



Inside SWCS

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Army Green goes Carolina Blue

SF medic instructors build their own hands-on curriculum at UNC



Sgt. 1st Class David Angle help dress a burn victim's wounds at the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center in Chapel Hill, N.C.



By Dave Chace
SWCS Public Affairs Office

A young man lies on a hospital bed as two nurses slowly dress the wounds on his legs, which are burned and blistered from foot to thigh. As they work, Sgt. 1st Class David Angle is chatting up the patient while helping the nurses cut and wrap bandages.

"We did some skin grafting a week ago," Angle said. "This special dressing has a lot of antibiotic material in it – a lot of stuff to try and keep that wound moist, to promote healing." He pays attention to the nurses' technique so no one has to come back later to fix his work. When it's done right, the dressing will fight infections without hiding any potential problems.

This isn't a military hospital, and the patient is no Soldier, but Angle, a Special Forces medical NCO at the Special Warfare Medical Group (Airborne), will carry these lessons about long-term health care to the rest of the special-operations medical community.

It's all in a day's work at the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center in Chapel Hill, N.C.

It's no secret that Special Forces medical sergeants' training is extensive. What's so special about the fact that the SWMG(A) lets its instructors, like Angle, spend four weeks at the University of North Carolina?

"Most [hospital] rotations that our medics go

through are very procedure-oriented," said 1st Sgt. Todd Landis, who started the SWMG(A)'s partnership with UNC in the summer of 2010.

"We graduate our medics at the novice level, we give them the basic tools to be successful," Landis said, "but how do we make them experts?"

Deployment experience, often in combat, plays a big part in a medic's career, Angle said. If a professional musician never plays in that big concert or recital, then what's the point of all those hours of practicing their instrument?

SWMG(A) instructors, however, perform their big recitals every day, in front of an audience of special-operations medical students who need to get the right information, and they need it to stick.

"Through the Advanced Medical Instructor Training program with UNC, we can focus our instructors in on areas they need to be more proficient in," Landis said. "It's a perfect fit for building that depth of knowledge."

The core concept here is flexibility. Angle wasn't handed a checklist when he arrived at UNC, he was handed a pager. He built his own curriculum, so he's learning different lessons than the five instructors who've been there before him.

"Angle was really interested in trauma, and working with our nurses here in the burn center," said Dr. Bruce Cairns, the director of the Jaycee Burn Center.

The center is the gateway to the rest of the UNC health care system. From the emergency room to physical therapy to psychology, Cairns can reach out and touch every department within the system – and so can a SWMG(A) instructor during his four weeks attached to the center. Other instructors have chosen to spend their time on amputations, vascular surgery, outpatient work and anesthesia, for example.

"Just as these Soldiers are trusted with making their own decisions in the field, we do the same with them up here," Cairns said. "Only they know what they need to do to get the maximum benefit out of being here."

"We pretty much have free reign of the hospital," Angle said.

You don't heal a burn, you can only treat it; the patient with the burned legs, still has a long way to go, but the idea of helping in a Special Forces Soldier's professional education brings a brief smile to his face.

Angle is at the end of his SWCS rotation and is using this UNC rotation to squeeze in some training before reporting to a Special Forces team, where he'll be the senior medical sergeant for the 12-man unit.

"If they do their job really well, nobody will ever hear of it. If something bad happens, everybody will hear about it," Cairns said. "That kind of commitment and professionalism is something we need in medicine. You'd be pretty hard-pressed to find somebody more committed and dedicated than these guys."

Show me the money! Here's an update on Army bonuses

By Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Harris

SWCS Senior Career Counselor

There are several bonuses that Soldiers can get: enlistment bonuses for coming into the Army, selective re-enlistment bonuses for re-enlisting, and the critical skills retention bonus for Soldiers to stay in from the 19th to 25th year in service.



Harris

With the SRB, there have been many changes over time, the biggest change for ARSOF Soldiers

is that the reenlistment bonuses are now tied to language qualification. Soldiers can still receive a bonus if they do not have a language qualification of 2/2 or higher, but it will be about \$5,000 to \$12,000 less. For CMF 18, MOS 37F, 38B and 35P Soldiers to get the largest bonus possible they will need to have at least a 2/2 on the DLPT or OPI within 12 months of re-enlistment. Now if you can achieve a 3/3 on the language qualification they are entitled to an additional \$7,500 above the bonus cap.

The SRB has several factors as to whom and how much of a bonus Soldiers are eligible to receive. First is the MOS, second is the rank, third is the additional skill identifier and fourth is the language qualification level; there is also a fifth: location. But not all bonuses require all of these.

There are three zones for the SRB, "A Zone" is 17 months to 6 years, "B Zone" is 6 to 10 years, and "C Zone" is 10 to 14 years, paying out to the 16th year. There are a few rules that also have to be met. Re-enlist for a minimum three years, break the zone that they are currently in, and not previously receive a bonus in that zone.

Which brings us to the question how do you figure out how much of a bonus someone can get. Re-enlistment bonuses are paid off of additional obligated service; it is the new time that a Soldier can re-enlist for. For example, if a Soldier has 11 months to their ETS and re-enlists for 4 years, the AOS is 37 months. So to find out how much of a bonus a Soldier could get for re-enlisting first we look at the MOS list and then look the rank. If there is a number in that section that is the tier that is available to that Soldier. Then you have to go to the tiers and find that tier and again find their rank on that tier then look at the brackets of AOS with the dollar amounts.

The CSR is available for CMF 18, MOS 37F, 38B and 35P with language; this bonus can be as much as \$150,000. These Soldier can apply for this bonus at 18 years and 6 months and can agree to serve between 2 to 6 years .

For this any questions about bonuses and retention please contact the SWCS Retention Office, or check our site on the Portal at: <https://arsocportal.soc.mil/swcs/dir/ret/default.aspx>

A day in the life of an IODA



Clockwise from left: An instructor briefs a group of Special Forces Soldiers before a land navigation exercise at Camp Mackall, N.C.; Soldiers climb ropes for physical training on Fort Bragg; an SFQC instructor guides a Special Forces candidate through combat water survival training.

By Maj. Jose Vasquez

Commander, B Co., 4th Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (A)

Although the days are long and the challenges great, the instructors in an Instructor Operational Detachment-Alpha company are committed to ensuring that our students are prepared to endure the arduous life of a Special Forces Soldier. This is a small glimpse of the life of an IODA company.

On a cold morning, the instructors of IODA 9421 begin their day at 5:30 a.m. Close to 200 students led by eight instructors meet in various locations throughout Fort Bragg to conduct physical training. These instructors will be found either with a rucksack on their backs, running 6 miles on a trail, conducting speed-work on the track, or doing strength training. They must set the example for the students, and the instructor's efforts are rewarded with sweat, aching muscles and burning lungs from the cold morning air.

For IODA 9422, their day began yesterday at 6 p.m. with a tactical road march to a local training area where they will spend the next 24 hours training their students in land navigation. During land navigation training, students negotiate the course either by themselves, in three-man elements, or as a 12-man team. Today, they navigate the course as members of a 12-man team. Each instructor moves with an element to ensure the students are using proper movement formations and techniques. As they move from one objective to another; the instructor rotates student leadership positions to encapsulate the stress of leading a patrol on every student.

IODA 9423 is in Robin Sage. For four weeks, the instructors of IODA 9423 have been assisting Robin Sage cadre in assessing students during the

culmination exercise. From the mission-readiness exercise, a practical exercise used to evaluate students on the basic elements of unconventional warfare, to infiltration and link-up with the resistance force, IODA 9423 has walked the lanes and weathered the hardships. Today, 111 students, under the watchful eyes of IODA and Robin Sage cadre, execute their final targets with their resistance force in Pineland. Covering a dozen counties, each instructor will observe missions at targets ranging from a bridge to an armory.

In the meantime, the instructors of IODA 9424 are equally occupied as they mentor students during the MOS-phase of the SFQC. Across Fort Bragg you will find the instructors of IODA 9424 with the 18B students at the range as they conduct Heavy Weapons training that includes firing live Javelins, with the 18C students as they finish their special-operations construction projects, with the 18D students as they learn medical skills, with the 18E students as they learn to make communications, and with the 18A students at Forward Operating Base Patriot as they conduct their foreign internal defense field training exercise.

As for IODA 9425, their day extends past 5 p.m. as they are charged with conducting a night airborne operation. For most of the day, they were mentoring students going through the MOS phase. Now, these instructors become the jumpmasters and safeties for 200 students. As the last jumper lands on the drop zone, the instructors of IODA 9425 get final accountability of all jumpers and equipment, close the drop zone, return to Fort Bragg, and settle in their personal cars to go home. It is 2:30 a.m. A new day begins in three hours.

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13	 Civil Affairs Week All week long Pinehurst, N.C.	16	17	Protocol 301 Training 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Conference Room, Moan Hall, Airborne Inn	Robin Sage Begins	
20	21	22	23	24	26	
27	28	29	Robin Sage Ends	31	1	2