

ON THE NIGHT SHIFT  
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In the Ulchi Focus Lens exercise every section works 24 hours a day. Day shift soldiers fight against time and high temperatures, but night shift personnel face different challenges. They have to fight against sleepiness, hunger, and darkness of the night.

The night at Command Post Oscar is quiet and peaceful. You can hear the chirps of crickets outside of Eighth Army Operation Center building. And at the break area you can see the serene lights from the Woo Bang Tower, the trademark of Daegu City. But that's not everything that's unusual about night shift.

"I don't like the MOPP situation at night, I can't see my equipment as clearly outside. That makes me a little bit nervous. But I know it's good training for soldiers," said Cpl. Hong, Yung Duk, Republic Of Korea Armed Force Medical Command.

And the amber night lights of CP Oscar doesn't burn as brightly as night-shift personnel would wish. "It's very difficult walking outside at night. But fortunately there are some chemical lights on the stairs. Those things are really useful when you are walking outside," said Pfc. Park, Soon Ho, EUSA G-4.

Although night shift people get their own night meal (Meal Ready to Eat or Jimmy Dean), hunger is one of the enemies of the night warriors. "We got our night meal every night, but it's true that when I come back to my bed, I feel a little bit hungry," said Park.

Boredom and sleepiness is one of the downsides of night shift work too. Security guards at the gate of CP Oscar often wait for the daybreak rush, chatting with their partners or drinking a cup of coffee just to stay awake.

"Compared with day shift, it is little more quiet. So sometimes it seems to take a little longer to get through," said Sgt. Douglas Hamel from EUSA Band, night shift security guard at CP Oscar. "But it doesn't bother me. I just reflect on different things which makes the time go by," he added.