



Inside SWCS

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From start to finish, SWCS PAC keeps ARSOF students' records up-to-date

Ronald Williford, right, a human resources technician with the SWCS Personnel Administrative Center, helps a Soldier out-process from special-operations training June 23 at the Soldier Support Center on Fort Bragg, N.C. SWCS PAC manages in- and out-processing paperwork, academic records and personnel service support for all Soldiers attending Special Forces, Civil Affairs or Military Information Support Operations training.

By Caroline Goins
SWCS Public Affairs Office

Each and every student attending training on Fort Bragg, N.C. with the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School goes through the command's Personnel Administrative Center. From the time they in-process to the day they're awarded their course completion certificate, SWCS PAC is tracking them, to make sure all students' administrative actions and academic achievements are accounted for.

Also known as A Company, Support Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne), SWCS PAC processed over 4,500 individual students over the course of the 2010 fiscal year.

"We're a key part of Soldiers' journey through SWCS because we are the first people they see when they start and the last people they see as they leave," said Spc. Lupe Bernard, a human resources specialist and part of the SWCS PAC in-processing team.

The administrative center is divided into three sections: in- and out-processing, academic records and personnel-service support to provide Soldiers guidance during their time at Fort Bragg.

The in- and out-processing section collects and distributes paperwork, processes leave and inputs arrivals.

"Soldiers have told me this is the best in-processing station they've ever gone through," said Ronald Williford,

one of the center's human resources technicians. "I have watched these Soldiers develop, some coming in as young E-4s and leaving as confident E-7s, and it gives me a sense of accomplishment."

The personnel service support office oversees out-of-training processing and reassignments, and tracks all SWCS students through Army human resource systems to maintain accountability for the command.

The academic records office updates class rosters, prints official diplomas, and manages a historical archive of SWCS course graduates.

Between these three sections, all SWCS students are accounted for during their training.

"We can track people who went through the Special Forces Qualification Course back to the 1970s," said Anne-Marie Itzin, a specialist in the academic records office. "It's a very detail-oriented job but I enjoy it. Our staff really works well together to make sure we track every student in every class throughout their training at SWCS with no error."

Many SWCS PAC staff members are former members of the military who have first-hand understanding the importance of the Center and School's qualification, advanced skills and regional training for the Army's

Special Forces, Civil Affairs and Military Information Support Operations Soldiers.

"There's a great pride that comes when you put on your uniform; it's a 24/7 job and it's important for us to work out Soldiers' administrative issues to provide a smooth transition, so they can concentrate solely on training," Bernard said.

"They're the heartbeat of America. They have a love of country, love of adventure and love of Family that can't be found anywhere else," Williford said. "That's why it's easy to love what I do."

SWCS PAC is preparing to take on more responsibility when it comes to personnel management.

Beginning this August, SWCS PAC will take command of out-of-training students while they're still assigned to SWCS.

"The goal is to improve accountability and enable us to get these Soldiers on to their next assignments faster, and allow the training units to focus their efforts more on the Soldiers' training," said Capt. Stephanie Pegher, the A Company commanding officer.

"There's something special about SWCS, the students and the staff," Williford said. "If there's something better out there, I haven't found it."

"We're a key part of Soldiers' journey through SWCS because we are the first people they see when they start and the last people they see as they leave."

Spc. Lupe Bernard
Human Resources Specialist, A Co., Support Battalion, 1st SWTG(A)

Army pilot program offers language bonus for ARSOF at 1/1 level

Did you know that ARSOF Soldiers are now entitled to receive a Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus (FLPB) for proficiency at the 1/1 level in the Soldier's designated control language, primary language and/or one language supporting deployment for an overseas contingency operation?

The Army is conducting an initial assessment pilot program to pay FLPB at the 1/1 level for SOF personnel assigned to ARSOF units. The pilot began May 1, 2011 and ends April 30, 2012. Career-field 18, 37 and 38 Soldiers assigned to an ARSOF unit can be paid at the 1/1 rate of \$100 per month if they demonstrate language proficiency at or above the 1/1 level and below the 2/2 level in any of the languages covered under the pilot program, and if they meet all of the eligibility criteria outlined in the ALARACT messages.

FLPB pay for SOF Soldiers assigned to ARSOF units who demonstrate foreign language proficiency at or above the 2/2 level is covered under the provisions of Army Regulation 11-6, Chapter 6, Section II.

For more information regarding eligibility and restrictions, refer to All Army Activities (ALARACT) messages 161/2011 and 217/2011. You may access ALARACT messages via the Career tab at the HRC website:

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/index.asp>

Foreign military education opportunities around the world available to ARSOF

As we all know, Army special-operations personnel are culturally attuned and possess linguistic abilities tailored to a specific geographical region. What better way to enhance this knowledge and improve upon your linguistic skill than by attending foreign professional military education (PME)?

You will be part of a community of officers that are furthering SOF's international engagement and broadening your self-development.

For the 2012-'13 academic year, the foreign PME countries are Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Singapore, Spain, the United Kingdom and the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation at Fort Benning, Ga. Many have a minimum foreign language requirement of 2/2 /2, and prefer 3/3/3.

To be considered for foreign PME, officers must submit a DA Form 4187, signed by the first O-6 in their chain of command and a letter of interest to their career manager at Human Resources Command by Aug. 19. Letters of recommendation are optional. For more information about foreign PME, please visit:

[https://notesportal.hrc.army.mil/MILPERmsgns.nsf/\(\\$All\)/11-180?OpenDocument](https://notesportal.hrc.army.mil/MILPERmsgns.nsf/($All)/11-180?OpenDocument)

Advancing your professional military education through a foreign venue will make you stronger and open new doors with a variety of professional opportunities in the future.

Leaders: Prepare Soldiers for safe holiday travel

By Maj. Gen. Bennet S. Sacolick
SWCS Commanding General

On the 4th of July this nation will celebrate the 235th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress. As in years past, Soldiers, Civilians, and Families will be



Sacolick

joining in the celebration by traveling, enjoying parties and picnics, swimming and boating along with many other activities.

The potential for accidents greatly increases during this busy holiday weekend. Before Soldiers are released for time off over the holiday period, ensure that they are reminded of

the dangers that lie before them and that planning for Safety is a personal responsibility. The temptation is great to over-indulge; and the price to be paid is high. Leaders are reminded of the following tools available:

U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center Preliminary Loss Reports are available on the USACRC website and can be located under States/Reports, PLR section. These reports highlight the fatal errors of other Soldiers and provide lessons learned to prevent future accidents. Ask your Soldiers to identify the controls that might have prevented these accidents.

Ensure Soldiers who plan to travel out of the local area use the online Travel Risk Planning System. Supervisor counseling and approval is the last and most critical step in this process.

Let's protect our Soldiers and their Families this 4th of July holiday period. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Advanced special-operations training leader passes away after lifetime of federal service

By Dave Chace
SWCS Public Affairs Office

Robert "Doc" Piragowski, a 24-year member of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School training development department, passed away June 22 after a lifetime of military and civilian service to the United States.

Piragowski, 82, retired from the U.S. Army as a lieutenant colonel in 1971, after having fought in Korea, Vietnam and the Dominican Republic as both a field artillery and psychological operations officer. He was the first commander of the 245th Psychological Operations Company, and had also commanded the 1st PSYWAR (Field A) Company, of the 1st PSYWAR Battalion.

Following his military retirement, Piragowski earned master's and doctorate degrees in education from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C. and brought that education back to Fort Bragg, where he became a training developer at SWCS, where he became a training developer at SWCS and had a significant role in establishing many courses and programs that are now a fixture for Army special-operations Soldiers' advanced training.

"When the Warrant Officer Advanced Course was established in 1987, he was the first training developer to work on that course," said David Clark, the SWCS Plans and Capabilities Manager, who worked with Piragowski for 24 years, including several as his supervisor.

Piragowski's legacy at SWCS runs deeper; over the years, he worked as the training developer for the Warrant Officer Technical and Tactical Certification, Special Forces Advanced Targeting Reconnaissance Target Analysis Exploitation Techniques course, Special Forces Advanced Urban Combat course, Special Operations

Target Interdiction Course, Advanced Special Operations Techniques course, and Combat Diver Qualification, Supervisor and Medical Technician courses.

For 18 years, Piragowski worked directly for 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne), for the time when training developers and writers worked directly for the battalions they supported, Clark said.

"He knew his job, and he did it well," Clark said. "He worked harder than anyone else."

Piragowski moved to the Directorate of Training and Doctrine when positions were reorganized in 2001.

"For the past 10 years, he's handled all of our Key West training development," said Michael Pevlar, Piragowski's supervisor in DOTD.

"When Doc took over the dive training, he made himself an expert," Pevlar said. "He bought a lot of books out of his own pocket: dive physiology, diving science, all that stuff. Every year, Doc produced a new, up-to-date program of instruction."

"For a guy who was not a subject-matter expert in dive operations, his lesson plans were better than anyone else's," he said. Piragowski was the only member of Pevlar's team who did not enter the job as a subject-matter expert in advanced special-operations skills, but he quickly fixed that by making himself into an expert, Pevlar said.

Piragowski's military awards include the Bronze Star Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Armed Forces Reserve Medal, among others.

SWCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	5th Battalion, 1st SWTG(A) Activation Ceremony 9 a.m. JFK Plaza	6th Battalion, 1st SWTG(A) Activation Ceremony 9:30 a.m. JFK Plaza	Civilian Award and Retirement Ceremony 9:30 a.m. JFK Auditorium	ARSOF Company, DSO Change of Command 2 p.m. Camp Mackall	Training holiday	2
3	Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9
10	Civilian of the Quarter submissions due	12	13	14	Promotion ceremony for Col. Ferdinand Izarray, SWCS Deputy Commander Time TBA Airborne and Special Operations Museum	16