



Listen to Some of our Clients:

Here is a tiny sampling of the tens of thousands of student course evaluations Gryphon has received over the last 16 years of service.

They are all on file at Gryphon's Fort Bragg Combat Training Center:

For the first time in 15 years of Military & Law Enforcement experience, Gryphon's Surveillance Program made me feel what it is like to be "the hunter" & "the hunted" while conducting a surveillance mission...This Program was very realistic & professional. It should be attended by all CI/HUMINT Soldiers as a basis for HUMINT collection.

**Chief Warrant Officer 3
Defense Intelligence Agency**

Very Realistic! All the surveillance problems Gryphon throws at you during the training are exactly as is encountered in the real world. Gryphon Instructors are extremely professional and knowledgeable. This training challenged all of us and will be utilized during all of the aspects of our upcoming deployment.

**Senior Chief
U.S. Naval Intelligence**

The most impressive aspect of the course was the professionalism and teaching skills of the instructors. All instructors were very experienced and proficient, most importantly good dynamic and personable teachers. The course is definitely much better than any other course of this type available. Recommend that this course be added to the pre-deployment training for all Soldiers, Sailors, Airman and Marines of SOC-South.

**Sergeant Major
Special Operations Command - South (SOC-South)**

This course continued to hone the survival skills of Agents in combat situations. AFSOC OSI Agents operate in small teams with little to no QRF and equipment. Agents are almost always mobile in the AOR. This course is tailored to that exact mind set. There is no doubt that Agents who attended will have more confidence in their abilities, but most importantly know their limitations. I would recommend this course to any OSI Agent operating in an austere environment using small team dynamics.

**Special Agent
Office of Special Investigations
U.S. Air Force**

The level of professionalism and candor your instructors demonstrate is unparalleled. I've been to countless schools and training events through-out my 14 years in the Army and I can honestly say that I have never learned so much information in such a short period of time. All the information and teaching points are relevant, blunt and to the point. That is the type of training we need to accomplish our missions regardless of where our operating environment is. It is truly refreshing to attend a course where the POI is up to date for today's operations. It is my sincere belief that without a doubt, the training here in this course is saving lives in countless operations around the globe.

**First Sergeant
4th Ranger Training Battalion
U.S. Army**

In conclusion, the overall mission of this class is a total success. I would highly recommend all that can, attend this course. It is the best-resourced class that I have attended in my 16 plus years career. The way the class is ran and the overall professionalism of all the instructors and staff is phenomenal. I appreciate all that you have done for us in the class and what you all continue to do for our great nation. What you all are providing for us is beneficial to the success of our mission in OIF and OEF.

**Gunnery Sergeant
Joint Chiefs of Staff
Protective Service Detail – Chairman JCS**

The quality and personality of instructors at Gryphon Group is second to none. This level operators with the training and experience to instruct at this level who also have the ability to genuinely care about the students are few and far between. Simply stated this training saves lives. Gryphon Group provides tactical Mobile Force Protection training for military personnel that cannot be duplicated at home station.

**Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding
Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Army**

The Gryphon Group Military Mobile Force Protection Course is an outstanding resource that could not possibly be replicated through home station training. The resource intensive nature necessary to meet the realism provided by the Gryphon Group would not be cost beneficial to the unit. The professionalism, expertise, and experience of the cadre would also be nearly impossible to replicate or maintain at home station as well. Gryphon Group's course is saving the lives of soldiers downrange by providing operators instruction and exposure to existing threats and a means to counter them.

**Major
5th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
U.S. Army**

Overall the training was nothing short of outstanding. The course is very physically and mentally demanding for the students, but also for the instructors. Their ability to facilitate and supervise this level of high risk training and control this size of class (39 personnel) with almost no down time between exercises was outstanding. Gryphon Group is able to put together a cadre of instructors who are knowledgeable, who can teach, and who do not have chips on their shoulders; this is a rare combination of characteristics. We would highly recommend this course to any operators or anyone going into a hostile environment.

**Senior Chief
Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit
U.S. Navy**

This has been the best training since SERE Level "C". Your instructors have made the difference!! You developed a warrior spirit in the students and allowed a more lethal operator to survive the battlefield. It is very obvious from day one that every instructor is dedicated to producing a better operator than arrived. Their knowledge and professionalism exceeds all expectations. I feel strongly they are part of our fight down range and we will survive longer on the battlefield after this instruction. They have established a course that allows the operator to focus on critical skills and mastering the tasks. They encourage us to think and understand that this training is a building block and there is no one magic key or answer. I would like to see this training as part of Pre-Mission Training (PMT) for all SF ODA's.

**Major
20th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
U.S. Army**

The MFPC run by Gryphon Group is tier one training at its best. Myself and many of the other students have attended similar training events and attended other schools, however all of them pale in comparison to Gryphon Group's pre-mission training. The instructors were all first class and were among the most professional I have ever encountered. The Gryphon Group staff and instructors obviously approach their jobs as seasoned professionals dedicated to providing realistic combat training to their fellow brothers in arms. All the instructors were easy to listen to and learn from as they are all former operators from one service or another. This made the instruction enjoyable and they did an excellent job of putting lessons that needed to be absorbed into terms we, the operator, could understand. Overall I would recommend this training to any unit deploying to a high threat environment. I will recommend that all ODA's come through here prior to a rotation to OIF/OEF. THIS TRAINING WILL SAVE LIVES! Keep up the great work!

**Warrant Officer
19th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
U.S. Army**

This course opens up a whole new thought on how to look at some of the issues you deal with down range. It is a fast paced "balls to the wall", but not in your face learning experience. With a set up that allowed for the best training that I have received in 17 ½ years of being in the military. I can use the thought process imbedded by this course in all aspects of future training to prepare my team to fight and win with minimal losses. Everything taught here at Gryphon Group are areas to sustain. We truly believe that the Mobile Force Protection Course will result in saved lives. We can't think of any reason that units are not beating down Gryphon's doors to get every unit member through here. It's not that Gryphon's tactics are that far-fetched and unobtainable anywhere else, it's that they put the whole package together and ensure that everyone understands and learns the processes. Our hats are off to Gryphon Group. Thanks for the opportunity to attend this very first rate course.

**Sergeant First Class
1st Special Forces Group (Airborne)
U.S. Army**

This was an outstanding course which followed a logical sequence and was presented in a most professional manner. You have an outstanding group of cadre. ...Everyone's professionalism was beyond reproach. I have been to many courses and school in my 26 year military career and this course has the highest concentration of competent, capable professionals per capita of any other course I have attended... bar none!

**Master Sergeant
1st Special Forces Group (Airborne)
U.S. Army**

This was an intense and extremely valuable course of instruction. Many of the lessons learned are unable to be reproduced in training currently provided by my command and any other command that I have been a member of. The lessons learned were very applicable to the environment that my command operates in. Communication will either get you killed due to a lack of it or save your life because you make good use of it. From Top to Bottom, by far the most realistic tactical training I have participated in since I have been in the Marine Corps. The combination of pain reinforcement and realism mixed with the level of difficulty forces you to rely on every ounce of training you have received and rely on your teammates around you. The professionalism of the staff combined with the tremendous amount of experience allowed for a tremendous learning curve to occur. Definitely a world class organization with a top-notch staff.

**Major
Marine Special Operations Command
U.S. Marine Corps**

In short, enough good things could not be said about this course could not be said in this critique alone. We believe that the talent of the instructor/support cadre guarantees that GGSS will be around for the next 25 years. Michael Vaden is a visionary in special operations which makes us proud to be U.S. Marines. The entire instructor staff was professional, enthusiastic, and thorough in their teaching and demonstrated all drills flawlessly. It is obvious that the GGSS cadre is talented and are versed in each other's jobs. No individual, organization or company in America can duplicate the realistic training which we had the good fortune to experience while attending the Military Mobile Force Protection Course.

**Sergeant Major
1st Marine Expeditionary Force
U.S. Marine Corps**

Ultra realistic!! This sh@! happens all the time (in combat where you are fighting, maneuvering, mounting, driving, dismounting, and taking casualties all simultaneously with no "admin pauses" while under direct or indirect fire). This training gets the blood pumping and emphasizes the necessity to work together. Realism and stress were present during all events which show us the worst case scenarios and how to mitigate them. Some of the best combat medical instruction I have received in the Army!

**Master Sergeant
Joint Special Operations Command - JSOC**

This course opens up a whole new thought on how to look at some of the issues you deal with down range. It is a fast paced balls to the walls, but not in your face learning experience. With a set up that allowed for the best training that I have received in 17 ½ years of being in the military. I can use the thought process imbedded by this course in all aspects of future training to prepare my team to fight and win with minimal losses. Everything taught here at Gryphon Group are areas to sustain. We truly believe that the Mobile Force Protection Course will result in saved lives. We can't think of any reason that units are not beating down Gryphon's doors to get every unit member through here. It's not that Gryphon's tactics are that far fetched and unobtainable anywhere else, it's that they put the whole package together and ensure that everyone understands and learns the processes. Our hats are off to Gryphon Group. Thanks for the opportunity to attend this very first rate course.

**SFC, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne)
U.S. Army**

This was an outstanding course which followed a logical sequence and was presented in a most professional manner. You have an outstanding group of cadre. ...Everyone's professionalism was beyond reproach. I have been to many courses and school in my 26 year military career and this course has the highest concentration of competent, capable professionals per capita of any other course I have attended...bar none!

**SFC, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne)
U.S. Army**

The Mobile Force Protection Course provided by Gryphon Group was a highly beneficial training event for 19th SFG(A) personnel. The instruction was very professional, informative and well organized. Soldiers from our unit expressed repeatedly how impressed they were with the instructors, course content, and logistical delivery. This training is almost impossible to replicate at many units, including special operations, and is thus, a very rare possibility for many students to be exposed to such necessary training prior to going down-range. Instead of dictating tactics, techniques and procedures, the instructors geared the instruction into forcing students to make decisions that they would make in real world, life-and-death scenarios in combat. As a soldier that has experienced IEDs and ambushes in combat, I personally feel that the instruction provided by Gryphon Group during this course will certainly save lives in those "worst case" scenarios. I wish I would have had this instruction earlier in my career and hope that as many soldiers as possible from all branches of service receive this training before their next combat tour.

**MSG, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
U.S. Army**

The MFPC run by Gryphon Group is tier one training at its best. Myself and many of the other students have attended similar training events and attended other schools, however all of them pale in comparison to Gryphon Groups MFPC. The course maximized hands on instruction on all types of vehicles in driving various conditions and was conducted in a high stress environment. The instructors were all first class and were among the most professional I have ever encountered. The Gryphon Group staff and instructors obviously approach their jobs as seasoned professionals dedicated to providing realistic combat training to their fellow brothers in arms. All the instructors were easy to listen to and learn from as they are all former operators from one service or another. This made the instruction enjoyable and they did an excellent job of putting lessons that needed to be absorbed into terms we, the operator, could understand. Overall I would recommend this training to any unit deploying to a high threat environment. I will recommend that at least one member of each team come through here prior to a rotation to OIF/OEF. THIS TRAINING WILL SAVE LIVES! Keep up the great work!

WO1, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
U.S. Army

This has been the best training since SERE Level "C". Your instructors have made the difference!! You developed a warrior spirit in the students and allowed a more lethal operator to survive the battlefield. It is very obvious from day one that every instructor is dedicated to producing a better operator than arrived. Their knowledge and professionalism exceeds all expectations. I feel strongly they are part of our fight down range and we will survive longer on the battlefield after this instruction. They have established a course that allows the operator to focus on critical skills and mastering the tasks. They encourage us to think and understand that this training is a building block and there is no one magic key or answer. I would like to see this training as part of Pre-Mission Training (PMT) for the teams and support elements. Support elements are just as vulnerable as the teams.

Major, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
U.S. Army

The MFPC is a fast-paced, resource-intensive course which provides fresh perspectives to countering mobile threats, both domestic and in combat. Students encountered unique, combat proven situations that have saved lives as well as tools for mission success. The greatest value to this course is the training it provides that cannot be replicated at home station due to safety, environmental, and financial restrictions. Previous notions concerning vehicle capabilities, use of vehicles for cover, weapon accuracy while in motion and firing from inside and into vehicle glass are just a few that were changed by those who by large never had the opportunity to train on these situations. The cadre of experienced war fighters, law enforcement and driving professionals facilitated a learning environment effective in both training and identifying weaknesses. The course revealed many of the same mistakes between all students regardless of their operational experience. Every student has many excellent tools to take back to their team and company. These tactics and techniques should be immediately incorporated into training exercises and should be cause to review company TACSOP. The use of modified high performance paintballs added value to the training by adding pressure and negative reinforcement to the exercises. Perhaps the greatest strength of Gryphon Group is their willingness to take feedback to improve their program. Continue to send Soldiers to this training and demand results from graduates.

CPT, 96th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne)
U.S. Army

This training is valuable to all soldiers no matter what their level of experience. Each new day of training required a higher level of performance from the students, yet this was not unachievable since the course, by design, always builds from the previous days training. All instruction was relevant to the realities of the situations around the world whether it be Iraq, South America or South Asia. The professionalism demonstrated by the instructors far surpasses that of any other class I have ever taken. It would be almost impossible to replicate this training at the unit level.

SSG, 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary)
U.S. Army

Gryphon Group did an excellent job overall by demonstrating effective, but simple techniques. The instructors were forthright, experts in their field, and extremely professional, while maintaining a great rapport with the students. Out of all the training our team's attended, I believe MFPC struck the best balance of training and drill/practice while also exhibiting the most professional training /business practices. I would recommend this course and company to absolutely everyone in AFOSI. Thank you for this opportunity and we look forward to staying in contact with the cadre throughout our careers.

Special Agent, Office of Special Investigations
U.S. Air Force

Overall the training was nothing short of outstanding, the instructor's ability to teach using a crawl, walk, run, approach enable all students to meet the course requirements. The course is very physically and mentally demanding for the students, but also for the instructors.

Their ability to facilitate and supervise this level of high risk training and control this size of class (39 personnel) with almost no down time between exercises was outstanding. Gryphon Group is able to put together a instructors who are knowledgeable, who can teach, and who do not have chips on their shoulders; this is a rare combination of characteristics. As military operators it would be nice to be able to utilize military vehicles in the course of instruction but we do understand the limitations involved with that. We would highly recommend this course to any operators or anyone going into a hostile environment.

Senior Chief, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit
U.S. Navy

The staff is very professional and dedicated to the advancement and enhancement of combat skills for all soldiers. This was an intense and extremely valuable course of instruction. Many of the lessons learned are unable to be reproduced in training. The lessons learned were very applicable to the environment we all work in. Great course I was glad to have a chance to receive such a high caliber training.

SSG, U.S. Space Command
U.S. Army

The Military Mobile Force Protection Course is an outstanding training opportunity for SOF operators of all services...The course does an excellent job of increasing operator awareness, an understanding of vehicle capabilities and limitations, and the basic skills necessary to increase survivability downrange. The Gryphon Group Military Mobile Force Protection Course is an outstanding resource that could not possibly be replicated through home station training. The resource intensive nature necessary to meet the realism provided by the Gryphon Group would not be cost beneficial to the unit. The professionalism, expertise, and experience of the cadre would also be nearly impossible to replicate or maintain at home station as well. Gryphon Group's course is saving the lives of soldiers downrange by providing operators instruction and exposure to existing threats and a means to counter them. The Gryphon Group course and cadre are an invaluable training asset that is saving the lives of soldiers while at the same time providing a learning environment that is a whole lot of fun.

The Gryphon Group Military Mobile Force Protection Course has been an outstanding week of training. The hands-on realistic training provided throughout the six day course have imparted valuable lessons that will help improve the survivability of soldiers going down range. The Gryphon Group provides valuable training and experience to fill a need that standard military training does not fill. The skill, professionalism and expertise of all the Gryphon Group instructors is greatly appreciate by all. It is evident that the purpose and objective of the course and the cadre is to increase the skills of operators and help improve the likelihood of surviving potential 'worst case scenario' down range. This course should definitely be required training for all personnel deploying to 'the box.

**Major, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne)
U.S. Army**

Instructors: The primary reason that the program is so successful. There was never a time that anyone felt insulted or belittled. Extremely professional in everything we did. What really surprised me was how well-spoken they all were. I did not notice any problems with any of them. Continue to use your vetting process. Their level of expertise and real world experience goes without saying... Gryphon takes it up another notch. All the techniques that we learned throughout the training week are carefully stitched together into a culmination exercise. It is safe to say that there is no possible way that I could have executed the scenario with any amount of expertise a week ago... ABSOLUTLEY THE BEST COURSE THAT I HAVE ATTENED WHILE SERVING THE MILITARY.

**Major, 95th Civil Affairs Brigade
U.S. Army**

This course continued to hone the survival skills of Agents in combat situations. AFSOC OSI Agents operate in small teams with little to no QRF and equipment. Agents are almost always mobile in the AOR. This course is tailored to that exact mind set. There is no doubt that Agents who attended will have more confidence in their abilities, but most importantly know their limitations. The concept of getting off the X and living to fight another day is the most important lesson learned in the MFPC. The quality and personality of instructors at Gryphon Group is second to none. The operators with the training and experience to instruct at this level who also have the ability to genuinely care about the students are few and far between. At no time did any GG instructor make students feel like they were not capable of winning the fight. I would recommend this course to any OSI Agent operating in an austere environment using small team dynamics.

**Special Agent, Office of Special Investigations
U.S. Air Force**

Simply stated this training saves lives. Gryphon Group provides tactical Mobile Force Protection training for military personnel that cannot be duplicated at home station. The resources required to duplicate this world-class training make it impossible. Students are trained by exceptional, hand picked instructors from all over the Special Operations community. Soldiers learn by doing, and in this course students are executing tactical evasive driving techniques in indigenous vehicles within hours of arrival.

The training techniques are time tested and are up to date with threat tactics in theater. When a Soldier returns from this training he is at the cutting edge of his driving skills and could easily drive and execute counter ambush and mobile force protection techniques in the most demanding environments.

**Commander
Special Troops Battalion, 1ST Cavalry Division
U.S. Army**

The level of professionalism and candor your instructors demonstrate is unparalleled. I've been to countless schools and training events through out my 14 years in the Army and I can honestly say that I have never had as much fun and learned so much information in such a short period of time. All the information and teaching points are relevant, blunt and to the point. That is the type of training we need to accomplish our missions regardless of where our operating environment is. It is truly refreshing to attend a course where the POI is up to date for today's operations. It is my sincere belief that with out a doubt, the training here in this course is saving lives in countless operations around the globe.

**First Sergeant
4th Ranger Training Battalion
U.S. Army**

This is the best course that I have ever attended. We were able to conduct training that in some cases took us right to the cutting edge. It's sad for me to say this, but we will never receive this type of training in a military run course. All of your instructors brought a wealth of knowledge to the training program this knowledge allowed the entire class to learn combat needed skills. It doesn't surprise me that you are able to attract such high quality instructor to run this course. it is a huge advantage that most your instructors are prior military, because it helps bridge the communication gaps that can sometimes arise.

**Sergeant First Class
18th Airborne Corps**

This was very good training. The largest lesson that I think we will take from the Mobile Force Protection Course is the 3-D Threat Awareness. The students prior to this training I think they believed that the more they yell in stressful situation, the better they are doing. In reality they are setting the tone and tempo for the rest of their soldiers. Recognizing the need to stay focused and calm is a very valuable lesson that the Army overall has failed to train it's soldiers on. Overall, the concepts are simple, but as we saw all week long, even the most simple task is prone to mistakes when the "monkey" is on your back. Staying in the fight, communicating, and keeping the monkey off your back are all key tasks to being successful in combat. All of the training throughout the week was beneficial. The most pertinent training we received was the ambush scenarios. It made us apply all of the concepts that we had learned and fight through the scenario. The longer we did not remain calm, communicate, and work through it... the more pain we received.

**2nd Lieutenant
PSD, 101st Airborne Division**

You guys are the most professional group of instructor's I have ever seen. It's a hard job to teach and you do a great job of getting info out fast and easy to pick up. Excellent OPFOR setup. You can tell some serious thought was put into the scenarios.

**Staff Sergeant
4th Ranger Training Battalion**

Great Course! The POI provided a firm base in evasive driving techniques. Additionally, the POI provides an introduction into counter vehicular ambush lessons and techniques that will act as a foundation for future training, and are based on first hand knowledge of current and relevant threat TTP's in the mission AOR. The instructors were extremely proficient and knowledgeable. The method of instruction and student to teacher ratio effectively made the evasive driving instruction one-on-one. We were treated exceptionally well; from reception, inprocessing, training, support during the training, to exodus.

I believe this course meets and exceeds our desired endstate of preparing drivers for the rigors of driving under combat conditions in OIF. The training was outstanding and I recommend we continue to send drivers to this valuable training which will no doubt save lives in combat.

**Major
Executive Officer
1st Battalion, 506th Infantry
101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)**

Your instructors are first rate. I heard nothing but praise and compliments about your instructors from my guys. Each and every one of them displayed professionalism and uncommon ability to teach complex skills to somewhat inexperienced operators. We were worried that a course like this would be too in-depth for a non SOF unit, but we were pleasantly surprised. The drills and lanes were complex, but the mentoring and coaching from your instructors allowed us to pick up new skills pretty quickly.

Though they had a wealth of knowledge, they never spoke down to anyone or acted like they knew it all. They are a big reason this course is so successful. Bottom Line: I would recommend your Mobile Force Protection Course to others in my unit. I will encourage my chain of command to send as many people as possible. I feel like your training is one of a kind and I'd be thrilled if everyone could experience this course. Training like this will keep people alive when everything goes wrong on a mounted patrol.

**First Lieutenant
101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)**

This was by far the most resourced, best planned, and informative school any one of us have ever gone to. Overall we learned an immeasurable amount of knowledge that we will all take back to our units no matter what branch we came from. To hear the guys talk at the end of the day and talk about showing their buddies the skills that they learned here is great.

**Staff Sergeant
82nd Airborne Division**

This course was a great course, it built confidence in all of the personnel that we sent here for training. The lessons learned will help our personnel to have a better understanding of what they are capable of, what a vehicle is capable of in whatever condition it may be in. The course allowed all of our personnel to experiment in a controlled environment. The ability to actually drive the vehicles, to ram vehicles, the breakout box, the downed driver drills are skills that we could never have been able to conduct the training without this course. This course allowed our personnel to become more confident, better more effective drivers, and operators.

The course can only teach the basics but the course gave us a starting point, skills that can be passed on, one of the greatest things that our team has taken away from this course is situational awareness. The Instructors were true professionals they made sure that the course was conducted in a completely professional manner. All of the personnel that attended the training from our team took a great appreciation of the training and consider ourselves very fortunate to have had the opportunity to attend this training.

**Staff Sergeant
82nd Airborne Division**

From the beginning to the end this was by far the greatest training event I have ever been exposed to. Each phase of the training plan built on the other and allowed for quick adaptation. All necessary equipment needed for training was at the training site. Gryphon Group prides its self on giving sound training without the ego and that is truly what they delivered not once did any member of our group felt as if we were being degraded and not instructed.

**First Lieutenant
101st Airborne Division**

Overall the entire course is outstanding, The Instructors are Professional, knowledgeable, Courteous and Versatile. The equipment used is more than capable to execute and complete the mission. The lesson plan was well thought out and executed smoothly. There was no down time wasted in this course. The OC spray is a good learning experience. However, this is not something that we will be able to carry into Iraq no matter how convenient it is to purchase. I do not think that there is a ROE that anyone has that would call for this. Non-Leather means are not currently authorized and will not be for quite some time. On the other hand it is a possibility that the bad guys could purchase it and it is nice to know the effects and that it will go away. My recommendation is that every deploying soldier gets training. My team is very diverse as far as MOS. This course has definitely increased their life span upon deployment. Job well done.

**Staff Sergeant
1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment**

This course was of a far higher quality than I had anticipated. Granted my military experience is limited in comparison to most of the group leaders here, but I feel that this school is worthy of the reputation and I will do everything in my power to convince the leadership within my unit to continue sending PSD team members to the courses this school provides. The format of this training scenario, specifically breaking the course down into separate stages sets EVERY student up for success. The course makes it possible for every individual of every skill level to develop their driving abilities to a level that most wouldn't have thought possible, I have nothing but positive things to say about this portion of the course. Also I want to add that your instructors operate on a level of professionalism that impresses the hell out of me. They have treated every student with respect and taken the time to work with each and every one regardless of the difficulty that individual may have.

**SGT, 82nd Airborne Division (PSD)
U.S. Army**

This was an intense and extremely valuable course of instruction. Many of the lessons learned are unable to be reproduced in training currently provided by my command and any other command that I have been a member of. The lessons learned were very applicable to the environment that my command operates in. Communication will either get you killed due to a lack of it or save your life because you make good use of it.

**Major
Marine Special Operations Command**

From Top to Bottom, by far the most realistic tactical training I have participated in since I have been in the Marine Corps. The combination of pain reinforcement and realism mixed with the level of difficulty forces you to rely on every ounce of training you have received and rely on your teammates around you.

The professionalism of the staff combined with the tremendous amount of experience allowed for a tremendous learning curve to occur. Definitely a world class organization with a top-notch staff.

**Staff Sergeant
2nd Marine Logistics Group**

This course is probably one of the preeminent courses of instruction I have attended in sixteen years of military service. Cadre personnel brought with them a wealth of experience that cannot be duplicated internal to DoD training commands. Never before have I seen a better organized course. No time was wasted as every moment was utilized to the fullest training potential. Additionally, this was a practical exercise course. As little time as possible was spent receiving lectures. Throughout the week 85 percent of our time was spent practicing the skills taught rather than just discussing them. The facilities and equipment were unsurpassed. In the end this was the most cost effective training funds I have ever spent!

**Gunnery Sergeant
2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion, II MEF**

Your instructors make the Mobile Force Protection Course. Their attitude, knowledge, experience, and professionalism are on a par I have never previously experienced in my career. This curriculum in the wrong hands could easily become a suck fest with no real learning involved. In six days, Gryphon Group has given us tools that significantly increase our survivability in a real way. Your organization is first class in every regard.

**Staff Sergeant
1st Marine Special Operations Battalion, I MEF**

Extremely relevant force protection training that has been fun and educational. The course does a great job of imparting knowledge and then reinforcing it with practical application, and then building on skills learned in the course. Awesome instructors and support staff!! Can't say enough about the professionalism and "approachability" of the instructors. They were very good about imparting lesson learned from their own experiences and from previous classes. They were very easy to talk to and they were very helpful to the students who needed extra instruction.

**Major
Foreign Military Training Unit, MARSOC**

Gryphon Group has an outstanding reputation within Foreign Military Training Unit. Many of the course graduates within FMTU rate the training as some of the best they have received in their military careers. Team 7 came down with high expectations and were not let down. The staff is extremely knowledgeable, professional, and courteous. The training provided will increase the Teams ability to operate around the world. Outstanding course! I would recommend this training for all Marines in the Foreign Military Training Unit.

**Captain
Foreign Military Training Unit, MARSOC**

In conclusion, the overall mission of this class is a total success. I would highly recommend all that can, attend this course. It is the best-resourced class that I have attended in my 16 plus years career. The way the class is ran and the overall professionalism of all the instructors and staff is phenomenal. I appreciate all that you have done for us in the class and what you all continue to do for our great nation. What you all are providing for us is beneficial to the success of our mission in OIF and OEF.

**Gunnery Sergeant
Joint Chiefs of Staff, PSD**

The Gryphon Group has put together a dynamic, realistic practical training course. I do believe that the Marines from my unit benefited greatly from the week-long Mobile Force Protection Course. All instructors are extremely knowledgeable, well trained and very professional. If many of the Marines from my last active duty unit had been able to attend this course before we deployed to Al-Ramadi Iraq, our casualty rate would not have been one of the highest in theater for any Marine infantry unit prior to the assault on Falujah. Daily we ran convoys up and down the main MSR and were hit with IED's and small arms fire ambush attacks. The tactics and ideas trained here during the MMFPC would have added to our units effectiveness and fighting capabilities.

**Staff Sergeant
4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, I MEF**

Everything from arriving to the hotel to getting out to the training range was exceptionally run. This organization is very professional and it is seen from the way the instructor staff acts to the attention to detail from everyone to make sure that all details are covered. You can never put a price on great training. The things I have learned will bring someone back home safe. This is the way that we should always be allowed to train for the environments that we will face OCONUS.

**Gunnery Sergeant
Marine Special Operations Command**

This was one of the best-organized and managed courses I have every attended. Every instructor was courteous and professional at all times with every student regardless of rank, experience or age. Every student was given individual attention during his training time and their input was always considered into how it could better the students training. Every Instructor was approachable, professional, and knowledgeable on every aspect of the course. Every scenario was explained in detail and the "crawl, walk, run" training approach was invaluable to how the course curriculum was implemented. Every scenario was applicable to the personal security detail mission. There were no fake scenarios or walk-thru scenarios, every portion was hands on and in your face. Every scenario had a potential for presenting itself in our upcoming missions. It is my desire to have more of my team members attend this realistic training program.

I cannot say enough on the professionalism and proficiency of the Gryphon Group Instructors. Their input and explanation into every class was invaluable to the accelerated learning curve that every student demonstrated. If not for their easy approachability and straight forward, no nonsense evaluations I could not have considered myself a better war fighter today compared to when I started this course. The training was top notch and realistic. Its immediate application to the constantly changing battlefield is evident. I would definitely recommend that and unit deploying in support of the war on terrorism attend this course. I would also recommend that the United States Marine Corps implement several of the training here into its non-existent Personal Security Detail Mission Standing Operating Procedures. My thanks go out to all members of the Gryphon Group Security Solutions organization and Semper Fi.

**Staff Sergeant
I Marine Expeditionary Force, PSD**

In short, enough good things could not be said about this course could not be said in this critique alone. We believe that the talent of the instructor/support cadre guarantees that GGSS will be around for the next 25 years. Michael Vaden is a visionary in special operations which makes us proud to be U.S. Marines. The entire instructor staff was professional, enthusiastic, and thorough in their teaching and demonstrated all drills flawlessly.

It is obvious that the GGSS cadre is talented and are versed in each other's jobs. No individual, organization or company in America can duplicate the realistic training which we had the good fortune to experience while attending the Military Mobile Force Protection Course.

**Sergeant Major
15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, I MEF**

Gryphon's Mobile Force Protection Course does an excellent job of raising individual awareness of emerging enemy tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) through the use of video and examples of current real world incidents, some of which could have been avoided by using the principles learned during Gryphon's MMFPC. Instructors have a solid relationship with operational units throughout the world who provide them with incident reports and lessons learned from recent events in Iraq and elsewhere that are immediately incorporated into the course, providing each student with up to date tactics that have been battle proven by units worldwide. Gryphon Instructors are very professional and knowledgeable, the facilities first-class, and the training assets abundant. An outstanding course with realistic training - bottom line. As a Marine CI team, we have a much different mission than the typical SF teams with whom we trained. This type of worst-case, fly-or-die scenario in which this course placed us is exactly the type of situation in which our teams are most likely to find themselves. EVERY USMC HUMINT EXPLOITATION TEAM (HET) SHOULD ATTEND THIS COURSE AS A TEAM BEFORE DEPLOYING TO ANY THEATER. This course will not necessarily reveal something never heard of or practiced before, but it will allow a team to try those things firsthand and work out problems that arise before you deploy.

**1st Lieutenant
1st Intelligence Battalion, Counter Intelligence, I Marine Expeditionary Force**

Overall, the MMFPC course given by Gryphon Group has been extremely rewarding for both myself and the other Marine who is assigned as a driver to the Commanding General, I-MEF. I came to this course wondering what it was exactly that, I would take from it. Now, at its conclusion I can say that it has been an extremely humbling experience for both myself and the other Marine attending. I have never been ambushed other than in a training environment but, it is our conclusion that because of this course we are certainly more astute and certainly more qualified now than we were on the first day of enrollment. It is without doubt that, there is no other place that I would have received training of this caliber.

In closing, I would like to say that the Marine Corps is eternally appreciative and grateful for the devotion and dedication of all of the Instructors at Gryphon Group and their diligence towards professionalism and making a difference.

**Sergeant
I Marine Expeditionary Force, PSD**

Gryphon Group's Mobile Force Protection Course is a realistic, demanding and fabulously useful course for any unit that may encounter enemy surveillance, close quarters combat or ambush situations while deployed. The focus of Gryphon Group that was constantly evident in every exercise is to equip soldiers with skills that will maximize their chances to defeat the enemy and survive with minimal casualties in the worst of environments. The professionalism and experience of the instructor corps at Gryphon Group was impressive and created an environment that was VERY conducive to rapid learning. The training we received will save lives in combat and contribute positively to mission success. If your unit has the funds- send them to this course. The course as a whole provided a focused, intense and incredibly realistic training environment.

The techniques and tactical scenarios described above gave all attendees numerous iterations of each situation with minimal distracters. I have NEVER experienced training that allowed the trainees to COMPLETELY focus on the tactical problems at hand as the MFPC by the Gryphon Group. As a result, in 6 days all attendees were able to attain basic proficiency in a wide variety of tasks and skills that they had likely never practiced in the past. The focus on the fundamentals of communication under fire and combining fire and maneuver in every tactical exercise was continually reinforced by the expert instructors from Gryphon Group. In summation, while many who attended this course are facing deployments in the near future, all would agree that this was time well spent and training that gave them greater levels of confidence in their ability to succeed and survive in the most challenging of combat environments.

**Sergeant
I MEF, PSD**

Gryphon Group provided one of the best, most realistic training courses I have ever attended. The training is focused on combat survival skills that are based on the current threat worldwide. The course is 10% classroom and 90% hands-on field training. From the moment you begin the course until graduation, the student is forced into a tactical mindset. The training is tough, realistic, and directly applicable to the current situation in Iraq and around the world. There is no doubt in my mind that every soldier and Marine who attended this training is much better prepared for that environment and will never forget the skills taught at this course. Immediate feedback (pain) provided by the paintballs reiterate the importance of IMT, well-aimed fire, speed and violence of action. The facilities, training ranges, and equipment provided were outstanding. Students did not have to stop training to police ranges, load magazines, and conduct maintenance or anything. This allowed maximum use of soldier's time and provided more training opportunity. The staff understands the time constraints units are under and go out of their way to keep the course length under a week. I will say the experience this course has given us will save lives and has made us a better-trained force and is well worth the cost.

Finally, Mike Vaden, CEO & President of Gryphon Group, is an excellent leader and instructor who demands nothing but professional behavior from his cadre and the students. This training is extremely dangerous and at no time are any of the students at risk of being hurt due to negligence. Mike is a common sense man who wants to help better prepare soldiers and Marines for the challenges they face. Throughout the entire course he asked for student feedback on how to make things better and took immediate action to implement those changes. He listens, and even solicits ideas on how to make the course better for the unit. Highly recommend we establish a contract with this organization in order to get every Marine possible through the training.

**Lieutenant Colonel
I Marine Expeditionary Force**

In summary, the Gryphon Group Security Solutions Military Mobile Force Protection Course was an excellent training opportunity. The training was realistic, fast-paced and the instructors provided immediate feedback to better enhance the learning process. The Marine Corps should continue to send Counterintelligence (CI) Marines to the Gryphon course to better prepare them for situations that they might be involved in. CI Marines may find themselves in situations where they may use these skills everyday. I recommend continuing sending CI Marines to the course; this training was beneficial because it instilled confidence in the students to be able to perform these tasks even under extreme stress and in undesirable situations.

Every portion of this course had some training value, whether it is for a CI team operating outside the wire, or those same CI Marines teaching similar techniques to the Marines they support and building rapport with them. The training focuses more on the Special Operations, Force Reconnaissance, Counterintelligence Community aspect of combat, but definitely has value to any Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) in the Marine Corps.

1st Lieutenant
1st Intelligence Battalion, Counter Intelligence, I Marine Expeditionary Force

My Unit Sergeant Major tasked me on finding a driving course so I called around to different schools and ended up choosing Gryphon Security Solutions. Due to the nature of my military duties I felt that this course would be the most appropriate in teaching me different techniques to get out of bad situations. Gryphon Instructors were very proficient and had extreme knowledge on how to instruct and on the subjects there were teaching. All POI's were well thought out and showed a great deal of realism. Instructors at Gryphon were the best instructors I have ever been instructed by since I have been in the military. The Mobile Force Protection Course is a must for anyone in the military. It slaps you in the face and makes you realize the many dangers in our field of work. I learned by negative reinforcement, which in my eyes is the best way to learn.

Sergeant
3rd Marine Air Control Group, 3rd Marine Air Wing

The Mobile Force Protection Course is an outstanding and thorough course utilizing excellent instruction and hands-on training. The course is certainly relevant to the Civil Support Community. The exceeded our team's expectations in its professionalism and instruction. During the training, downtime was kept to a minimum and our team experienced no logistical and administrative problems. The course was well designed and tailored to meet the needs of our team's request. Each instructor was well qualified and professional, possessing years of real world experience and training. Their ability to train each student down to the lowest level was a credit to their dedication and commitment to train "to a standard" and not to time.

8th Civil Support Team

This is the best military training I have ever attended in 18 years of active federal service. 95% hands-on, intense adrenaline packed drills, constant action, relevant to the current threat, top notch instruction, well thought out drills of increasing difficulty, and every block of instruction is superbly executed. If you're headed to the sand box, you must attend this course... Your logistics setup and support is the best I've seen. No significant downtime... Again, top notch instruction by all cadre.

44th Civil Support Team

This is a very active course that keeps you engaged. The entire staff from initial contact on obtaining slots to walking out the door at graduation is one of the best I have ever encountered in the military and law enforcement. They are professional, knowledgeable, and care about what they do. We are fortunate to have learned from you and look forward to getting the rest of our team through the training. Once again, use communication effectively at all times. Trust your team mates and their abilities to perform under high stress. This course adds the degree of realism that is not seen in any military course that I or any of my soldiers have attended.

4th Civil Support Team

The time, information and exercise timing is perfect. Your instructors are great. It is evident you spend a great deal of time either in the selection process or identifying up front exactly what is expected... Your logistics support is outstanding. The “take home” message is clear: If mobile, stay mobile if not, get mobile!

44th Civil Support Team

Excellent operation, realistic ambushes along with ammunition to support actions on the objectives. Nothing reinforces training like feeling the injuries you would sustain in a real life situation... The Mobile Force Protection Course allowed for individuals who had little experience and those more knowledge of tactics to be brought to the same level. Gryphon’s training focuses on communicating effectively under fire. Situations in combat will always be fluid and unpredictable. The passing of information on the battlefield, ensures soldiers get the most current SITREP at the objective.

4th Civil Support Team