

NCO Sword Changes Hands



CSM Sekelsky heads to Germany; 5th Group CSM becomes top SWCS NCO

Left: Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Csrnko accepts the noncommissioned officer sword from Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Sekelsky during the SWCS change of responsibility ceremony June 21 on Fort Bragg. Right: Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony A. Pettengill, Csrnko and Sekelsky stand at attention and face their audience. Sekelsky will become the new command sergeant major for Special Operations Command Europe.

By Dave Chase
USAJFKSWCS Public Affairs Office

SWCS, charged with selecting, training and maintaining America's special operations Soldiers, gains its relevance from a staff of individuals who have recently served within the Army's operational units.

Over 400 military instructors work within the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center & School, and 95 percent have combat experience, bringing real-world experience to each of their classes, exercises and publications.

The Center & School's instructors are frequently rotated to and from the Army's special operations units, as are the members of the command's senior leadership.

Monday, Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony A. Pettengill assumed responsibility as the top noncommissioned officer at SWCS after serving for two years as the command sergeant major for 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Ky.

"I thought being the command sergeant major of 5th Special Forces Group would be

the highlight of my career," Pettengill said during the ceremony.

"I look forward to the challenges of helping shape future leaders and warriors here at SWCS."

Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Csrnko presided over the ceremony, passing the sword to Pettengill from Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Sekelsky, who is leaving SWCS to become the command sergeant major for Special Operations Command Europe in Stuttgart, Germany.

"Above all, the command sergeant major must be well-versed in all facets of military professionalism and bearing," Csrnko said. "[Pettengill] is a superior warrior, sound leader and dedicated professional."

Pettengill joined the Army in 1982, and served as an infantry rifleman, radio operator, squad leader, senior drill sergeant and platoon sergeant before attending the Special Forces Qualification Course and becoming a Special Forces engineer sergeant.

Since joining the special operations community, Pettengill has served in various capacities with the 5th, 19th and 1st Special Forces Groups, at Fort Campbell, Ky., Draper, Utah, and Fort Lewis, Wash., respectively.

"The contributions of Command Sgt.

Maj. Sekelsky will be felt for many years to come at SWCS," Csrnko said.

Sekelsky considers his work with special operations education, language training and incentivizing SWCS as-

signments as his most significant contributions as CSM.

"A Soldier's education plan should not be derivative, it should be deliberate," Sekelsky said in his remarks. "We need to put our Soldiers on an educational azimuth."

"In my tenure here at SWCS I have grown a greater appreciation for all the work, time and sacrifice that the Soldiers and civilians have given to create this great institution," Sekelsky said. "SWCS produces the most relevant warriors on the battlefield today."

"SWCS produces the most relevant warriors on the battlefield today."

Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Sekelsky
Outgoing SWCS Command Sergeant Major

Remain focused as SWCS works with investigators

By Col. Curtis Boyd
USAFKSWCS Chief of Staff

An accident occurred during Phase III of our Special Forces training on June 22 at approximately 12:55 p.m. at Fort Bragg's Range 77. The accident resulted in the death of one contractor and the injury of two others.

Please take a moment to appreciate the circumstances of this extremely unfortunate accident, which took place during our tactical combat skills training.

The contractor died at Womack Army Medical Center (WAMC) from a gunshot wound. A second contractor, who also sustained a gunshot wound, was transported via air medevac to Chapel Hill. The third person, a Phase III Soldier was grazed in the arm, treated and released from WAMC.

The training involved a very basic squad level maneuver live fire exercise.

This is what we know now. We have appointed and assigned subject matter experts to conduct the required investigations as well as outside agencies to do the same. I discourage speculation or conjecture; rumint is unacceptable. Let the professionals do their jobs and we all remain focused. The best practices and lessons learned will be forthcoming.

Fort Bragg officials have notified the media and have released the appropriate information. Should any media agency inquire, politely refer them to our Public Affairs Officer, Maj. Dave Butler at 396-9394.

And finally and most appropriately, MG Csrnko has deemed it essential to hold a safety stand-down day within the next 24-36 hours. It is his intent that everyone in SWCS take this opportunity to review and re-familiarize themselves and their subordinates with the quality safety measures (on and off duty), documentation, and standard operating procedures we have in place. Our G3 Ops Sergeant Major will release the directive to eliminate confusion regarding implementation and standards.

There are no acceptable accidents and we will remain diligent in our effort to keep our Soldiers safe. Performance-oriented high-risk training is routine in the Center and School. We must remain the leaders in risk management and mitigation. Safety is job one; make no mistake.

Picture of the Week



Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Csmko passes the Special Warfare Medical Group (Airborne) colors from Col. Jeffrey Kingsbury to Col. Robert Lutz during the SWMG(A) change of command ceremony June 17 on John F. Kennedy Plaza. Lutz is the former USASOC Deputy Command Surgeon.

Special Warfare: Share your knowledge, experience

By Jerry D. Steelman
Special Warfare Editor

The U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School is home to a great many experienced Soldiers who excel at passing along their knowledge to others. They can train special operations candidates here at Fort Bragg or foreign soldiers around the world.

Besides teaching, there is another way these Soldiers can pass along their experience – through articles published in *Special Warfare*, the ARSOF professional bulletin. *Special Warfare's* purpose is to contribute to the professional development of ARSOF Soldiers.

We do that by publishing articles that relay lessons learned from deployments or exercises, suggest new ways of doing things, or inform readers about changes in doctrine or new courses at SWCS.

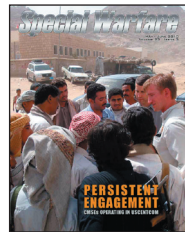
We also publish news from SWCS that will benefit the ARSOF community, such as

career development information, changes in course prerequisites or reporting procedures, or release dates for new or revised doctrinal manuals. *Special Warfare* also publishes reviews of books that may be of interest to ARSOF Soldiers.

Special Warfare is distributed to active- and Reserve-component Civil Affairs, Psychological Operations and Special Forces units, sister-service special operations units and some government agencies. It is also available on a publicly accessible Web page at www.soc.mil/swcs/swmag/, and the Government Printing Office sells private subscriptions, so our coverage is widespread.

Articles can be up to about 3,000 words, book reviews between 500 and 750 words, and news items as short as 200 words. Don't worry if the writing isn't perfect; we have editors who can correct grammar, spelling or organization.

What's important is that we get relevant input from Soldiers who are subject-matter experts. For more information, visit us at cubicles 127 and 130 on the first floor of Bryant Hall, call us at (910) 432-5703 or send an e-mail to steelman@soc.mil.



Special Warfare

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	3BN, 1SWTG(A) Change of Command 8:30 a.m. JFK Plaza	4BN, 1SWTG(A) Change of Command 8:30 a.m. JFK Plaza	Training Holiday	3
Independence Day	Federal Holiday	6	7	8	9	10