

The Theater Military Police School

The Theater Military Police School unit was established in Europe during the closing days of WWII. A small cadre of personnel was formed in the US, dispatched to Europe and assigned the mission of training Anti-Aircraft Batteries that would eventually be converted to MP Units. The conversions were required for the rapid implementation of the “police type” occupation. The designation of the original cadre, if there was one, is not known. However, during August of 1945, the unit was moved to Romilly-Sur-Seine, France and on September 27th that year, the cadre of personnel was designated as the 6815th Military Police Overhead Training School Detachment (Provisional).¹

The school unit was placed under the supervision of the Theater Provost Marshal, first of USFET, then EUCOM and finally USAREUR. As previously discussed, the school relocated to several different locations throughout Germany, including Nellingen where it was redesignated as the 7714th Military Police Training Detachment.² In March of 1947, the unit was again redesignated as the EUCOM MP School.³ After being separated from the Constabulary School in May of 1948, the MP School moved to Oberammergau where it combined with the Intelligence School. The school remained there until closure in 1961.

The establishment of the school was predicated upon the lack of trained personnel within the theater to implement the police-type occupation.⁴ The original concept of training only soldiers assigned to AAA Battalions was abandoned in 1947 when the MP School was combined with the Constabulary School.⁵ However, once established at Oberammergau, the MP School began accepting and training two (2) types of in-theater personnel.⁶ One type was the soldier who desired to change his Military Occupation Specialty (MOS) to become an MP's. The other type

¹ US Army, *Directory of Units and Station List of the US Army* (Washington, D.C.: Adjutant General Office, January 1946) p. 87.

² US Army Headquarters EUCOM, *The Fourth Year of Occupation-Occupation Forces in Europe Series, 1948* (Karlsruhe, Germany: Office of Chief Historian, 1949) p.77.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Headquarters EUCOM, *Command Report*, 1945. p.35.

⁵ US Army Headquarters EUCOM, *The Fourth Year of Occupation-Occupation Forces in Europe Series, 1948* (Karlsruhe, Germany: Office of Chief Historian, 1949) p.78.

⁶ Major James M. Snyder, *The Establishment and Operation of the United States Constabulary, 3 October 1945- 30 June 1947* (Headquarters US Constabulary: Historical Sub-Section, G-3) 1947. p.26.

was the MP who either needed or desired training in advanced course-work. Beginning in late 1950, the school began accepting Air Force Police and by 1957 German Military Police were being trained at the facility.⁷

The Provost Marshal and school officials tailored the curriculum to meet the specific needs of the Theater. The various courses included such diverse topics as the German Police and Court Systems, Allied police agencies and USAREUR Directives. Much of the instructional material was tailored to comply with the requirements of what would become the Status of Forces (SOF) Agreements between the Allies and host nations. Regardless of individual standing, all students attending the theater school received training in the specific laws and regulations endemic to the continent.

From 1946 until 1956, the MP School staff developed a total of thirteen (13) distinct Military Police courses of instruction. The courses offered changed throughout the period as the needs of the theater matured and law and order functions expanded. The courses, along with the date of inception, termination, the number of sessions and the number of graduates are listed below.

<u>Course</u>	<u>Date Begun</u>	<u>Date Ended</u>	<u>No. of Sessions</u>	<u>Duration Hours (Weeks)</u>	<u>No. of Graduates</u>
Basic MP Course	17 June 1946	4 June 1960	112	176 (4)	15,509
Criminal Investigation	30 Sept. 1946	6 Nov. 1958	65	220 (5)	1,397
Desk Sergeant Course	8 Dec. 1947	26 March 1960	44	88 (2)	1,482
Highway Patrol	Feb. 1949	22 July 1953	15	96 (2)	381
Officer Refresher	15 March 1949	10 Feb. 1955	16	88 (2)	299
Customs Control	April 1949	June 1952	-	88 (2)	unk.
Special Weapons	5 Jan. 1953	March 1970	-	-	unk.
Crime Prevention	25 June 1953	13 Dec. 1954	3	91 (2)	102
Guardhouse Admin.	5 May 1954	26 Nov. 1958	5	88 (2)	102
Crim. Invest. Refresher	6 Oct. 1954	10 Nov. 1956	7	88 (2)	127
Installation Security	27 Oct. 1954	16 Feb. 1959	6	88 (2)	275
Crim. Invest. (Super.)	25 April 1955	19 Oct. 1956	4	40 (1)	96
Traffic Acc. Prevention	6 Aug. 1956	21 May 1960	22	91 (2)	537

In 1960, Captain Gerald E. Rush was a member of the MP school staff at Oberammergau. Captain Rush, while there as a Lieutenant, was the first MP Officer to attend and graduate from the US Army Ranger School. (He was awarded the coveted Ranger Tab on June 21st 1956) During his assignment with the unit, he became intimately familiar with the school mission, organization and history. He retired from the US Army as a Major and has composed and provided the following detailed narrative discussing the lineage, operation and curriculum of the school from its inception in 1945 until its closure in 1961.⁸

⁷ Headquarters USAREUR, Provost Marshal Division, *Command Report*, 1952. p.32.

⁸ Major Gerald E. Rush (Ret.) Narrative submitted November 26th 2005.

HISTORY OF THE MILITARY POLICE SCHOOL IN EUROPE

1. Official designation as of June 1960.

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY
INTELLIGENCE, MILITARY POLICE, & SPECIAL WEAPONS SCHOOL, EUROPE

2. Mission – The Military Police Department is responsible for providing courses of instruction in Military Police, Criminal Investigation, and allied subjects to Military personnel of the Armed Forces stationed in Europe. This mission has remained basically unchanged through the years.

3. The following data relative to the school are divided into three phases to provide the reader a better understanding of the chronological chain of events.

PHASE I

Military Police training in Europe prior to the establishment of a formal school.

In July 1945 a group of 24 selected Military Police officers arrived in France with the mission of forming teams of traveling instructors in the European theater of operations, for the purpose of converting certain Anti-Aircraft-Artillery Battalions to operational Military Police units consistent with the requirements and circumstances in the theater at that time. These officers were organized into three instructor teams. One team at Henry En Bierre, France, a second team to Verdun, and the third team to the south of France.

In August 1945 the three teams were ordered to Romilly-Sur-Seine, France, for the purpose of establishing a Military Police School in a bombed out German fighter air-base, formerly used for German prisoners of war. Of the PW group, 417 specialists were retained to assist in re-building the facilities consistent with the purpose intended.

PHASE II

Organization of the Military Police School.

On 27 September 1945 the 6815th Military Police School Detachment, located at Romilly-Sur-Seine, France, was officially designated. The original course presented was designed to train basic Military Policemen and as of six weeks duration. It was slanted towards the combat needs of this time. The curriculum, lesson plans, etc. were prepared by the original group of traveling instructors. A Military Police Battalion was assigned to the school to assist in carrying out the mission.

As the occupation of Germany progressed, the school's location was changed to Brake, Germany. On or about 8 May 1946 the school complement and approximately 200 German prisoners of war arrived at a former German navy training center and set up the school facilities.

On 25 May 1946 classes were resumed. Four Military Police classes ran simultaneously with 50 to 60 students per class. While at Brake, a Criminal Investigation Course was instituted, designed to provide accredited investigators to supplement replacements from the U.S.

In September 1946 the arrival of dependents necessitated the school's move to an area more suitable to their needs. At this time an abandoned German air-base at Nellingen, Germany, was selected. The nearby town of Esslingen, Germany, provided sufficient quarters and other necessary facilities and the nearness of Stuttgart provided increased logistical support.

At this time the school was designated as the 7714th Military Police Training School, organized into four academic departments: (1) MP CI Department; (2) General Subjects Department; (3) Weapons Department; and (4) Police Department. The Military Police basic course and the Criminal Investigation basic course are still being offered. While at Nellingen, three new courses were developed: The Officers Refresher course, which was designated to acquaint occupation Military Police officers with their duties and responsibilities peculiar to the times, consistent with a new concept of Criminal Investigation, a course was originated at the school to meet a requirement for non-accredited investigators to work on less serious crimes than the accredited investigators. These men, upon graduation, were to be utilized in "Special Investigation Sections" throughout the command. Another unique course started here was the Desk Sergeants course, the only one of its kind in the Army. The first class graduated 19 December 1947 with 142 graduates. The above three courses are still offered at the school.

In 1947 the US Constabulary was conducting a school at Sonthofen, Germany. The curriculum closely approximated that of the Military Police School. In the interest of economy and efficiency, the Military Police School was consolidated with the US Constabulary School in February 1948, and became a separate branch of the Constabulary School. As such the Military Police School was phased out in a sense, but the instruction was conducted by Military Police officers primarily.

While at Sonthofen, early in 1948, the US Constabulary was deactivated, leaving the Military Police Branch. At Sonthofen the Military Police Branch graduated two classes of basic Military Policemen. No other courses were offered.

PHASE III

A chronological list of important events from May 1948 to the present day.

The facilities at Sonthofen were more than that required by the Military Police School. The Provost Marshal and the G-2 of EUCOM jointly agreed to consolidate the Military Police School with the Intelligence School at Oberammergau, Germany, its present location. This occurred in May 1948 and the combined schools were redesignated the "EUCOM Intelligence and Military Police School." The Intelligence School had been in Oberammergau since 1946, when it moved there from France. The Kaserne housing the school was originally the home of a German Mountain Signal Battalion and used later during the war as an experimental jet aircraft engine base by the Messerschmitt Corporation.

Courses presented by the Military Police Division were resumed immediately with an increased quota of 180 students per course in the basic Military Police Course, and 40 students per course in the Criminal Investigation Course. At this time both courses were greatly improved and reconstituted. During the interim period of conversion from Sonthofen to Oberammergau the instructors made extensive field trips to visit units and provost marshals throughout the command in an effort to determine the requirements in the field and the best ways to serve these needs. New ideas were incorporated into the instruction, field and unit conducted training was eliminated and new training aids devised, i.e. traffic maze, criminal investigation field problems, etc.

Early in 1948 Brigadier General Schwarzkopf, Provost Marshal, EUCOM, was directed to organize a Highway Patrol similar to many state organizations in the United States. A program of instruction was formulated to meet the needs of this unique organization. The 62d Military Police Company was redesignated the 62d Military Police Highway Patrol Company. Personnel were carefully selected and given a comprehensive course of instruction in Traffic Control and Accident Investigation. The first class graduated in February 1949. These courses continued until July 1953, when the

requirements for training in Europe were no longer necessary because of German police being granted more authority on the highways and school-trained replacements being received from the United States.

In April 1949 a Customs Control Course was instituted at the school by direction of Brigadier General Schwarzkopf. These courses continued until 1952.

In May 1949 it was mutually agreed upon between the Provost Marshal and G-2 of EUCOM that the Assistant Commandant would in the future be a Lieutenant Colonel of the Military Police Corps.

In 1950 the Air Force had no school of their own. At their request, the Provost Marshal, USAREUR, granted a large student quota to meet their needs. 50 to 60 students attended each class for a considerable period.

In 10 February 1950 the school was redesignated from EUCOM Intelligence and Military Police School to the USAREUR Intelligence and Military Police School, due to a change in title of the Command.

During 1950 the school began developing a Crime Museum, exhibiting evidence no longer of value. Material and exhibits are of actual criminal cases that have occurred in Europe.

Also in 1950 a photographic laboratory was established to meet the photographic instructional requirements of the Military Police Branch, However, it has developed growing pains and now provides support for all other branches of the school and the post. To meet this increased work load, the lab was designated as a class "C" laboratory in 1955.

At the outset of 1951, the curricula included six courses of instruction. The following is a listing of these courses with duration and frequency indicated:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Weeks</u>		<u>Courses Per Anum</u>
	<u>Duration</u>	<u>Quota</u>	
Military Police	5	150	8
Criminal Investigation	5	25	8
Desk Sergeants	2	30	5
Company Grade Officers Refresher	2	15	3
Custom Control	2	20	(As needed)
Highway Patrol	2	20	(As needed)

A new concept of courses was directed by the Provost Marshal of USAREUR in 1953. When a new field was entered by the operational units or an old field was to be stressed, the school was called upon to organize a course of instruction in that particular field. By direction of the Provost Marshal, a course in Crime Prevention was prepared and a two week session was offered on 25 June 1953. This course was placed on an "as required" basis. Although it was only presented three times in the next two years. The staff and faculty maintain lesson plans, and all subjects are assigned, completely prepared to present the course when directed.

On 5 January 1953 a new branch of the school was organized, the Special Weapons Branch. However, this did not change the name of the school until 1956 (noted separately). Prior to its inception, the Intelligence Branch had covered this area. The Special Weapons Branch conducts courses of instruction in the employment of special weapons for US staff and NATO officers.

Another such course is the Guardhouse Administration Course. Originally organized and presented on 5 May 1954, it is presented once a year. Subjects are presented that are of particular interest to officer and enlisted personnel assigned to military police duties in confinement facilities.

During October 1954 a two week course was presented to officers and enlisted men who were performing duties as security supervisors at critical installations. This course was later modified to a one

week course at the request of Seventh Army, and presented to security personnel of Seventh Army installations. This version was presented in March 1956 and is to be presented again in January 1957.

On 15 February 1955 dependent housing was available adjacent to the Kaserne in an area appropriately named "Gullion Village" in memory of the first Provost Marshal General. This fine area consists of a dependent elementary school, family apartment houses, and officers club and two bachelor officer type buildings. Prior to this time, permanent party and PCS students were required to live on the German economy in Oberammergau and/or Garmisch, or in local requisitioned housing.

In July 1956 at the direction of the USAREUR Provost Marshal, the Military Police Branch formulated a program of instruction known as the Traffic Accident Prevention Course. The first two courses were of one week duration with emphasis on the techniques of accident investigation. Future courses will be of two weeks duration, to provide adequate instruction in prevention measures, such as, recording, filing, and analysis of accident data. Four two week courses per year are planned. This course fills a need for the training of enlisted personnel assigned to TAP sections of provost Marshal offices throughout the European Command.

On 20 September 1956 the school graduated its 18,000th student from all the combined and diversified courses since its inception in 1945.

On 10 November 1956 the USAREUR Intelligence and Military Police School celebrated its 11th anniversary here at Hawkins Barracks. The Kaserne was officially designated as "Hawkins Barracks" in memory of Lt Colonel Jesse M. Hawkins, G-2, 2d Armored Division, killed in action in France in World War II. Annually, this is an "open house" day for Americans as well as Germans from the local community. All branches of this school participate in a review, demonstrations, and displays. All buildings on the post and in Gullion Village are for the most part named in honor of deceased holders of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The academic headquarters of the Military Policed Branch is named "Percival Hall" in memoriam of 1st Lieutenant James K. Percival, a Military Police officer killed in action in 1950 in the Korean Conflict.

On 2 May 1956 Lt Colonel Herbert J. Michau, 508th Military Police Battalion, Captain George M. Schneider, and seven enlisted men, composing the German Training Advisory Group for Military Police Training, reported for approximately 30 days TDY. During the period of TDY, the team, assisted by this branch, organized and prepared instructional material and training aids preparatory to their move to Sonthofen, Germany, and the establishment of the German Army Military Police Training Center (Feldjaeger School).

During the period 1954-1956 the school designation was changed four times, primarily for administrative purposes, and in 1956 to include the Special Weapons Branch as a component part of the school. Heretofore, the Special Weapons Branch had not been recognized in the title.

From 1956 to 1960 the school had three (3) Lt. Colonels as Chiefs, Military Police Department Lt. Cols Henry J. Fee, Hughes A Carnes, Lewis Treadwell. Col. Fee expanded the basic MP Course to have basic combat arms, small unit patrol and map reading. A U.S. Army Ranger, MPC Branch was assigned to the school and taught Basic Map Reading, Small Unit Tactics, Combat Convoy Security, Advanced Weapons Usage and Counter Infiltration Protection.

In 1957 Col. Carnes invited the West Germany Army Feldjaeger Corps to attend the school. Seven (7) Enlisted and four (4) Officers attended the Basic Military Police Course.

In 1959 Col Treadwell, because of the addition of new equipment to the 62d Military Police Highway Patrol Company, assisted the Germans develop Speed Radar Control and Traffic Pax (In Patrol Car Photogenic Evidence Cameras). One (1) Officer and one (1) NCO from Oberammergau Military Police School and 9 NCO's from the 62d Military Police Highway Patrol Company attended the German

State Police Training School in Wiesbaden. This was the first time U.S. Army Military Police have ever attended a German Police School. A course similar to the German Police School will be added to the MP School curriculum.

Redesignations of this School

Designated: USAREUR Intelligence and Military Police School, 7712th Army Unit, APO, 172, US Army

Paragraph 1, General Order No. 5, Hq USAREUR, dated 18 January 1954.

Designated: USAREUR Intelligence and Military Police School, (7712), APO, 172, US Army

Paragraphs 1-3, USAREUR Memorandum No. 220-5-1, dated 25 April 1956.

Effective 30 April 1956.

Designated: USAREUR Intelligence, Military Police and Special Weapons School, (7712), APO 172, US Army

Paragraph 1, General Order No. 228, Hq USAREUR, dated 16 November 1956.

Effective 1 December 1956.

Designated: United States Army Intelligence, Military Police, and Special Weapons School, Europe, APO 172, US Army

Paragraphs 1-2, General Order 260, Hq USAREUR, Dated 11 November 1956.

Effective 1 January 1957.

Designated: United States Army Intelligence, Military Police, and Special Weapons School, Europe, APO 172, US Forces

SUMMARY

Prestige is constantly attained at the school from the ever increasing official visits of distinguished visitors. The USAREUR Intelligence and Military Police School has gradually become one of the "places" to see while in Europe. It has become a place of interest to persons from the highest rank to West Point cadets. Distinguished persons, too numerous to mention, have been through the branches of the school and were no less interested in the activities of the Military Police School than the other branches. We have been honored by a visit from President Dwight D. Eisenhower while he was the Commander-in-Chief, SHAPE, and many dignitaries of political and military life, both of the United States and allied powers.

"What does not advance, retrogresses" - - The Military Police Branch continues to go forward, constantly adding new courses and improving old courses. Instructors are ever alert to learn new techniques of presenting their subject. The spirit of friendly cooperation that began in France in 1946 between the staff, faculty and students has grown with the school and that spirit infects each new member upon arrival. We are justly proud of the accomplishments of this department. The success enjoyed is due to the attitude of the faculty and to the excellent leadership of those officers carefully selected as Chiefs of the Department, who have constantly reminded the complement of the Department that our job is the same as every military policeman's in the Corps - "Service to the Troops".

CHIEFS, MILITARY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Major	N. LEARY	MPC	1945
Major	WILLIAM F. LAFARGE	MPC	1945 – 46
Lt Col	FRANKLIN B. WINNIE	MPC	1946
Lt Col	ARTHUR J. ERICSSON	MPC	1946 – 47
Lt Col	ROBERT C. THEIRING	MPC	1947 – 49
Lt Col	KENNETH A. CARSON	MPC	1949 – 51
Major	JOHN A. MC MAHON	MPC	1951 – 52
Lt Col	HOWARD G. FORD	MPC	1952
Lt Col	LEROY C. HILL	MPC	1952 – 54
Lt Col	CHARLES W. LEE	MPC	1954 – 55
Lt Col	LOUIS MARK	MPC	1955
Lt Col	HENRY J. FEE	MPC	1955 – 57
Lt Col	HUGHES A. CARNES	MPC	1957
Lt Col	LEWIS L. TREADWELL	MPC	1957-

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The MP School began to disband on April 1st 1960 when it was redesignated as the US Army School Command-Europe.⁹ Then, on July 1st 1961, the school was officially inactivated when it was renamed the US Army School- Europe.¹⁰ During the change-over process, the curriculum changed to command and supervision courses.

Closure was based on two factors. One was budgetary and the other was duplication of effort, both were interrelated. By 1960, the MP School at Fort Gordon had expanded and was producing enough graduates to fill the need for theater units. Theater commanders, always under pressure to conserve finances, considered the MP School as redundant and decided to close it.

However, from 1961 until 1970, the school offered a single MP oriented course. This particular course, entitled “Physical Security,” was designed to train Military Police officers and NCOs who provided security at the Special Weapons depots. The final MP security class graduated the school during March of 1970, the same month that the facility permanently closed. At that time, the school’s physical facility was turned over to NATO officials who operated the property as a training academy for their personnel.

Throughout its years of operation, the school imparted to MP students the highest level of prevailing police knowledge and standards. In addition, the school instilled in its students a high degree of military professionalism and decorum. As a result, by the mid 1960’s, the Military

⁹ Headquarters USAREUR, General Order No. 56, dated 15 March 1960.

¹⁰ Headquarters USAREUR, General Order No. 43, dated 20 April 1961.

Police units serving in Europe had become elite, proud and dedicated group of good will ambassadors. They consistently displayed a high degree of military bearing, conscientiousness and dedication. It would have been a rare individual indeed, who, in Europe during the time, did not have some contact with this highly visible organization.

The below illustrations and photographs were all provided by Major (Ret.) Gerald Rush. In addition to his conscientious efforts of preservation, he has been kind enough to allow their use so that we all can observe the operations of an MP unit that may have otherwise been lost forever.



A typical classroom environment at the MP School.

Students are receiving instruction in Traffic Investigation.

The exact date is unknown, but the uniform dates the photograph at circa 1958.

BASIC MILITARY POLICE COURSE
(4 Weeks - 176 Hours)

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
<u>GENERAL SUBJECTS</u>	27
First Aid	9
Map Reading	13
English Grammar	5
<u>MILITARY POLICE SUBJECTS</u>	116
Organization and Mission of the MPC	1
Duties of the Military Police	28
MP Records and Forms	10
Traffic Control	27
Sources of Information	1
Care and Preservation of Evidence	4
Fingerprinting	2
Notes and Sketches	2
Observation and Description	2
Military Law	24
MP Communications	9
Judo	6
<u>EXAMINATIONS</u>	13
Practical Proficiency Test (Stake Course)	8
Written Examinations and Critiques	5
<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>	20
Registration, Processing, Orientation, Graduation	4
Troop Information, Inspection	12
Commandant's Time	4
TOTAL:	176

Course syllabus for the Basic MP certification.

Lt. MacDuffee gives instructions during a field problem in traffic investigation



HIGHWAY PATROL COURSE
(2 Weeks - 96 Hours)

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
<u>GENERAL SUBJECTS</u>	16
Public Courtesy and Disciplining	1
Public Relations	3
Communications	3
First Aid	9
<u>WEAPONS</u>	12
Familiarization and Night Firing	12
<u>TACTICS</u>	8
Map Reading	5
Riot Control Techniques & Use of Chemicals	3
<u>POLICE ENFORCEMENT</u>	14
Records & Forms, Identification, Leaves & Passes	6
Liaison between Police Agencies	1
German Police System	1
Care & Preservation of Evidence	1
Apprehensions	3
Restriction on the Use of Firearms	1
Selective Enforcement	1
<u>TRAFFIC</u>	14
Traffic Control Techniques	1
Schedules, Traffic Signs, Traffic Patrols, Motor Patrolling	4
Accident Investigation	5
Motor Vehicle Maintenance	2
Motor March Reconnaissance	2
<u>MILITARY LAW</u>	9
Jurisdiction, Pre-Trial Procedure, Punitive Articles, Evidence	9
<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>	23
Reserved Time (including I&E, Examinations, Inspections, Reviews, Physical Training, & Military Formations, Study)	23
TOTAL:	96

Course syllabus for the basic Highway Patrol Course.



Practical Training exercises (1958)

Clockwise from top left; Testifying in court, First aid, Traffic control and Firearms identification.

Lt. G. Rush
throws Cpl.
Albert Roe to
the mat in a
demonstration
of unarmed
defense.



Students
undergoing a
practical
exercise in Map
Reading.

(1958)



Sergeant Woodman (kneeling, left) gives instruction in accident victim First Aid.



Top:

A practical exercise in
“triangularization” of a traffic
accident.

Left:

Lt. Gerald Rush is promoted to
Captain by Col. Paul Guthery
(1960)



MP units frequently volunteered their off-duty time to support community and social organizations. Here, the Boy Scout troop, which was supported by the MP Staff at Oberammergau, raises the flag in ceremonies at the school complex.