

8th Military Police Brigade Lineage

The 8th Military Police Brigade (Provisional) was constituted in Korea in September 1984 in response to the need for cohesive command and control element in the event of war, for the numerous non-divisional Military Police units on the peninsula. At the time it consisted of the 94th Military Police Battalion in Yongsan (Seoul) and the 728th Military Police Battalion in Taegu (Camp Walker).

Military Police (MP) in Korea trace their roots back to the Korean War. Throughout the war, MPs played a vital role in the defense of the country. They fought the enemy behind the lines and protected vital roads, installations, equipment, and supplies. Other duties during that time included crime prevention, apprehension of absentees, and traffic accident prevention and investigation. A major mission of MP forces during the war was maintaining security at enemy prisoner of war camps. By early 1951, more than 150,000 communist prisoners were held by the United Nations command. Riots, demonstrations and violence had become common in the camps.

In October of that year, the 8137th Military Police (P) Group was activated to control the growing number of prisoners, a task they performed until the end of the war. MP units were also tasked to conduct search and kill or capture missions against North Korean guerillas who had infiltrated throughout the Republic of Korea rear areas.

The 728th Military Police Battalion received two Meritorious Unit Citations for "ensuring the rapid and orderly movement of troops and supplies over more than 1,000 miles of road, maintaining the security of vital bridges, controlling the movements of refugees and maintaining order in an area encompassing more than 1,000 miles.

The 94th Military Police Battalion was activated October 30, 1950 in Korea. The battalion received the Presidential Unit Citation from 1951 to 1952 for its actions during the Korean War and was then inactivated March 1953. The Battalion reactivated in Germany on June 24, 1959 and served there until 1971. The 94th MP Battalion was reactivated 16 April 1996 in Korea and later relocating to Japan.

In 1995, the concept plan was approved for the activation of a TO&E brigade in Korea. The 8th MP Brigade was officially activated on April 11, 1996 to provide command and control for the 728th Military Police Battalion and the 94th Military Police Battalion in armistice and to serve as the theater military police brigade during hostilities. The distinguished Vietnam era 8th MP Group was chosen to reactivate as the 8th Military Police Brigade.

Historically, the 8th MP Group was part of yet another significant expansion in MP responsibilities. It was formed as part of a brigade in Vietnam for greater command and control purposes, much like the reason for the activation of the 8th Military Police Brigade.

In July 2006 the 8th MP Brigade Headquarters and the 728th MP Battalion were reassigned to US Army Pacific and moved from Korea to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. In October 2007 the Brigade deployed elements of the 728th MP Battalion to Iraq for 15 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Just over one year later, the Brigade and its headquarters deployed for 12 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, returning mid-October 2009.

The 8th Military Police Brigade received the Meritorious Unit Citation for, "serving as the liaison and primary advisor to the Iraqi Police," providing, "advice and guidance on training and personnel management for a force with well over 140,000 Iraqi Police divided among six directorate headquarters, 17 district headquarters, and 165 stations." The Brigade is also noted for the successful 2009 Iraqi Provincial Elections by its contributions to the, "Iraqi Police providing critical site security to over 1,100 polling sites and checkpoints throughout Iraq.

Today, the 8th Military Police Brigade consists of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 728th Military Police Battalion, and the 71st Chemical Company.

