

EUSA BAND PROVIDES SECURITY AT THE GATE

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DAEGU, Republic of Korea -- During Ulchi Focus Lens 2001, they check every person and every bag that passes through the gate; however, they are neither security guards nor Military Police. They are members of the Eighth United States Army Band.

In garrison, the EUSA band's mission is to entertain audiences with musical performances. But during wartime, their mission changes to providing security for Command Post Oscar.

Yet, "the mission remains the same — keeping eyes on making sure everything continues to be executed properly and securely," said Staff Sgt. Brian O'Neal, a saxophone player with the EUSA Band. He is night Commander of Relief at CP Oscar gate.

"Obviously, good security is a key to successes in war. So we are an important parts of the exercise," said, Cpl. Sim, Hoon Kook, EUSA Band Operation and security guard at CP Oscar.

It is not an easy job. They have to keep an eye on the gate of CP Oscar, 24-hours a day during the entire exercise period. According to Sim, the secret to night shift is fighting with boredom, bugs and the temptation to sleep.

"It's nothing like my regular job, you have to keep your eyes open at all times. Sometimes it is a little stressful. But I'm proud of myself to contribute to this exercise," said night security guard and clarinet player, Spc. Jamie Boyles.

As with everything, there are complications.

"Sometime some people don't carry their CP Oscar badge. But they try to get into CP Oscar. They say, 'I have to go inside; I've got an appointment in there.' But you can't go inside of CP Oscar without your badge. That's the rule," said Sim.

That is a rule that the band members "7" security guards are sworn to keep.