



Inside SWCS

The official newsletter of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy
Special Warfare Center and School

April 11, 2011
Issue 13, Volume 2



Supporting SWCS through the Long Haul

Photo by: Russell Klika, USAJFKSWCS PAO

By SSG Russell Klika
SWCS Public Affairs Office

You see them every day as they lumber down the roads of Fort Bragg. More often than not, you probably consider them an imposition. The monster green trucks that haul troops and cargo to and from the training areas are usually traveling at a slow speed. If you chance to get behind them at a stoplight, you know that their get up and go is lacking. So you spend most of your time drumming your fingers on your steering wheel and wishing the truck out of your way.

But have you ever stopped to think about its importance? Have you ever wondered about the young woman or man that is driving the truck? Have you thought about the contribution they are making to our Army? If not, next time, you get behind a truck; don't think about its speed or where you are going. Think about the driver – where they are coming from and where they are going to. And, if it will help, think about Spc. Brand Hunter Baker.

Baker joined the U.S. Army straight out of high school. Raised in Mackville, KY., Baker always had a longing to serve.

"I always wanted to serve. I didn't come from a military family but I was raised with great respect for

the military and my family taught me to take pride in serving others," he said. "I joined a couple of months after high school."

Before that, he worked at a Chrysler dealership in his hometown through a co-op program in high school. He also spent time working on the family farm.

"I did plenty of farm work when I was coming up," he said. "I enjoyed hunting and fishing and being outdoors. I really loved working around the farm and on cars."

These days, he doesn't have a lot of time to hunt or fish, but he does have a chance to enjoy the outdoors and the scenery of his new home. Working as an driver in the Bravo Company, Support Battalion at 1st Special Warfare Training Group Airborne, Baker's job is to safely transport people and cargo.

"I'm assigned to work on any number of vehicles depending on the specific mission at hand," he said. "But my main responsibility is to transport the people or the cargo safely."

"I wish everyone I ever worked with were as hard-

working as him," 1st Sgt. Michael R. Fraley, B Co, SPT BN, 1st SWTG(A). "Baker has been the example of what a perfect Soldier would be," Fraley concluded.

In the day-to-day performance of his job, Baker has the opportunity to meet a lot of people and to cover a lot of miles.

"I always wanted to serve, I didn't come from a military family but I was raised with great respect for the military and my family taught me to take pride in serving others."

SPC Brandon Baker
Driver, B Co, SPT BN, 1st SWTG(A)

and sometimes we are off the road. So I'm getting a lot of experience."

"I like that we work all around the state," he said. "We get to see some pretty nice places." And while those things are enjoyable for Baker, what he likes the most are the people he encounters and the lessons he learns from them.

"The people I work with are all very dedicated. Some of them are new to the Army and some of them have been around for a while," he said. "I don't believe you can find a much better group of Soldiers to work with or be around."

"I like the driving and the types of vehicles this unit uses," he said. "There's a little bit of a challenge in getting the vehicles to all of the places we have to go. Sometimes we are on the road

Educating Soldiers to be adaptive and deal with new challenges

By Maj. Ross F. Lightsey, Sr.

Dean of Foreign Language Training, DRSE

For Army Special Operations Forces, their most versatile and lethal weapon is their mind.

Assigned to regionally aligned units, our Soldiers have a global presence. These regionally savvy



Lightsey

Soldiers are educated to develop and sustain long-term relationships with indigenous personnel. Working by and through their counterparts, they create a cadre

of commanders, ambassadors and follow forces with critical capabilities and knowledge to work alongside them should contingencies develop.

To prepare for future contingencies, we must build capabilities that enable forces that can rapidly adapt to crises emerging from unanticipated events. Our Soldiers must be able to rapidly adapt to the way we think and train in order to deal with new challenges in unfamiliar circumstances. Maj. Gen. Bennet Sacolick noted in August 2010 that "ARSOF has a remarkable, trained, experienced, but undereducated force. Our current operational force consist of a generation of hardened, combat-proven officers and NCOs; however, we have failed to provide a comprehensive, wholistic, opportunity to harness and nurture the intellectual curiosity that exists in our officers, warrant officers and NCOs.

He continued, "In almost every case, the last SOF-specific training our officers receive throughout their entire career is in the qualification course as captains; further, our Noncommissioned Officer Education System courses teach minimal SOF-specific tasks. We need to professionalize the force."

The charter of DRSE is to establish a systematic process that clearly articulates the appropriate ratio of education, training and experience that provides our force with the requisite expertise to function as master practitioners in special operations. If done correctly, this process will instill a sense of quiet professionalism, language and regional expertise, a commitment to continued education and self-improvement and the ethos of always operating through or with our indigenous partners in a culturally attuned manner.

Army Special Operations Forces investment in our Soldiers is envisioned as maturing to a career-long commitment of specifically selected members maintaining the proficiency to optimally contribute to our country's foreign policy.

It is the vision of the Directorate of Regional Studies and Education to produce an agile, adaptive, reflective-thinking Soldier. We will develop innovative education programs, partnerships, collaboration and a data repository while providing an educated force with the intuitive abilities, to work through our indigenous partners. We provide the operational force and staff with the most relevant education and skills necessary as the premier Special Operations Forces intuition of learning.



Military Freefall students have spent the last hour preparing for their first-ever High Altitude Low Opening jump, April 7 at Yuma Proving Ground in Arizona. (Photo by: Dave Chase, USAJFKSWCS PAO)

SWCS Cadre Profile Staff Sergeant Paul Teatro

Operations NCO, Bravo Company, Support Battalion, 1st SWTG(A)



Staff Sergeant Paul Teatro was driving home from work in the hustle and bustle of Detroit, Mich., when he saw a recruiting sign. With the need to find a meaningful career, Teatro decided to see what the recruiters had to say. After 19 years in the Army, he still believes he made the right decision to join. Proud of being a Soldier, proud of being an NCO and proud of his life of service, he works hard to provide others with the things they need to succeed whether it be transportation for SWCS students or support to his team.

On the main responsibilities of Support Battalion:

Support Battalion is responsible for supporting all the needs of SWCS, providing whatever is needed to conduct proper training and make it possible for the Special Warfare Center and School to do its job.

Specifically, Bravo company is responsible for the transportation of SWCS Soldiers whether it be to the range or coordinating and providing transportation all over the state for culmination exercises such as Robin Sage for the Special forces Qualification Course.

On supporting the greater mission:

I've been in long enough now I can see behind the scenes. I know what it takes to make everything happen and when I see a successful mission that's rewarding. There's a lot that goes into making that one mission happen and support battalion is heavily involved in that success.

Support Battalion goes by the motto of "what they need, when they need it." It might seem cliché but that's truly what we strive for so instructors can do what they need to do in order to provide world-class, prepared Soldiers to the ARSOF community. We work 24-hours a-day 365-days a-year to support these Soldiers. I can

see what we do really makes a difference because I have seen the end product.

On being an NCO:

I love being a Soldier. I love being a leader. NCOs are the backbone of the Army. Officers are like CEOs of a company. They manage and direct. NCOs anticipate, prepare and execute. I get a great amount of satisfaction seeing Soldiers succeed, it's just like being a parent. It's important to see your kids grow up to be something.

On the personal satisfaction of his job:

Personally, I've learned that I can manage a lot more balls in the air than I thought I could. I can juggle a whole lot more because of the Army.

On the hard work of his team:

It's amazing what Soldiers can do when provided the proper motivation and when they know what the mission is about and why it's happening. We do more with far fewer; we drive about a million miles per year with under 40 drivers. So I'm proud of my Soldiers. These are the most versatile NCOs I've ever seen. We work hard to enable others to succeed.

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10	Special Forces Regimental Week					16
17	18	19	SF Senior Leader Course Graduation JFK Auditorium 11:00 a.m.	SFWO Technical & Tactical Certification Course Graduation JFK Auditorium 10:00 a.m.	Training Holiday	23
Flippin' Easter	Training Holiday	26	27	28	29	30