

# Fort Ord security stands guard day and night

by Spec. J. Andrew Malcolm

FORT SHERMAN -- It's dark. A lone soldier restlessly mans his post. He's tired and the only company he has is the chatter he hears coming from the radio he has strapped to his back. He's guarding a military fuel point here.

Guard duty -- it's a lonely profession, but there is no getting around it. It would seem, from day one in the Army, that guard duty is an important part of being a soldier. It is.

"Nothing ever happens," the soldier says to himself. "There is no point in being out here." No sooner does this last sentence roll from his

mouth than he hears a noise. The M-16 rifle he is carrying is raised and a cat runs from the bushes and bounds directly in front of the soldier.

"See," he tells himself, "nothing ever happens." But, he straightens up, shakes the drowsiness from his head and takes another good look around. It's safer not to take a chance.

"You work long, odd hours," explained Pvt. 2 John Milor, an infantryman assigned to the 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment Security Force from Fort Ord, Calif. "It's hard to get used to. Sometimes, you just can't get used to it."

The 1st Bn, 9th Inf. Security team

is providing security for aircraft, fuel points and the Task Force Atlantic headquarters during the joint military exercise "Nimrod Dancer." The soldiers pull shifts ranging from two hours to four hours and at any time, day or night.

There's no smoking, no eating and definitely no sleeping while on guard duty. "It can be hard to stay awake at times," Milnor said. "So, you just have to force yourself. Milnor added, "If you are falling asleep standing up, you start to pace."

"I don't think guard duty instills discipline. I think it requires discipline to be able to pull guard duty," explained 1st Lt. Michael Szabo, officer of the guard. "Our

soldiers have discipline and take pride in what they do."

According to Szabo, the security force is providing key installation defense. "We are guarding sites that are vital for the execution of the 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment's mission here," he said. "It is entirely a team effort. We are just part of the team and do what it takes to accomplish the mission."

It's dark, he's tired, yet he still remains alert. It's part of the job. It's part of being on the team.

"Nothing may happen, but if it does we are there," Milor said. "That one soldier standing guard can make the difference."