

Military Police. Training for war



Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Summers, one of the students at MP BNCOC oversees prison operations.

***By Staff Sgt. Erich Langer,
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FORT LEONARD WOOD, Mo. For soldiers coordinating and carrying out the past few cycles of MP Advanced Noncommissioned Officer (ANCOC) and Basic Noncommissioned Officer courses (BNCOC), the training exercises in the wooded country of central Missouri have become pretty routine. Far from routine, though, is the likely hood that many of these soldiers students and instructors — may soon be putting their finely - honed skills to use in Afghanistan, Iraq or other hotspots the U.S. Army now patrols.

Military police (MP) soldiers and units have been deployed in record numbers and more highly trained NCOs are needed. And Army Reserve and Army

National Guard soldiers from across the country participating in two weeks of training exercises here are really doing much more than just ‘burning 14 days of AT’.

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The 2nd Battalion (MP), 95th Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 95th Division (Institutional Training) instructors really have their work cut out for them. Not only do they conduct their annual ANCOC and BNCOC courses but some may find themselves deployed, as well. Some have recent MP experience in Afghanistan and

several more served in Iraq or Kuwait during Desert Storm.

“I enjoy teaching BNCOC, said Sgt. 1st Class Ben Crooks, El Dorado, Kan. As a civilian jail administrator, Crooks brings important law enforcement skills to his Army Reserve position. “Lots of things have changed over the years but I enjoy being able to utilize my experience and pass it along to other NCOs. I absolutely like it.”

At Fort Leonard Wood, 2nd Battalion noncommissioned officer professional development takes place in the classroom, field and even at an elaborate computer simulation laboratory.

“The FTX (Field Training Exercise) portion of our training is 56 hours long and consists of 14 team missions,” said Sgt. 1st Class Glenn Hewitt, BNOC course manager. “We train to standard so when soldiers leave here they are technically and tacitly protestant in a wartime environment.

The students who receive their instruction here at Fort Leonard Wood are being trained by the best instructors in the field? Armywide.”



During one of the team missions, students practice safely moving and housing enemy prisoners of war. To increase the realism of the training, an enemy prisoner of war camp complete with three-strands of Concertina wire that surround the parameter and several smaller prisoner enclosures within the camp, was established. Soldier simulate a wartime environment involving securing and overseeing prisoners.

“I was active duty, field artillery for 10-year; it was totally different. How you move, size of units and lots more,” said Staff Sgt. Clayton R. Shell from San Antonio. Shell earned recognition as the BNOC Honor Graduate for the cycle. “After leaving active duty, I became a civilian police officer in San Antonio and looked around for a reserve unit. I spoke to a recruiter and he told me about a MP unit nearby. I really like it and will stay doing MP work; heck, I would have enlisted as an MP if I would have known I’d enjoy it this much,”



Sgt's First Class Ben Crooks, El Dorado, Kan.; Jason Willes, Davenport, Iowa; and Samuel Hernandez, San Antonio, Tx.