

KOREAN WAR PROJECT

**ANNEX PETER, REPORT OF MILITARY
POLICE DETACHMENT, 1ST PROVISIONAL
MAR BRIGADE, [REINF]**

ANNEX PETER

Report of
Military Police Detachment

MILITARY POLICE DETACHMENT
Headquarters & Service Battalion, 1st Provisional Marine
Brigade (Reinforced) In the Field

SPECIAL ACTION REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to summarize the organization and activities of the unit while attached to the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade (Reinforced), Fleet Marine Force. The mission of the unit was to provide traffic control, straggler control, prisoner of war control, and assist in civilian control within the Brigade zone of action. This unit was attached to the Headquarters and Service Battalion, 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, Fleet Marine Force, for administrative control.

2. The task organization was composed as follows:

- (a) Traffic Platoon --- 1 officer & 26 enlisted
- (b) Police Squad --- 1 officer & 9 enlisted
with five percent overstrength of two
enlisted, making a total of 2 officers and
37 enlisted.

3. The preliminary planning phase, 7 July, 1950 (date of activation) until 3 August, 1950, consisted of organization on 7 July, 1950, mounting out period from 7 July, 1950, until 13 July, 1950, and sailing from San Diego, California, on 14 July, 1950. Upon embarkation this unit was divided into three (3) groups as follows:

1 officer and 9 enlisted with Brigade Headquarters aboard the USS GEORGE CLYMER APA 27;

1 officer and 14 enlisted with Co. "A", 1st Shore Party Battalion (Shore Party Team #3) aboard the USS PICKAWAY APA 222;

14 enlisted with Co. "A", 1st Shore Party Battalion (Shore Party Team #1) aboard the USS HENRICO APA 45. While underway, intensive instruction was carried out on military police duties, basic subjects, briefing on the situation in Korea both military and civilian as pertained to health and climate and the people.

4. There were no rehearsals.

5. During the loading and embarkation, this unit provided dock security. All equipment to be loaded was handled by the Headquarters and Service Battalion, 1st Provisional Marine Brigade.

6. Movement to and arrival at the objective area was without incident.

7. Combat narrative of Military Police Platoon from 3 August, 1950, to 6 September, 1950.

The Military Police Platoon participated in three operations during this period. On 3 August, 1950, disembarked in Pusan, Korea, and immediately set up security on docks and staging areas, traffic guides, traffic control on roads between Pusan and bivouac. 4 and 5 August, 1950, maintained control of local security for CP, security on Commanding General, traffic control and guides, set up straggler lines, prisoner of war collecting point, POW escort and guards, set up control over food, water and blackout discipline. 6 August, 1950, sent security and quartering party to CP, Ching-dong-ni. Set up straggler line and POW collecting point forward and rear. 7 and 8 August, 1950, security of advance CP, set guard over morgue, commanding general, and water at Ching-dong-ni; also maintained same posts and security at Changwon bivouac as of 4, 5, and 6 August, 1950. 9 August, 1950, set up forward straggler and prisoner of war collecting points forward of CP, Ching-dong-ni, traffic guides and control, security for quartering party to Pac-dun-ni, security of convoys, captured enemy equipment and documents, investigation and interrogation of POWs and suspected subversives. 10 August, 1950, sent security for advance party to Kosung, traffic guides and control, ambulance guides, straggler and POW collecting points Pac-dun-ni and Ching-dong-ni, control over food, water and blackout discipline. 11 August, 1950, local security CP at Ching-dong-ni and Kosung CP's; guards on ambulances, set up town patrol of Kosung to prevent looting and pilfering of city, security on convoys, POW and straggler collecting points, guards and escorts. 12 August, 1950, maintained control of traffic, security of CP, straggler and POW collecting points, town patrol, ambulance guards, reconnaissance on west road to observe for mortar, machine gun, and sniper fire, POW escort and guards to Masan, traffic guides at Pac-dun-ni. 13 August, 1950, security of CP, commanding general, morgue at Ching-dong-ni, road patrol, traffic control, guides, ambulance guards, straggler and POW points, escort and guards of POWs to higher echelon POW stockade. Control over food, water and blackout discipline at Ching-dong-ni. 14 August, 1950, security on movement to Miryang. Security of advance quartering party, convoy on main body, traffic control and guides, control over food, water and blackout discipline. 15 August, 1950, local security of CP, Miryang bivouac, traffic guides, patrol and security. Control over food, water, bath, and security on commanding general. 16, 17, and 18 August, 1950, local security on CP, straggler and POW collecting points set up forward of CP at Yongsan. Security on quartering party advance to CP Yongsan. Straggler and collecting point personnel assigned to 5th Marines CP to guard and escort POWs to G-2 at Yongsan. Security set on commanding general, food, water, morgue, and enforced blackout discipline. 19 August, 1950, security of quartering party to Miryang bivouac, convoy, straggler and POW collecting point plus local security on CP and commanding general. 20 August,

1950, security for advance quartering party to Masan, road marking and designation, traffic patrol, guides, convoy security, local security on CP and commanding general. Control over food, water, and blackout discipline. 21 to 31 August, 1950, at Masan bivouac; set control over food, water, uniform and blackout discipline. Local security of CP and commanding general. Raised and lowered colors daily, traffic guides, patrol and control, set up town patrol, investigations regarding stolen vehicles. 1 September, 1950, advance party to Miryang. Traffic control patrol, guides, convoy security. Guides at Ching-yong-ni intersection to Miryang. 2 September, 1950, security on advance party to Kyun-gyo, traffic control and patrol, guides at Miryang, Kyun-Gyo intersection, convoy security, straggler and POW collecting points Kyun-Gyo, security on commanding general, listening posts and local security of CP Kyun-Gyo. 3, 4, and 5 September, 1950, straggler and POW collecting point set up at Yongsan and assigned to CO, 5th Regiment as escort and guards from front lines to G-2. Security on commanding general, CP, and traffic patrol, guides, and control over food, water and blackout discipline. 6 September, 1950, advance party to Pusan marking roads and guiding convoys. Maintained security of CP at Kyun-Gyo. Set up traffic posts in Pusan and security of bivouac areas at Pier #2 and Pusan University. Two jeeps on town patrol in Pusan

8. This unit was not concerned with enemy tactics, organization, strength, deployment, probable order of battle, or equipment.

9. This operation has provided invaluable experience and training in handling traffic on poor roads, stragglers, and prisoners of war. Stragglers were negligible; however.

10. The following recommendations are respectfully submitted:

(a). That the Military Police Company should be a separate and independent company within the Headquarters and Service Battalion and have its own bivouac area, galley, and motor transport section. The Provost Marshal should be located in a central position within the Division Command Post so as to have immediate liason and notification of all movements and orders in order to be able to promptly notify the Military Police Company of such so that the Company can establish immediate traffic control to facilitate the orderly movement of motor serials.

(b) That the Military Police Company should be provided with, in view of the road net and distances involved in the present operation, vehicles as enumerated below:

1. One truck 4x4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton for each 3 men in the traffic platoons and police platoon.
2. One motorcycle for each traffic squad.
3. Company Headquarters to have 6 trucks 4x4, $\frac{1}{2}$ ton and two trucks 6x6, $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton or 6x6, $1\frac{1}{2}$ ton for transporting personnel (stragglers and prisoners -- MPs when necessary) and all organic equipment.
4. Each squad, platoon headquarters, and company headquarters should have one (1) of the vehicles assigned equipped with a radio.

(c) In addition to the radios mentioned in paragraph (b) above, the Military Police Company should have an organic wire communications system to provide communications from Company Headquarters to critical traffic control points and other MP installations such as straggler points and prisoner collecting points.

(d) The Military Police Company should be equipped with dust goggles, "baton" flashlights should also be provided for night traffic control. A sign making kit with an adequate stock of reflectorized paper should be standard equipment for the Military Police Company to expedite the posting of roads and command posts because sign making material is difficult to obtain in a rapidly moving situation and road signs are very necessary to facilitate rapid movement of motor vehicles.

(e) Equip the officers, staff non-commissioned officers, and drivers with pistols, and the remainder of the company with carbines. A shoulder weapon is difficult to handle when operating a vehicle or when a member of a town patrol and when apprehending stragglers. The advantages of a hand weapon over the shoulder weapon for a person performing military police work are obvious.

(f) Encourage all units to call the Provost Marshal for assistance and escorts when planning a motor movement in order that traffic jams may be eliminated and that convoys will not get lost.

(g) To facilitate blackout driving, the Military Police Company should be equipped with fluorescent buttons so as to be able to post one hundred (100) per mile of road.

(h) After a month's operation in the Korean theatre the above comments and recommendations are based on actual facts and conditions and are considered essential for the proper accomplishment of the mission of the Military Police. The lack of the above items have handicapped the MP Platoon in carrying out its assigned mission.

11. There were no attached units. One South Korean Army lieutenant was assigned to the Military Police Platoon as an interpreter.

12. The Military Police Platoon was commanded by 1st Lieutenant Nye G. Rodes, Jr., (048919) USMC (0302) and assisted by CWO Loyd V. Dirst, (030117) USMC (5840)(4130)(0130).

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Platoon Leader.