



Inside SWCS

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Special Warfare Center and School

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Know your role

Special Forces Detachment Leader's Course prepares new leaders to join operational force

Special Forces Qualification Course students participate in Robin Sage, the final field exercise before graduating the course. The new Special Forces Detachment Leader's Course will hold recently graduated Special Forces officers in order to introduce them, alongside selected Special Forces NCOs and warrant officers, to current special-operations missions and the practical methods of detachment management.

By **Dave Chace**
SWCS Public Affairs Office

New Special Forces officers will soon be able to attend a crash-course in contemporary special-operations environments before reporting to their first assignments as operational detachment-alpha commanders.

This course, the Special Forces Detachment Leader's Course, consists of three weeks of seminars, lectures and round-table discussions to send graduates from the Special Forces Qualification Course to their operational assignments with one of the Army's Special Forces groups.

"Everybody in this course has already earned their green beret and their Special Forces tab, so the pressure to complete the qualification course is already behind them," said Maj. Reid Furman, the course's primary instructor.

"This course prepares them to take that education from the SFQC and transition into the role of managing a Special Forces detachment."

Course developers also intend to make the Detachment Leader's Course available to the seasoned warrant officers and noncommissioned officers who

will take leadership positions on Special Forces operational detachments.

The topics covered in this course are inherently different from those taught to potential Special Forces officers during the SFQC, Furman said.

Specific course topics include legal authorities, property accountability, command relationships and current operations as they unfold at the detachment-level. Interagency briefings and video-conferences with operational commanders give further glimpses into the world of special operations beyond the SWCS campus.

"What we're teaching in this course goes beyond core Special Forces competency," said Lt. Col. Mark Bond, the commander of the 1st Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne). "This course teaches the stuff that leaders need to know in order to be detachment commanders today."

"We are providing a transition from qualification course-instruction to current, real-world operations," he said.

"This course teaches the stuff that leaders need to know in order to be successful as detachment commanders today."

Lt. Col. Mark Bond
Commander, 1st Battalion, 1st SWTG(A)

The SFQC's officer classes focus on the theories and tactics of unconventional warfare mission planning and execution, but the Detachment Leader's Course follows with the practical knowledge needed to manage a detachment, Furman said.

New courses aren't created overnight at SWCS. Course development requires coordination between the command's Directorate or Training and Doctrine and the 1st SWTG(A), which conducts the course.

After several months of curriculum design and approval, the pilot iteration of the Detachment Leader's course began Jan. 24. The class of approximately 20 Special Forces captains are serving as the course's control group to assess the course material for future revisions. Feedback from these officers, during the course as well as after reporting to their detachments, will drive the creation of a thorough final product.

The first official course, scheduled to launch by Fall 2011, is being developed to be held eight times per year, hosting up to 40 students in each iteration.

Regional understanding forges local relationships

By Col. Paul Burton

Director, Directorate of Regional Studies and Education

In last week's column, I wrote that Army special-operations Soldiers are successful in ambiguous environments due to their understanding of their focus region and their ability to communicate in the native languages of these regions.

Special-operations Soldiers' ability to communicate effectively and assimilate into a culture to achieve common goals for both governments and people transcend historical differences.

It is a future that will be heavily influenced by global competition for declining natural resources, rapidly rising populations in underprivileged and underdeveloped areas, unstable economic markets, and the continuing resurgence of violent religious and secular ideologies challenging democracy as a credible political theory.

Additionally, today's special operator must account for the impact of rapid information transfer, porous national borders, globalization, increased migrating populations with elevated expectations, and a proliferation of technologies associated with making and employing weapons of mass destruction.

To prepare for future contingencies in such a world, we must build capabilities that enable forces that can rapidly adapt to crises emerging from unanticipated events.

"Rapidly adapting" in this context means acquiring the ability to quickly change not only weapons and the way we supply ourselves, but the way we think and train to deal with new challenges in unfamiliar circumstances.

The skill-set necessary to accomplish this falls under the rubric of regional study, culture and education.

To this end, we must cultivate an environment where we teach our Soldiers how to think and adapt, not what to think. We must instill in the Army a culture of flexibility at both the junior and senior levels.

In the world battle for population influence, nothing is more important than relationships.



Burton

Inside Staff & Faculty Development

February 2011

SWCS Staff and Faculty Development Division, Assistant Chief of Staff, G-1

The following individuals have been recognized as the command's 2010 Civilians and Instructors of the Year

Category 1-6,
2010 Civilian of the Year



Evelyn Robbins
Directorate of Regional Studies and Education

Category 7-10,
2010 Civilian of the Year



Derric Fuller
Engineers, SWCS Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Category 11-14,
2010 Civilian of the Year



Doris Jo Carson
Media Production Division, DOTD

Warrant Officer category,
2010 Instructor of the Year



CW3 Gene R. Linton, Jr.
Special Forces Warrant Officer Institute

NCO category,
2010 Instructor of the Year



SFC Charles I. Maxwell
Special Warfare Medical Group (Airborne)

Civilian category,
2010 Instructor of the Year



Daniel A. Doerr
Special Warfare Medical Group (Airborne)

- Please go to the following site on the Portal to view important links:
<https://arsocportal.soc.mil/swcs/g1/sfdd/default.aspx>

- Mandatory Annual Training announcements are listed, as well as training links and information.

- **Reminder!** All civilians must first register in Blackboard for mandatory annual training. For further information, contact Ms. Jackie Weyhenmeyer at (910) 396-6469, or weyhenmj@soc.mil

Upcoming Classes

[Jan. 31 - Feb. 17] ARSOF ITC, Class 04-11
Enrollment closed

[Feb. 7] Civilian of the Quarter Recognition Ceremony
10 a.m., John F. Kennedy Auditorium

[Feb. 8-9] Speed-reading class

[Feb. 15-16] SOALP
Enrollment closed

[Feb. 22-24] Seven Habits of Highly Effective People

[Feb. 22-March 4] Training Developer Course 02-11

[March 7-25] ARSOF ITC, Class 05-11
Enrollment closed

[March 8] Substance Abuse Training
9 a.m.-11 a.m., John F. Kennedy Auditorium

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	SOCOM Commander's All-Hands VTC Senior Officers & NCOs 2 p.m. JFK Auditorium	1	2	3	MISO Qualification Course Graduation 9:30 a.m. JFK Auditorium	Robin Sage Begins
6	Civilian of the Quarter Recognition 10 a.m. JFK Auditorium	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	CA and MISO AIT Graduation 10 a.m. JFK Auditorium	Training Holiday	19



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