



Inside SWCS

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“No, no, NO. THIS one goes THERE, THAT one goes THERE.”



Mechanics assigned to the motor pool at B Company, Support Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) repair a vehicle used by military cadre members at SWCS. The motor pool services a fleet of almost 300 vehicles, made up of many different types of vehicles. The cadre use these vehicles to transport troops and monitor special-operations training.

By Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika
SWCS Public Affairs Office

When you get in your vehicle and turn the key, you expect it to start. For many Americans, when that doesn't happen, they frantically turn to their mechanic. At the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School it's no different. Vehicles are a key element of the training that Soldiers here receive.



Kinnison

Because of the diligence of those mechanics who “turn the wrench” at B Company, Support Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne), the special-operations students and cadre members at SWCS can feel confident that when they turn the key, the vehicle is not only going to start but it's going to get them where they need to go.

The B Company motor pool is home to a number of military and civilian mechanics who service almost 300 vehicles. The men and women who work in the motor pool have years of combined experience, and are only too happy to share that experience with each other.

Stanley Kinnison, a civilian, has been a mechanic for a long time. “When I was young, my cousin was an

airborne mechanic,” he recalled. “I thought that was the coolest thing in the world. I could jump out of planes, turn wrenches and shoot rifles — that's exactly what I wanted to do, and I've been here ever since.”

During his 12 years of active-duty service, Kinnison served with the 219th Military Intelligence Detachment as a motor sergeant during Desert Storm. He and four of his team members crossed the desert moving all of the equipment forward with the force.

For the past 12 years, he has been a Department of the Army civilian, still turning the wrenches and ensuring that the troops move ahead.

“I get the most job satisfaction out of knowing that we put the best product out here,” he said. “I brag all the time that this motor pool puts on more miles than any three or four units combined. I've never seen a tactical vehicle with 70,000 miles on it, but we have plenty of them here because of the training we do.”

His civilian co-workers are all prior military, and have in-depth knowledge of automotive maintenance, he said. “They know wiring, fuel injection, welding,” he said. “They know how to enhance a given vehicle's performance. There is just so much knowledge in this shop.”

Kinnison explained that a key to the unit's success is the willingness of the “old guys” to pass their knowledge on to the young Soldiers who are assigned to the motor pool. For many of those Soldiers, the motor pool is their first Army job.

“If you can sit down and teach these young Soldiers the right way, then they only know one way of doing something — the right way,” he said.

“Somebody taught me how to do the same thing way back, and you can't be a good mentor to somebody unless you are willing to share what you were taught.”

He said the young Soldiers in the unit have a “yearning and drive” to do things right.

“I'll take them and put them in the middle of it and step back and coach them,” he said. “When they are done and they have fixed something successfully, they leave here grinning from ear to ear. That's my job satisfaction.”

“I often tell them that there is no stupid question, and that if I don't know the answer, I will find it out.”

“That's what I was taught as an NCO in the Army, and even though I'm a civilian now, I'm a true blue Soldier,” he said.

“I've never seen a tactical vehicle with 70,000 miles on it, but we have plenty of them here because of the training we do.”

Stanley Kinnison
Automotive Mechanic, B Co., Support Bn., 1st SWTG(A)

SWCS optimization: what does it mean for our civilian workforce?

By Grey Welborn

Deputy Director, Directorate of Training and Doctrine

Since Sept. 11, the workload on SWCS has essentially doubled, and the school has not. The SWCS budget will likely not significantly increase but our regiments' training and education



Welborn

requirements will continue to grow.

A study of organizational structure will optimize for both Center and School responsibilities. Our

government civilians will continue to provide critical continuity in both our center proponent functions for doctrine, training, leadership and personnel as well in the schools for our three branches: Civil Affairs, Military Information Support Operations and Special Forces.

We have 778 required civilian positions, and currently we are authorized for 616 positions, however we have approximately 650 currently working, about 5 percent over our authorized number.

For all of us, the critical information is that through normal turnover — approximately 10 percent, annually — we will reduce our number of civilian employees to meet the financial guidance.

An optimization study will identify the critical civilian needs and everyone will have an opportunity to volunteer for one of these critical positions throughout SWCS.

The SWCS optimization working group will streamline processes and functions to improve performance and information flow to fulfill our proponent and instructional responsibilities. Also, it will articulate our Center and School supporting and supported relationships and identify areas of risk with proposed mitigation methods.

We need to develop a baseline understanding of both workload and personnel distribution requirements and basic processes and functions required to fulfill both U.S. Special Operations Command- and Army-assigned responsibilities.

Throughout June and July, we will conduct a series of war games to lay out processes and functions in an operational overview manner.

In time for the SWCS summer off-site, we will have the new organizational TDA constructed, and have experimented through SWCS working group activities, then validated through a senior-leader war game. We will then draft our tentative function manual and process charts to implement new distribution and propose changes, conduct execution checklist rock drills for identified functions and report in-execution work-flow checkpoints as reportable areas.

After the off-site, we will develop a plan of objectives and milestones to transition into our next organizational structure.

SWCS Staff Profile

Pfc. Lorenzo Reyes

Mechanic, B Company, Support Battalion, 1st SWTG(A)



Pfc. Lorenzo Reyes of Vineland, N.J. joined the Army when he was 18 to serve his country and better himself. As a self-proclaimed "gear-head," Reyes took his passion for cars and became a mechanic, providing safe and reliable transportation for SWCS students training to become special-operations Soldiers. Reyes hopes to one day train alongside Special Forces candidates, and is appreciative of the knowledge and support from his co-workers in the B Company motor pool as they help prepare him for future assignments.

On choosing to become a mechanic in the Army:

I knew that college wasn't for me right out of high school, but I didn't want to fall into a bad environment where I could get myself into trouble. I enjoyed the three years of mechanic training I took during high school. Joining the Army and becoming a mechanic was a natural fit for me, to be able to continue my training as a mechanic and serve my country doing something I like to do.

On his main responsibilities at SWCS:

My main job is to service our vehicles by changing the oil, repairing minor damages and replacing the larger parts so that students have safe and operational equipment for their training and transportation. I am able to work on a variety of vehicles that I haven't had the chance to work on before.

On working with the Soldiers and civilians in his unit:

Time flies when I'm working on vehicles. I take full advantage of the knowledge of the other mechanics, who know a lot about the vehicles we service and freely pass that information on to me. They have taught me new ways to be faster and more efficient at my job, along with the interworking of vehicles. They teach me information that took them years to learn and that will help me advance and be a better mechanic.

On self-improvement, and his aspirations for the future:

I ask a lot of questions and listen to the mechanics around me. I also recently earned my jump wings thanks to the encouragement of our crew. I would like to apply for Special Forces qualification one day. I look forward to taking all I've learned as a mechanic in the Army so far and taking it to the next level.

Upcoming Event Highlight

Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2011 National Defense University's College of International Security Affairs

All SWCS personnel are encouraged to attend the graduation ceremony for the first class of students to complete the master's degree program managed by the National Defense University in cooperation with SWCS.

**9 a.m., Friday, June 3
John F. Kennedy Auditorium**

Since September, these NCOs and officers have been working hard; now they're ready to bring a new level of knowledge and education back to the operational force.

Please come and show your support!



Special-operations Soldiers stand for the faculty of the College of International Security Affairs during the college's convocation ceremony Sept. 10 in John F. Kennedy Auditorium on Fort Bragg. These Soldiers were beginning a master's degree program with the college; the program's graduation ceremony will be held this Friday.

SWCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	Memorial Day	31	1	1st SWTG(A) Change of Command, 8:30 a.m. NDU Thesis Presentation 4:30 p.m. JFK Auditorium	NDU Class of 2011 College of Int'l Security Affairs Graduation 9 a.m. JFK Auditorium	4
5	1st SWTG(A) Change of Responsibility Ceremony 10 a.m. JFK Auditorium	7	8	9	10	Robin Sage begins
12	13	14	15	16	17	18