

## Military Information Support Operations



Soldiers from the 315th Tactical Psychological Operations Company perform a leaflet drop over Baghdad, Iraq in 2009. For centuries, leaflets have been used to disseminate important information to foreign and enemy audiences; these particular leaflets identify a known insurgent in order to alert the people of Baghdad that he is operating in their area and should be reported to the Iraqi police. (Photo by Sgt. Felix R. Fimbres, USACAPOC(A) Public Affairs Office).

By **Dave Chace**  
USAJFKSWCS Public Affairs Office

**M**ilitary Information Support Operations, formerly known as psychological operations, is a new term describing a mission as old as warfare itself. As this branch transitions toward a new era, its current and future Soldiers can not only find pride in their current mission, but also in the successes of their predecessors who supported American operations long before the introduction of the term “psychological operations.”

“Psychological warfare has been around forever, from the Revolutionary War, to World War II, to today,” said Roxanne Merritt, curator for the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Museum.

“During the American War for Independence, both the British and the patriots used sophisticated means to maintain morale and cause desertions,” wrote Stanley Sandler in *Cease Resistance, It’s Good for You!: A History of U.S. Army Combat Psychological Operations*. One popular Revolutionary War leaflet encouraged British troops to defect by comparing their conditions (rotten salt pork and scurvy) with the colonists’: health, freedom, and seven dollars a day.

“It was the coming together of technological and educational advances of the 19th

century that made large-scale psychological warfare possible for the first time,” Sandler wrote. Throughout World Wars I and II, a variety of changes in terminology and structure further the practice of persuading, changing and influencing enemy audiences’ behaviors.

Sandler caveats his introduction of World War II’s Psychological Warfare Branch by saying, “This is only the beginning of a maze of changes in nomenclature and missions.”

These refinements brought about the Psychological Warfare Center, established at Fort Riley, Kansas in 1951 and moved to Fort Bragg in 1952, managing the capability’s training, doctrine, tactics and techniques. This center evolved to become the organization we proudly represent today.

“By the coming of the Vietnam War, psychological operations had become an unquestioned part of the Army’s arsenal, thanks in large measure to [SWCS],” wrote Sandler.

“[By 1962] the term ‘psychological warfare’ was replaced by that of ‘psychological operations.’” As psychological campaigns were being directed toward foreign civilian populations, not just foreign enemies, the word “warfare” became inappropriate.

In 1990 psychological operations troops were reclassified from the Military Intelligence branch into the Army’s Special Operations Forces.

However, it wasn’t until Oct. 16, 2006 that psychological operations officially became a branch in the U.S. Army. Less than four years later, the mission of conducting MISO is

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**Stanley Sandler**  
*Cease Resistance, It’s Good for You!: A History of U.S. Army Combat Psychological Operations*

undergoing further refinement in terminology and definition. While MISO is the new term for the act of persuading and influencing

foreign audiences, the new name for the psychological operations branch and units is still in development.

These Soldiers’ mission will not go away. Using tactics and techniques debated by Sun Tzu and practiced by colonial American Soldiers, today’s Soldiers are helping our nation win wars by persuading, changing and influencing foreign audiences’ behaviors. The majority of these Soldiers, spread across the Army’s active and Reserve components, learn to conduct this mission through training at SWCS. As leaders and instructors for Special Operations Forces, our focus must remain on refining doctrine and conducting training in line with our higher headquarters’ intent.

# 1st SWTG(A) adapts Special Forces training

By Col. Jack J. Jensen

Commander, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (A)

Special Operations Soldiers deployed in areas from Afghanistan to the Philippines are developing new capability requirements as U.S. forces and their allies, enemies and environments change.



Jensen

The 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) is adapting to support these requirements. I'd like to highlight some of our recent adaptations in special operations advanced skills training, as well as in the Special Forces Qualification Course.

Our operational force has long been practicing the exploitation of information gained on targets. As of May, 1st SWTG(A) is now teaching this in three separate courses, supporting our tactical and operational units in the field. In addition, the Joint Exploitation Training Center has been established in 1st SWTG(A) and will act as the central location for all DoD exploitation training.

In addition, the Military Freefall School at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz. has started an Advanced Tactical Infiltration Course for freefall jumpmasters to train on night-time tactical high-altitude, high-opening infiltration.

Phase III of the SFQC has been revamped from Small Unit Tactics to a more comprehensive and current 13-week Tactical Combat Skills phase to send better prepared Soldiers to the operational groups. TCS incorporates mounted up-armor training, heavy weapons, advanced rifle marksmanship, fire support/CAS, tactical combat casualty care, ASOT Level 1, sensitive site exploitation and Special Forces mission planning.

Finally, our outstanding unconventional warfare exercise, Robin Sage, is capitalizing on the fact that language is now taught at the beginning of the SFQC by regionalizing Pineland and expanding the use of target languages to create more realistic human terrain challenges.

As the requirements for our operational forces change, so must the training we provide them upon entry and in their continued education. America's special operations forces will never stop evolving, so neither will 1st SWTG(A).



"To subdue the enemy without fighting is the supreme excellence."

Sun Tzu  
The Art of War



"Success will be less a matter of imposing one's will and more a function of shaping behavior – of friends, adversaries and, most importantly, the people in between."

Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense



"In this war ... we have seen many great changes in military science. It seems to me that not the least of these was the development of psychological warfare as a specific and effective weapon."

Dwight D. Eisenhower, General of the Army and 34th U.S. President

"The enemy bombards our front not only with a drumfire of artillery, but also with a drumfire of printed paper. Besides bombs which kill the body, his airmen also throw down leaflets which are intended to kill the soul." Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg, 1847-1934

## Life isn't "all work, no play," Come to the SWCS Organizational Day!

By Maj. Benjamin Tipton

Commander, USAJFKSWCS Headquarters and Headquarters Co.

It's Summer. It's hot as blazes outside. It's time again for the annual SWCS Organizational Day at Smith Lake on Friday, July 23!



Tipton

The event itself is free to SWCS Soldiers, Civilians, and Family members!

That's right, it is time for us all to come together for some fun in the sun under those beautiful Carolina Blue skies!

Enjoy dunking a general officer, command sergeant major, HHC Commander, and other senior personnel at the free dunk booth! Have fun watching your children ride up high on a pony or a horse! Challenge your cubicle mate to a grudge match go-cart race to decide once and for all time who owns that contested desk space! Drink a beer with a good friend to old times! Beat the competition in the mountain bike race,

horseshoe tournament, or basketball tournament for bragging rights until next year! Let the kids display their favorite superhero with a face paint portrait! Show off your shooting skills to the family with the M4 and M9 simulators!

These are just some of the many exciting events planned for your enjoyment. Come on out and have some fun!

To ensure everyone's safety, no outside alcoholic beverages or dogs are allowed to be brought to the SWCS Organizational Day.

The lake is available for swimming and is lifeguarded, however it is not part of our event. People who want to swim can pay to do so at the Smith Lake lodge.

BBQ lunch is available on-site for \$5 for Soldiers and \$7 for civilians & dependants. Children 10 years of age and younger receive a free hot dog lunch plate.

Purchase your tickets now from your organization or directorate representative. Meal tickets must be brought to the Organizational Day for submission to the vendor.

## Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18	End of GPC Billing Cycle	1BN, 1SWTG(A) Change of Command 8:30 a.m. Camp Mackall	21	22	SWCS Organizational Day	24
25	26	27	SF Senior Leader Course Graduation 11 a.m. JFK Auditorium	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7