



Inside SWCS

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Top Score:

SWCS sniper school instructors bring home the bacon from the International Sniper Competition

SWCS may be on a path to being “the world’s finest training center and school,” as outlined in the SWCS Commanding General’s vision, but two Special Forces Sniper School instructors are already there.

Two sniper school cadre members, Sgt. 1st Class Chance Giannelli and Sgt. 1st Class Edward Homeyer, were named the overall winners of the annual International Sniper Competition Oct. 11 through 14 at Fort Benning, Ga.

By Dave Chace
USAJFKSWCS PAO

“We are extremely proud of their accomplishment, but this about more than winning awards,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Pettengill, the SWCS Command Sergeant Major. “This proves our instructors’ credibility and professionalism. They are truly qualified to impart the skills necessary to defeat our adversaries.”

Pettengill said competitions like these challenge instructors to prove their skills against the best teams. “This is an incentive to do more than simply talk the talk,” he said.

The winning team, out-shot 31 other elite sniper teams, including seven foreign and three law enforcement teams. The U.S. Marine Corps Scout snipers, 75th Ranger Regiment, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Coast Guard, FBI and the 82nd Airborne Division all participated in the competition.

Running virtually non-stop for 72 straight hours, each team was tested on its ability to engage targets while under stressful conditions. Among the competition’s 14 events were a sniper stalk, urban shooting and orienteering exercises, and stress tests simulating combat operations.

“It was an awesome event,” Giannelli. “It was the epitome of a sniper competition. Every different country sends their best. It felt great to actually win the event.”

Giannelli served as the spotter for Homeyer, the team’s primary shooter. The event was more than a test of accuracy, and Homeyer credited Giannelli for intuition and intellect that gave their team the winning edge.

“He got every item,” Homeyer said. “He was able to retain enough information and answer the questions that put us over the top.”

As advanced skills instructors, the team was hard-pressed to find time to train. They said their top priority was always to provide world-class training for their students attending the Special Forces Sniper School.

“It’s really nice to go and test yourself,” Homeyer said. “This is a testament to our training and the school. On that day, we were the best, but competition was close. We could go out and do it again and someone else could win.”

“It’s really nice to go and test yourself. This is a testament to our training and the school.”

Sgt. 1st Class Edward Homeyer
Instructor, 2nd Battalion, 1st SWTG(A)

Military and law enforcement snipers from around the world begin a target acquisition exercise as the sun sets over Selby Hill on Fort Benning, Ga. the night of Oct. 12, the second night of the International Sniper Competition. Instructors from the Special Forces Sniper School finished first place overall.

SOCM structure changes improve, consolidate training

By Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Gilliland

Command Sergeant Major, Special Warfare Medical Group (Airborne)

If you read my previous article, you are familiar with the mission of the Special Warfare Medical Group (Airborne) and the Naval Special Operations Medical Institute and which classes are taught at the Joint Special Operations Medical Training Center. You may remember that I mentioned that the SWMG produces the best medics in the Department of Defense.

Yet, you may wonder, how do you improve on the "best"? Well, SWMG took some of its most innovative and creative thinkers and put them to the task. After days of analysis, they found a way to further improve the unit's training; by changing both the Special Operations Combat Medic and Special Operations Independent-duty Corpsman courses.

SOCM will change from a 24-week course to a 36-week course; incorporating many SOIDC classes to SOCM, adding more in-depth radiology classes, basic ultrasound, and more clinical medicine in regards to patient assessments and a field training exercise. The SOIDC course will shorten to a 14-week course. This would make the MOS phase for all Special Forces candidates the same length. Students would receive more advanced training in ultrasound and radiology and many others classes that they were taught in SOCM.

This dynamic change in curriculum better suits the needs of all the forces in USSOCOM. Whereas previous SOCMs were more combat trauma-focused, they will now be better trained in preventing illnesses and injuries that occur during training, not just combat.

SWMG has hopes that this change in curriculum will be instituted by the 2012 fiscal year. However, some students will start this new change in course instruction as early as mid-November. Hand-picked Special Forces medical sergeant candidates will attend 36 weeks of SOCM training prior to starting the Special Forces Qualification Course. When the MOS phase begins, these students will complete 14 weeks of SOIDC training before starting Robin Sage. By slowly spiraling in students to this new adjustment, it allows SWMG to stay on track to ensure there are enough SFMS candidates to attend Robin Sage, thus producing enough Special Forces medical sergeants for the Regiment.

Although we are a long way from completing the change, SWMG is leaning forward to produce a better combat medic. A lot of work must be accomplished with the help of DOTD, DSOP, and HRC, but we are well on the way to increasing the quality of the all SOCMs, Special Forces medical sergeants and SOIDCs.



Gilliland



Lt. Gen. John F. Mulholland, commander of U.S. Army Special Operations Command, speaks Tuesday at the first-ever panel on special operations at an Association of the U.S. Army annual meeting. He said USASOC will double in size by 2017, compared to what it was before the war on terror began. The demand for these forces, however, has almost quadrupled. "We will never build enough capacity within the force to meet the demand for the skills and disciplines we bring," Mulholland said. Future growth within USASOC includes a new battalion for each active-duty and National Guard Special Forces group and new active-duty Civil Affairs brigade.

You could learn a thing or two at the SOF Education Fair

By AnnMarie Famulari

Academic Advisor, Directorate of Regional Studies and Education

Everywhere a Soldier turns, there is news and information about education programs and benefits. How do you sort it all out? What makes the most



Famulari

sense for you? The more information you get, the more questions you have.

Well, it is time for the second annual SOF Education Fair and Symposium – a perfect way to sort through all the information and begin to develop an education plan that works for you.

When I started planning the event, I was asked to "think big" for this year's event ... so I did!

This year we will have over 24 schools and programs participating with information tables and presentations. To better meet the needs of SWCS students, faculty, staff and operational units we will hold events at both Bank and Kennedy Halls.

Once again we have invited all the Fort Bragg and Fayetteville-area college and universities, including Campbell University, East Carolina University, Fayetteville State University, Methodist University and UNC-Pembroke, among many others.

We also have our SOCAD Partner Schools attending: Southern New Hampshire University, University of Maryland University College and Western Carolina University.

We are also pleased to have the SWCS office of

the Army Center for Enhanced Performance, Naval Postgraduate School, College of International and Security Affairs at the National Defense University, and the George and Carol Olmsted scholars program.

For the first time we have representatives from the Civil Affairs and Military Information Support Operations training with industry program, Gen. Wayne A. Downing scholarship program, the Interagency Studies Program at the University of Kansas, Norwich University, SOCOM International Education Opportunities, the University of North Carolina One-Stop Office Liaison and North Carolina State University.

Information tables with program representatives will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at both Bank and Kennedy Halls. Presentations will begin at 9 a.m. and all presentations will be delivered in the John F. Kennedy Auditorium in Kennedy Hall and Room 301 in Bank Hall. The presentation schedule will be available on both the USASOC and SWCS portals on or before Oct. 29.

I can't emphasize enough that attending the SOF Education Fair and Symposium is only the first step. I encourage SOF soldiers to make an education counseling appoint with one of the education counselors assigned to SWCS. We are available to conduct individual education counseling and group presentations.

We also have full GoArmyEd permissions which allow us to change schools and degree plans, upload statements of understanding and approve semester hour overrides for SOF soldiers.

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Halloween	1	2	3	4	NDU Distinguished Lecture Series Dr. Radwan Masumoudi JFK Auditorium 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.	Turn your clocks back tonight!
7	SWCS Off-Site @Camp Mackall			Veterans Day	Training Holiday	13
14	15	16	17	18 Regimental First Formation 4 p.m. JFK Plaza	19 SFQC Graduation Ceremony 11 a.m. Crowne Coliseum	20