



18TH MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE HISTORY

On 20 May 1966, the 18th Military Police Brigade was activated at Fort Meade, Maryland.

Members of the HHC deployed to Vung Tau, republic of Vietnam on 7 September 1966. On 26 September 1966 the Brigade assumed operational control over all non-division military police units in the republic of Vietnam. The brigade was composed of three major subordinate elements: the 16th Military Police Group at Nha Trang, the 89th Military Police Group at long Binh, and the 8th Military Police Group (Criminal Investigation), also at long Binh. The 16th and 89th Military Police Groups were composed of seven Military Police Battalions containing a mixture of military police and infantry companies. The total strength of the Brigade numbered more than 5,000 personnel.

Members of the Brigade performed a wide variety of missions, including the evacuation of prisoners of war, escort of convoys, security of vessels and ports, security of vital installations and VIPs, maintenance of discipline, law and order, and direct support to combat operations. One of the Brigade's finest moments came during the Tet offensive of 1968, when the 716th Military Police Battalion, was the principal force that defeated the Viet Cong attacks across Saigon, including attacks on the US Embassy. The Brigade completed its valiant service in Vietnam and was inactivated on 20 March 1973 in Oakland, California.

The Brigade was re-designated on 16 August 1985 as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Military Police Brigade and activated in Frankfurt, Federal Republic of Germany. Units of the Brigade deployed in 1991 in support of Operation's Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Provide Comfort. In August 1994, the Brigade moved its headquarters to Mannheim, Germany. From 1995-1996 the Brigade deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina in support of Operation Joint Endeavor as part of NATO's Implementation Force. Additionally, units of the Brigade have provided a recurring presence in support of operations in the Balkans since 1995.

The 18th Military Police Brigade led Task Force Summit in 1999, providing security for 49 world leaders in a summit meeting in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina. The 18th Military Police Brigade was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and then Operation Iraqi Freedom from 21 February 2003 to 7 February 2004 where it crossed the berm with V Corps and was responsible for military police operations in support of ground combat and eventually the training of the Iraqi police and establishment of the Baghdad Police Academy and police service. Upon return from Iraq in February the Brigade immediately began to prepare for a return to Iraq and was the first Brigade in the army to return to Iraq on 30 November 2004 serving there until 7 November 2005.



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While in Iraq, the Brigade was responsible for route security along the main supply routes in and around Baghdad; and was partnered with the Iraqi Police in Al Kut, Al Hillah, Ad Diwaniya, Karbala and Najaf. The 18th Military Police Brigade transformed the Iraqi Highway Patrol from a regional organization of 300 patrolmen to a federal law enforcement agency with national jurisdiction, a new academy and a national headquarters in Baghdad. Additionally, the Brigade took control of all detention operations in Iraq, to include the establishment of Fort Suse, the newest facility in northern Iraq. In September of 2007 to December of 2008 the Brigade Headquarters deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to oversee the training of the Iraqi Police.

On July 15, 2011 more than 1500 Soldiers, family members and civilians were on hand in Mannheim, Germany for the brigade's change of command ceremony, which was the unit's last official act before moving to Sembach, Germany on July 16, 2011.

In May of 2013, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Military Police Brigade deployed to Camp Sabalu-Harrison, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. While deployed, the brigade was responsible for the strategically sensitive mission of operating the Afghan National Detention Facility-Parwan. They assured the Secure and Humane Care, Custody, and Control of all Third Country Nationals, Law of Armed Conflict detainees, and GIRA pre-trial detainees and prisoners. To make certain the Afghan government was capable of continuing with the mission after the withdrawal of U.S. troops, the brigade took on the additional mission of training, assisting and advising their Afghan counterparts in detention operations, security forces development, anti-terrorism and force protection. Upon successfully completing the detainee operations mission, the brigade redeployed to Sembach Germany in February 2014.

Upon the return of the brigade from its deployment to Afghanistan, the 18th Military Police Brigade entered into a time of significant transition. Within six months, the brigade received the 15th Engineer Battalion, Inactivated the 95th Military Police Battalion, and moved the Headquarters to Grafenwoehr Germany.