



Inside SWCS

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Shoot to Thrill



Left: A Special Forces sniper team helps a role-player simulating a leg injury during the daytime stress event during the week-long 2010 U.S. Army Special Operations Command sniper competition. Top right: A sniper aims his weapon via laser during a night-time accuracy event. Bottom right: A Soldier adjusts his sights in preparation for an event in the Fort Bragg, N.C. woods.

By Staff Sgt. Thaddius Dawkins
49th Public Affairs Detachment

As the sunshine glistened off the frozen ground at Fort Bragg's training grounds, Dec. 6, most soldiers gathered for their unit's regular physical training. However, at the Miller Training Complex, sniper teams from all over the United States were preparing to compete in a grueling five-day competition in hopes of being named the 2010 USASOC top sniper team.

"The competition is in its second year," said Master Sgt. Kevin Owens, the NCO in charge of the Special Forces Sniper Course.

Owens said his goal while organizing this year's competition was to get snipers from all over the U.S. That goal came to light after 19 different sniper teams made reservations for this year. The teams included members from the Army and Marines, as well as the Raleigh, N.C. and Pasadena, Calif., Special Weapons and Tactics, the Department of Energy and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

According to Owens, the competition ran smoothly throughout the five days without any hang-ups. However, Owens said planning a seemingly flawless sniper competition doesn't come without its challenges.

"There are several big challenges when organizing an event like this," Owens said. "You have to make sure all of your briefings are perfect without any grey areas in there for competitors to exploit."

Prior to the competition, another organizational challenge was ensuring all of the events were well-planned and thought out.

"You have to rehearse every event multiple times, so we got snipers from the 82nd Airborne Division down here to test it out," Owens said. "We had them run through every event a couple times."

Owens said the most difficult of all the challenges was ensuring the competition was the exact same for every competitor.

"You have to make sure all the competitions, especially the stress events, are exactly the same for every team," Owens said. "If you have a moving target in one portion of the event, it has to be the exact same mover every single time."

Moreover, the stress events consisted of a night and day event that utilized everything a sniper would possibly have to do while on a combat mission.

"The night and day stress events were extremely

important to us as snipers," said Staff Sgt. Derek Balboa, an instructor at the U.S. Army Sniper School. "They were very close to what we are going to see on a combat mission."

"All the events in the competition encompassed multiple challenging tasks that we have to be expected to do as snipers."

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Zalewski
5th Special Forces Group (Airborne)

Along with the challenges Owens had while organizing the competition, competitors had an equally challenging time competing in it.

"Leading into the competition, I knew this course would be challenging," said Sgt. 1st Class Charles Zalewski, of the 5th

Special Forces Group sniper team. "All the events in the competition encompassed multiple challenging tasks that we have to be expected to do as snipers."

"To me, the best thing about this competition is it shows the weak points in your training," he said.

Sgt. 1st Class Sidney Abbott, a member of a 3rd Special Forces Group sniper team, also found the competition very beneficial.

"I think one extremely important thing I will take away from this is what equipment works and what doesn't," Abbott said. "It helps to see who's using what and how they have it set up."

The most important thing is the knowledge they take back to their units, Abbott said.

Fort Bragg's Holiday Winter Worship Schedule

Courtesy of *The Paraglide*,
the official newspaper of Fort Bragg, N.C.

Catholic

- ◆ Children's Christmas Mass ◆
4:30 p.m., Dec. 24 • Pope Chapel
- ◆ Spanish Mass ◆
7:30 p.m., Dec. 24 • JFK Memorial Chapel
- ◆ Midnight Mass ◆
Midnight, Dec. 24 • Main Post Chapel
- ◆ Christmas Day Mass ◆
11 a.m., Dec. 25 • Division Memorial Chapel
- ◆ Christmas Day Mass ◆
11:30 a.m., Dec. 25 • Womack Chapel
- ◆ Feast of Mary, Mother of God ◆
11 a.m., Jan. 1 • Main Post Chapel
- ◆ Feast of Mary, Mother of God ◆
11:30 a.m., Jan. 1 • Womack Chapel

Protestant

- ◆ Candle-light Christmas Eve Service ◆
5:30 p.m., Dec. 24 • JFK Memorial Chapel
- ◆ Anglican-Episcopal Christmas Eve Service ◆
6 p.m., Dec. 24 • Division Memorial Chapel
- ◆ Candle-light Christmas Eve Service ◆
7 p.m., Dec. 24 • Division Memorial Chapel
- ◆ Candle-light Christmas Eve Service ◆
7 p.m., Dec. 24 • Main Post Chapel
- ◆ Candle-light Christmas Eve Service ◆
7 p.m., Dec. 24 • Pope Chapel
- ◆ Assemblies of God Samoan Christmas Eve Service ◆
8 p.m., Dec. 24 • Division North Chapel
- ◆ Lutheran Midnight Communion Service ◆
Midnight, Dec. 24 • Faith Community Chapel
- ◆ Christmas Day Service ◆
7 p.m., Dec. 25 • Division Memorial Chapel
- ◆ Watch Night Service ◆
9 p.m., Dec. 25 • Crown Center Ballroom
- ◆ Assemblies of God Samoan New Years Eve Service ◆
10 p.m., Dec. 31 • Division North Chapel

Wiccan

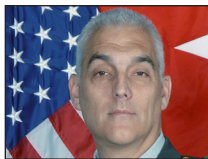
- ◆ Imbolic ◆
6 p.m., Jan. 29 • Location TBD

Be safe while enjoying the winter holidays

By Brig. Gen. Bennet S. Sacolick

SWCS Commanding General

The winter holidays are a time for a well-deserved break to shop, eat, relax with family and friends or just refresh. To preserve the joy and solitude of this season, I charge all military and civilians to make good decisions and implement safe practices at home and work.



Sacolick

Every Soldier, civilian, student, cadre and staff is charged with the responsibility of managing their personal risk while participating in safe off-duty travel and recreational activities. Winter holidays are also a time of increased stress that increases other high-risk behaviors such as alcohol and drug

abuse, crime and suicidal behaviors. All personnel are reminded of their responsibility to "ask, care and escort" a fellow comrade in need. Engaged Soldiers and caring leaders save lives.

The SWCS Safety Office has been hosting holiday safety briefings. Your participation has been expected, but for those unable to break away, commanders may provide alternate briefings to their Soldiers who are unavailable.

I expect your best judgment when alcohol is included in your celebration plans. Use a designated driver, call a cab, or for those in the local area, use the SWCS Safe Ride program by calling the staff duty desk at (910) 442-2201 to make arrangements.

Command Sgt. Maj. Anthony Pettengill and I wish you a safe and satisfying holiday season and continued success in the New Year.

SWCS blood drive raises 84 units of blood for U.S. military

By Caroline Goins

SWCS Public Affairs Office

Ninety-nine SWCS Soldiers, civilian employees, and family members donated a total of 84 units of blood for military use during a Dec. 8 blood drive in Kennedy Hall on Fort Bragg, N.C.

"I give blood to help with the war effort, to give it to the Soldiers that really need it," said Dolores Ray, a senior civilian employee in the SWCS headquarters.

"The blood we collect here today goes to the Special Operations Contingency Shelf, directly to Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Master Sgt. Bowen, Director of the Fort Bragg Blood Donation Center.

The Army must always have a specific amount of blood available for use at all times. However, since blood has a 42-day shelf life, new batches must always be rotating into the supply.

For the last 50 years, more than 1.5 million units of blood have been provided to treat battlefield injuries. In addition to providing blood in combat situations, Armed Services

Blood Program supplies blood for 1.3 million servicemembers and their Families every year for routine military medical treatment facility operations.

"So many people are not eligible [to donate blood] because of recent deployments or specific medicines," said Master Sgt. Carrie Vernon, a Senior Career Manager, DSOP. "If you don't give, where will the blood come from?"

The next SWCS blood drive will be held in March. Those from SWCS who gave blood in the December blood drive will be eligible to donate again on Feb. 3 — in time to donate again.

According to ASBP, only about five percent of eligible donors actually donate blood. Therefore those who commit to giving blood once a season are so important in ensuring blood is available year-round.

"Donating blood is the most important thing we can do for our deployed Soldiers," said Maj. Benjamin Tipton, the SWCS Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander.

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19	20	21	22	23	Federal Holiday	
26	Training Holiday	28	29	30	Federal Holiday	
2	Training Holiday	4	5	6	7	8



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