



U.S. ARMY JOHN F. KENNEDY SPECIAL WARFARE CENTER AND SCHOOL

Quarterly Regimental Update

2nd Quarter, Fiscal Year 2012



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The U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School's Quarterly Regimental Update is our message to the Army's special-operations force about the newest training and education initiatives at SWCS.

For more information about SWCS, its programs and its courses, please visit www.soc.mil/swcs

Special Forces Qualification Course

The Special Forces Qualification Course continues to evolve as new requirements emerge and initiatives are introduced to increase the overall quality of training and performance of the SFQC students.

Special Forces Orientation Course

One significant change for the SFQC that was implemented in October 2011 was the expansion of the Phase I Special Forces Orientation Course from two to six weeks. In addition to the existing preparatory requirements, Phase I training for all SFQC students now includes land navigation and three weeks of unconventional warfare introductory training. During this three week period in Phase I, SFQC students participate in the Phase V Robin Sage culmination exercise as members of the guerrilla force. Students benefit greatly

from this experience early in their SFQC training, and they depart Phase I with a foundation of UW knowledge to build upon for the remainder of their SFQC training.

Land Navigation

In order to support student success in Phase III Small Unit Tactics, 4th Battalion, 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) also revamped land-navigation training and testing. Land navigation was moved from the end of Phase II Language to the beginning of Phase I SFQC. As students begin SFQC, they are given land-navigation training followed by testing that they are required to pass in order to proceed in the SFQC. Positive results from this initiative are already visible. In land navigation, 758 students have been tested with only 39 students that did not meet the standard, which equates to a 95-percent success rate for land navigation. In SUT, 375 students have received training with only 71 students who either failed to meet the standards or were injured during training, equating to an 81-percent success rate in SUT. These figures illustrate an increase of approximately 5- to 10-percent pass rate from historical data.

Special Forces Medical Training

The Special Warfare Medical Group (Airborne) has recently undergone several significant changes and additions that improve the quality of medical training and education for the joint force. The first quarter of Fiscal Year 2012 marked the successful start of the new 36-week Special Operations Combat Medic course, as well as the first issuance of iPad and Galaxy tablets to students. With SWMG(A)'s continued development program, students and instructors are continuously exposed to the latest techniques in relevant battlefield medicine. Through partnerships with other world-class medical facilities, a robust guest-speaker program and input from medical conferences across the nation, SWMG(A) continues to provide the most advanced medical training and produce the most qualified SOF medics.

Special Operations Combat Medic Course and Special Forces 18D MOS phase: The new SOCM course is a significant improvement to previous courses. To begin with, the course has been expanded from 24 to 36 weeks in length to include several blocks that were previously taught only in the Special Forces 18D Medical Sergeants and Special Operations Independent Duty Corpsman courses. This means that all SOCM medics across the regiments will uniformly possess more advanced skills than ever before. Secondly, the expansion of SOCM has reduced the length of SFMS and SOIDC from 24 to 16 weeks, allowing future 18Ds to synchronize with the rest of the SFQC. In this redesigned course, all future 18D students attend the same SFQC phases as students from the other Special Forces MOS phases. This allows students to maintain their instructor-operational detach-



Special Forces Qualification Course students participate in the Small Unit Tactics phase of the SFQC. Management of SUT was recently transferred to the control of 4th Battalion, 1st SWTG(A) in order to allow instructor operational detachment—alpha instructors to oversee the training.

ment—alpha composition and have the same medic throughout all phases of the SFQC.

Life-long learning for medics: In addition to improved quality and synchronization, SWMG(A) has recently issued iPad and Galaxy tablets to students. This benefit allows students to access the Learning Management System and other educational applications that will enhance the consistency and quality of classroom instruction. As students graduate and serve across the Regiment, the tablets allow all SOCM and 18D students to “reach back” to the schoolhouse for the latest and most advanced training and lessons-learned. Not to mention, all medics will have their entire catalog of books, classes and reading materials permanently stored on their device. Dragging trunkloads of books from deployment to deployment will be a thing of the past.

Small Unit Tactics

In December 2011, the 1st SWTG(A) Commander approved the transfer of responsibility of Phase III SUT from 1st Battalion to 4th Battalion. The impetus for this decision was to streamline the training given to students in SUT. The IODA concentrated much of their effort during SFQC Phase II Language training on preparing students for SUT. While in SUT, the IODA instructors served as the primary instructors for their students, which drove the change to have 4th Battalion, 1st SWTG(A) have overall responsibility for this phase of training. The battalion was then reorganized to execute the SUT mission and established the SUT Company as B Company, 4th Battalion at Camp Mackall.

Special Forces Detachment Commander 18A MOS Phase

The 18A MOS phase recently introduced social media into the unconventional warfare Pilot Team field-training exercise using sites such as Facebook and Twitter to provide in-role feedback to the students. This provided the students more tools which could realistically be leveraged during a UW campaign, while supporting a conventional option or UW as a stand-alone strategic option. These tools, as evidenced by the events of the Arab Spring, were the primary engines of change rather than overt, armed conflict. The company leadership instituted controls and appropriate oversight to ensure that the students did not use nor reveal any operational tactics, techniques or procedures through these mediums.

Special Forces Communication Sergeant 18E MOS Phase Redesign

The 18E phase of SFQC training is undergoing a redesign to address methods to continue producing the most qualified and capable Special Forces communicators. SFQC training for 18E students has increased their ability to employ and access Special Forces, joint and interagency communication systems.

18E Redesign: Several key factors have been identified to ensure high-quality 18Es continue to be produced:

- Maintain a competitive advantage with emerging or developing technologies and their operational employment in a complex operational environment.
- Ensure the most relevant 18E course content with relevant equipment and contemporary employment (current and future tactics, techniques and procedures) is provided.



The Special Forces Advanced Mountain Operations School, now a part of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, is based out of Fort Carson, Co. The school's courses include the newly created Senior Mountaineering Course and the Master Mountaineering Course. The SFAMOS is the U.S. Army Special Operations Command proponent for advanced mountaineering, high-altitude and cold-weather operations.

- Leverage special-operations forces and the interagency community (funding, material support, and technical expertise) to become mutually supporting endeavors that support and enhance 18E training exercises, Robin Sage and other 1st SWTG(A) initiatives.

Redesigned 18E program of instruction implementation: Beginning in February 2012, 18E training will implement the redesigned POI which includes an additional two weeks of training in Phase IV. Additions to the curriculum include training on the PRC-150 HF/ALE 3G radio set, the integration of the SDN-L(VX) with the PRC-117G BGAN, and COMP TIA certification preparation instruction. The near-term goal is to integrate these systems and training through the 18E field-training exercise, Max Gain, and Robin Sage. As the necessary equipment and trained instructors are introduced into the 18E phase (goal is 4th quarter, FY12), an additional two weeks of training will be added, which will extend the phase once again for a total of 18 weeks of 18E training during Phase IV of the SFQC.

Robin Sage

With support from the Combating Terrorism Technical Support Office, an initial proof-of-concept was performed in December 2011 using Palantir Technologies platforms via smart phones in support of the Robin Sage exercise. In addition, Phase V cadre also received a demonstration of the DTCS system (an Iridium-based communication and GPS-tracker system). The demonstration was a great opportunity for cadre and instructors within 1st SWTG(A) to view the system's capabilities. As a result, an expanded role for the Palantir and DTCS systems to provide real-time communications, battle tracking, and

scenario support will be explored in March 2012. Palantir Technologies will also work closely with the 18A cadre to provide a similar product that expands on existing exercise support mechanisms and systems. This collaboration and support from the CTTSO office is proving beneficial to provide better cadre tools to facilitate the training and improve the overall quality of training for SFQC students.

Special Forces Advanced Training and Education

Special Forces advanced-skill training and education has progressed throughout the duration of the 1st Quarter, Fiscal Year 12 with advancements not only in equipment, but also in training of tactical skill sets and education.

Special Forces Advanced Skills

Special Forces Advanced Mountain Operations School: The SFAMOS has transitioned to SWCS control from the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne). This transition resulted in adding two additional courses, the Senior Mountaineering Course and the Master Mountaineering Course, to the SWCS inventory. SFAMOS is the U.S. Army Special Operations Command proponent for advanced mountaineering, high-altitude and cold-weather operations, thus making them the lead component within the U.S. Special Operations Command for military mountaineering.

Military Free-Fall School: The MFFS has instituted new combat equipment (combat helmet, body armor, center-mounted weapons harness) into the Military Free-Fall Parachutist Course. The MFFPC is also in the process of increasing

throughput of course graduates from 560 to 1026 per-FY to accommodate the training of SFQC graduates prior to them arriving to their assigned groups (projected expansion will begin in 3rd Quarter, FY12).

Special Forces Sniper Course: Advanced tactical skills has increased throughput of the Special Forces Sniper Course by 20 percent, while simultaneously advancing long-distance lethality throughout the Special Forces regiment via incorporation of new small-arms and optics technologies. In December 2011, the SFSC hosted the 2011 USASOC Sniper Competition at Range 37 on Fort Bragg, N.C. The competition was four days in duration with 12 events designed to physically and mentally challenge sniper teams from USASOC CSCs (active and guard), MAR-SOC, NAVSOC, U.S. Army Sniper School, USMC Scout Sniper School, selected federal and state law-enforcement agencies, and selected foreign teams (Canadian SOF and Dutch SF). Out of the 32 sniper teams that competed, the top five teams were from USASOC, Dutch SF, 10th SFG(A), and 1st SFG(A).

Detachment Leaders Course

Special Forces regimental cooperation is increasing throughout 1st SWTG(A), which has directly influenced the quality of instruction in the DLC and preparedness of newly-graduated 18As as they transition from 1st SWTG(A) to their operational assignments. DLC students benefit greatly from interacting with senior leaders as guest speakers and being able to VTC with forward headquarters and better understand the COE. The SWCS Commanding General has recently authorized the expansion of the DLC to include Civil Affairs and Military Information Support Operations officers, along with Special

Forces warrant officers and senior Special Forces NCOs slated for operational detachment—alpha team sergeant positions. To accommodate the addition of CA and MISO officers, the course has increased its capacity to allow up to 40 students to attend each class. The April 2012 DLC will be the first class to integrate other regiments with approximately five MISO officers attending the course.

Intermediate Language Course

SWCS graduated its first non-pilot Intermediate Language Course class in February 2012. ILC students in this class learned Pashtu, Russian, Modern Standard Arabic, Dari or Chinese Mandarin at the 2/2 levels of oral proficiency.

The ILC curriculum offers Pashtu, Urdu, Dari, Farsi, Arabic, Russian, and Chinese Mandarin instruction available for all ARSOF Soldiers who have a 1+/1+ in either the Oral Proficiency Interview or the Defense Language Proficiency Test. ILC students may expect to achieve 2/2 levels in participatory and conversational speaking and listening capabilities.

The language portion of ILC is up to 32 weeks in length at Fort Bragg, though students frequently test out early and go on (or back) to their units once they achieve 2/2 levels of proficiency. Sending Soldiers to the ILC greatly increases ARSOF Soldiers' capabilities in meeting the directive in achieving one-third of the force at 2/2 levels of language competency.

Contact your unit's Command Language Program Manager for further information regarding ILC and other continuing language education and development.

Joint Armorers Course

The Joint Armament Facility is in the first phase of running a Joint Armorers Course as part of the foreign-weapons program way-ahead. The Joint Armorers Course will be a three-week course (10 starts per year, 20 students per course) that will train SOF armorers (91Fs) and Special Forces 18Bs on SOF-peculiar weapons. The course will enable trained personnel to conduct technical inspections and perform gauge checks at the unit level instead of shipping weapons to the JAF every 18 months. At full operating capability, graduates will be able to perform Level 30 maintenance on all SOF weapons. Funding for the pilot course has been approved and will begin in March 2012. The benefit to ARSOF is that SWCS will be able to produce more SOF armorers instead of competing for slots at Crane's Joint Armorer Course which is run by the Navy. The course will also cut back on maintenance costs and shipping time since qualified armorers will be able to conduct the required maintenance at their units.

Advanced Operations and Intelligence

With the activation of the 6th Battalion, 1st

SWTG(A) in June 2011, the Special Forces advanced-skills education and training capacity and capability has grown by four new courses with significant transformation of several other courses. Two unconventional warfare courses — Network Development and Operational Design — the Advanced Special Operations Manager's Course, and the Special Operations Analytics and Intelligence Course are all in final prototype testing, with expected completion in FY12. Additionally, the Technical Surveillance Course is undergoing scheduling and course improvements that will maintain its relevance and value for FY 12 and provide the regiment with additional attendance options. One of the most noteworthy course changes implemented by 6th Battalion is enhancement of the Special Forces Intelligence Sergeants Course formerly known as the Operations and Intelligence, or O&I, course.

In January 2012, SFISC Class 001-12 kicked off with the most significant modifications since its initial design and launch almost a decade ago. The redesigned and enhanced curriculum, coupled with unique interagency access and instruction, is designed to provide the Special Forces Intelligence Sergeant (18F) with the education and training required to effectively integrate national intelligence capabilities in support of special operations missions at the Special Forces operational detachment—alpha-level and above. It will ensure that the 18F trained NCO provides an ever increasing value to the Special Forces regiment.

As a Special Forces military-occupational specialty producing course, the SFISC educates and qualifies senior Special Forces NCOs into the 18F MOS. The new program-of-instruction will elevate and expand the existing Secret curriculum to a Top Secret – Sensitive Compartmented-level course that introduces advanced strategic intelligence tradecraft and analytics, national intelligence agency instruction, as well as unique industry and academia training into an already advanced and mentally demanding course.

To accomplish the myriad of tasks required by the 18F in the post-9/11 environment, the 18F must have the ability to perform in isolated regions with little or no reach-back or access to national intelligence community resources. When available, he must understand the capabilities of national and theater intelligence assets and be capable of requesting and leveraging those assets whenever possible. After a decade of conflict and extensive joint, intelligence and interagency partnerships, a close look at the SFISC and the tasks being covered revealed that there were significant gaps in the SFISC instruction.

A critical-task site-selection board was hosted at Kennedy Hall in December 2010 that was attended by Special Forces Intelligence Sergeants from each of the Special Forces groups. The 18F committee, in conjunction with the SWCS Capabilities Development and Integration Directorate, modified and increased the critical tasks that an 18F is required to perform in support of



An ARSOF student addresses a class of Chinese-Mandarin language students during the regional studies and education phase of qualification training. The Special Warfare Education Group (Airborne) offers an Intermediate Language Course to help Soldiers reach the 2/2 level in several languages.

Special Forces missions worldwide. Twenty-seven new tasks were added to the original list of 94, and these new tasks are integrally connected with the intelligence and interagency community in order to meet the increasing and sensitive 18F required capabilities.

Over the last eight months, the SFISC cadre have worked diligently on the redesign of the program-of-instruction to ensure that it would meet the SWCS Commanding General's intent and the added critical tasks in order to produce an 18F that brings an unmatched capability and value to the regiment. The development of a Top Secret-level, two-phase course curriculum was the ultimate result. SFISC students will now spend the first 11 weeks at Fort Bragg, and then transition to a final three-week portion in Washington, D.C. The D.C. portion will consist of intensive on-site training at national intelligence agencies located throughout the national capital region. Students will conduct real-world analyst-to-analyst exchanges at national intelligence agencies that include the Defense Intelligence Agency, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, National Counterterrorism Center, Joint Warfare Analysis Center and the Department of Homeland Security. While in Washington, D.C., students will also receive instruction on irregular warfare analytics at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory.

While in attendance at SFISC, students will also produce real-world intelligence products based on their respective Special Forces group commander's priority-intelligence requirements and area of responsibility. These products will integrate national-level intelligence against current information requirements.

Civil Affairs

Members of B Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st SWTG(A) recently collaborated with representatives from the SWCS Civil Affairs Proponency Directorate to further develop proposed changes to the current Civil Affairs Qualification Course curriculum and fulfill new training requirements. The curriculum review board was held from Dec. 12 through 14 and focused on the collective and individual tasks within each phase of the CAQC pipeline. Special emphasis was placed on reviewing the length and scope of regional studies, determining a better method for sustaining language skills, separation of officer and NCO tasks (education and training) as required, and the integration of key points relative to the Cultural Support Training Course.

U.S. Army Reserve Civil Affairs Integration

CAQC Class 03-11 successfully completed the Operation Certain Trust culmination exercise, resulting in the graduation of 52 U.S. Army Reserve Civil Affairs officers. The Reserve students were integrated with the active-duty course for



Civil Affairs Qualification Course students interact with a role-player during the course's culmination exercise. at Camp Mackall in Hoffman, N.C.

the mission planning and CULEX. In addition, D Company, 3rd Battalion reviewed each phase of the Reserve CA training pipeline in order to make significant recommendations to improve the overall quality and relevance of the course. Special emphasis was placed on finding ways to improve the Phase I distance-learning course. Select cadre also participated in a post-instructional conference along with other key stakeholders in an attempt to help make this portion of training more interactive and beneficial to students.

Cultural Support Training

Cultural Support cadre focused on Cultural Support Training Course Class 001-12, which was executed from October to December 2011, and the quarter ended on a positive note with 32 students graduating from the class. Most recently, the CSTC manager conducted meetings with regional studies personnel from the Special Warfare Education Group (Airborne) and the SWCS Capabilities Development and Integration Directorate to review class improvements for integration of additional language and cultural training opportunities. The next scheduled CSTC course in July 2012 will also benefit from increased training support from the psychological team in 1st SWTG(A).

Military Information Support Operations

With the activation of 5th Battalion, 1st SWTG(A) in December 2011, MISO operations and training were separated from 3rd Battalion. This separation allows for each student to be solely managed by their respective CA and MISO headquarters. This separation reinforces

the commitment of each to providing the most qualified personnel to their respective regiments.

MISO Qualification Course

To increase academic rigor and intensity, the MISO Qualification Course was modified, and select training modules were redesigned during the first quarter of FY12.

Reactive Adaptive Cultural Training (Re-ACT): The Human Engagement Module, which includes the ReACT lanes, were significantly improved by increasing the interaction between role-players and students; contact was increased by 150 percent through the development of six additional evaluated lanes. These new lanes incorporate enhanced scenarios – host nation and non-governmental organizations – relevant to the contemporary operational environments in the AFRICOM, CENTCOM, PACOM, and SOUTHCOM areas of responsibility. These enhanced scenarios are also coupled with cultural dilemmas related to each region. Additionally, the overall role-player support has increased from 13 to 38 role-players and now includes six different languages.

Interagency Exercise: A one-week interagency exercise (IAPX) was implemented in which military-information-support teams were trained and evaluated in support of foreign internal defense and public diplomacy. The IAPX begins by conducting a mission analysis utilizing the extrapolated information from exercise products, interagency resources, and through interaction with State Department officers. The exercise is followed by meetings with the U.S. ambassador office as qualification students begin to develop their mission concept brief. The IAPX is concluded with a mission concept brief to the ambas-

sador office which includes input and assistance from the participating State Department officers.

Department of State Integration

Fifth Battalion hosted visits by Greta Hotlz, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State—Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs; Bob Cassilly, State Department Senior Strategic Planner and Advisor to Holtz; and Col. Matthew Venhaus, from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict Pentagon/Military Information Support Operations Policy office. The visits encompassed both observation and participation in the interagency portion of the MISO qualification course CULEX by the aforementioned individuals who shared their regional expertise in order to facilitate a realistic training environment for the students. In addition, these visitors are educating themselves on how the MISO students train and operate in order to enhance the State Department's ability to integrate military-information-support teams into Department of State activities abroad.

MISO Advanced Training and Education

During 1st Quarter FY12, 5th Battalion conducted numerous coordination meetings with the State Department, Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications, National Counterterrorism Training Center, Foreign Service Institute, and Counter Terrorism Technical Support Office, and the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Policy). The goal is to build relationships and gain interagency support in developing 5th Battalion's advanced education and skills programs of instruction and initiatives. Solid lines of communication as well as valuable insight were gained into the various missions conducted by

MISO operators at all levels.

MISO Proposed Pilot Courses: The 5th Battalion, 1st SWTG(A) staff and cadre are steadily moving forward with all education initiatives. 5th Battalion's advanced education and skills company cadre have completed their first draft of the unconventional warfare and ARSOF military deception course POIs. The POIs are currently under development with the intent to have the Military Information Support Operations Command and U.S. Special Operations Command J-39 review and provide input. MISO is also poised for a successful Special Operations Forces Education board that will take place in March 2012 at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. 5th Battalion will execute a pilot for each of these advanced courses this fiscal year.

MISO Unconventional Warfare: The MISO Unconventional Warfare Course (Level I) is designed to produce specially selected personnel proficient at integrating into all phases of UW planning and operations. Students demonstrate skills in conducting overt and covert or clandestine MISO programs aimed at recruiting indigenous or irregular forces. The MISO UW graduate will be able to deploy as a team member, capable of training MISO to irregular forces and integrating into joint, interagency, intergovernmental and multinational irregular or unconventional warfare efforts. Students will demonstrate knowledge of UW and MISO-in-support-of-UW after a combination of lectures and practical exercises using classified materials and case studies at the top-secret level.

ARSOF Military Deception: The ARSOF Military Deception Course (Level I) is designed to produce specially selected personnel proficient

in planning, coordinating and monitoring the execution of ARSOF MILDEC operations. It is intended for ARSOF officers and NCOs projected to serve in operational assignments, who conduct MILDEC planning on conventional, SOF and joint staffs. Instruction is a combination of lectures and practical exercises using classified materials at the top-secret level.

Advanced Target Analysis: The Advanced Target Analysis Course (Level I) is designed to sharpen MISO Soldiers' skills in conducting analysis on groups and individuals. It is intended for experienced MISO officers and NCOs serving in PSYOP support elements, product development detachments and military information support teams. Graduates will demonstrate proficiency in advanced analytical methods to influence target audiences and key decision-makers. Instruction is a combination of lectures and practical exercises using classified materials and case studies at the top-secret level.

Civilian Education Opportunities

The Special Warfare Education Group (Airborne) Academic Affairs and Education Directorate has successfully coordinated 27 separate bachelor degree opportunities specifically for ARSOF Soldiers. These bachelor degree opportunities take full advantage of the SWCS Associates Degree program that is available to all ARSOF Soldiers. Both programs maximize the experiential learning accomplished in the qualification courses and help ARSOF Soldiers to earn their college degrees in the most convenient and expeditious manner possible. Of particular emphasis is that



Army special-operations Soldiers attending the Warrior Leader Course at the David K. Thuma Noncommissioned Officer Academy listen to an instructor's presentation. Soldiers will now receive academic credit for attending WLC separately from their qualification courses, in order to assure all Soldiers receive credit for the course regardless of whether they complete their qualification courses.

all programs are well-within the established Army tuition assistance rates and are 100-percent available online. To review all of the available programs to include Masters and Doctorate opportunities, Soldiers are encouraged to visit www.arsofeducation.com for details. Soldiers can also contact AnnMarie Famulari at (910) 432-9604 or famulaan@soc.mil, or Kristina Noriega at (910) 643-8620 or kristina.m.noriegaartis@soc.mil, to discuss details or enrollment assistance.

NCO Academy

The NCO Academy is continuing to meet the high demands of the operational force by increasing the efficiency of the educational development process, while simultaneously improving upon the existing NCO education system curriculum. All three phases of the NCO development process in SWCS (Warrior Leader Course, Advanced Leader Course and Senior Leader Course) are being modified in order to produce the highest-caliber of NCOs across all three regiments. The desired end-state will result in a higher throughput of graduating students possessing a more comprehensive understanding of the contemporary operational environment.

Warrior Leader Course

In order to assist the Soldier in meeting the Army WLC standard, the NCOA will implement its standalone WLC pilot class starting in March 2012. The standalone concept will afford the Soldier the ability to receive a DA Form 1059 (Academic Evaluation Report) specifically for WLC. In the past, portions of the WLC were included in the overall SFQC pipeline. The standalone WLC will ensure every student receives NCOES credit for the training, whether the Soldier completes the SFQC or not. The new standalone WLC concept will ultimately help the Soldier in their continuing development and career progression.

Advanced Leader Course

The NCOA is in the process of addressing the ALC-Common Core changes in order to satisfy the required educational hours needed for the common-core block of instruction.

The NCOA command team briefed the SWCS Commanding General on the recommended course of action separating the WLC and ALC programs of instruction. NCOA has conducted an analysis of the required ALC common core lessons and have identified 27 hours of instruction that is not currently taught in the pipelines of the three ARSOF branches. NCOA is developing a course of action with 1st SWTG(A) to provide instruction of lessons that are not taught in the pipeline in order to facilitate NCOs meeting the ALC common-core requirement. The NCOA is further working with U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy on the proposed change.

Senior Leader Course

In order to meet the high volume of students requiring SLC, the NCOA has increased the Special Forces SLC quotas to 75 Soldiers-per-class for the resident phase of the course. This will help alleviate the SLC backlog that the Special Forces regiment is currently experiencing. SLC will also debut the Unconventional Warfare 201 class module of training into the ARSOF SLC curriculum starting in June 2012. It will incorporate lessons-learned from 7th SFG(A)'s UW exercise, multiple UW conferences that the NCOA instructors have participated in, and resident expertise that resides within SWCS. Lastly, the NCOA is finalizing the list of college courses that will be offered during the SLC residence phase.

Warrant Officer Institute

Special Forces Warrant Officer Technical and Tactical Certification Course

The SFWOTTCC mission is to conduct professional 180A MOS-qualifying training and education through two 20-week classes-per-fiscal year at the Special Forces Warrant Officer Institute, to provide the regiment with competent assistant detachment commanders capable of executing missions across the operational continuum.

The first 20-week SFWOTTCC graduated in November 2011. This class was the first group of students where every student remained warrant officer candidates throughout the entire course. The WOC status paid dividends in supporting the SFWOTTCC mission.

There have been numerous modifications to the SFWOTTCC basic course. One of the more significant modifications has been the deletion of the embedded Achilles Dagger training. The decision to make this training qualification a pre-requisite was supported by the USASFC(A) 350-1 mandate that all ODA members be Achilles Dagger-qualified, comparable to the same regulatory requirement that all ODA members be SFAUCC-qualified. This also made available much needed training time in the SFWOTTCC program of instruction to focus more on intelligence, targeting, the military decision-making process and unconventional warfare.

The intelligence and targeting modules have doubled in length giving way to a comprehensive intelligence-preparation-of-the-battlefield practical exercise. The MDMP module tripled in size, allowing for numerous practical exercises that ultimately make our ADCs more competent and innovative mission planners. The UW classroom instruction remained relatively unchanged, but the UW-focused culmination exercise doubled in length adding an urban uncertain environment to the already-established rural hostile environment, therefore developing UW expertise across a wider range of contemporary operational environments. Candidate and cadre members alike consider

that the new course is on the proper path toward addressing the Army's and Special Forces regiment's demand for capable and inventive combat leaders and staff officers.

Warrant Officer Advanced Studies Branch

The Advanced Studies Branch now includes the Warrant Officer Advance Course and Staff Course. Recently, branch put the final touches on a new educational design for the Advanced Course resident phase that began in January 2012. Additionally, we are in the design phase of the long-awaited SFWOSC, which the WOI will conduct as a pilot later in this fiscal year.

Special Forces Warrant Officer Advance Course: The SFWOAC entered its next phase of evolution, bringing it ever closer to the U.S. Army Learning Concept 2015. While the current program of instruction remains intact, the faculty of SFWOASB has made significant administrative and conceptual changes that will result in a more conducive adult learning and education model. We focused the changes on three key areas: the addition of a blended learning environment, redesign of classroom methods, and an update to the student evaluation plan. To make the best use of available technologies, SFWOAC cadre redesigned the Resident Blackboard to support the new blended methodology. Students will take exams, turn in assignments, and conduct peer review within Blackboard while in class and after hours. Additionally, the Resident Blackboard will be the repository for all course and reference materials. Students will also experience a very different classroom atmosphere that is shorter in length (six hours per day) and more dependent upon their participation. To support that model, the faculty has redesigned nightly writing and reading requirements toward doctrine and case studies. In turn, the instructors will now assume a greater role as facilitators to allow the students to become more involved in their education.

Special Forces Warrant Officer Staff Course: After a lengthy collaboration process at all levels, the Advanced Studies Branch is set to conduct the Staff Course pilot July 23 through Aug. 17. We have focused the design of the course on history, theory, doctrine and application to improve a senior 180A's ability to work and plan alongside field-grade officers from the battalion- to the theater special operations command-level. To accomplish this, we will depend upon institutions such as the U.S. Army Combined Arms Center's School of Advanced Military Studies and the U.S. Special Operations Command's Joint Special Operations University to support much of the course. Prerequisites for the SFWOSC include the following: 180As in the grade of CW3 or CW4 and successful completion of the SFWOAC. Given the 20-seat cap on the course, the Special Forces Warrant Officer Institute encourages those 180As who meet the above criterion to contact their respective command chief warrant officers to reserve a seat for the course.