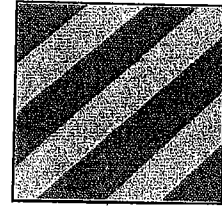


# FRONTLINE

## Forward



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Serving the Forward elements of the 3rd ID (M)

Feb. 26, 2003

## 3rd MPs round 'em up

### Marne police train to tackle EPW issues

Spc. Katherine Robinson  
50th PAD

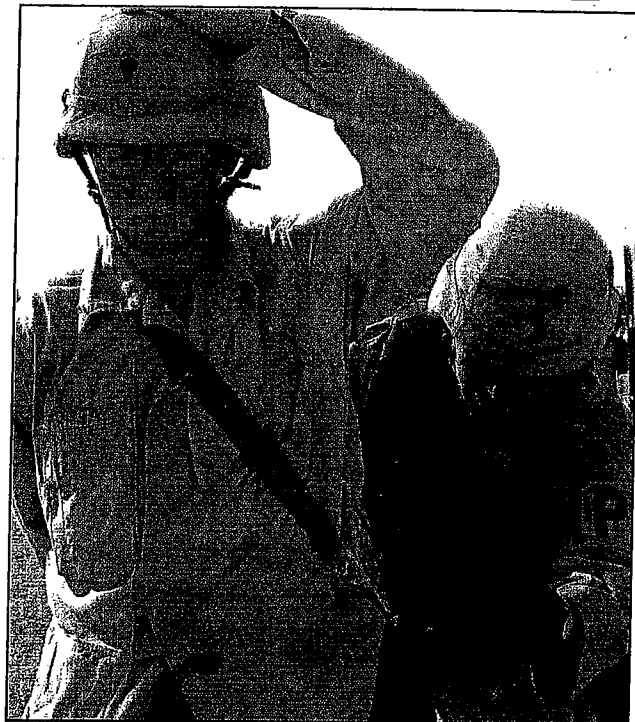
On a cloudy Kuwaiti afternoon, a line of dirty, dejected looking prisoners wait on their knees, hands behind their heads, to be herded into trucks for transportation.



An EPW receives a numbered identification bracelet.

The guards keep a close eye and a rifle constantly trained on the prisoners as they load them in the truck and cart them off to be searched and searched again before finally receiving food, blankets, medical care and a place to sleep.

The 3rd Military Police Battalion conducted internment and resettlement training Feb. 17 and 18 in preparation for possible future operations.



Photos by Spc. Katherine Robinson

Spc. Robert Bedford (right), a 3rd MP Bn. soldier from Winters, Texas, searches the bag of an "enemy prisoner of war," played by Spc. Dustin Davis, a fellow MP, from Wichita, Kan., during the battalion's internment and resettlement training Feb. 18 at Camp New York.

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## Move out! 203rd FSB strives to keep up with division's war zone needs

Spc. Jacob Boyer  
3ID (M) PAO

There are many things a task force of soldiers need to keep fighting – medical aid, vehicle maintenance and a multitude of other supplies.

If a task force moves quickly, its support needs to be able to keep up with its needs in a war zone.

The 203rd Forward Support Battalion ensures the 3rd Brigade Combat Team gets all the support it needs when it is time to move out. The battalion held a field exercise Feb. 9-13 to make sure its soldiers were prepared to move the brigade support area rapidly if the brigade needs to move forward.

"Setting up and tearing down the BSA quickly is critical," said Maj. Jim

Stanford, operations officer, 203rd FSB. "The brigade moves fast, and this is the most lethal division in the world. If we can't keep up, then they come to a halt. They can't continue to fight."

The battalion consists of four companies. In addition to a headquarters element, there are three companies with

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According to Master Sgt. Tony McGee, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division (Mech.) Provost Marshal operations sergeant, handling of enemy prisoners of war is one of the MPs main missions. "It consumes most of what we do," he explained.

The battalion set up a central collection point on Camp New York. The area was divided into several sections, exactly as they would be in a real-world situation, except on a significantly smaller scale, said McGee, a Florence, S.C., native.

The area included a central holding area, a segregated holding area divided by rank, a search area, inprocessing stations and barracks.

The MPs learned to transfer, maintain security, and account for prisoners, their belongings and their weapons.

If a war occurs, a large number of EPWs are expected, McGee said. "These guys' ability to handle that number and do it proficiently is extremely important. We've got to get (the prisoners) off the battlefield and protect them."

After a walk-through of the area and several briefings on the first day, the real training began on the Feb. 18. At forward collection points, the soldiers corralled prisoners, played by other MPs, searched them for weapons and took them to the central collection point in troop carriers.

The EPWs were searched again at the gate and moved into either the consolidated holding area or, if they needed medical attention, an aid station.

From there, another squad took the prisoners through inprocessing where they had their personal items inventoried and paperwork filled out. They re-

**DIVARTY, from page 7**

on the same software, they can fire more accurately and communicate better.

Before the DIVARTY TOT, the units went through fire support rehearsals and technical rehearsals. The fire support rehearsal tested communications, observers and reviewed target orders. The tech-



Spc. Katherine Robinson

**A line of simulated enemy soldiers, played by MPs, sit waiting to be transported to the central collection point during the training.**

ceived food, water and a blanket. They also received bracelets, with numbers that corresponded to their paperwork.

While some of their belongings were temporarily confiscated, the prisoners were allowed to keep badges of rank and nationality, religious literature and items of personal or sentimental nature.

Treating the EPWs correctly while handling them efficiently is very important, said Command Sgt. Maj. Charles D. Medley, 3<sup>rd</sup> MP Bn. command sergeant major, from Huntsville, Ala.

"One of the primary differences between the United States Army and many of our adversaries is that we treat EPWs with dignity and respect while maintain-

ing security," he said. Many enemy soldiers would rather be fed and housed by American MPs because they know they won't be mistreated, Medley added.

"We reinforce that with the MPs constantly," he said. "EPWs are soldiers, they're on the other side, but they're still human beings ... they will receive the same medical care as a U. S. Army soldier."

Sometimes enemy soldiers who surrender will cooperate because they're hungry and thirsty, said Pvt. 2 Ashley Hargett, an MP from Hutchinson, Kan.

"I learned that some will resist and often that's because they're scared. You have to be aware of your surroundings."

Hargett said the training helped her know what to possibly expect.

"It's good training. It lets us know what we need to do and what we need to change," she said.

Though she's nervous about the prospect of having to put her training to use in a real-world situation, Hargett said she's not scared.

"I have a lot of confidence in my team," she said. "My team knows what they're doing. There's a lot of experience here."

The soldiers have the experience of many previous deployments to many different places, according to Medley, who said he shared Hargett's feelings of confidence.

"No other MP company in the United States has sent as many people to as many places (since Sept. 11, 2001) as the 3<sup>rd</sup> MP Battalion," he said.

"We're here to do a job, and when it's finished, we'll be glad to go home," he added. "I've had zero soldiers complain ... I couldn't be prouder."

artillery," Williams said. "Your ability to mass artillery demonstrates your ability for violent fires on one area. The 3<sup>rd</sup> ID DIVARTY is prepared to execute the full spectrum of our missions, and DIVARTY will prosecute violently all missions requiring fire support."