



Inside SWCS

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Department of the Army names SWCS the Special Operations Center of Excellence

By Dave Chace
SWCS Office of Strategic Communication

The U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School has been designated as a part of the Army's collection of elite centers of excellence.

As the Army's Special Operations Center of Excellence, SWCS has been recognized throughout the Army as a vested partner in its major planning initiatives: establishing Army doctrine for 2015, developing the Army's learning construct, revising its leader development strategy, harnessing lessons learned through 10 years of conflict, and determining what a 21st-century Army will look like.

"SWCS has already been fulfilling the role of an Army Special Operations Center of Excellence. There's no other organization in the Army that does what we do," said Maj. Gen. Bennet S. Sacolick, the SWCS Commanding General. "The advantage to this formal center of excellence designation is that it gives TRADOC an institutionalized relationship with SWCS, through which the Army can learn from our special-operations experience, expertise and standards."

According to the Army's Training and Doc-

trine Command, a center of excellence is a designated command with a specific area of expertise that delivers current warfighting requirements, identifies future capabilities and presents educated recommendations to senior Army leaders.

SWCS is the proponent for the modernization of three unique Army career fields: Civil Affairs, Military Information Support and Special Forces. Through the force modernization process, SWCS leaders and special-operations experts will determine each branch's needs in several categories: doctrine, organization, training, material, leadership, personnel and facilities.

SWCS is the only Department of Defense organization that trains and educates a force specifically designed to shape foreign political and military environments to prevent war. By working with peer Army institutions, SWCS can help the general-purpose force orient itself to global regions and develop doctrine relating to security cooperation.

"This is more than a name change; it integrates special-operations forces with the Army's general-purpose force by creating a seat at the table among the other centers of excellence," said Grey Welborn, the deputy director of SWCS' Capabilities Development Integration Directorate.

"This is recognition of SWCS' broad range and complexity of instruction and the role of our three branches within the Army."

This is not an official name change for SWCS; the Special Operations Center of Excellence title is an additional title that may be appended to correspondence and other documents when appropriate, according to a Department of the Army memorandum. Aside from responsibilities toward the Army's force modernization proponent system, this designation does not confer any additional authorities or responsibilities to SWCS, nor does it constitute additional manpower or construction.

The Army's Warfighting-Function Centers of Excellence

Fires Center of Excellence
Fort Sill, Okla.

Maneuver Center of Excellence
Fort Benning, Ga.

Maneuver Support Center of Excellence
Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Sustainment Center of Excellence
Fort Lee, Va.

Mission Command Center of Excellence
Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

SWCS Knowledge Management organizes information, processes

By Lt. Col. Donavon Nigg

SWCS Knowledge Management Officer

The Knowledge Management Office was established in 2011 to enhance organizational learning, synchronization, and innovation in order to streamline operations and build a knowledge-based organization. Knowledge Management is defined as



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the art of creating, organizing, applying, and transferring knowledge to facilitate situational understanding and decision-making. Therefore, KM is getting the right information to the right

people at the right time to allow people to make actionable decisions. KM is a discipline that consists of three major components: people, processes and technology. People are those individuals inside the organization who create, organize, share and use knowledge and leaders who foster an adaptive learning environment. Processes are the methods used to create, capture, organize and apply knowledge. Technology is information systems or tools that help collect, process, store and display knowledge into an organized framework.

KM is neither information management nor information technology. IM is the science of getting the right information to the right place in a timely manner by providing relevant, precise, accurate, timely, usable, and complete information. On the other hand, IT is any equipment or interconnected system or subsystem of equipment used in the automatic acquisition, storage, display, transmission of data or information. In order to respond to a rapidly changing operational environment and develop adaptation, information must become knowledge that permeates throughout the force. This requires both art and science. In short, KM is an operational function that provides a common operating picture for commanders by obtaining and providing knowledge.

Whether to improve organizational efficiency or embrace innovation, KM efforts and initiatives add great value to an organization. The benefits of KM include:

- Facilitates better, quicker and more informed decisions.
- Contributes to the intellectual capital of an organization.
- Encourages the free flow of ideas which leads to insight and innovation.
- Eliminates redundant processes, streamlines operations, and enhances personnel retention rates.
- Improves efficiency and can lead to greater productivity.
- Emphasizes informal learning through conversations and social networks

The KMO is working multiple initiatives. The most recognized KM effort involves developing a Knowledge Management System known as SWCS Tracking of Administrative Records System (STARS), which is a phased approach initiative to provide student accountability and automate the flow of student data between units and directorates. For additional information on current and future KM initiatives please contact me, the G-3/9 Chief Knowledge Officer at (910) 396-0265, or e-mail at donavon.nigg@ahqb.soc.mil.



A veterinarian with coalition special-operations forces teaches a local villager how to administer medication to his donkey during a veterinary seminar in Chora district, Uruzgan province, Afghanistan Jan. 1-5. During the five-day seminar, more than 1,100 animals were treated and villagers were taught ways to decrease illnesses caused by diseases transmitted through livestock. Special-operations medics are trained and educated at the Special Warfare Medical Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C.

USSOCOM Commander thanks special operators for their service in Iraq

By Adm. William H. McRaven

Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command

After nearly nine years of persistent conflict and engagement in Iraq, we, as a military and Special Operations community, have accomplished everything our Nation has asked of us. We have set conditions for Iraqi security forces to assume sole responsibility for the protection of the Iraqi people. As of Dec. 15, 2011, our mission is complete, and our forces are coming home.

Words cannot begin to express the pride and respect I have for the extraordinary accomplishments of our Special Operations Warriors. We removed a dictator; killed or captured key insurgent and terrorist leaders; assisted, trained and rebuilt the Iraqi military; provided hope to the Iraqi people for a better

way of life; and most importantly, we made our Nation more secure.

I want to thank you and your families for your personal commitment, dedication and perseverance through it all. You have done everything asked of you and so much more. We cannot put a price tag on that kind of selfless devotion nor forget the sacrifice paid by our Fallen, our wounded warriors, and their loved ones.

While it is fitting to reflect on your many accomplishments in the Arabian Peninsula, we must remember that we still have Special Operations Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines in harm's way in Afghanistan and throughout the world. I ask that you keep them and their Families in your thoughts and prayers.

How fortunate we are to be the world's premier Special Operations Force during this era of significant global challenges and opportunities. I am humbled, honored, and privileged to be on your team.



McRaven

SWCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	SWCS Civilian of the Year ceremony	1	2	3	Robin Sage begins