqis and coalition forces.

Working on the second floor at CPA headquarters in downtown Baghdad, members of the 800th support the authority by recruiting and training Iraqis to run the expanding number of reconstructed jails and prisons. Capt. Michael McIntyre and Master Sgt. Don Bowen, both employees of the U.S. Penitentiary at Terre Haute, Ind., have worked behind the scenes as the designers of the emerging Iraqi prison system. Along with fellow soldiers who work for the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons, they have developed a three-week training course that has already been used to train nearly 500 new Iraqi correctional officers. Lacking soldiers with

civilian corrections experience to draw upon, one of the many important building blocks necessary to the eventual re-establishment of the new Iraqi government — training the Iraqis — has to wait. The efforts of McIntyre and Bowen are just two examples of many throughout Iraq.

Without a doubt, the activation of so many civilian correctional officers has affected the operation of many U.S. correctional facilities and placed hardships on the soldiers activated and deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Some have even questioned whether Iraq is worth the effort and sacrifice of these soldiers and their families and communities at home. But with one look at the pride and commitment of these soldiers in the field and the positive results of having soldiers with professional skills in corrections, even the casual observer can see the honor and just cause of their service to the nation.

Lt. Col. Mark S. Inch serves on the Department of the Army staff as the Corrections and Internment Branch chief within the Office of the Provost Marshal General. He was commissioned into the regular Army in 1982. Besides serving in a variety of military police positions, he recently commanded the 705th Military Police Battalion at the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and earlier in his career, commanded the Fort Ord Area Confinement Facility at Fort Ord, Calif.



Capt. Michael J. McIntyre, liaison to the Coalition Provisional Authority, 494th Military Police Detachment is a lieutenant at the U.S. Penitentiary in Terre Haute, Ind., (on left) and Master Sgt. Don L. Bowen, liaison to the Coalition Provisional Authority, 494th Military Police Detachment is a UNICOR foreman at the U.S. Penitentiary in Terre Haute (on right). Both are standing by an advertisement for new Iraqi correctional officers.



Master Sgt. Jacqueline V. McRae, inprocessing noncommissioned officer in charge, 327th Military Police Battalion (Chicago) is a corrections programs supervisor and assistant superintendent at the Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center in Union Grove, Wis., (on left); and Master Sgt. Daniel G. Bodlovich, operations sergeant, 327th Military Police Battalion is the supervisor of classification at Indiana State Prison in Michigan City, Ind. (on right). They are serving in Afghanistan.