

## Soldier battles cancer while serving with SWCS



Staff Sgt. Charles Taylor (center) and his family pose at the Army Special Operations Battle Command Training Center, part of SWCS at Fort Bragg, N.C. Taylor, who is undergoing treatment for cancer, is the first Soldier to report to duty at SWCS from the Warrior Transition Battalion, also on Fort Bragg, affording him the flexibility to work and serve his country while focusing on recovery and medical appointments.

By Staff Sgt. Marshall Pesta  
USAJFKSWCS Public Affairs Office

One of the first lessons you learn in the military is the importance of teamwork. When a Soldier is taken out of the fight due to injury or illness, a sense of isolation from that team can be devastating.

Another core lesson: never leave a fallen comrade. The U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center & School is doing its part by working with the USASOC Equal Employment Opportunity Office to bring recovering Soldiers back to the Army team.

Staff Sgt. Charles Taylor is the first Soldier to report to SWCS from the Warrior Transition Battalion; he now works as a trainer at the Army Special Operations Battle Command Training Center.

When Taylor was diagnosed with cancer in December, 2007, he was medically evacuated from Afghanistan, and has been undergoing treatment since then.

Unable to return to his duties with his original unit, he says he still wanted to contribute something to the fight.

“This has been a great opportunity for me. For a while, I felt like I was just sitting at home, waiting to get better,” Taylor said. “This has helped made me feel like I’m part of a team again, like I’m productive again.”

The program gives Soldiers recovering from wounds or serious illness on-the-job training in skills which are marketable in the civilian sector. This is especially helpful for Soldiers who will be transitioning out of the Army after their treatment.

Thomas Dugan, the civilian director of the BCTC, appreciates having this program in place. On top of the benefit of having extra hands in the unit, he says it’s an all-around good opportunity for the organization and the Soldiers.

“For all of the sacrifices [these Soldiers] have made, they deserve an opportunity like this,” said Dugan.

Not only do these Soldiers get training in a new job field, but they also get to be a part of training other Soldiers, with the flexibility

to take care of their medical needs. Taylor takes helping fellow Soldiers a step further, by going back and talking to other Soldiers dealing with cancer.

“It is especially hard for the Soldiers that don’t have family nearby,” said Taylor. “I try

**“It’s so much better to get involved than to sit at home, trying to deal with it alone.”**

Staff Sgt. Charles Taylor

to encourage them and let them know it’s hard but they will get through this. I definitely recommend this program, too.

It’s so much better to get involved than to sit at home, trying to deal with it alone.”

SWCS hopes to see more Soldiers get back on the team with this on the job training. Dugan says the BCTC will take as many Soldiers like Taylor, with his dedication and enthusiasm, as the Army will give him.

“Every time he comes in, he smiles,” said Dugan. “It’s like he feels needed again, part of a family and part of the Army again. And he is — he’s part of our team.”

*In next week’s Inside SWCS: Part 2 of this series on the Army’s support to wounded warriors.*

# Keep yourself and others cool during summer training

By Col. Jeffrey Kingsbury

Special Warfare Medical Group (Airborne) Commander

I am very proud of the high quality special operations medics SWCS trains for USSOCOM. Our graduates are the best combat medics in the world. Having the best trained medics decreases the morbidity and mortality of all they care for. So how do we improve on that? We prevent the injury from occurring at all.

We are about to start another hot summer. Heat injuries continue to cause significant morbidity and can even result in loss of life for our students, cadre, or families. Exposure to extreme heat is the reality of training, exercising, and living in North Carolina. Leaders must assess units' missions and training requirements against the risk associated with training in warm weather environments.

Annually the Army has 3-4 Soldiers die of heat-related injuries. A majority of these deaths occur during physical fitness training or testing. In 2009, 209 Soldiers suffered heat strokes and an additional 1,160 suffered heat injuries severe enough to warrant medical treatment. Many heat injuries are preventable, and none need be fatal.

Mission assessment, planning and implementation of mitigation measures are essential to prevent heat injuries. Early recognition and treatment are key to saving lives.

Excellent resources for heat casualty prevention are available through the U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional) website at <http://phc.amedd.army.mil/heat/>.



Kingsbury

## Meet the SWCS Interns

**Shalonda Anderson**

DRSE  
Fayetteville State, English

**Staci Chiomento**

Media Production Division  
Methodist, Political Science

**Andre Debrow**

Warrant Officer Institute  
Fayetteville State, Computer Science

**Kelly Fichman**

ARSOIC  
Fayetteville State, Computer Science

**Monica Greiss**

DRSE  
Fayetteville State, Psychology

**Amanda Towery**

G-1  
Fayetteville St., Business Admin.

**William Williams**

NCO Academy  
Fayetteville State, Computer Science

**Bionca Bright**

Library  
Fayetteville State, Psychology

**Gina Cuza**

Chapel  
UNC-Pembroke, History

**Michael Eni**

DSOP  
Fayetteville State, Computer Science

**Kelly Fields**

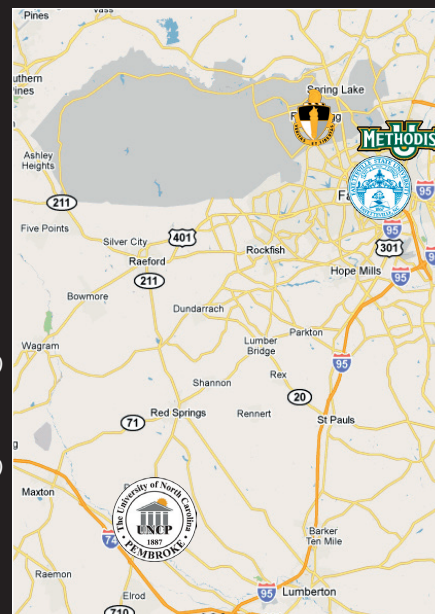
1st Special Warfare Training Group (A)  
Fayetteville State, Computer Science

**Jennifer Mafnas**

1st Special Warfare Training Group (A)  
Fayetteville State, Psychology

**Zachary Rivenbark**

Chapel  
Methodist, Political Science

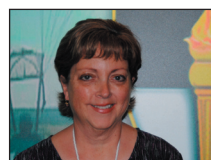


## Student Hire Program helps bolster staff

By Jacquelyn Weyhenmeyer

USAJFKSWCS Student Hire Manager

Did you know that we have a Student Hire Program at SWCS? Most managers are not aware that this program exists.



Weyhenmeyer

USASOC EEO has an arrangement with the Minority College Relations Program and three local universities: Fayetteville State, Methodist and UNC-Pembroke. There is special funding available for this program.

Students participating in the MCRP are juniors or above, honor students with a GPA of 3.0 or above.

I work directly with our managers to find and place students within SWCS. We try to place students in positions that closely match their majors.

This is how the process works: A manager contacts me with a request for a student hire, and I help determine the ideal major or skill sets, then request resumes from USA-SOC. I provide our managers with resumes for review, and arrange the interviews. After

interviewing, if the manager has decided to select one of the students, I then inform USASOC EEO.

Once CPAC has made the student a tentative offer, the interim security clearance paperwork must be submitted through our G-2. Once the clearance is granted, the student is given an Entrance on Duty date and may begin work.

Students work 20 hours per week while school is in session. They may work up to 32 hours per week when school is not in session, i.e., winter, spring and summer breaks. They earn two hours annual leave and two hours sick per pay period.

Undergrads are hired at GS-4 (grad students at GS-5), both as one-year temporary employees, but may be extended if they are still enrolled in one of the universities.

We currently have 13 students at SWCS, and five more coming on board pending their clearances.

They are a wonderful addition to the SWCS family and provide great support to their organizations. If you interested in a student hire for your section, please contact me at 396-6469 or [weyhenmj@soc.mil](mailto:weyhenmj@soc.mil).

## Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	Memorial Day	1	2	3	Civil Affairs & PSYOP AIT Graduation 10 a.m. Kennedy Hall	5
Robin Sage Class 06-09 begins	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	U.S. Army Birthday	15	16	SWCS Spring Dining In	18	19



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