



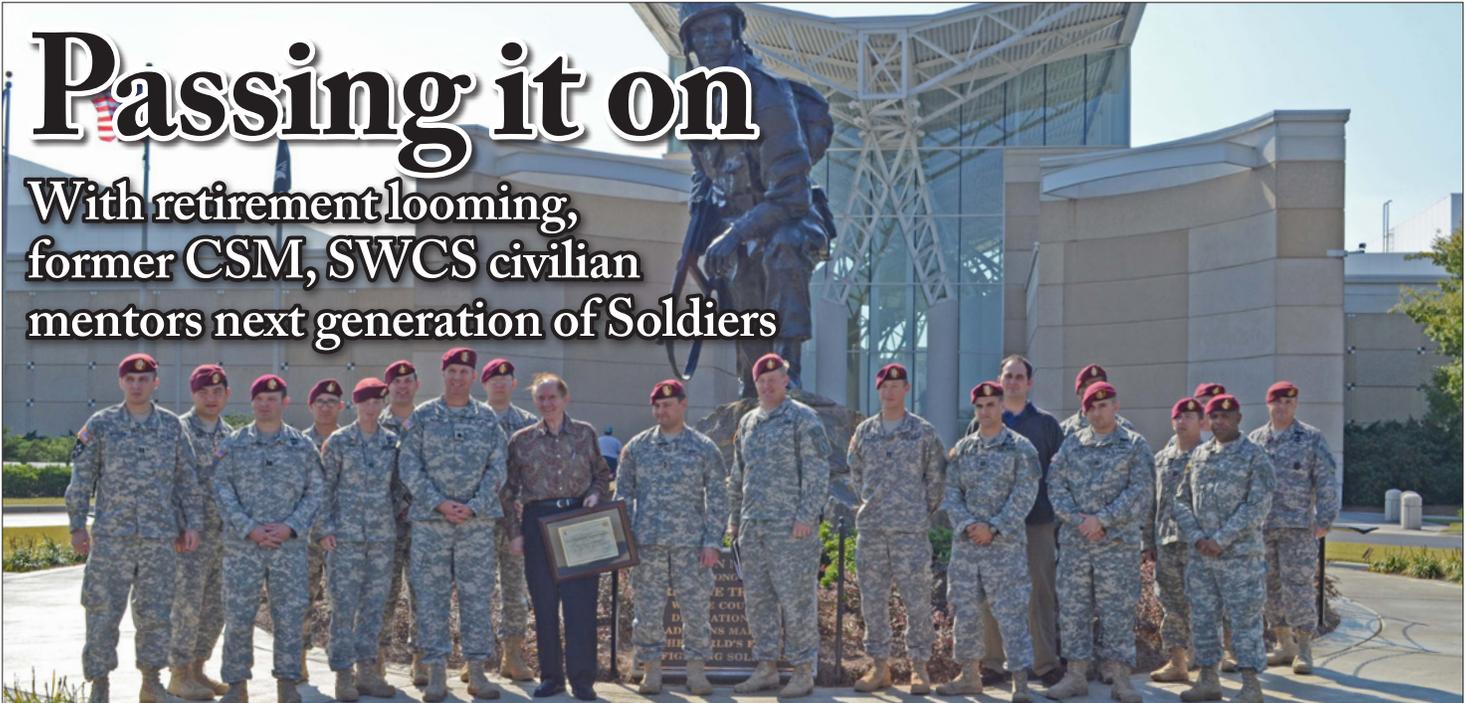
Inside SWCS

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Passing it on

With retirement looming,
former CSM, SWCS civilian
mentors next generation of Soldiers



Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Lupyak poses with members of Company B, 6th Military Information Support Battalion, in front of the Iron Mike statue at the Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, N.C. after speaking to the group about his service in Korea and Vietnam.

Joe Lupyak, a civilian leader in the SWCS Capabilities Development Integration Directorate, will retire this month after almost 30 years of civilian federal service. Lupyak, a retired Special Forces command sergeant major, is also a silver star recipient, a Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment, and a veteran of the Korean War and the Son Tay raid.

Story and photo by Mark A. Schulz

Military Information Support Operations Command Public Affairs

About two dozen Soldiers listen quietly, the silence only broken occasionally by the sound of laughter as retired Command Sgt. Major Joseph Lupyak relays his stories of service in Korea and Vietnam. Even though the old Soldier has many humorous stories to tell, including the events surrounding the Son Tay raid in 1970 to rescue 70 American prisoners of war, he tells his stories with a different twist.

Lupyak is speaking as part of the mentorship program to Soldiers of B Company, 6th Military Information Support Battalion, so he emphasizes how psychological operations were integrated and influential beginning with his service in 1951 and continuing till his retirement at Fort Bragg in 1980. He is still working in the Training Development Division at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, but will retire in December.

In 1951 Lupyak came into the Army and asked to go fight in the Korean War. Even though he was only

19 years old, he was put in charge of 13 men assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division. The first morning they heard, "Welcome back Charlie Company, 15th Infantry Regiment". They were being psyoped by the North Koreans.

This was his first experience with psychological operations on the battlefield and he stated, "They already knew we were there even though we had come up another hill that night in the darkness." The enemy was only about 300 meters away and they knew who we were and the name of our company commander, said Lupyak.

The American forces were also using psychological operations on the North Koreans. Leaflets had been produced saying that if the enemy gave themselves up they would be treated well. Lupyak said that one night one of his Soldiers screamed because three Chinese soldiers had walked up to his foxhole while he was asleep. They almost got shot even though they were giving themselves up as prisoners.

"You'd be surprised at the number of prisoners we got through those leaflets," said Lupyak.

Lupyak got out of the Army after Korea, but came back in after less than one day of working in the coal mines in his home state of Pennsylvania.

He completed his refresher training and joined the 77th Special Forces Group, which only had about 50 Soldiers assigned at the time.

By 1970 Lupyak was a master sergeant and was selected to go on the Son Tay raid, on what he now describes as, "one of the biggest psychological operations that was ever pulled off."

They trained at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida

and a camp was built which was identical to Son Tay, including all the doors and windows. He said they rehearsed the raid about 500 times.

Before the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), led by Col. Arthur "Bull" Simons, flew into Son Tay, U.S. Navy ships bombarded the east coast of North Vietnam.

"They thought they were being invaded by the United States," said Lupyak, "so their radar was turned toward the coast." This technique diverted the enemy's attention and "we flew in and never had a shot fired at us."

The full benefits of this operation were not appreciated until 1973 when Lupyak and other Soldiers met with prisoners of war who had been released after the war. They met in California and the prisoners were extremely grateful for the effort to save them.

They said that as a result of the raid the North Vietnamese immediately "took all the prisoners from the outlying camps and took them to the Hanoi Hilton," said Lupyak. They said they also received better medical treatment and better food.

Lupyak also said that the raid resulted in the Chinese pulling out their support of North Vietnam and was therefore "the biggest psychological effect on the war."

The prisoners said they could have stayed another 10 years in the camps because they knew that the Americans would not forget them.

Lupyak was later assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) but he said that, "every place we went, we took [psychological operations Soldiers] with us ..." but it is up to the young Soldiers to carry on and psych out the enemy.



The USASOC Sniper Competition

was held by the cadre of D Co., 2nd Bn., 1st SWTG(A) Dec. 5-9 on Fort Bragg, N.C. Challenged in every aspect of sniper operations during both daytime and nighttime, 32 teams of military and civilian law enforcement snipers were pit against time, distance and realistic combat environments to determine the best special-operations sniper team. Please enjoy these photos from the event; for additional photos and extended cutlines, please visit:

www.flickr.com/InsideSWCS

All photos by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika, SWCS Public Affairs Office



SWCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11	12 SWCS Off-Site (through Wednesday)	13	14	USASOC begins half-day workdays (through Jan. 3, 2012)	Cultural Support Grad. 11 a.m., JFK Auditorium SFQC Graduation 3 p.m., Crown Coliseum	17
18	19	20	21	22	Training Holiday	24
	Federal Holiday	27	28	29	Training Holiday	