



Inside SWCS

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Experts and Professionals



Special-operations Soldiers begin SWCS master degree program

Special Forces, Civil Affairs and Military Information Support officers and noncommissioned officers from the first master of arts in strategic-security studies course face faculty from the National Defense University, which is running the fully-accredited academic program through SWCS, during the program's convocation ceremony Sept. 10 in the John F. Kennedy Auditorium at Fort Bragg, N.C.

By Dave Chace

USAJFKSWCS Public Affairs Office

Soldiers have started earning masters degrees through the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.

In partnership with the National Defense University, special-operations Soldiers are studying the global threat environment, and the roles of power and ideology under the guidance of five instructors from NDU's College of International Security Affairs.

The result: after 10 months of study, 20 special-operations Soldiers will have earned a fully accredited master of arts degree in strategic-security studies.

"These students have all of my support, and none of my sympathy," said Vice Adm. Ann E. Rondeau, NDU President, during a convocation ceremony Sept. 10 at SWCS formally recognizing the start of a new semester. "This is an academically aggressive program."

The 20 students beginning the degree program come from throughout the Army's special-operations community. During the ceremony, officers and noncommissioned officers wearing Special Forces, Civil Affairs and Military Information Support insignia stood shoulder-to-shoulder.

Rondeau praised these men and women as "people of action," who do more than study and learn for the sake of academic initiative.

"You understand what applied knowledge is all

about," she said to the students.

Rondeau, who holds a masters degree and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree from Northern Illinois University, said the masters program will teach students to question everything they've learned in their special-operations education.

"Question the Army. Question special operations. Question the very doctrine that has built your training," she said. "By doing so, you will give it a sharper edge."

The convocation ceremony, held in the John F. Kennedy Auditorium at Fort Bragg, N.C., welcomed academics and professionals adorned in the an array of colored robes and caps, sitting among Soldiers and students in their Army green Class A uniforms.

Upon graduation next spring, those students who complete the masters program will have earned the right to wear the peacock blue and purple colors of the National Defense University on robes and hoods of their own.

Brig. Gen. Bennet S. Sacolick, SWCS Commanding General, said the convocation marked one of the most important days in the history of SWCS: the official beginning of a relationship between the U.S. Army Special Operations Command and the National Defense University.

"We have an expertly trained force, and we have Soldiers at SWCS who have seen more combat than most World War II veterans," Sacolick said, "but we can't ignore our Soldiers' education."

Sacolick said special-operations Soldiers distinguish themselves from other forces with their problem-solving abilities and regional and language expertise.

"This program is huge for us," he said. "We've been working on this for a few years."

Col. Michael Bell, senior director of the College of International

Security Affairs, told the students to get used to working outside their comfort zones.

"This is a tremendous personal and professional opportunity," Bell said. "Through this program, you will develop the habits you'll need to become life-long learners."

Bell said the five faculty members at Fort Bragg were backed with the support of the entire NDU.

"NDU is honored to contribute to what you bring to the fight every day," Rondeau said to the students and faculty present for the ceremony.

"This is a force taught and trained to use their adaptability as a tactical tool," she said. "Now, you'll be able to use that adaptability as a strategic weapon."

"Question the Army. Question special operations. Question the very doctrine that has built your training. By doing so, you will give it a sharper edge."

Vice Adm. Ann E. Rondeau
President, National Defense University

SF Warrant Officer Institute gains traction in 2nd year

By Chief Warrant Officer 5 Tony Fox
Commandant, Special Forces Warrant Officer Institute

May 20 marked the second anniversary of the establishment of the Special Forces Warrant Officer Institute as a separate command within SWCS.



Fox

To accomplish the SFWOI mission of educating and training all Special Forces Warrant Officers,

the institute is collaborating with multiple directorates and commands within SWCS on several initiatives to continue to improve professional military education for 180As at every level of their career in support of operational requirements.

Initiatives with the Directorate of Special Operations Proponency and the operational force to increase the training and education prerequisites for 180A applicants will make more time available in the Special Forces Warrant Officer Technical and Tactical Course to focus on additional intelligence studies, civilian education opportunities, advanced unconventional warfare studies and leadership development.

The November 2010 implementation of Warrant Officer Advanced Course, first phase, distributive learning will also increase the amount of time available in the WOAC resident phase for additional studies.

Additionally, the Warrant Officer Staff Course, phase three, for 180As has been approved for funding and implementation in 2012 to prepare our senior Special Forces warrants to conduct theater-level unconventional warfare planning.

To meet the current and future requirements of special-operations forces, the Special Forces Warrant Officer Institute will continue to adapt the curriculum and education methodologies to achieve the appropriate balance of education, training and experience that will provide Special Forces units with warrant officers capable of planning, leading and executing missions and collateral activities in any operational environment.



The SWCS Factor is the newest way for you to find out what's going on around this command, courtesy of your public affairs office. To watch the most recent edition of *The SWCS Factor*, visit <https://arsocportal.soc.mil/swcs/staff/pao/PAO%20Documents/The%20SWCS%20Factor.wmv>

milSuite: Secure social networking to enhance the way we do business

By Lisa Winebrenner
USAJFKSWCS G-6, Learning Management

milSuite is a collection of online tools designed to promote collaboration and information sharing, in a secure, online environment.



Winebrenner

The milSuite portfolio currently includes milBook, milBlog and milWiki.

milSuite provides these capabilities by focusing on three main objectives: locating information, sharing knowledge and connecting people. Users' CAC must be registered with a valid AKO account for access.

The milSuite components: milBook, milBlog, and milWiki can be accessed from the My Training page through AKO.

milBook is an initiative to connect people across the AKO community. milBook acts as a central hub for networking workforce professionals with others of similar interests, much like the popular social media sites Facebook and LinkedIn. Users have the ability to share information through group blogs, discussions and private wiki documents allowing secure communities of interest to grow and connect with others across the greater military community.

milWiki is a collaboration tool used by the

AKO community. From the Hawaiian word for "fast", a "wiki" is a website that is editable by anyone who can access it. It is a powerful tool and a living knowledge bank where experts are encouraged to contribute their experience and knowledge and update the information as it happens.

It allows users to integrate and interlink knowledge into topical-based articles and collaborate on issues up to and including unclassified/FOUO documentation.

milWiki's goal is to capture the intellectual property of the AKO community and allow users to easily locate and expand upon that knowledge through community updates.

milBlog is a place to find and share the latest news, insider articles, comments and posts from the community. It is designed to invite collaboration through discussion and comments on news, events, and announcements that impact the greater AKO community. Readers can comment and ask questions that really get the discussion started. milBlog provides quick easy access and a secure awareness to mission-related knowledge and information.

Lisa Winebrenner writes a blog about learning management on the SWCS Portal, located at <https://arsocportal.soc.mil/swcs/g6/lm/edtech/default.aspx>. Visit the blog to read and comment on her most recent posts.



Inside SWCS is brought to you by the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center & School Public Affairs Office. Please send all comments and contributions to pao_swcs@soc.mil

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12	13	WOTC Graduation Ceremony 11 a.m. JFK Auditorium	15	16	17	18
End of GPC Billing Cycle	20	21	22	Robin Sage ends	Robin Sage Recognition Ceremony, Camp Mackall	25
26	27	28	29	Regimental First Formation 4 p.m. JFK Plaza	SFQC Graduation Ceremony 11 a.m. Crowne Coliseum	2