



Inside SWCS

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SWCS marches toward official Training and Doctrine Command accreditation process



Students and cadre assigned to 4th Bn., 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) conduct a ruck march Jan. 21 across the hilly terrain of Fort Bragg, N.C. This April, the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command will send a team of evaluators to SWCS in order to give feedback regarding the command's systems for conducting safe, effective training. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika, SWCS Office of Strategic Communication)

By Dave Chace
SWCS Office of Strategic Communication

The U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School is gearing up for an official accreditation evaluation by the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, which will review SWCS practices and rate the command's performance against a set of defined quality-assurance standards.

For many SWCS Soldiers and civilians, the accreditation process will have an impact on the execution of day-to-day functions. Increased command emphasis has been placed on understanding the systems which translate special-operations doctrine and lessons learned into training and education programs.

"With SWCS already identified as a Center of Excellence, the next step is to be recognized as a Learning Institution of Excellence," said Maj. Casey Galligan, the 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) Operations Officer and an accreditation action officer. "Like any Army unit, recognition from TRADOC — the gate-keeper of the standards — is so important us."

The accreditation team will evaluate three separate functions within SWCS: the conduct of training, SWCS support to training, and staff processes and functions. Together, these categories cover ev-

erything an organization must do in order to produce effective, capable Soldiers: classroom and field training, counseling, coaching, lesson planning, test control, record-keeping, the staffing and maintenance of a learning resource center, and many more areas.

When they arrive at SWCS to conduct the formal accreditation this April, the evaluators will follow specific criteria laid out in 50 different lists of standards. The evaluators are considered to be subject-matter experts in the standards which they'll be using, which include facilities, knowledge management, safety, leaders' character, leaders' intellect, training development and the use of approved course materials.

The TRADOC accreditation team will observe SWCS training, conduct focus groups with students, instructors and staff members, and review official documents; their goal is to ensure all three methods describe similar practices without contradicting one another.

"Our instructors [at 1st SWTG(A)] work extremely hard to ensure our Soldiers are the most educated, competent and adaptive leaders in the military," Galligan said. "[Graduates] leave here prepared for any operational environment, and that is

the trademark of our Soldiers."

Galligan said that even though his unit excels in many areas, specifically through the instructors' personal special-operations knowledge and experience, the accreditation process has already helped 1st SWTG(A) and its seven subordinate battalions improve at producing world-class Soldiers.

"The takeaway from conversations with TRADOC is to ensure there are systems in place for everything,"

he said. "It doesn't necessarily have to be the same system as what TRADOC recommends, but a system nonetheless must ensure quality training. While issues [in 1st SWTG(A)] were identified, solutions

were determined to correct those deficiencies."

The accreditation team is scheduled to conduct their formal evaluations April 16-20 at SWCS training locations on Fort Bragg.

According to a SWCS Quality Assurance Office pamphlet, the accreditation effort is a team effort for all SWCS Soldiers and civilians. The pamphlet encourages all SWCS personnel to read and understand the standards applicable to their roles as SWCS instructors and special-operations leaders.

"The takeaway from conversations with TRADOC is to ensure there are systems in place for everything."

Maj. Casey Galligan
Operations Officer, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne)

Chief of Staff: Stay vigilant as we close in on accreditation through TRADOC

By Col. Robert A. Warburg
SWCS Chief of Staff

U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School leaders and project officers have been working with the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command and the Army's Combined Arms Center for the past year preparing for the formal TRADOC accreditation of the SWCS training and education enterprise from April 16-20.



Warburg

This multi-dimensional review culminates several months of internal SWCS self-assessment of our organizational processes,

systems and metrics. Each member of the command has put a significant amount of thought and effort into setting the conditions for success.

The accreditation team will examine the organizational synchronization among various SWCS entities: instructors, training developers, doctrine writers, staff elements and the training units. The accreditation process will provide constructive criticism and feedback on how well we're doing and where we can improve.

As members of the Army's special-operations community, an "excellence" rating by the TRADOC accreditation team is yet another way for us to highlight that we are the Army's premier learning institution.

Continue to keep the accreditation initiative in the forefront of your efforts. Keep up the great work.



Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. 1st Class Leroy A. Petry (center) speaks with noncommissioned officers assigned to the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School Feb. 3 in the 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) headquarters conference room. Petry is currently assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Ga., with duties as a liaison officer for the U.S. Special Operations Command Care Coalition — Northwest Region. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika, SWCS Office of Strategic Communication)

This Black History Month, join Fort Bragg in recognizing influence on history by black women

By Master Sgt. DeJuan J. Buford
SWCS Equal Opportunity Advisor

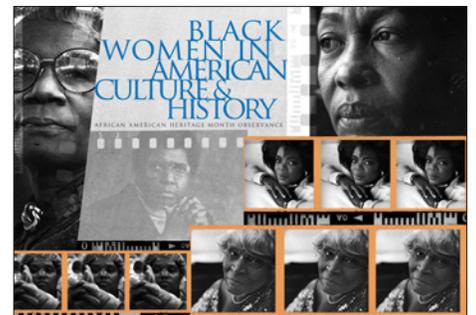
As Americans, we continually move forward with a sense of purpose, direction, and renewed commitment to our nation.

Periodically, however, it is necessary to take pause and examine where we are as a society, relative to our past. African-Americans have made lasting contributions to the cultural heritage of the United States in a multitude of areas. February is the month to reflect on the hardships, contributions and courageous accomplishments that African-Americans brought to this great country.

The theme for Black History Month 2012 is "Black Women in American Culture and History." Throughout the history of the United States, our diverse nation has benefitted from the contributions of African-American women. From the American Revolution to the present, these great pioneers have played a multitude of integral roles in the development of our country.

Their labor, leadership, motherhood, patriotism and creativity and artistic expression have enriched our communities and nation as a whole. We honor the outstanding contributions and the important legacy of women of African descent.

African-Americans continue to make a mark through individual and collective contributions



Team Bragg EO will hold an African-American Heritage Month Observance from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Fort Bragg Club. Bertha Miller, the Fayetteville State University Executive Assistant to the Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives, is scheduled to be the guest speaker. The event is free, and will include food and entertainment.

to America. There is no question that African-Americans will continue to make in-roads on the cultural landscape of the planet, the United States, and the African-American community.

Please join us for the Black History Month special observance Feb. 23 at the Fort Bragg Club. The guest speaker for this observance is Bertha Miller, executive assistant to the chancellor for strategic initiatives at Fayetteville State University. This year's theme urges all Americans to study the hardships that African-American women endured in their struggle for racial equality in our great nation.

What SWCS personnel should know about the TRADOC accreditation

Courtesy of the SWCS Quality Assurance Office

The accreditation of SWCS is an opportunity to improve as an institution of higher learning with the ultimate goal of better preparing Soldiers to succeed in the operational environment. With that outcome in mind, it is important that ever member of SWCS attempts to improve their part of the job.

The accreditation effort is a positive forcing function to focus on the processes, functions, procedures and details of accomplishing your specific mission in support of SWCS.

It is the duty of every member of SWCS to do their part in ensuring quality training occurs. By assessing your areas against the accreditation standards and improving where possible, you are taking steps to improve training and education.

For more information, including the Army enterprise accreditation standards and job aids, please visit the accreditation Portal site at: <https://arsocportal.soc.mil/swcs/dotd/tmd/ta/default.aspx>

SWCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19	Presidents Day	21	22	Special Forces Qualification Course graduation ceremony 3 p.m. Crown Coliseum	24	25
26	27	28	29	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	Training Holiday	10