



Pacific Prowess:

Adapting Military Police Capabilities for the Indo-Pacific

*By Major Ryan C. Timmons, Captain Andrew P. Spikes Jr.,
and First Lieutenant Alan T. Paiz*

The U.S. Army Military Police Corps faces unique challenges in the dynamic Indo-Pacific region, a theater characterized by diverse terrains, advanced technology, and evolving threats. Recent exercises, such as those at the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Rotation 2025-01, have illuminated the strengths and critical gaps in military police capabilities within this strategically vital area. This article examines those challenges and proposes solutions to ensure that the Military Police Corps maintains its critical role in ensuring regional stability and security.

What is JPMRC?

JPMRC is a combat training center necessary for enhancing the readiness of brigade combat teams operating in the Indo-Pacific region. Leveraging a sophisticated blend of live, virtual, and constructive training environments, JPMRC fosters joint and multinational interoperability across diverse terrains, preparing units for complex operational scenarios. The focus of the center is on data-driven improvements and advanced battle management systems that ensure training effectiveness and adaptability to evolving operational requirements. A key initiative, JPMRC-Exportable, is a scaled-down version of JPMRC that aims to create a portable training model for broader use within the U.S. Army Pacific, further expanding the reach and impact of JPMRC readiness-building capabilities. In essence, JPMRC delivers combat-credible readiness for units deploying to the Indo-Pacific, ensuring that they are well-equipped to face the unique challenges of the theater.

JPMRC 25-01: A Crucible of Readiness

The 552d Military Police Company, Schofield Barracks, provided trained and ready protection formations supporting the 25th Infantry Division, 2d Light Brigade Combat Team, Schofield Barracks prototype at the JPMRC 25-01. The 552d Military Police Company participation in JPMRC 25-01 presented valuable insights into the realities of military police operations in the Pacific. Augmented with personnel and equipment from the U.S. Army Reserves,

11th Military Police Brigade, Las Alamitos, California, the company successfully supported six different units across two islands, demonstrating adaptability and operational flexibility. Their innovative use of military working dogs in air assault missions and the seamless integration of small unmanned aircraft system (UAS) and counter-unmanned aircraft system (C-UAS) capabilities were pivotal to their success. However, the exercise also highlighted persistent challenges.

Critical Gaps

The lack of appropriate equipment, particularly in communications, is a continuing concern. While ingenuity and strong interunit relations mitigated these issues in JPMRC 25-01, the reliance on ad-hoc solutions is unsustainable. The current modern table of organization and equipment needs urgent revision to adequately equip military police units operating in the Pacific. Specifically, this includes—

- **Advanced communication systems.** Reliable communication and interoperable systems for brigade combat teams are essential in maintaining situational awareness across diverse and geographically dispersed areas of operation. The successful implementation of two-channel manpack radios and mobile user objective systems during JPMRC 25-01 underscores the need for a broader adoption of such systems.
- **Small UAS/C-UAS capabilities.** The increasing use of small UASs by friendly and adversarial forces demands robust C-UAS capabilities within the Military Police Corps. Adequately training and equipping units with effective countermeasures is paramount.
- **Improved planning and coordination.** While the JPMRC 25-01 showed successful ad-hoc solutions, formalized proactive planning and coordination between reserve units and higher headquarters are needed to ensure seamless equipment distribution and integration before deployments. Including company representatives in U.S. Army Reserve annual training is a good start, but training must be expanded and formalized.

Pathways to Improvement

Overcoming these challenges necessitates a multi-pronged approach:

- **Modern table of organization and equipment reform.** A thorough review and modernization of the modern table of organization and equipment (communications, night vision devices, and C-UAS and small UAS capabilities) is crucial to ensure that military police units receive the necessary equipment for effective operations in the Pacific.
- **Combined arms training.** Training should emphasize combined arms operations, integrating military police units with other battlefield elements (infantry, armor, aviation). This training enhances interoperability and overall effectiveness.
- **Leadership development.** Organizations require lieutenants with a strong understanding of their property and the capabilities of their unit equipment. Captains need to better understand how to execute a combined arms rehearsal and articulate the employment of their capabilities. Leadership training to develop this crucial skill must be provided to ensure success.
- **Regular exercises.** Conducting more frequent and realistic training exercises and incorporating more robust opposing force simulations would better prepare units for the diverse operational challenges in the Pacific.
- **Interoperability.** Collaboration with allied and partner nations is essential for maximizing interoperability and ensuring seamless joint operations in the Indo-Pacific.

Conclusion

The Military Police Corps is vital in providing protection assets to ensure stability and security in the Indo-Pacific. By addressing the equipment and training gaps identified in JPMRC 25-01 and embracing innovative solutions, the Military Police Corps can continue to adapt and excel in this challenging but strategically crucial theater. The lessons from JPMRC 25-01, combined with adequate proactive planning and investment, will pave the way for even more significant successes in the Pacific Theater.



Major Timmons is the operations officer for the 728th Military Police Battalion. He holds a master's degree in policy management from Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

Captain Spikes is the commander of the 552d Military Police Company. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of North Georgia, Dahlonega.

First Lieutenant Paiz is a platoon leader for the 552d Military Police Company. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from California University, Los Angeles.