



Inside SWCS

The official newsletter of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy
Special Warfare Center and School

Sept. 30, 2010
Issue 30, Volume 1

White House to present Medal of Honor to family of Special Forces Soldier

By Sgt. 1st Class John Gonzalez

U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) PAO

On October 6th, President Barack Obama will present the Medal of Honor to the family of a fallen Special Forces Soldier for his heroism and valor in combat while serving in Afghanistan in January of 2008.

President Barack Obama will honor the extraordinary courage and selfless sacrifice of Staff Sgt. Robert Miller by presenting his family with our nation's highest award, the Medal of Honor. This will be the third time the Medal of Honor has been presented by President Obama.

Only 24-years old, Miller impressed everyone on his team. Although the youngest member of "A" Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C., he quickly earned a reputation for taking on difficult challenges and leading from the front according to numerous interview with other Operational Detachment -Alpha (ODA) Team Members.

An avid athlete and a student of human nature, he was often called on because of his expertise in weapons and languages. His teammates recalled how quickly he picked up Pash-to (one of Afghanistan's native languages) and how the local villagers loved to spend time with

him and teach him their language and culture.

According to one team member's recollections, the villagers developed a bond with him over evening meals while drinking the local tea, chai, they respected and trusted him.

In all things, "Robbie," as he was called, was a natural to Special Forces, a true embodiment of a Green Beret.

On Jan. 25, 2008, Miller while serving as a Special Forces Weapons Sergeant for his team, Miller volunteered to take lead on a nocturnal patrol in the Konar Province near the Pakistan border.

Because of his Pashto language abilities, he led and directed the small local contingent of Afghan National Army Soldiers from the front. As they approached their target area his team was attacked by insurgents.

In the ensuing chaos Miller showed his mettle by directing fire and providing cover for his men. Miller deliberately moved forward making himself vulnerable as he engaged several enemy positions to provide suppressive fire, buying time for his teammates to take cover.

Exposing his position repeatedly, he drew

fire from more than 100 enemy fighters, ultimately saving the lives of his fellow Green Berets and 15 local ANA soldiers.

Miller's unwavering courage and selfless actions embodied the highest principles of the Special Forces community, and are a testament to the Army values he lived every day. This was his second combat tour to Afghanistan, the first being from August 2006 to March 2007.

Born in Harrisburg, Pa., on Oct. 14, 1983, his family moved and he grew up in Wheaton, Ill. He attended Wheaton North High School and was a respected gymnast and

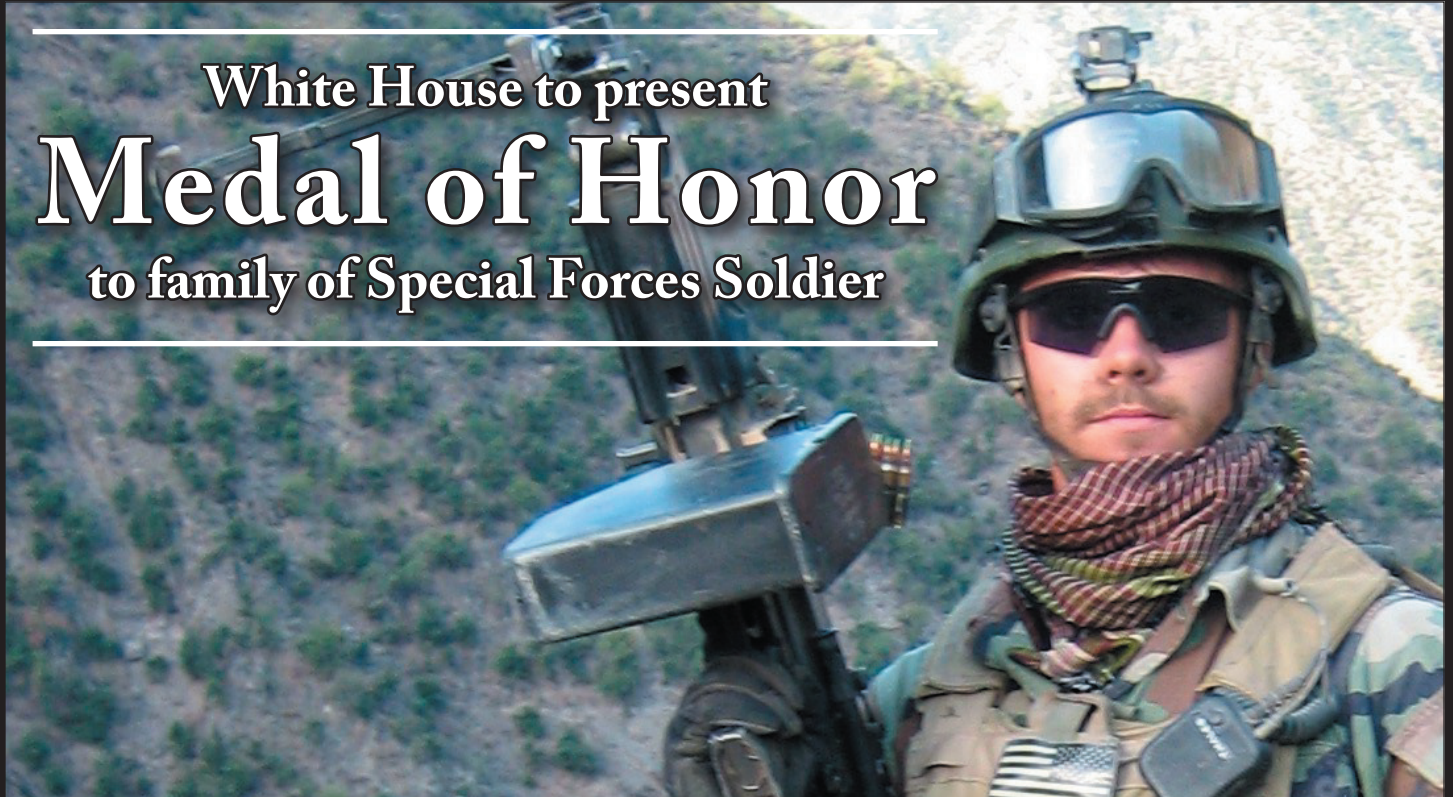
all-around athlete.

On Aug. 14, 2003, he enlisted in the Army as an 18 X-ray, Special Forces candidate, with the hope of becoming a Green Beret.

He graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course on Sept. 26, 2004. After his enlistment Miller's parents moved to and currently reside in Oviedo, Fla.

Miller will become the seventh service member to receive the Medal of Honor during operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

[Miller] enlisted in the Army as an 18 X-ray, Special Forces candidate, with the hope of becoming a Green Beret. He graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course on Sept. 26, 2004.



SFQC increases unconventional warfare focus

By Lt. Col. Mark Bond
Commander, 1st Battalion, 1st SWTG(A)

As the operational tempo of the Special Forces Regiment continues unabated, the demand for well-trained, combat-ready



Bond

Special Forces Soldiers has never been higher. The mission of 1st Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) answers this call: train entry-level Special Forces Soldiers to succeed in combat on a Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha.

While the constant influx of cadre from the operational force ensures the relevance of our training, we are also developing a number of initiatives that will continue to improve the Special Forces Qualification Course.

We are currently enhancing our comprehensive training environment by extending the "Pineland" strategic and operational scenario used during Robin Sage throughout the entire course.

This will provide an operational context to our students as they learn and apply the critical skill sets necessary for success on an SFODA. It will also allow us to introduce unconventional warfare training earlier in the course, and, utilizing a tiered approach, provide our students with a depth and breadth of UW knowledge that they can fully apply in our culmination exercise, Robin Sage.

To enhance the capability of our SFODA leadership, we are developing a two-week post-SFQC Detachment Commander's Course.

The purpose of this course is to refine the newly qualified SF captains' base of knowledge as they transition from the school house to the operational groups through focused regional-specific training that will provide them with a common understanding of the contemporary operating environment.

1st Battalion remains dedicated to and fully prepared to meet our training outcome and objective: to produce an adaptive problem-solver and critical thinker who understands his operational environment, is MOS and language qualified, physically fit, tactically and technically proficient, culturally attuned and able to build rapport and influence people, and able to successfully execute core and supporting missions, either unilaterally or through/with indigent forces, in permissive and/or hostile environments.



An Army Soldier discusses a condolence payment with a role player representing a village's leadership, of which the conversation keeps getting derailed on other subjects, such as water, food and security. During the the new Civil Affairs and Military Information Support Assessment and Selection program, potential ARSOF Soldiers participate in adaptive thinking events, which measure their negotiation skills and ability to maintain composure in a dynamic environment.

SWCS Key Leaders: You've got a role at the Newcomers' Orientation

By Lt. Col. Corey Weller
USAJFKSWCS G-1

A new command team. Ongoing and new initiatives. Newcomers to the SWCS. What each share is the vision for tomorrow and the realities of today.



Weller

The Newcomers' Orientation is an event that has occurred within this organization for years, but with a new command team comes a renewed vision for ensuring that this orientation is first-class, relevant and informative for not only our new members, but their Families as well.

Brig. Gen. Bennet S. Sacolick, SWCS Commanding General, clearly views an opportunity to welcome our new permanent party members and their Families to our Command as a leadership responsibility, making the Newcomers' Orientation a leadership event.

One of the most important first impressions that we, as a command, can provide to any new member and their loved ones is to make their welcome memorable by taking a moment from our competing demands to

truly welcome them through education and personal interaction.

Our new orientation format is by no means revolutionary, but more evolutionary with subtle changes designed to instill lasting and insightful impacts on ever new member and their spouse.

We have consolidated the daytime tour down to one solid day that includes a windshield tour and campus familiarization, with tour guides, for both our Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall operations and a lunch in the Camp Mackall dining facility.

A major addition to the new agenda is the evening SWCS command overview and leadership social designed to provide a combination of a command overview brief and key leader familiarization.

Spouses are absolutely encouraged to attend our evening events.

Monday, Oct. 4, is our first Newcomers' Orientation to encompass our updates and revisions.

For more information please contact Rick Newton at (910) 432-6393. The buses depart for the tour at 8:30 a.m., so please reserve your seat on this vehicle for change.

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3	SWCS Newcomers' Orientation	5	6	7	Training Holiday	9
Robin Sage begins	Columbus Day	Training Developer's Workshop begins	13	14	15	16
17	18	End of GPC Billing Cycle	20	21	Training Developer's Workshop ends	23