



United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School

INSIDE SWCS

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT

By Angela E. Kershner

The most recent culmination exercise for the Civil Affairs Qualification Course for Mobilization exemplifies the collaboration efforts employed by the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School that produce some of the most highly trained Soldiers needed in today's military.

Since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, the responsibility for the CAQC for Mobilization has rotated between the 1st Training Brigade at U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) and the 1st Special Warfare Training Group at SWCS. The most recent course was conducted by SWCS's B Company, 3rd Battalion, with the support of 13 Army Reserve instructors from 1st Training Brigade.

"The Soldiers we are training will join [the USACAPOC(A)] force, so having their experienced instructors, senior NCOs and officers is the most valuable part," said Staff Sgt. Will Sauder, SWCS's non-commissioned officer in charge of the CAQC (Reserve component). "It's been a real good experience in creating new relationships between SWCS and USACAPOC(A)."

This iteration of the CAQC also combined the CULEX portion of the Mobilization course and the primarily internet-based Army Reserve course for the first time.

"[Combining the classes] gave us the ability to interact with others that have more experiences than we do," said Army Reserve

"SWICK" HITS

SOCIAL MEDIA & OPSEC

While Social Networking Sites (SNS) such as Facebook and Twitter can be useful and fun, they can provide adversaries, such as terrorists, spies and criminals, with critical information needed to harm you or disrupt your mission.

Practicing Operations Security (OPSEC) will help you to recognize your critical information and protect it from an adversary.

THINK BEFORE YOU POST!

Remember, your information could become public at any time due to hacking, configuration errors, social engineering or the business practice of selling or sharing user data.

For more information, visit the [Interagency OPSEC Support Staff's Web site](#).

www.facebook.com/jfkcenterandschool

ROBIN SAGE

The next Robin Sage will begin on March 28.

People wanting to volunteer as a Pinelander should contact D Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group at 910-907-5593.

Those wanting to be a guerilla force contract employee should contact NEK at 910-432-7489.

SPIRIT OF HOPE

Nominations are being accepted by the Office of the Secretary of Defense for the 2010 Spirit of Hope Award.

The nominee for this award should epitomize the values of Mr. Bob Hope.

Click [here](#) for eligibility requirements and instructions for submitting a Spirit of Hope Award nomination.

Please submit your nomination (endorsed by the unit Director) to Ms. Charlene Gravely, SWCS HRO, no later than 5 p.m., Friday, March 12.

course student Capt. Marybeth Lightfoot of the 418th Civil Affairs Battalion in Belton, Mo. “This training was tremendous.”

Trained in populace and resource control, foreign humanitarian assistance, and negotiation and mediation, and many other tasks, over 75 percent of the recent graduates of the CAQC are scheduled to deploy with one of over 30 Army Reserve civil affairs units in the near future.

While participating in the CULEX scenarios, the Soldiers must simultaneously learn to deal with interpreters, and learn to interact with a culture that may be vastly different than their own. “That was my first experience dealing with an interpreter,” said Lt. Col. Steve Sayers of the 404th Civil Affairs Battalion at Fort Dix, N.J. “Trying to communicate through our interpreter and dealing with someone of a different culture is much more difficult than it looks.”

The ability to learn how to interact without offending can, in some countries and cultures, be the difference between mission success and mission failure; or even life and death.

Hired and coordinated through Reservoir International, a company that specializes in advanced training and simulations, the role players add realism to the training. Many speak Arabic, the language

most commonly encountered in Iraq, or French, which is spoken in several African countries — both languages Soldiers may encounter while deployed. “The majority of [the role players] are from Iraq, some of them were born here, some are from other parts of the world — but they all speak the language,” said Eddie Huey, exercise manager for the Fayetteville-based company. The role players do not simply act out a rehearsed script; they inject attitude and personality into the scenarios.

“The importance is that you challenge the officer. You try to take them to the extreme,” said Mohamed Erami, an Arabic-speaking role player. “You try to bring the human being out of the uniform.” Originally from Casablanca, Morocco, Erami got involved with role play through an officer at 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) where he works as a network administrator.

Ignorance of cultural practices and beliefs, or failure to respect them, can lead to unnecessary tension in a situation and can sometimes escalate problems to dangerous levels for both the Soldiers and civilians.

Maydah Abdul of Raleigh, N.C. came to the United States as a refugee from her native Iraq. “The most important thing is to give [the students] training about our culture, how to deal with women, how to respect our culture and how to be safe,” Abdul said through her Arabic-translator, Hiba Al Azzawi of Fayetteville. “I have the pleasure and the honor to work with the Soldiers and the military because they are helping my country.”

Capt. Laura Miller of the 322nd Civil Affairs Brigade in Hawaii and her team were presented with the difficult situation of having to assist a Muslim, Arabic-speaking woman whose husband had been killed in a car accident. In addition to the language barrier and the delicacy of the issue, Muslim women are not allowed to speak to men not in their immediate family. Being a female, Miller was able to act as a liaison, speaking to the woman and the local Imam. She also improvised and used part of her Army-issued cold weather gear as a veil for her face, out of respect for their culture.

“In a lot of military training you don’t have an opportunity to think outside the box and work in fluid scenarios built around people’s personalities,” Miller said.

“The graduates of the Civil Affairs Mobilization course and new inductees into the Civil Affairs Regiment represent the ever-evolving and adaptable nature of the Special Warfare Center and an instructor force from the U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command. Cultural role players in Operation Certain Trust bring a linguistic and multi-cultural component to Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Qualification Course students,” said Lt. Col. Kyle Reidel, commander of 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group at SWCS.

The combined effort including but not limited to the personnel and facilities of SWCS, the expertise of USACAPOC(A), and the authenticity of native-speaking role players creates an atmosphere conducive to learning how to react to real situations they may face during deployment.

“Classroom skill training is the first building block, but our newest members of the branch must effectively interact, understand, and influence a culture foreign to their own,” Reidel said. “There is no replacement for this aspect of their training.”