



Inside SWCS

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Four wheels move the body, two wheels move the soul



Participants in the first ladies-only basic rider course line up for a motorcycle drill of shifting gears and handling control Oct. 8 on a Fort Bragg, N.C. motorcycle range. The course and others like it are offered throughout the year for males and females alike working for the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, and their families.

By Caroline Goins
USAJFKSWCS Public Affairs Office

On an empty Fort Bragg parking lot over a long weekend, the Harley Babes jumped off their bikes and threw down against the Hot Chicks.

Motorcycle gang fight? Not exactly; just the ladies-only motorcycle safety course held for U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School families and personnel.



Shank

The two teams' competition was limited to tests of their motorcycles safety knowledge, so the next time these ladies meet on the streets, they'll be fully prepared for a showdown over the Fort Bragg motorcycle regulations.

The class of women including Soldiers, Family members, and civilians spent the Columbus Day weekend, Oct. 8 and 9, practicing and developing mental and motor skills important for safe street operation. As with any basic rider course offered by SWCS Safety Officer, the objective is to prepare participants to earn their motorcycle license by pro-

viding basic entry-level skills. These women worked in teams to review safety standards and prepare for the section quizzes before taking the written test at the end of the course. After the classroom instruction, participants learn to maneuver with hands-on driving exercises at the motorcycle range.

"My goal is that the ladies develop safe motorcycle riding skills and have an opportunity to develop new relationships and gains an understanding about the different roles ladies have in the Special Warfare Center and School," Cathy Shank, the SWCS Safety Officer and a qualified motorcycle safety foundation rider coach said.

MSF videos explained safe riding preparation and the importance of equipment inspections. The instructors review federal, state and military installation regulations, the anatomy of a motorcycle, and safety wear, before the two gangs went to the motorcycle range for hands-on experience on SWCS-owned hogs, purchased and maintained through the command's safety office for these types of classes.

"I'm taking the course as a preventive measure to become alert enough to avoid danger on the road," said Linda M. Kurtz, a retired school teacher and military spouse. Kurtz had a dirt bike 20 years ago

and said she was encouraged by her husband to get back into riding by taking the course.

Staff Sgt. Tamara Rainford's first time getting on a bike was during the during a previous SWCS basic rider course. She enjoyed the experience so much she bought a bike and attended the ladies-only rider course learn to ride on her new bike.

During the class, participants laughed about past motorcycling experiences and unique ways to express personality without sacrificing safety standards, such as Shank's bright neon helmet.

"This kind of small group environment helps build confidence," Shank said. "It makes it easier for the ladies to practice their techniques."

Participants are required to have a driver's license to attend the course, but a motorcycle permit or endorsement is not a prerequisite.

Any student who is motivated and interested in developing skills for safe motorcycle operation is welcome to attend, Shank said.

The SWCS Safety Office offers four motorcycle-related courses, ranging from basic to advanced riding.

"I'm excited to have a new hobby," Rainford said. "With this class, I have the opportunity to learn how to ride in a safe environment with wonderful instructors.

DSOP launches CA and MISO selection program

By Col. David Fitchitt

Director, Directorate of Special Operations Proponency

Assessment and selection is arguably the most important thing we do at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School.



Fitchitt

The future of our Regiments — Civil Affairs, Military Information Support Operations and Special Forces — depends on our ability to select the right Soldiers to

join our formations.

While each regiment is unique, requiring individual assessment and selection programs, all share the same focus — ensuring that those Soldiers selected to return for training possess the necessary core attributes to succeed in training now, and later, on the battlefield.

The men and women of the Directorate of Special Operations Proponency take this responsibility very seriously and work incessantly to uphold the high standards expected of Army special-operations Soldiers.

Special Forces Assessment and Selection is our most mature program and the touchstone of all assessment and selection programs conducted here at the Special Warfare Center and School. Since 1988, SFAS has undergone continuous revision to improve its execution and quality.

The Special Forces Regiment is fortunate to draw higher caliber applicants than ever before with seasoned combat veterans.

Additionally, today's course design is firmly grounded on cadre input based on direct observation of candidates, quantifiable data, in-depth analysis and over two decades of lessons learned. SFAS has maintained the quality of its program while increasing the select rate largely due to the increased quality cut on the applicants and quality cadre.

Our newest assessment and selection programs are for our newest branches, Civil Affairs and MISO, which were founded as special-operations branches in 2006. Both assessment and selection programs assess Soldiers based on the same core attributes as SFAS with emphasis on the unique aspects of each branch.

After rigorously testing these programs during multiple pilot courses we will fully implement them both in the beginning of the 2011 fiscal year.

The Soldiers of both Regiments can be proud of the continued professionalization of their branches by the addition of the civil affairs and MISO programs to ensure that Soldiers joining their ranks possess the necessary core attributes to succeed.



Family members learn about military weapons with the Engagement Skills Trainer at Pinelander Appreciation Day Oct. 2. Pinelander day recognizes the volunteers throughout North Carolina who support the Special Forces Qualification Course culmination exercise, Robin Sage.

Relax with your cohorts at the SWCS Fall Festival

By Maj. Benjamin Tipton

Commander, USAJFKSWCS Headquarters and Headquarters Co.

Autumn is upon us and it is time for another party to celebrate the changing of the season.

The U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School Fall Festival will be held at the Fayetteville Special Forces Association on Oct. 22 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.



Tipton

This evening will allow us to come together as an organization as we welcome in the cooler Fall days.

Tickets are available for purchase from the HHCs of SWCS, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) and the Special Warfare Medical Group (Airborne), as well as each of the SWCS directorates.

The cost is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children 12-years-old and younger.

Dinner will be hamburgers, hot dogs, and other assorted picnic items. There will be a couple kegs of beer, bottled water and soft drinks to quench everyone's thirst.

Events scheduled for the evening include

pumpkin decorating, hay rides, a bouncy house, apple bobbing and dancing to the sounds of DJ Tommy King!

Halloween costumes are fully acceptable for wear to the Fall Fest, as long as they are appropriate for playground use.

Parking for the event will be directed through to the far back side of the Special Forces Association grounds.

Make sure to follow the parking attendants' directions so that we can ensure everyone has a place to park.

There will be special parking available for those with disabilities; inform the parking attendants if you need to use this facility.

As always, in the interest of safety for all in attendance, no outside alcoholic beverages or dogs are allowed to be brought to the Fall Fest.

The SWCS Safety Office will be on-site to provide personal breathalyzers to help ensure that no one drives under the influence of alcohol.

The majority of the event will be held away from the water, however parents need to be cognizant that there is a large pond at the site and need to be vigilant in regards to their children's location.

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17	18	End of GPC Billing Cycle	20	21	SWCS Fall Festival	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Halloween	1	2	3	4	5	Turn your clocks back tonight!