



# Inside SWCS

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## Colors passed to new Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Sacolick

**By Dave Chace**  
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**B**rig. Gen. Bennet S. Sacolick did not mince words in his own change of command ceremony.

"It may not be evident in the brevity of my speech, but I'd like to assure all of you that I have a profound appreciation for this organization's mission and purpose," he said during the ceremony to an audience of Soldiers and distinguished guests.

In this ceremony, held Aug. 17 on Fort Bragg's John F. Kennedy Plaza, Sacolick assumed command of SWCS.

"I'm humbled and honored to lead this organization predicated on providing quality education, with quality instructors, to every single member of our three regiments," he said.

At 54 years old, Sacolick has commanded the Army's 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta (Airborne) and served with the Central Intelligence Agency as a senior service college fellow.

While he attended high school in Cincinnati, Ohio, he said he has spent most of his adult life in Fayetteville, N.C., which he now considers his home. Sacolick said his priorities as the SWCS Commanding General will be professionalizing and educating the Army's special operations force.

"We have expertly trained Soldiers, but we are lacking in education," he said, noting the difference between tactical and operational training, and academic education. His goal, he said, is to establish SWCS students' reputations as master practitioners in special operations.

Sacolick, who has spent the last two years as the SWCS Deputy Commanding General, assumed command from Maj. Gen. Thomas R. Csrnko, who is retiring from military service after 36 years of service.

"This is going to be an exceptional non-transition," said Lt. Gen. John F. Mulholland Jr., the USASOC Commanding General. "For the first time in my life, I have the opportunity to see a seamless transition in a critical organization."

Mulholland said SWCS will continue to run at full capacity, without slowing down to allow time for a new commander to settle in. He credited this to the fact that Sacolick has been actively engaged in each of the organization's major initiatives over the last two years.

"This command will continue to create the world's best special operations Soldiers," he said. "SWCS is, arguably, the central organizing entity for all Army special operations."

"The man who leads this organization is a critical asset to our force," Mulholland said, referring to both the incoming and outgoing SWCS commanders.

"SWCS is, arguably, the central organizing entity for all Army special operations."

**Lt. Gen. John F. Mulholland Jr.**  
USASOC Commanding General

# Evolving vision

By Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Pettengill  
USAJFKSWCS CSM

This summer has brought many changes to our institution, with changes of leadership in many of our units as well as our commanding general. I'd like to thank Maj. Gen. Thomas Csrnko for his outstanding guidance and leadership to the center and school and his 36 years of tireless service to our great nation. He has been a tremendous leader, dedicated to making this institution the premier special operations training center of the world. With a focus on adapting to the needs of the operational force, he has made SWCS a relevant and vital part of the operational force.



Pettengill

SWCS has taken great strides under Csrnko's command – but as an evolving institution we're going to focus on our community's current and emerging requirements in line with the vision of our new commanding general, Brig. Gen. Bennet Sacolick. Sacolick, who has been serving as deputy commanding general, is committed to making SWCS a world-class university for Special Operation Forces. We provide the best trained Soldiers to the Special Forces, Civil Affairs and Military Information Support, branches by consistently improving our training to maintain pace with current tactics, techniques, and procedures. We execute this by providing the most up to date, relevant and realistic training possible. We must continue to identify and select the most qualified, battle-tested uniformed instructors who understand the current requirements, provide combat experience, and who can develop our future capabilities. Our quality of training is directly linked to the quality and professionalism of our instructors.

The commanding general recently outlined his vision and intent to the senior leadership along with what each of us should expect during his command. We must now articulate and disseminate that vision and intent to every Soldier, civilian, and student assigned to SWCS. These priorities include transparency in decision making, maintaining a positive command climate, and focusing on core values and competencies. While we have four distinct training groups with the 1st Special Warfare Training Group, Special Warfare Medical Group, Noncommissioned Officer Academy, and Warrant Officer Institute, we all work together for a common goal -- to produce the best special operations forces in the world.

Individually, we are all responsible for providing feedback on how to improve our organization. Open, honest communications empowers our leaders to make informed decisions, making SWCS a world-class training center manned by professionals -- producing adaptive, agile, warrior-focused Soldiers to the operational force.

# Picture of the Week



Special Forces Soldiers conduct a safe training exercise while attending the Combat Diver Qualification Course at the Special Forces Underwater Operations School in Key West, Fla. Safety is the top priority for SWCS cadre members during any and all SWCS training activities.

# What you can expect

By Brig. Gen. Bennet S. Sacolick  
USAJFKSWCS Commanding General

It is with great excitement that I took command of this great organization. I want you to know that I will be communicating with you on a regular basis— and know that I expect you to communicate with me. My first installment in *Inside SWCS* is aimed to let you know what you can expect from me as your commander, and what I expect from you.



Sacolick

From me, you can expect clear vision, guidance and intent. You will see our new vision posted throughout our organization. Read it, discuss it. Without you, it's nothing. You have to live it. In short, we will make our organization the world's finest training center and school. My guidance as your commander is going to evolve and will be refined and revisited often; again, informed by your input.

You can expect open communication. I will make informed decisions. I will create a number of venues to hear and understand feedback from the force. One venue already available to you is the CG's Blog on my page on the portal which can be found [here](#). Your feedback over the past few months has been great, I want it to continue. You will be able to view and comment on all decision

and information briefs. You have a right to understand the decisions that are being made in our organizations. Your feedback is important.

Together we will foster a positive command climate through candor — we all need to recognize that there is always a better way of doing things, and I expect people to be empowered to offer solutions. Correct mistakes, identify needs and offer solutions. "If it isn't broke- don't fix" it is an archaic and counterproductive term that should never be the mantra of an organization competing for currency against an agile and adaptive enemy.

To be successful we must respect each other at every level up and down the chain of command. You can expect to be respected by me. I expect you to respect your subordinates, superiors and students. There is no room in this organization for disrespectful behavior.

I value our mission and the work that we do. Of particular importance to me is professionalism, character, candor, the acceptance of personal responsibility and simplicity.

We owe our forces a great deal. The men and women employed in our regiments deserve a world-class center and school; the best in the world — and it is through your hard work, dedication and innovation that we can consistently improve this organization so that it can become what our Soldiers truly deserve.

# Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22	23	24	Civil Affairs Senior Leaders Course Graduation	26	27	28
29	30	Special Forces Senior Leaders Course Graduation	SWCS Senior Leader and Commanding General Brief-Back	2	Training Holiday	4
5	LABOR DAY	7	8	9	10	11