

# 607th CBCS Mobility School

## Comm warriors prepare for real world

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NCOIC Mobility School

**CAMP HUMPHREYS, Korea** — Button your chinstrap and slap in a fresh magazine, you just got a war order. If you don't have your collective act together, you and 29 of your closest squad mates will die a quick and violent death.

Welcome to mobility school at the 607th Combat Communications Squadron, Republic of Korea.

At the 607th, the philosophy is simple. Whether in Korea or another country halfway around the world, odds are that Airmen will eventually find themselves in harm's way. It's the responsibility of instructors to ensure Airmen possess the skills necessary to survive and complete their mission no matter what difficulties may arise.

To effectively teach these skills, the mobility school is built on a few fundamental premises:

**1** If an Airman can survive the first five minutes of battle, their chances of surviving the war improve exponentially. The school gives Airmen the chance to experience the first five minutes in a multitude of scenarios. For example, trainees encounter peaceful, as well as violent protests; UXOs, enemy probes, overwhelming enemy forces, convoy ambushes, and other scenarios. There is a seven-day classroom curriculum that explains in detail how to deal with each of these scenarios. Students are then sent on a three-day field exercise to experience these situations first hand.

**2** Everyone in the unit attends mobility school. At graduation, each student is presented a squadron coin and hailed in front of the squadron. The intent is to build ownership in the squadron and as with any rite-of-passage; if people experience pain together, they will build pride in belonging to the unit.

**3** Every student is on a remote tour to Korea. This causes some unique challenges, including continuity throughout a unit. Mobility school helps deal with this problem by ensuring each class has members from every work center in the unit. If someone has a power problem, there is at least one power-pro technician that went through mobility school with them. This creates an avenue for assistance/support through the rest of a tour. The relationships built during mob school allow the squadron to get real world tasks accomplished across the squadron, even at the lowest ranks.

The most important premise is attitude is everything. To

survive mobility school individuals must have a good attitude. A good attitude is encouraged from day-1. By day-10, it is fully ingrained in everything students do.

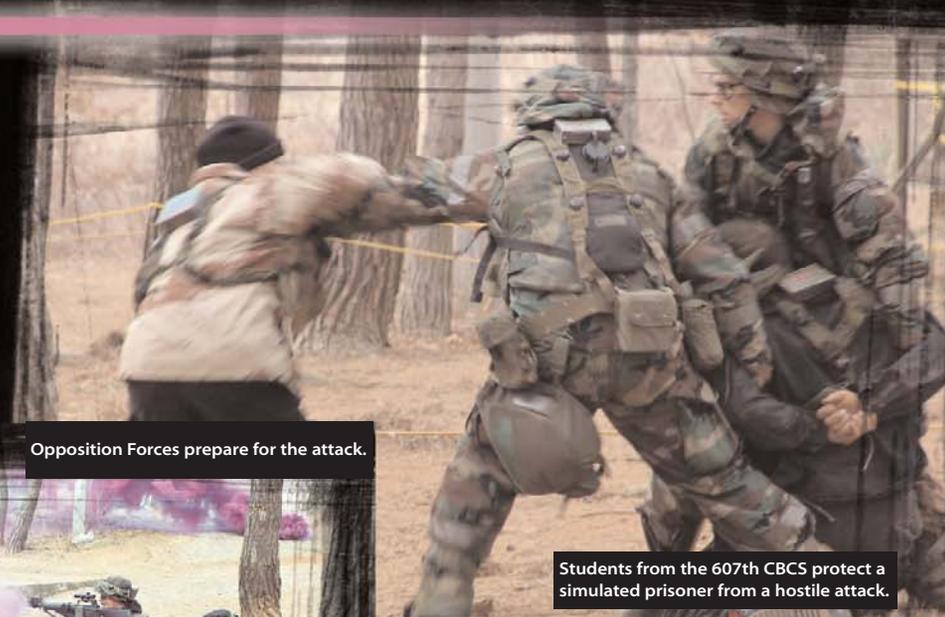
Each class includes 30 students, comprised of a mixture of enlisted Airmen from airman 1st class to chief master sergeant. They are led by a company grade officer, and the classroom curriculum includes wearing of load-bearing equipment, fire extinguisher training, law of armed conflict, code of conduct, convoy operations and defense procedures, anti-terrorism, bomb threats, M-16 familiarization, egress training, land navigation. Other training includes site defense, use of force, personnel searches, area search and clear, entry control point procedures, and a variety of tactical and defensive procedures, for many environments.

During the field training exercise, students learn to rely on training and each other to survive. During each FTX, the unit fires about 10,000 M-16 and M-60 blank rounds. They also use a full complement of MILES (laser targeting equipment) gear. Students not only learn how to fire their weapon, they learn how to aim effectively. They also learn the importance of a clean rifle.

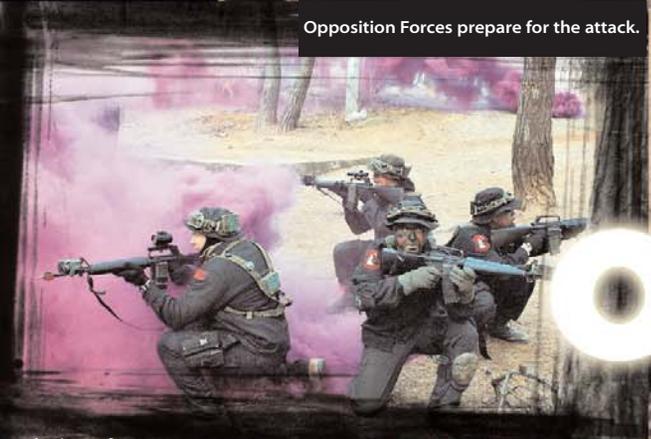
Students are required to build a complete communications site from the ground up and defend that sight against any number of assault tactics.

Initially students find defending their site difficult, especially given the number of scenarios and how well their "enemy" fights as a team. However, by the end of the exercise, most classes have gelled as a team and are able to defend their assets very effectively.

According to the 607th CBCS Commander, Lt. Col. Tom Byrge, "On paper, mobility school is designed to ensure the unit is SORTS-qualified. In reality, it teaches Airmen how to deploy, and, if necessary, fight their way into a location, accomplish a communications mission and fight their way home. This mobility training ensures we are ready to fight and win tonight." (Capt. Jason Fick, commander, *Combat Support Flight* contributed to this article.)

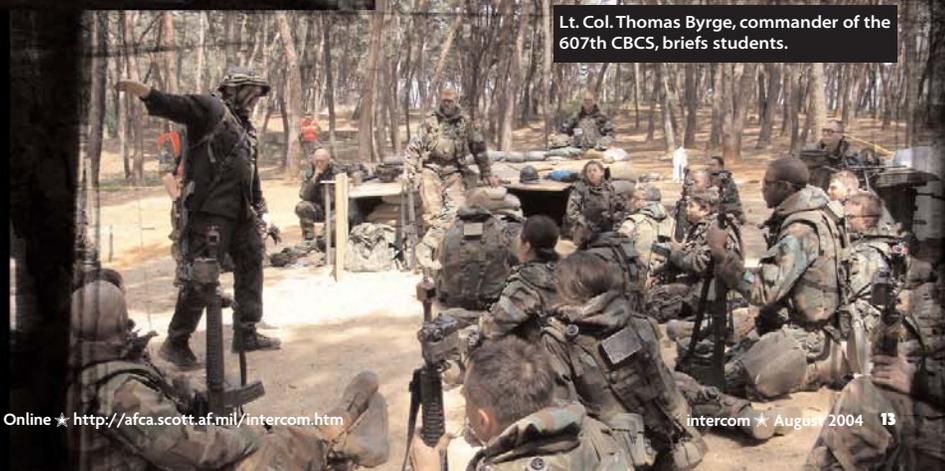


Opposition Forces prepare for the attack.



Students from the 607th CBCS protect a simulated prisoner from a hostile attack.

# OPFOR



Lt. Col. Thomas Byrge, commander of the 607th CBCS, briefs students.