



Paraglide

Fort Bragg MPs Take Up Post In Fallujah

Story by Pfc Jonathan J. Springer

16th MP Brigade PAO

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With increasing unrest and hostilities in Fallujah, Iraq, Fort Bragg Military Police have joined the Marines to help quell resistance in the city.

Working together, the 21st MP Company, 16th MP Brigade, and the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force are conducting Operation Vigilant Resolve.

“We’ve had a change of mission,” said 1st Sgt Buford E. Noland, First Sergeant for the 21st MP Co.

“Our mission now involves supporting the Marine Corps’ operations that are ongoing in Fallujah at this present time; we are going to help pacify that city.”

Noland said that the 21st MP’s mission thus far has been patrolling the Iraqi roadways, searching for improvised explosive devices. Noland said the new mission will be challenging but the company is ready.

“Before this deployment we trained extensively with the Special Forces, and we are ready for this mission,” said Noland.

Sgt Shane C. Pettigrew, a noncommissioned officer with the 21st MP Co., said that from what he sees all of the Soldiers involved know the importance of this mission and what it means to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

“I am ready to go, and I know that my Soldiers are ready to go,” said Pettigrew before heading to Fallujah. “We are going to give the Marines excellent support; this is what being a Soldier is all about.”

Pettigrew added that he understands that this mission is dangerous, but he is prepared to do whatever it takes to get it accomplished.

Command Sgt Maj Jeffrey A. Butler, 16th MP Bde., said that controlling the city of Fallujah is a pivotal point in OIF. He feels that the 21st MP Co is more than ready for the task at hand. Butler said he considers the company to be one of the best trained military police companies in the Army today.

“Right now the Marine 1st Expeditionary Force is down there, and they have asked for military police support from the Army,” said Butler.

The Marines assumed responsibility from the 82nd Airborne Division in March.
“I know the 21st will do a great job down in Fallujah.”

Taking out the insurgents within the city limits is key to the coalition forces’ mission in Iraq, said Butler who believes it will get done with the help of the 21st MPs.

“What happens in Fallujah will set the table for how Operation Iraqi Freedom will end,” stressed Butler.

Prior to the unit’s departure for Fallujah, Butler addressed the troops, encouraging them to seek out terrorists and to take a stand against them.

“We are going to the front lines in the war on terror; we are not scared ...” he said.