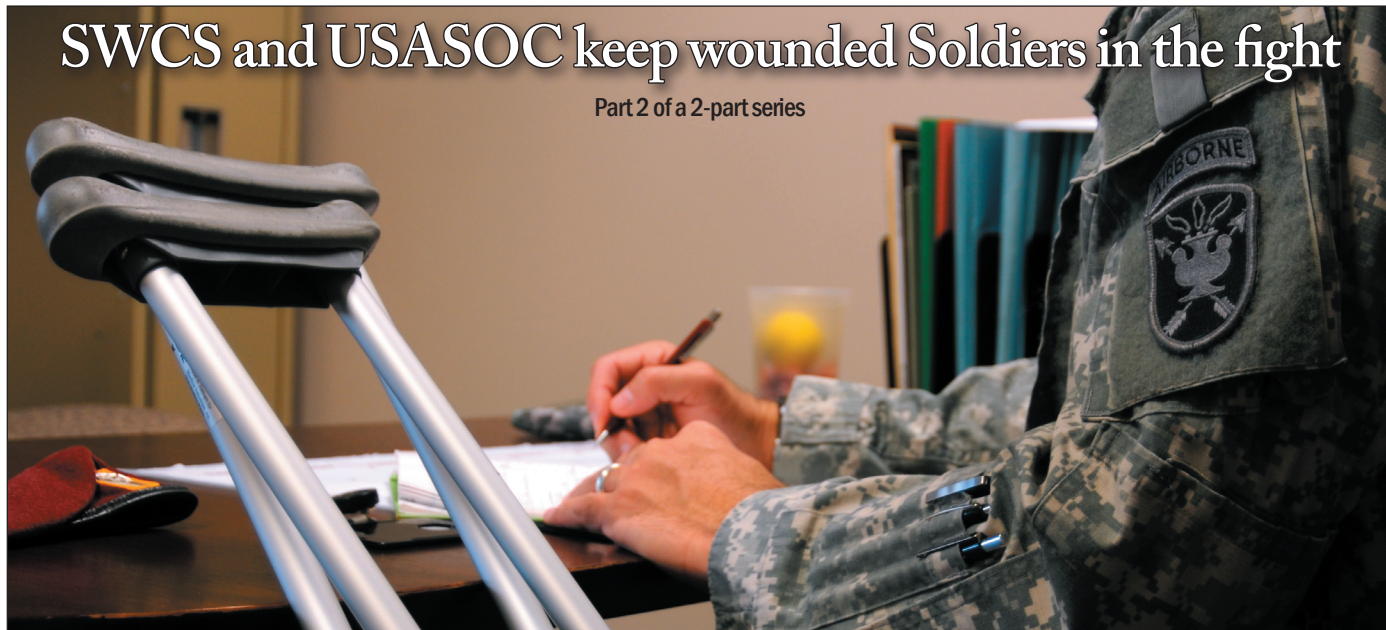


## Down, But Not Out

### SWCS and USASOC keep wounded Soldiers in the fight

Part 2 of a 2-part series



U.S. Army Special Operations Command Soldiers recovering and rehabilitating from serious illnesses and injuries have the opportunity to gain on-the-job training in USASOC units while focusing on medical appointments and treatments. The first "wounded warrior" participating in the program was placed at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center & School in April 2010.

By Al Hall

USASOC Equal Employment Opportunity Office

Most, if not all, have heard of the Wounded Warrior Project. Its mission is to honor and empower wounded warriors and to raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of severely injured service men and women. The key objectives of this program are to help these Soldiers aid and assist each other, and to provide unique, direct programs and services that meet their needs.

The U.S. Army Special Operations Command has taken this initiative a step further by providing additional services exclusively for wounded Ft. Bragg-based special operations Soldiers. These Soldiers now have opportunities to earn valuable civilian work experience during their time of rehabilitation and recovery.

"Wounded Warrior Civilian On-the-Job Training is an excellent opportunity for the command to show their support for the dedication and sacrifices made by our Soldiers," said Annie Pope, USASOC's Equal

Employment Opportunity director.

This training is voluntary and specifically designed for special operations Soldiers who have sustained injuries while serving in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The program would assist medically cleared, recuperating Soldiers by giving them meaningful work responsibilities while they wait to return to active duty or by developing skills to support their transition to civilian status.

"We are eternally grateful for the hard work and courage demonstrated daily by our Soldiers and this is the least we can do to show our appreciation," Pope said. "An OJT Program for Soldiers will be beneficial to both the Soldier and the Army."

Participating Soldiers gain knowledge of intricate Army processes and dedication while the Army gets added support in various capacities, since the Soldier is already on active duty while recovering and reha-

bilitating. The suggested time frame for the Soldier to participate in the OJT will range from three to six months, 20 hours a week. Although there will be flexibility in the time frames, the OJT should be sufficient for the Soldier to gain valuable job experience.

"Soldiers should become involved early in their rehabilitation stage to take full advantage of the program," said Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Davila,

a medical training NCO with the USASOC Surgeon's Office.

The amount of time that the Soldier performs OJT will depend on the length of the rehabilitation period, and medical appointments will always have priority over any OJT assignments and will be clearly communicated in the guidance to managers and supervisors.

For more information, Wounded AR-SOF Soldiers should contact their chains of command or the Equal Employment Opportunity office.

**Participating Soldiers gain knowledge of intricate Army processes and dedication while the Army sees no additional financial obligations.**

# Outgoing CSM: high standards lead to success

By Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Sekelsky  
USAJFKSWCS Command Sergeant Major

As I prepare to leave SWCS and head to Special Operations Command Europe, I want to take the time to thank the Special Warfare Soldiers, Civilians and Family members who have made this tour so successful and rewarding. Over the past year, things continue to change at SWCS, but one thing that we must ensure never changes is our commitment to the force and our pursuit of excellence.

The hardworking cadre at SWCS is the key to maintaining and achieving these goals. I want to make clear that the instructors at the Civil Affairs, Psychological Operations, and Special Forces Qualification Courses, the NCO Academy, and Special Warfare Medical Group, as well as our special skills schools, are the best Soldiers in their respective fields, and that is why they are here. We need to continually maintain and uphold our high standards. In my tenure here at SWCS I have personally witnessed the execution of these high standards by our dedicated cadre and civilians.

While it is hard for the operational units to give up these combat-tested warriors, the experience and discipline they bring to SWCS is vital in producing relevant and ready warriors for the future of our forces. Every day, these members are keeping up the high expectations set by our predecessors. We owe it to our veterans, Soldiers and future Soldiers to not only maintain a high standard, but exceed our own expectations. That is the character of a member of our Army Special Operations community.

As I head on to my new assignment, I truly believe that I am leaving SWCS in fully capable hands. To the Soldiers and Civilians dedicated to building and maintaining our force I say this: continue to grow the most capable Army SOF Soldiers of today's battlefield while making this organization the best it can be. For all of your service, I thank you.



Sekelsky

to thank the Special Warfare Soldiers, Civilians and Family members who have made this tour so successful and rewarding.

## Picture of the Week

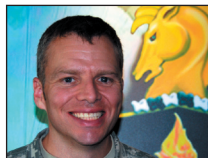


Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Csmko, commanding general of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center & School, presents Sgt. 1st Class Ryan McManigle, an assessor at Special Forces Assessment and Selection, with the Meritorious Service Medal June 8 at Camp Mackall, N.C.

## PAO is great ... you can be great too!

By Maj. Dave Butler  
USAJFKSWCS Public Affairs Officer

At SWCS, we train Soldiers and empower a force. The American public supplies the Soldiers SWCS trains. This requires trust. Trust requires knowledge. Knowledge requires information.



Butler

General George Washington said, "Impress on the mind of every man, from first to last, the importance of the cause and what it is we are contending for."

The people of our organization need to be informed. The staff and cadre at SWCS must be informed to be successful.

We have tools to inform. We have the newsletter you're reading and the elevator monitor. We use Facebook, YouTube and Fort Bragg's *Paraglide*. We are developing an internal videocast. We work with newspapers, and radio and TV stations. We work with the Joint Hometown News Service and the Discovery Channel.

We are professional communicators.

Public Affairs professionals are trained in the art and science of communicating messages- strategically. Our experience has taught us volumes.

The true spokespeople are you: the Soldiers, the civilians, the experts.

Wouldn't it be strange to see Staff Sgt. Pesta (our NCOIC) on the elevator monitor posing for the camera? Wouldn't it be odd to see me on Discovery Channel talking about SCUBA school? Normally I only get in front of the camera when it's time to serve as a spokesman while explaining some unfortunate circumstance to America.

You are the face of our organization and our Army in the subjects of training and managing Army Special Operations Forces.

It's your time to submit an article to *Inside SWCS*. It's your time to write an editorial for the local newspaper. It's your time to point us to the story. It's your time to smile for the camera.

We have three articles in each newsletter: write one. We have a Facebook page: participate. We always have media: be available.

Visit the Public Affairs shop, call or write us an e-mail to gain the trust of America.

## Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Robin Sage Class 06-09 begins	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	U.S. Army Birthday	15	16	SWCS Spring Dining In	Training Holiday	19
Father's Day	SWCS Change of Responsibility	22	23	24	25	26