



# Inside SWCS

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From left to right: Special Forces soldiers from Hungary, Japan, Estonia and Botswana pose after the 255th Special Forces Qualification Course Regimental First Formation held Sept. 30 on Fort Bragg's John F. Kennedy Plaza. The U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School allows allied-nation soldiers to attend the course in order to improve U.S. Special Forces Soldiers' relationships with units and militaries across the world.

**By Maj. David Butler**

USAJFKSWCS Public Affairs Officer

Following graduation from the Special Forces Qualification Course in 1991, Capt. Jack Jensen attended Ranger School alongside Capt. Tomasz Piekarski, a Polish Soldier.

They met again in Poland in 1993, this time Jensen was a team leader in 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and Piekarski was assigned to the Polish Airborne. Together, they helped conduct the first Polish-American airborne operation since World War II.

"Our friendship led to this exchange. What started as small talk between friends became a strategic relationship," said Jensen, now a colonel assigned as the commander of the 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C.

On Oct. 1, 2010, four allied enlisted Soldiers graduated from the first Special Forces Qualification Course "fully integrated" as part of the course's allied program.

Graduating were students from Botswana, Estonia, Hungary and Japan. The previous day, during the Special Forces Regimental First Formation, they donned green berets alongside their American allied partners in the same manner they trained – fully integrated.

"In May of 2009 full integration was just a concept ... the whole program has gained a lot of traction. The allied students participate in every aspect of unclassified training," said Maj. Chuck Ergenbright, SFQC-Allied detachment commander.

Allied officers and enlisted Soldiers are integrated into four classes per year with a maximum of 12 students per class. Students must meet all course standards in order to graduate and earn the Green Beret and the Special Forces Tab.

During the classified portion of the qualification course, allied students participate in concurrent training such as advanced marksmanship, combatives, and special-operations orientation.

Allied personnel selected to attend SFQC training have to be Special Forces-qualified in their own military, be assigned to a Special Forces unit and be U.S. Airborne-qualified.

The allied students described the experience as "awesome," "amazing," and "unbelievable."

"[The Botswana Special Forces] will have a lot of

questions, I will need to teach them," said Sgt. Reason Tshweneyagae of Botswana.

The partnerships gained here are of strategic importance. U.S. special operators not only expect to work with the allied country's military again but expect to see the individuals whom they have bonded with while in the SFQC.

"It's critical that we develop relationships to serve as entry points into regions of the world. These entry points allow us to expand upon these relationships and eventually become operational partnerships," Jensen said.

Both the American and allied Special Forces Qualification Course graduates expect to work together again in the future.

"We learn from them as much as they learn from us," said Ergenbright, "we get pretty close throughout the time they are here."

"Whether it's to bring down the Iron Curtain or expand our influence against terrorism, it all goes back to the relationships we have established with our foreign partners," Jensen said.

"It's critical that we develop relationships to serve as entry points into regions of the world."

**Col. Jack Jensen**

1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) Commander

# There are five flavors of SOF medic training

By Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Gilliland

Command Sergeant Major, Special Warfare Medical Group (A)

Many readers are very familiar with the mission of the Special Warfare Medical Group (Airborne) and the Naval Special Operations Medical Institute and what they accomplish every day at the Joint Special Operations Medical Training Center. It has been said, time and time again, that the SWMG(A) produces the best combat medics. Our graduates prove it daily, in garrison and in combat.

However, unless you have had the opportunity to tour the facility, you may not be aware that five different courses are conducted at the JSOMTC. There is the Special Forces Medical Sergeants' course, Special Operations Combat Medic course, Special Operations Independent-duty Corpsman course, Civil Affairs Medical Sergeants' course and the Special Operations Medical Skills Sustainment course. Combined, the SOCM and SOIDC courses make up the SFMS course.

Students need to be on top of their game in the SOCM course, as they are required to learn several years' worth of medical training in just 26 weeks. The course is comprised of classes in anatomy and physiology, pathophysiology, pharmacology, radiology, tactical combat casualty care, clinical and combat patient assessments, hands-on examinations and several civilian certifications ranging from pre-hospital life support to advanced cardiac life support.

Needless to say, it is no small task for students to complete the SOCM course.

But that's not all: at an additional 24 weeks, the SOIDC course is no less difficult. Once students complete SOCM, many will go to their units and deploy to combat. SOCMs are employed in the Rangers, Special Operations Aviation Regiment and the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade. However, about 30 SFMS candidates per rotation will continue training through the SOIDC course, joined by a handful of Navy students.

This course focuses on the clinical aspect of medicine. Students are taught parasitology, bacteriology, mycology, hematology, surgery, anesthesia, nursing skills, preventive medicine, veterinary medicine and dentistry.

The CAMS course teaches previous SOCM students veterinary medicine, dentistry, arthropods, water sanitation and preventive medicine. This is done in seven weeks.

Finally, the skills sustainment course is a two-week refresher course required every two years for each graduate of the JSOMTC. This allows medics to learn the latest medical techniques and regain all civilian certifications they earned in their initial training.



Gilliland



Chief Warrant Officer 5 Heriberto Serrano (center) and his family look on as Brig. Gen. Bennet S. Sacolick, SWCS Commanding General, addresses an audience gathered to witness Serrano's promotion from Chief Warrant Officer 4. Serrano, who will become the commandant of the Special Forces Warrant Officer Institute at Fort Bragg, N.C., is now one of only 32 Chief Warrant Officer 5's in the Army's Special Forces career field.

## Are you stuck?

By Dolores Ray

Executive Secretary to the USAJFKSWCS Commanding General

"Professionalize the force." I'm sure you have heard this phrase by now. This is the first of the SWCS commanding general's top five priorities.



Ray

I want to share with the administrative staff what this means to me and our career field.

A while back I thought to myself, "Gee, I'm 50 years old and I don't feel like I know enough." I thought I could write a book with that title: "I'm 50 and Don't Know Anything!" I had already been working for many years, and I had a list of seminars and conferences I'd attended as long as I could see.

But, I was stuck. I didn't think I was stuck at first, but I was, and it was my own doing. I loved my job so much that I did not pay attention to what eventual retirement would require, so I never applied for promotions.

A day later I thought, "I don't think anyone around here is going to support me when I retire, so what do I need to do?" That set me on my way to apply, apply, apply and move up as much as I could.

I had to continue professionalizing myself, in both my career and my personal life.

I joined the American Business Women's Association, a non-profit, 40,000-member national organization. I joined a local chapter and became involved by serving as its secretary and president.

I encouraged the chapter to accept an invitation from our national office to host a district spring conference. We enlisted support from other local chapters, I was nominated to serve as the conference chair, and together we produced a successful event with 300 attendees.

Following that I ran for the office of ABWA's district IV vice president and was elected to serve one year on the ABWA's national board of directors.

There are 14 states in my district and this meant that by invitation of its chapters, I would travel and speak before their membership. I also participated as a speaker at the next district spring conference and the national conference.

These events did help me to grow and see beyond what I did every day on a routine basis. I was not stuck anymore. I enjoyed the experience, learned a lot from it, and I know encourage you to get more involved with outside agencies that appeal to your personal and professional interests.

We, as civilian leaders in this organization, are part of the force and need to be doing our best to professionalize ourselves.

Otherwise, you're just stuck.

## Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Robin Sage begins	Columbus Day	Training Developer's Workshop begins	13	14	15	16
17	18	End of GPC Billing Cycle	20	21	SWCS Fall Festival	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30