



Inside SWCS

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MARSOC Sailor, now SWCS instructor, awarded for gallantry



Navy Petty Officer First Class Amilcar Rodriguez, a corpsman previously assigned to 2d Marine Special Operations Battalion, shakes hands with MARSOC commander Maj. Gen. Paul E. Lefebvre during an awards ceremony at MARSOC headquarters June 24, in which he was awarded the Silver Star for his extraordinary heroism while conducting combat operations in Bala Morghab, Afghanistan Nov. 6, 2009. Rodriguez is now a member of the SWCS team, assigned to the Joint Special Operations Medical Training Center at Fort Bragg, N.C. (Photo by Cpl. Kyle McNally, MARSOC Public Affairs)

Special-operations combat medic awarded Silver Star for extraordinary heroism while in combat in Bala Morghab, Afghanistan Nov. 6, 2009

By Cpl. Kyle McNally
MARSOC Public Affairs Office

During a deliberate attack on a series of enemy positions, Hospital Corpsman First Class Amilcar Rodriguez and his Afghan partner force took a rooftop position to provide over watch for their Marine Special Operations Team. Almost immediately after taking the position, two Afghan Commandos and a Marine in Rodriguez's team fell wounded by sniper fire.

Though warned by his teammates about the

sniper, Rodriguez exposed himself from cover and took up an M249 squad automatic weapon, which he unloaded into the enemy position, killing two insurgents. He then rushed to his wounded teammate's position and proceeded to drag him to safety, until three shots from a sniper sent him falling beside the injured Marine.

As his teammates came to their aid and began dragging them to safety, Rodriguez calmly instructed them on the triage and assessment of the other casualty. Once taken to the casualty collection point, Rodriguez continued to assist another medic in the treatment of the wounded.

Maj. Gen. Paul E. Lefebvre, the commander of the Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, presented Rodriguez with his award at a ceremony at the MARSOC headquarters building at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in

eastern North Carolina.

"We obviously realize the magnitude of this presentation," Lefebvre told the crowd. "Our heritage is based on our actions. And the actions that we're recognizing today add significance to the history of the Navy, and to the history of the Corps."

Editor's note: Hospital Corpsman First Class Amilcar Rodriguez is now an instructor in the Joint Special Operations Medical Training Center, part of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, N.C. Like all JSOMTC cadre members, Rodriguez is using his own experiences to prepare and educate the next generation of special-operations combat medics.

The Silver Star is the nation's third-highest military decoration for valor in combat.

New initiative helps SFQC grads benefit from transition time

By Maj. Kenneth Holmstrom
SWCS Deputy G-3

A recent initiative within the Special Forces Qualification Course has been the addition of follow-on training for recent SFQC graduates.

The follow-on training initiative is an effort to professionalize the Special Forces regiment while taking advantage of the lag time required for students to receive permanent-change-of-station orders after the SFQC graduation.

Typically, it takes approximately four to eight weeks for each graduate to get orders after completing the SFQC. Graduates moving overseas or Family members enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program may see even longer wait times for orders. Follow-on training takes advantage of that downtime in the orders process.

In partnership with the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne), recent SFQC graduates are placed into ATRRS school billets that go unfulfilled because of USASFC's current operational tempo. Sending recent graduates to additional schooling immediately after the SFQC provides the Army's Special Forces groups with graduates who have gained additional skills that can be fully utilized for the duration of his time on a team. Sending recent graduates also provides the newest members of the regiment an important and critical step in developing their future careers as Special Forces Soldiers.

Recent SFQC graduates are given the opportunity to attend the following courses: Ranger, Combat Diver Qualification Course, Intermediate Language Training and the Detachment Leader's Course. Additionally, other courses are available such as Sensitive Site Exploitation, Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle and Jumpmaster.

This recently established initiative has already seen success; several students have graduated from the Ranger Course. Volunteers for the Ranger Course average one dozen students per graduating class. The Combat Diver Qualification Course receives approximately half a dozen volunteers per graduating class. Each graduating class sends approximately one dozen students to Intermediate Language Training and all officers attend the Detachment Leader's Course at SWCS.



A Soldier attending Cultural Support Assessment and Selection (right) is given an on-the-spot quiz on previously given information to test her memory. Conducted in the middle of a ruck march, tests such as this measure a candidate's ability to remember details under physically stressful situations. Cultural Support Assessment and Selection is conducted at Camp Mackall in Hoffman, N.C. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Kikia, SWCS PAO).



Left: Maj. Don King, outgoing commander of the Assessment and Selection company in the SWCS Directorate of Special Operations Propensity, hands the company's guide-on to DSOP Director Col. David Fitchitt during the company's change of command ceremony June 30 at Camp Mackall. Maj. Brian Decker assumed command of the unit. Top: King was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in a ceremony July 5. (U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Kikia, SWCS PAO)

Upcoming Event Highlight

Blood Drive for Armed Services Blood Program

9 a.m. through 3 p.m. ♦ July 12 ♦ Kennedy Hall Atrium

On July 12, the Armed Services Blood Program will be holding a blood drive in the Kennedy Hall Atrium. Please show your support to our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who are in the fight by donating blood. Donated blood is shipped from Fort Bragg to CENTCOM within 48 hours of your donation, so you very well may save the life of an operator who has been injured while defeating the enemy. There are some restrictions to donating blood based on your recent deployments or foreign travel and duty stations.

If you have any questions about the program please visit www.militaryblood.dod.mil

SWCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10	Civilian of the Quarter submissions due	12	13	14	Promotion ceremony for Col. Ferdinand Rizarry, SWCS Deputy Commander 6 p.m. Airborne and Special Operations Museum	16
17	Retirement ceremony for Col. Paul S. Burton 10 a.m. JFK Auditorium	19	20	21	22	Robin Sage begins
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



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