

## These Soldiers aren't getting a 4-day weekend



Graves of Soldiers and military families at the Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery in Spring Lake, N.C. are decorated with American flags and flowers throughout the year, especially around Memorial Day.

By Maj. Dave Butler  
USAJFKSWCS Public Affairs Officer

**M**emorial Day is, unofficially, the day we begin wearing seersucker, grilling out and planning beach trips. It is, unofficially, a day of parades. Likewise, it's unofficially a great long weekend to garden and landscape.

Officially, Memorial Day is the day we remember and honor our dead service members.

The 2009 United States Presidential Memorial Day Proclamation states that on Memorial Day, we should pray for God's grace upon our fallen heroes and remember their sacrifices; we should pray for all of our military personnel and veterans, their families, and all those who have lost loved ones in the defense of our freedom and safety.

Memorial Day started with local movements in communities across the United States in the mid-1800s, as citizens gathered to honor servicemen who had been killed in combat during the Civil War.

It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic. In his orders, Logan declared, "No form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit."

The day's popularity continued to spread; it soon became a day to remember all of America's fallen Soldiers. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May.

For those that have experienced combat, Memorial Day may have new meaning.

Veteran or not, we should all recognize our responsibility as American citizens. President Obama's 2009 proclamation says, "... as we commend their deeds, we also bear a heavy burden of responsibility to ensure that their sacrifices will not have been in vain."

We share this responsibility at the U.S.

Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center & School. As our mission states, we enable the operational force "by providing superior training and education, relevant doctrine, effective career management and an integrated force-development capability."

"It gives more meaning to our job when you are training people to deploy," said Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Lathrop, 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne), who served as a combat engineer in Desert Storm and a civil affairs NCO in OEF. He remembers two of his former students who recently died in combat.

"Memorial Day should be every day at SWCS," he said.

For our country, Memorial Day is a day for our nation to remember. For our organization, and as service members, government employees and contractors we shall remember our comrades each day as we do our jobs.

Throughout a Memorial Day weekend filled with parades, parties and picnics, consider Lathrop's advice: "The better we do our job at SWCS, the fewer names added to the list [of those who have died]."

**"Memorial Day should be every day at SWCS."**

**Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Lathrop**  
3rd Bn., 1st SWTG(A)

# Safety program teaches healthy living and habits

By Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Csrnko  
USAJFKSWCS Commanding General

With the advent of summer, many in our SWCS family hit the road for vacations or family gatherings. Those of us who stay in the local community, may find ourselves taking short trips to the coast or the lake. In any case, we spend more time outdoors and on the go.

While that time is meant for enjoyment, it can wind up deadly.

Since January of this year, 72 of our fellow Soldiers have been killed in off-duty POV accidents. That number is up from last year. With this in mind, our command has hosted Safety education events this week aimed at keeping you and your family safe this summer.

It is my sincere hope that you took the time to go out and visit the booths that were put together by our dedicated safety staff. Each booth and presentation talked about issues directly related to your personal safety. Some of the displays were more fun than others, but they all had the same goal: Keeping you, our Soldiers and Civilians, alive and well.

As students, cadre, staff and faculty at SWCS, you play an important role in the safety of our nation. You also are the key player when it comes to your own personal safety and that of your friends and family.

I ask that you take in what you have seen over the past days. Take a look at your own activities, and then assess changes that you can make that will ensure that you will have an enjoyable, yet safe, summer season.



Csrnko

## Photo of the Week



Graduates of the 252nd Special Forces Qualification Course don their Green Berets for the first time during the Regimental First Formation on the JFK Plaza May 26 at Fort Bragg, N.C.

## Don't let others' sacrifices have been in vain

By Lt. Col. Mark Knox  
USAJFKSWCS Chaplain

Memorial Day has taken on new meaning for me in recent years, and I suspect it has for most of you as well. Each year as



Knox

Memorial Day approaches I am reminded of those I have served with who have made the ultimate sacrifice. I remember their lives, in some cases I remember their deaths, and I ask God to continue to comfort and strengthen their families.

There is a powerful scene near the end of the movie "Saving Private Ryan," set in France during World War II. The Army learns that a family has four sons serving in the war. Three of the sons have been killed and their fourth is somewhere in France. Since no family should suffer the tragedy of losing four sons to war, a team is sent after this last son, Private Ryan.

Along the way, members of the team are wounded and killed, and begin to ask, "Why is the life of this one Private so important?"

They finally locate Ryan, but the young man doesn't want to go home. Ryan's unit has its own orders: to keep a group of German tanks from crossing a bridge until air support arrives. Ryan doesn't want to abandon his unit until they've accomplished their mission, and convinces the team to stay until after the battle is over.

There is an incredible battle for the bridge and many lives are lost, including the entire rescue team. The team's commander, played by Tom Hanks, is dying. Ryan comes to help, but the commander tells him to go on. He then says to Ryan, "Earn this." In other words, go home and live in such a way that you deserve the lives sacrificed to save you.

"Earn this." We can never repay the incredible sacrifices that have been made on our behalf, but certainly we can pause from our weekend activities for just a little while to remember those who have made our freedom possible. And as we remember their sacrifice, I believe we will find ourselves challenged to live lives of greater faithfulness and service.

Have a great Memorial Day weekend, and remember!

## Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Regimental First Formation 2 p.m. Kennedy Hall	<b>27</b> SF Qualification Course Graduation 9 a.m. Crown Coliseum	<b>28</b> Training Holiday	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> Memorial Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> CIVIL Affairs, & PSYOP AIT Graduation 10 a.m. Kennedy Hall	<b>6</b>
<b>Robin Sage Class 06-09 begins</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>

### Spotlight on Talent

**Congratulations to our most recent Civilians of the Quarter!**

- Evelyn Robbins  
Academic Coordinator, DRSE
- Erik Reichenberg  
Small Arms Repairer, 1st SWTG(A)
- Doris Jo Carson  
Visual Information Spec., DOTD