



Inside SWCS

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Small-unit tactic training plays big part in Special Forces qualification



A Soldier checks his weapon during an ambush while Capt. Scott Fennell shouts orders during a field exercise in the Small Unit Tactics portion of the Special Forces Qualification Course at Camp Mackall, N.C., on Aug. 19. Fennell, a native of Kingston, Jamaica, said SUT is important because Special Forces candidates can come from any MOS in the Army. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Derek L. Kuhn, 40th Public Affairs Detachment)

By Sgt. Derek L. Kuhn
40th Public Affairs Detachment

The Soldiers were tired; they had been up for more than 24 hours moving through thick brush and dense forests. Their uniforms were covered in dirt and ringed with sweat from the heavy gear and weapons they carried.

As they got closer to their objective, the squad established an objective rally point. If the mission went awry, that is where they would fall back to regroup. There they hunkered down and prepared for their mission—an ambush.

The Soldiers were operating deep in enemy territory and they didn't have the luxury of support or friendly forces in the immediate area.

They were on their own, so every choice they made mattered. The smallest mistake could cost them their lives.

After securing the rally point, Capt. Deric Marquin, the squad's leader, and a few other Soldiers, left to reconnoiter the hit site some 400 meters away as the other Soldiers loaded ammunition into their magazines and made last-second equipment checks.

The leaders, having surveyed the area and developed a plan of action, and returned to quickly brief the teams. After everyone understood their responsibilities, the squad moved out taking care not to be seen by any enemy forces.

They set up for the ambush and waited for the target—a lone enemy vehicle travelling on a dirt road.

As soon as the enemy vehicle drove into the squad's

kill zone, Marquin signaled the machine gunner to fire. Soon a barrage of bullets broke the silence.

The enemy's vehicle was disabled, but they were still alive; and returning fire.

Undeterred, the Soldiers pressed forward. One of the enemy personnel is down, and another egresses into the woods. The squad moved in to finish the hit. Moments later the squad dispatched the last of the enemies. Then, a sharp whistle cut through the wind.

"Boom!" The sound of artillery rocked the forest. Unequipped to deal with enemy artillery, Marquin and his Soldiers broke contact and headed back to the ORP.

Artillery hit again and wounded one Soldier's leg. Capt. Scott Fennell pulled the wounded Soldier into cover. Using his belt and a small branch, Fennell applied an impromptu tourniquet, before hoisting him up onto his shoulders and continuing to the rally point.

Luckily, this was only an exercise in the Small Unit Tactics portion of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School's Special Forces Qualification Course at Camp Mackall, N.C., on Aug. 19.

The Soldiers were all Special Forces candidates and were learning skills essential to Special Forces Soldiers.

"Special Forces' primary mission is to train indigenous forces," Marquin, a Texas National Guard Soldier attending the course, said. "If we don't know the basics, we won't have the building blocks to do our primary mission."

Additionally, Special Forces teams may operate with little support or in remote locations at times, Spc. Alan Poehr, of Milwaukee, Wisc., said.

According to Poehr, SUT involves learning the ins and outs of raids, reconnaissance, patrols and ambushes.

Fennell, a native of Kingston, Jamaica, said SUT is important because Special Forces candidates can come from any MOS in the Army.

"It's a good learning experience," Fennell said. "It's good to baseline everyone because not everyone comes from combat-oriented jobs."

"The fatigue never really goes away, you just get used to it," Marquin, a Manor, Texas native, said.

He and the others were awake for over 30 hours.

But the physical and mental stress also brings the Soldiers together, Marquin said.

"Some things you can't help," Marquin said. "That is why you got your buddies to your left and right."

For each Soldier, the motivation to get through SUT and the SFQC is different.

For Marquin, the motivation comes from his Family. "I don't want all this time I've spent away from my Family to be for nothing," Marquin said. "I know I gotta' do it to get back and be with my Family."

Regardless of what motivates the Special Forces candidates, if they are able to stick with it—learn and endure SUT—they will be one step closer to earning their green berets.

"If we don't know the basics, we won't have the building blocks to do our primary mission."

Capt. Deric Marquin

Student, Special Forces Qualification Course



3rd Quarter, 2011 Civilians of the Quarter

September 2011



GS-1 through -6 category

Stephanie L. Johnson

Human Resources Assistant, A Company, 4th Battalion, 1st SWTG(A)

Johnson's strong, unwavering work ethic ensured the promotion of over 118 Soldiers and assisted the command in awarding numerous good conduct medals, impact awards and permanent change of station awards to well-deserving Soldiers. She ensured that the administrative needs of over 900 students were met with a professional and caring attitude, allowing them to focus on the demanding stresses of the SFQC.



GS-7 through -9 category

Wendy Jernigan

Administrative Officer, Army Special Operations Capabilities Integration Center

Jernigan has demonstrated initiative and dedication by assuming additional responsibilities in order to ensure continued functionality of portal operations on the SIPRNET. She reviewed, analyzed, reorganized and transferred the center's files from the old SIPRNET website to the new SIPRNET portal. Her loyalty, trustworthiness and exceptional performance of duty have been in keeping with the highest standards and traditions.



GS-11 category

Nora L. Sumrell

Information Specialist, Directorate of Training and Doctrine

Sumrell's unparalleled dedication to duty not only pushed Army special-operations forces literature production to an all-time record pace but also institutionalized processes that will help training development for years to come. Sumrell completed 67 percent more literature products than any other editor, keeping SWCS' doctrine the most current in the Army, despite critical personnel issues within the division.



GS-12 through -14 category

David M. Farrington

Doctrine Analyst, Directorate of Training and Doctrine

Farrington is recognized for his exceptional dedication, personal commitment, professional leadership and demanding strict standards to ensure the successful achievement of the organization's goals. His commitment, diligence and expertise yielded unprecedented results while representing the proponent and contributing to the production of key training publications and future concepts for Military Information Support.



Team category

Staff and Faculty Development Division

Melvin Kennedy, Stephen Kenny, Jay Odell, Patricia Streeter and Stephen Wilshire

The Faculty Training Team teaches the Army Special Operations Forces Instructor Training Course, which incorporates all nine instructor competencies identified for Department of Defense instructors. The Army Training and Doctrine Capabilities Manager recently recognized ARSOF ITC as an equivalent course to the TRADOC Army Basic Instructor Course. ARSOF ITC captures the entire spectrum of SWCS instructors.

Certificates of Appreciation

Travis Jackson, SWCS G-8

Deborah L. Workman, DOTD

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service

Ana Kirk, DOTD

Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Cameron C. Barr, DOTD

Thomas G. Gouvisis, DOTD

Stephen D. Childs, DOTD

Grey Welborn, DOTD

Gregory W. Georgevitch, DOTD

Jacquelyn K. Weyhenmeyer, DRSE

Time in Service to the Federal Government

Ranier Wagner, DOTD, 25 years

Alton L. Lanier, Sr., G-3, 40 years

Grey Welborn, DOTD, 35 years

Civilian of the Quarter Runners-Up

Marvin Baines

Ronald Fiegle

Alton Lanier

Kristina Noriega

Richard Blue

Guy Griffaw

Barbara Lewis

Gregorio Santiago

Stephen Childs

Martha Hall

Julie Linares

Arlina G. Seymour

Michael Drafts

Paul Helms

Paul Linskens

Raymond Vandall

**SWCS HARVEST FEST
BASS TOURNAMENT**

6 a.m., Oct. 6
Jordan Lake
Ebenezer Church Boat Ramp

\$20 per person
\$40 per team
\$5 Big Bass

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**4th Quarter Civilian of the Quarter nominations
are due Oct. 11**

<https://arsocportal.soc.mil/swcs/g1/coq/default.aspx>

SWCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	Special Forces Qualification Course Graduation 3p.m., Crown Coliseum	30	1
2	Civil Affairs Qualification Course Graduation (Reserve) 9 a.m., JFK Auditorium	4	5	Civil Affairs Qualification Course Graduation 9:30 a.m., JFK Auditorium	Training holiday	8
9	Columbus Day	11	12	13	14	15