



Inside SWCS

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An off-site for sore eyes

Senior leaders buckle down, develop path toward command's future



Lt. Col. Miguel Correa, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) Deputy Commander, presents during a working group meeting for Task Force Atari, a knowledge management initiative in SWCS, during the command's off-site meetings Nov. 9 at Camp Mackall in Hoffman, N.C. The Task Force Atari working group was one of seven groups to meet and develop decision briefs during the three-day event.

By Dave Chace

USAJFKSWCS Public Affairs Office

No golf. No fancy hotels. No cocktail hour. Heck, there was barely a cell phone signal at the SWCS Commander's 2010 off-site meetings Nov. 8-10 at Camp Mackall in Hoffman, N.C.

A scenic 40-minute drive down Chicken Road brought more than 100 of the command's leaders just far enough away from their desks to take their minds off their in-boxes and into one of seven groups focusing on advancing initiatives within SWCS and its units.

"For many units, the concept of an off-site involves travel, hotels and social hours; all involving significant cost," said Fred Ruoff, the SWCS Deputy G-3, who organized the event. "During the November 2010 off-site, we maximized the use of existing military facilities at Camp Mackall, which are modern, spacious and remote, to assemble relevant problem-solvers."

These problem-solvers were brought together to analyze, design and develop the way ahead on some of the command's biggest challenges, Ruoff said.

The working groups met over the course of the three-day event, each addressing its own command initiative, such as talent management, recruiting and selection standards, knowledge management and en-

listed personnel assignments in the command.

"Occasionally bringing all the different elements within SWCS together reinforces the commander's priorities and sets SWCS up to be a more effective organization," said Lt. Col. Carl Kelly, the commander of 4th Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne).

Kelly led a group of about 20 SWCS leaders and staff members in identifying causes and solutions to Soldiers' sub-standard performance in the Special Forces Qualification Course.

Following their meetings, the group recommended reducing the authorized time frame between a Special Forces candidate's selection and their report date to the qualification course from five years to two years; the group also recommended eliminating all moral and medical waivers for 18X candidates for Special Forces training.

"These now-endorsed recommendations will save valuable time, energy and money because it will allow cadre to better focus themselves on the Soldiers who are performing, instead of the select few who

do not perform while absorbing the majority of cadre members' time," Kelly said.

Working with Kelly were representatives from his own battalion, as well as 1st SWTG(A)'s 1st Battalion, the SWMG(A), Special Forces Assessment and Selection, the DSOP, DOTD and National Guard management.

The group also reviewed selection methodologies for Soldiers pursuing Civil Affairs and Military Information Support Operations

training, with relevant CA and MISO representatives also participating.

"Each person brought their own perspective to the problem," Kelly said. "This allowed us to look at our recommendations from all angles in order to best evaluate the possible effects."

Following the off-site's conclusion, Ruoff said the event was a successful stride toward implementing the SWCS vision and intent.

"The goal of this event was to solve problems, and from all accounts the mission was not only met, but exceeded," he said. "This proved to be a great team-building event amongst the various entities in SWCS."

"Occasionally bringing all the different elements within SWCS together reinforces the commander's priorities and sets SWCS up to be a more effective organization."

Lt. Col. Carl Kelly
Commander, 4th Battalion, 1st SWTG(A)

SWCS Deputy Commander:

“My door is open”

By Col. Ferdinand Irizarry
SWCS Deputy Commander

I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome I have received since reporting to SWCS as the deputy commander. The Soldiers and civilians here have welcomed me as part of the family and I appreciate your openness and kindness.



As a CA officer and former commander of the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade, I have served with SWCS and benefitted from the work done in its subordinate units and directorates consistently throughout my career. The CA and special-operations communities have come a long way, and there's even more progress on the horizon. It's an honor for me to be in a position to help all of you affect the future of our regiments.

During my tenure as the SWCS Deputy Commander, I will assist our organization's efforts by centrally tracking progress on our many initiatives.

I am here to aid you in accomplishing our commander's intent. I will provide purpose and direction when appropriate, but most importantly, I will ensure you have the tools to accomplish your mission. I will be a bridge rather than a road block to your success.

As the deputy commander, my door is always open. Our goal is to foster a positive work environment predicated on candor. Bring your solutions, bring your perspective — our collective intelligence is what makes our organization great.

To provide you with a bit of my background, I recently returned from a deployment to Afghanistan, and spent the two years before reporting to SWCS as the executive officer to the under secretary of the Army. Prior to that, I had the honor of commanding the men and women of the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade down the street from our current headquarters.

Above all, it is a pleasure and honor to be back at SWCS, where I served up to May 2004 as the director of what is now the Directorate of Special Operations Proponency.

These times are important and exciting especially considering the progress we recently made at the November 2010 off-site. The impact of our labor is far-reaching and significant. Special-operations Soldiers will benefit from your hard work. You are each helping to make history.

Giving Thanks

We asked some of our command's senior leaders and staff members to tell us what they'll be giving thanks for this Nov. 25. Here's what they had to say:



“What has unfortunately become the norm, as I write this message a good portion of our regiments are deployed, making incredible sacrifices for our country. Our celebrations during this period of time in no way diminish their contributions, but rather highlight the significance of their sacrifice. For me, Thanksgiving puts everything into perspective; it allows me to focus on the importance of my family, good fortune and in my own way give thanks for our country, our health and our freedom. I have traveled all over the world and it still amazes me that only in America, specifically during the holiday season, can we set aside our troubles to come together at a table of peace and understanding.”

Brig. Gen. Bennet S. Sacolick
SWCS Commanding General



“I'm thankful that my health, skills, career and family allow me the opportunity to defend this great country.”

Col. Ferdinand Irizarry
SWCS Deputy Commander



“I'm thankful to be a Soldier with the privilege and honor to lead, and for our dedicated Soldiers and civilians who make this a premiere institution.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Pettengill
SWCS Command Sergeant Major



“I'm thankful to be home for the holidays after being deployed for the past two Thanksgivings and Christmases.”

Command Sgt. Maj. David Randall
Commandant, NCO Academy



“I'm thankful for the love and support shown to me by my family and friends throughout my career.”

Sgt. Maj. Tina Carazo
Chief Instructor, NCO Academy



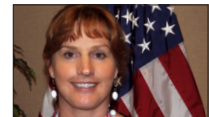
“I'm thankful for the tremendous team effort that is being made to increase the quality of USAJFKSWCS cadre and students.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Gilliland
SWMG(A) Command Sergeant Major



“I'm thankful for my wife and children and their unending support of my chosen profession; also for the opportunity to serve a country which has given me so much.”

Sgt. Maj. Kieth Fedo
Sergeant Major, Directorate of Training and Doctrine



“I'm thankful for the U.S. Army; for the security it provides to our nation and for the safe, watchful oversight of my husband and son during deployments and training.”

Cathy Shank
SWCS Safety Officer



“I would need a whole page to list all the things for which I am thankful.”

David Clark
SWCS G-1, Plans and Capabilities Manager



“I'm thankful for a command that wants to both educate and empower the NCOs.”

Sgt. Maj. Daniel Clark
Sergeant Major, DRSE



“I'm thankful for the opportunity to raise my children in a free country.”

Col. Robert Lutz
SWMG(A) Commander



“I'm thankful for an understanding family, and to work with great Americans.”

Sgt. Maj. Douglas Kealoha
SWCS G-3, Sergeant Major



“I'm thankful to God for enabling me to stay 'Highly motivated, truly dedicated, rough, tough, can't get enough, well-disciplined, whip-it-on-and-negotiate-it, gung ho' for the past 27 years! Scandalous!”

Sgt. Maj. Bossie Lofton, Jr.
Sergeant Major, Army Special Operations Capabilities Integration Center



“I'm thankful to be in a work environment with a great command climate, and for the importance of our jobs here at SWCS, to all of ARSOF.”

Lt. Col. Barry Jones
SWCS G-3



“I'm thankful for the chance to do the work I do and continue serving in the U.S. Army; and for learning last week that my wife and I are expecting our second child.”

Sgt. 1st Class Dazrell Fleming
Instructor, Special Forces Assessment and Selection

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21	Civilian Recognition Ceremony 10:30 a.m. JFK Auditorium	SF Senior Leader Course Graduation 11 a.m. JFK Auditorium	Commander's Cup 4th Bn., 1st SWTG(A) 7 a.m.	Thanksgiving	Training Holiday	27
28	29	30	1	2	NDU Distinguished Lecture Series Thomas Krajewski JFK Auditorium 10 - 11:30 a.m.	4
5	USASOC Sniper Competition begins	7	Military Blood Drive 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Kennedy Hall Atrium www.militaryblood.dod.mil	9	Operation Toy Drop 2010 Lottery Drawing Day Green Ramp, Pope AFB	Operation Toy Drop 2010 Lottery Jump Day Sicily Drop Zone