

Maintaining the walls
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Drinking coffee and pounding doughnuts throughout the workday is a distant fantasy for the Military Police stationed at Camp Walker. Instead of aggressive commuters shoplifters, and are have to deal with angry demonstrators and a complex society that, at times, despises their presence.

Responsible for the protection of Camp Walker, Camp Henry and Camp George, the MP's take their job of protecting the community very seriously.

"Our job is to deter crime within the installations," said Sgt. Travis Nottingham, desk sergeant with the 188th MP Company at Camp Walker. "We also work as part of force protection, providing a safe work environment for the tri-camp area."

They conduct 24-hour motor patrols along the perimeter and throughout the bases. MP's also stand sentry at the gates, a positions that has yet to be compromised during the periodic demonstrations that arise.

"Many of the demonstrations that come together outside the gates are planned so we have time to prepare," said Nottingham. "We never hinder the people's gathering, but if it escalates into violence we are ready."

The MPs have put together a Mobile Ready Force, which can rapidly deploy to any of the tri-camp's gates if needed.

"Our MRF is always on call if there is something the MPs can't handle," said Nottingham. "The team can deploy to counteract any emergency within 15 minutes, such as a demonstration that becomes unruly or breaks out in a club fight." While always ready, the unit has not been needed recently.

"Life on post is pretty safe," said Nottingham. While the MPs provide the security on post, it is the individual soldier's responsibility to keep safe when exploring the city. Even though it is sometimes a burden, the buddy system is a person's best defense in a foreign country.

Nottingham said, "You should always travel with two or more people. Bring a cell phone with you and have a point of contact on post. Above all, don't drink in excess. Too much alcohol seems to lead to the majority of problems." The Camp Walker MPs work well with Republic of Korea Police, but they can not get you out of trouble you bring on yourself.

The language barrier is a big hurdle for Americans, said Nottingham, but if people respect this country they shouldn't have a problem.

As a small spot on the map, Camp Walker and surrounding installations provide an oasis of safety and security to the service members and families that call it home.