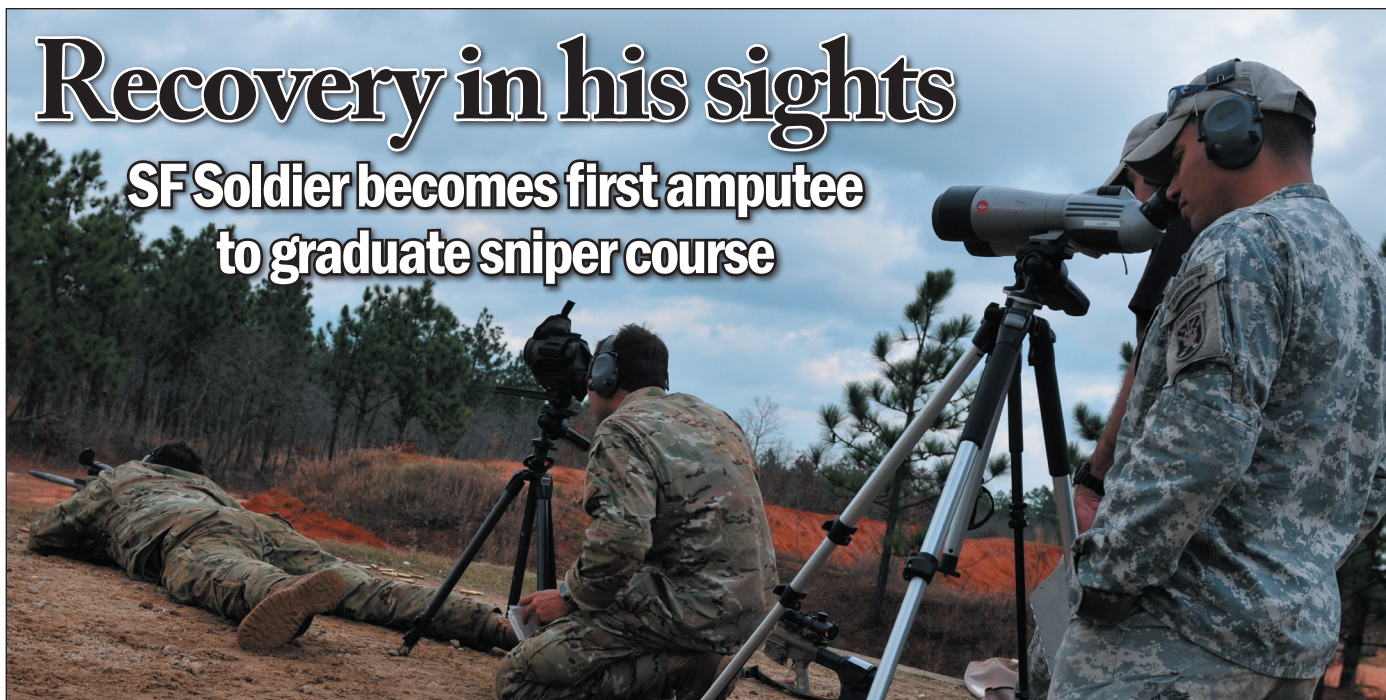


Recovery in his sights

SF Soldier becomes first amputee to graduate sniper course



The Special Forces Sniper Course, taught by the advanced skills instructors of 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne), teaches sniper marksmanship, semi-automatic shooting, ballistics theory and tactical movement. This month, Staff Sgt. John Walding became the first one-legged Special Forces Soldier to graduate the course.

By Caroline Goins

USAJFKSWCS Public Affairs Office

John Wayne has toured Afghanistan and Iraq, hunted grizzly bears in Alaska and earned the Silver Star; and as of July 16, John Wayne is the first one-legged Soldier to graduate the Special Forces Sniper Course.

Staff Sgt. John Wayne Walding of Groesbeck, Texas, that is.

In April 2008, Walding and nine other Special Forces Soldiers from a 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) assault team were attacked by the Hezbe Islami al Gulbadin while searching for insurgents in the Shok Valley. Walding, one of several team members who were injured, took a bullet through his right leg under his knee.

Over the six-and-a-half hour firefight, more than 150 insurgents were killed. The members of the assault team were each awarded the Silver Star in December 2008 for their courageous actions in Shok Valley.

While recuperating, Walding worked as

an assistant instructor at 3rd Special Forces Group's sniper detachment at Fort Bragg. In order to become a full-time instructor, he had to complete the Special Forces Sniper Course at SWCS.

"At first, [my classmates] were shocked to realize I was missing a leg," Walding said.

"Then, they realized 'Wow, he's doing everything I'm doing!'"

After his injury, Walding knew he wasn't going to give up and leave the Army. He also didn't want to spend the rest of his career behind a desk.

"You don't become a Green Beret because you 'kind of like it,' you become a Green Beret because you love it and can't imagine being anything else," he said.

The seven-week Special Forces Sniper Course teaches sniper marksmanship, semi-automatic shooting, ballistics theory and tactical movement. Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Owens, an SFSC instructor in 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne), emphasized the importance of these skills, and said it takes Soldiers like

Walding to push themselves to the limits.

"Snipers have become more dynamic over the past 10 years," Owens said. "Considering current operations overseas, snipers have never been more prevalent, because of the need for distance shooting in rugged terrain."

Walding said he loves everything about training to be a sniper, particularly the mission, the guns and the skill. He even enjoyed training during the hottest June ever recorded in North Carolina.

"The skill of a Special Forces sniper is unparalleled," Walding said. "This is the most prestigious sniper school in the world. That means something."

"There was never a doubt that Walding would do well in this course," Owens said. "He is extremely motivated, and that never dropped during the course."

"He never asked for special treatment; he did the same training as everyone else, and scored well in all the exercises."

"I'm John Wayne, born on the 4th of July, this is what I was meant to do," Walding said.

"He never asked for special treatment; he did the same training as everyone else, and scored well in all the exercises."

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Owens

Special Forces Sniper Course instructor, 2nd Bn., 1st SWTG(A)



Walding

SOF medics learn their trade at SWMG(A)

By Col. Robert Lutz

Commander, Special Warfare Medical Group (Airborne)

Since taking command of the SWMG(A) last month, I am constantly amazed by the dedication and professionalism of the unit's staff and students.



Lutz

I've spent the last 13 years as a SOF physician, and during that time I've become very familiar with the skills and accomplishments of our Special Operations Combat Medics and Special Forces Medical Sergeants.

Now that I'm here at SWMG(A), I'm getting an appreciation of exactly what these Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines do to get to that level.

The SOCM course gives students the knowledge and skills to be effective combat medics, starting with anatomy and physiology, as well as some medical math and terminology, so our students can understand the "language of medicine."

With a solid foundation of the human body's normal functions, they learn emergency medicine and trauma skills. From there, the students go to Richmond or Tampa and spend a month working in the hospital and as part of an ambulance crew.

Upon their return, the students finish up with classes on military medicine and planning operational medical support.

The students enrolled in the SOCM course graduate and head out to their respective units: the 75th Ranger Regiment, 160th SOAR, 95th Civil Affairs Brigade, 528th Sustainment Brigade, or Marine or Navy special operations units.

Students who stay to complete the SFQC further their training here with a goal of becoming an independent provider. They also finish with clinical rotations at sites throughout the country, where the focus is on diagnosis and management of common injuries and illnesses.

The dedication and professionalism of the SWMG(A) staff is truly astounding, and as an "end user" of the medics they produce, I've been humbled by their results. I'm confident the SWMG(A) will continue to produce the best medics in the world, medics with the fundamental skills, abilities, agility and maturity to care for our most precious asset: our people.

Picture of the Week



Lt. Col. George M. Bond (left) receives the colors of 1st Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) from Col. Jack Jensen, 1st SWTG(A) Commander during the 1st Bn. change of command ceremony July 20 at Camp Mackall. (Photo by John Barrera, 1st SWTG(A) S-3)

It's time to get your inventories in order

By Lt. Col. Carmelo Crespo

USAJFKSWCS G-4

SWCS is implementing an enduring command program designed to create and sustain a culture of supply discipline and property accountability.



Crespo

This program will support the Army's campaign on property accountability, promote strong command supply discipline program at the user level and improve property accountability systems within the entire force. Furthermore, SWCS will emerge as a center of excellence for effective logistics and sustainment training solutions in support of ARSOF forces in garrison, as well as setting conditions for more effective sustainment, accountability and logistics support in the forward combat zones.

This program culminates a multi-year, multi-phase Army operation named Operation Total Recall. The four OTR phases require the conduct and reconciliation of inventories of equipment, supplies and ammunition, as well as the implementation of a corrective action plan with corresponding confirmation reports and accountability documents. OTR also promoted CSDP effectiveness through these inspections, inventories and validation reviews. Likewise, the USA-

SOC Inspector General conducted an inspection addressing Property Accountability Compliance.

The FY09 follow-up inspection results indicated a need for continued command and staff involvement including counseling, training, education and doctrinal mentoring for new company commanders. The Army recently promulgated Execution Order 2590-10 Campaign on Property Accountability which emphasizes property accountability and the reintegration of excess equipment into the supply system in order to enhance readiness, minimize waste and improve all-around accountability.

At SWCS, we will actively support this campaign plan. First, we will continue our CSDP to ensure immediate, accurate and enduring compliance. Second, we will educate Soldiers, civilians, cadre and students about the CSDP procedures and property accountability. Third, we will serve as the ARSOF standard of excellence for CSDP and property accountability.

In SWCS, we will implement the following plan of action:

- 1.) Provide an in-brief to all personnel on proper supply procedures.
- 2.) Conduct bi-annual CSDP inspections.
- 3.) Conduct continuous assistance visits, at all levels, to all units, and ensure compliance.
- 4.) Synchronize CSDP inspections annually with USASOC, and maintain accurate records.

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18	19	20	21	22	SWCS Organizational Day	24
25	26	27	SF Senior Leader Course Graduation 11 a.m. JFK Auditorium	HHC, SWCS Airborne Operation	30	Robin Sage exercise begins
1	2	3	4	5	Training Holiday	7