



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

INSIDE SWCS

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

CHANGES IN DOCTRINE MAINTAIN RELEVANCY

By Angela E. Kershner

The highly specialized training received by Civil Affairs, Psychological Operations and Special Forces Soldiers at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School is constantly evaluated, adjusted and redesigned by the Directorate of Training and Doctrine.

Defined by TRADOC Reg. 25-36, doctrine is the “fundamental principles by which the military forces or elements thereof guide their actions in support of national objectives.” This includes terms, tactics, techniques and procedures. Most importantly — although doctrine is authoritative, it requires judgment in application.

“Doctrine tells you where you are today,” said Grey Welborn, deputy director of DOTD. “When you envision the future, the difference between the doctrine and that future is the gaps.”

Those gaps are what need to be addressed in the new or revised doctrine.

“Feedback, lessons learned, and other forms of information are critical to figuring out the most appropriate doctrine, training or leadership development programs to resolve the gap,” Welborn said. “A lot of people in units don’t want to share operational problems for fear that they will be judged as not performing as well as someone else —but everybody may have some trouble with the same thing.”

Identifying any and all issues in an after action review, both good and bad, allows gaps in doctrine to be identified and addressed accordingly, affecting the future of training for the Soldiers of SWCS and better preparing them to succeed in the special-operations ventures of tomorrow.

“SWICK” HITS

ADDITIONAL INFO

For more information about doctrine and the DOTD process visit the [U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Web site](#) or reference AR 350-1 & TR 350-70.

SAFETY CALL

In everything the SWCS community does, safety should be the number one priority.

Remember to celebrate responsibly and use a cab if you choose to drink. Drinking and driving is illegal and dangerous.

All units need to enforce a zero tolerance policy in regards to this unsafe action that not only jeopardizes the welfare of our Soldiers and the safety of others, it goes against the core values of our organization as Quiet Professionals.

[www.facebook.com/
jfkcenterandschool](http://www.facebook.com/jfkcenterandschool)

2010 CENSUS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

The 2010 census will make its way to your mailbox in early March. With many Service Members deployed, Military Families may have questions regarding how to answer certain questions.

If your Service Member spouse is overseas, then the person receiving the questionnaire should not count the spouse that is overseas. The spouse overseas will be counted based on home of record provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center to the Census Bureau.

Likewise, Military Families and Service Members living overseas will not receive a questionnaire and will also be counted based on home of record.

If your spouse is on a military vessel with a United States homeport, then they should not be counted as part of your household.

For additional clarification, please visit the [2010 Census Web site](#).

Changes in techniques and strategies, new problems or obstacles and the positive or negative effects of improvising are all issues dealt with in AARs.

According to trends analyst Tim Landreth, of SWCS' DOTD, AARs are integral to identifying trends and lessons that indicate necessary doctrine and training changes. "They're so important that they don't get done often enough!" Landreth said emphatically.

AARs are entered into the Joint Lessons Learned Information System – Special Operations Forces, an interactive database available only on the SIPR-net. Once a particular issue is submitted three times it is considered a trend.

"We're looking primarily for trends in doctrine, leader development and training," said Craig Patterson, a lessons-learned analyst.

Once those trends are identified, a Critical Tasks Site Selection Board reviews them to determine where they would be best dealt with.

"If it's a new task, we do an analysis of the task to see where it fits in. Should it be in the schoolhouse? In the unit? The individual?" said Joe Lupyak, supervisory training specialist in DOTD's Training Development Division.

Those tasks deemed to be best suited to schoolhouse learning then become the responsibility of the SWCS DOTD. Doctrine is developed in

order to facilitate a change in training which is then passed on to the 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) for implementation.

The purpose of training at SWCS is to give Soldiers the means necessary to become special-operations warriors. The skills those Soldiers learn at SWCS prepare them to absorb what they will learn in the field from both their superiors and their own experiences, and how they will use those lessons to apply their own judgment to real-world situations.

"In doctrine you're trying to give general guidelines to use anywhere in the world, no matter the situation," Patterson said.

Unconventional warfare tactics continually change. As enemy combatants have adapted to our war-fighting capabilities and techniques, we have had to adapt to their new tactics. This cyclical process of adaptation is reflected in the constant evaluation and change of identified issues and doctrine, allowing for the training conducted at SWCS to remain relevant.