



# Inside SWCS

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## “One bullet can make a difference” SWCS hosts third annual USASOC Sniper Competition



A team of snipers participating in the third annual U.S. Army Special Operations Command Sniper Competition at Fort Bragg, N.C. fire at targets while moving through a series of obstacles on the final day of the competition Dec. 8, 2011. The competition, held from Dec. 5 through 9, brought 32 sniper teams from across the Army, as well as a handful of international and law-enforcement teams, to Fort Bragg to showcase their own skills and learn from others' techniques and procedures. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika, SWCS Office of Strategic Communication)

By Sgt. Devin James  
40th Public Affairs Detachment

**U**.S. Army sniper teams, select law enforcement teams, and a small group of international teams competed at the third annual U.S. Army Special Operations Command Sniper Competition Dec. 5-9, 2011 on Fort Bragg, N.C.

The competition fielded 32 of the world's best teams participating in 12 events, said Sgt. 1st Class Chance Giannelli, a Special Forces Sniper School instructor and the competition's noncommissioned-officer-in-charge. Giannelli is assigned to D Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne), part of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, which runs the competition for USASOC, Army and law-enforcement participants.

“We try to design the competition every year to be challenging and combat-oriented,” Giannelli said.

“Snipers can do more things in a two-man team than any other unit in the military,” said retired Master Sgt. Tom Smith, the competition's closing-ceremony guest-speaker.

This competition brings a lot of stresses sniper teams endure on any given mission, Giannelli said.

With any training or competition event comes the challenge of making it difficult but not too unrealistically difficult. In order to maintain the realistic feel, Giannelli had his fellow Special Forces Sniper Course instructors run through the course to validate it and create an accurate estimate on how long each event should take.

Staff Sgt. Ian Shepard, an instructor at the U.S. Army Sniper School at Fort Benning, Ga., and a competitor in this year's competition, said his goals were to compete strong and do his best.

In one of the events, participants fired from atop a four-story building, fast-roped down the building, and then ran 100 yards to a fire-under-cover position.

From there, competitors made another quick run over a mound and into a simulated village where they maneuvered through tunnels, over walls, through buildings and finally fired at designated targets set at various distances from the inside of a

grounded helicopter.

The stress test on Dec. 8 was the most challenging event, Giannelli said. It consisted of close-proximity scanning and maintaining awareness of one's surroundings, he added.

“It's really different from what we actually teach at our school [at Fort Benning],” Shepard said.

The U.S. Army Sniper School teaches long-range sniper fundamentals, while the USASOC Sniper Competition focuses on more expedient tasks involving shorter distances and more targets with less

time to engage each one, Shepard said.

Special-operations units often operate as small teams in remote locations, where additional time and support

**“Snipers can do more things in a two-man team than any other unit in the military.”**

**Retired Master Sgt. Tom Smith**

*U.S. Army Special Operations Command Sniper Competition guest speaker*

is not always available.

Throughout the entire course, the targets ranged in distances to add difficulty.

The reality is that somebody will win and somebody will finish last, Shepard said. Just as it does on a battlefield, even one bullet can make a difference in determining the outcome of the competition.

# Inside SWCS needs input from you and your team

By Dave Chace

SWCS Office of Strategic Communication

“Every employee, not just the senior people, should know how a company is doing.”

This is a quote from “Winning” – a book by longtime General Electric CEO Jack Welch, and it’s been written on a note hanging over my computer since this office started developing *Inside SWCS* two years ago.



This could be you!

Welch’s corporate wisdom is just as applicable in our military structure. I don’t think

I’ve found a better way to describe a reason to communicate with our command’s built-in audience: Soldiers, Families and civilian staff members.

Over the last two years, *Inside SWCS* has been a valuable asset to leaders throughout this command. We enjoy motivating and informing our audience with front-page feature articles, but more importantly, we consider it our duty to allow leaders and staff members an outlet to speak directly to our readers. This means fewer words per issue from a public-affairs officer, and more words from the leaders who make this organization successful.

The text in this column is reserved for key leaders in our organizations – but that is not to say it’s only for the SWCS command group, or generals, colonels and command sergeants major. If you lead men and women within this organization in any capacity, then you should be able to think of 300 words that help recognize their hard work and educate the rest of the command on your unit or section’s initiatives and accomplishments.

It doesn’t take long to write about the things you and your Soldiers work on and think about every day.

“Every employee, not just the senior people, should know how a company is doing.”

Does SWCS know how your company is doing?

*Editor’s note: Sound familiar? Yes, we’ve run this column before, but we feel that words are sometimes worth repeating. The same goes for you: if you’ve written for Inside SWCS before, maybe it’s time to do it again.*



A scenario role-player waves a photograph in the face of a U.S. Army officer attending the Special Forces Qualification Course during the course’s captain-assessment and -response training Jan. 19 at Camp Mackall in Hoffman, N.C. In this scenario, the officers interacted with individuals role-playing foreign civilians whose village was bombed during military operations. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika)

## Special Warfare magazine

The January-March 2012 edition of *Special Warfare* magazine is now available online and in a special-operations unit headquarters near you. This quarter’s edition investigates the role of special-operations forces through Operation Iraqi Freedom. Read below for brief previews of each article in this edition. Visit the magazine’s website to read each of these articles and leave your thoughts and comments at:

[www.soc.mil/swcs/SWmag](http://www.soc.mil/swcs/SWmag)

**Lights Out:** As American Soldiers prepare to leave Iraq, *Special Warfare* visited Iraq to take the pulse of ARSOF and to assess its role over the past eight years.

**Question & Answer with Brig. Gen. Darsie Rogers:** The commander of the Joint Forces Special Operations Component Command-Iraq talks about the growth of the Iraqi special-operations forces and looks to the future relationship of SOF and ISOF as the war comes to a close.

**Foreign Internal Defense in Iraq: ARSOF Core Tasks Enable Iraqi Combating Terrorism Capability:** During Operation Iraqi Freedom II, the strategy of U.S. special-operations forces, or SOF, focused on creating a capability for counterterrorism.

**Eight Years of Combat FID: A Retrospective on SF in Iraq:** In Iraq, ODAs conducting FID honed their UW skills and built a functioning Iraqi Counterterrorism Force.

**Through and With: Reintegration in Northern Afghanistan:** Reintegration is a core element to achieving conflict termination in Afghanistan.

**ARSOF Officer Education at Fort Leavenworth:** ARSOF majors can expect to attend ILE at one of the following locations: Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, Calif.; the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security at Fort Benning, Ga., or sister-service ILE schools or foreign ILE equivalents. This article discusses the expectations, curriculum and goals at Leavenworth.



## SWCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	SWCS Civilian of the Year ceremony	1	2	3	Robin Sage begins
5	6	7	8	9	10	11



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