

School's not out for the summer



Tomorrow's Army officers get early introduction to special operations

Throughout the summer of 2010, 39 West Point and ROTC cadets are expected to graduate from one of the following courses offered by the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center & School: Special Forces Assessment & Selection (left), the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape course (top right) or the Combat Diver Qualification Course (bottom right). (All photos are file photos)

By Dave Chace
USAJFKWCS Public Affairs Office

West Point and Army ROTC cadets typically balance four years of college education with land navigation, battle drills and the five-paragraph operations order. Many are lucky to wear Airborne or Air Assault wings by the time they graduate and become second lieutenants.

A very select, even luckier few will be commissioned having had an experience that most officers wait years to break into: the chance to train alongside Special Forces Soldiers with the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center & School.

First and foremost a training opportunity for the Army's best and brightest young men, SWCS has opened three SOF courses to senior Army cadets over the summer: Special Forces Assessment & Selection and the Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape course at Fort Bragg, and the Combat Diver Qualification Course in Key West.

"The payoff is for the military in general," said Master Sgt. J.T. Reed, the CDQC op-

erations NCO. "These cadets go home with a profound understanding of what NCOs and troops should be doing."

Throughout this summer, eight out of nine cadets completed SFAS, eight of eight completed SERE, and 23 of 25 are expected graduate the CDQC.

By opening training slots to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and U.S. Army Cadet Command, SWCS is also helping to demystify a special operations community that is generally unfamiliar to unseasoned young officers.

"This is a great way to get potential special operations officers interested in our brotherhood," said Fred Ruoff, SWCS Deputy G-3. "In essence, we're trying to build the force."

While 2010 is not the first year cadets have been involved with SWCS training, Ruoff said the program has expanded for this summer. Following suit, Ruoff said the cadets' graduation rates have risen this year.

"There's no doubt in my mind that they

Part 1 of a 2-part series



were prepared physically and mentally," Reed said. "While nobody could've prepared them for the stressors of the course, and the ocean, they handled themselves well."

As any Soldier would expect for a future Army officer, course standards and expecta-

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Special Forces Underwater Operations School

tions were not lowered to account for age or lack of experience. Cadets were required to perform at the same level as any SOF Soldier.

West Point and Cadet Command both ran their own selection processes to ensure their cadets were ready for the rigorous training offered at SWCS. Potential CDQC students were also required to pass a pre-SCUBA course.

"They meet the same criteria as anyone else," Ruoff said. Cadets selected after completing SFAS retain the right to attend the Special Forces Qualification Course within five years of selection — the same offer extended to all Soldiers following selection.

Next week: CTLT cadets work in SWCS units.

PSYOP name change represents growth, refinement

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

Psychological Operations is changing its name.

With the direction and consensus of our most senior military leadership, this function will change to “Military Information Support Operations.” While change of this magnitude can be unsettling, all of those who currently serve in the PSYOP branch should understand that this change is driven by our successes, not our errors, and that change presents a new range of opportunities for our force.



Csrnko

This terminology, which builds upon USSOCOM’s successful employment of Military Information Support teams around the globe, will allow greater recognition and understanding across the military of strategic communications activities targeting foreign audiences.

The PSYOP regiment will be recognized for its success and necessity through years of America’s military conflicts, whether as a commander’s trusted advisor, or as teams providing critical information support to public diplomacy in a country or region. And while this change gives us greater flexibility in these roles, it does not dull our precise edge and certain advantage of waging psychological warfare against our adversaries during combat operations.

This change is not a negative or punitive action and does not require any short term adjustments to the SWCS mission.

This change is evolutionary; the force can now evolve and carry forward with greater effect and vitality, thereby preserving the accomplishments of the past and adding potency, precision and purpose to the future.

Admiral Olson has designated the change to become practice by Oct. 1 for USSOCOM elements and Jan. 1, 2011 for the remainder of the Army.

In the coming months we at SWCS have much work to do make this directive a reality and mold the future of the PSYOP regiment.

Picture of the Week



Lt. Col. Brent M. Bartos receives the colors of 3rd Battalion, 1st SWTG(A) June 30 on John F. Kennedy Plaza during the battalion’s change of command ceremony. Bartos has spent the last year as the Chief of Civil Affairs Proponency at SWCS. (Photo by John Barrera, 1st SWTG(A) S-3)

Voting: It’s your right, and it’s your duty.

By Staff Sgt. Joscelynn Pham
USAJFKSWCS G-1, Human Resources NCO

About 56 percent of the eligible U.S. population voted in the 2008 Presidential election. Were you there? Did you sign up



Pham

to serve your country, but then fail to vote on Election Day? Did you vote on Election Day and fail to get the results you wanted, or did you help elect the President you were hoping for?

Theory says that more people vote when there is more personally at stake. Those who pay more taxes vote more.

More people vote that have children.

More people vote that are invested in our government.

For us, there is a great deal at stake. We are serving our military during a time of conflict. Our friends and families have a great deal at stake.

Would you like to know how? It’s easy. Each Battalion has a Voting Assistance Officer (VOA) who is available

to assist you. Your VOA can be found on the portal at <https://arsocportal.soc.mil/swcs/staff/pao/PAO%20Documents/2010%20Documents/VAO%20Unit%20Representatives.xlsx>.

Voting Assistance Officers ensure that citizens covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act understand their voting rights and how to register and vote absentee and provide accurate non-partisan voting information and assistance.

I oversee the VOA program for the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center & School, and I also provide relevant updates to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command. Civilians and Soldiers can also make it happen at the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at <http://www.fvap.gov/index.html>.

Remember, the smallest minority is the individual. Your vote counts.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, “Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves, and the only way they could do this is by not voting.”

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	Training Holiday	3
Independence Day	Federal Holiday	6	7	Regimental First Formation 4 p.m. JFK Plaza	SF Qualification Course Graduation 11 a.m. Crown Coliseum	10
11	12	13	14	15	A Co, 1BN, 1SWTG(A) Change of Command 11 a.m. Camp Mackall	17