



Inside SWCS

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Is there a medic in the house?

From aches to breaks, SWCS medics keep students safe and healthy

By Caroline Goins
SWCS Public Affairs Office

SWCS training is tough. Extreme weather, mental stress and high-intensity physical labor push current and potential special-operations Soldiers to the max. While these students are focused on their training, SWCS medics are focusing on their health and safety.

Sixteen medics are assigned to 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) to support all levels of special-operations training exercises.

They are located everywhere SWCS students train, supporting airborne operations, helicopter infilts, shooting ranges, road marches, land navigation training and any other training event run in 1st SWTG(A).

Robin Sage, one exception, is self-supported by students training to be medics and the course's own medic cadre.

Sgt. 1st Class Scott Cole has been a medic in the military for over 12 years and is now assigned to 1st SWTG(A)'s 1st Battalion, supporting tactical combat skills training.

"These [students] push themselves so hard, you want to do everything in your power to help them stay healthy and prevent any problems," he said.

Cole's team of special-operations medics work 24 hours a day when training is on the calendar. On

average, each medic is responsible for more than 70 Soldiers.

Whether traveling in the woods during land navigation or doing sick call follow-ups after a road march, these medics stand side-by-side with cadre and students no matter the conditions; snow storms, high heat, complete darkness and everything in between.

"If the students leave for training, we're going with them wherever, whenever they go," Cole said.

"[This assignment] is almost like being deployed; you spend all your time [in the field.]"

The medics are charged with keeping these Soldiers healthy in every way; from treating their injuries to giving them medical advice that might prepare them for a long, healthy career.

"Everyone here recognizes the importance of their training," Cole said. "I want to do everything I can to treat them and keep them in training."

Preventive measures through student education and proactive cadre assessments are used by the medics to prevent or keep injuries minor.

These medics also teach basic medical life-saving skills and conduct classes concerning wildlife, nutrition and warning signs for potential temperature-

related injuries.

"We're teaching things that if it hasn't already saved their lives, it will," Cole said.

Medics also work with cadre members to ensure Soldiers' safety by looking for early warning signs and making adjustments because of weather conditions without sacrificing the training.

This is important, because while safety is a top priority in all SWCS courses, realistic exercises are sometimes necessary in order to prepare Soldiers for their missions and roles as members of special-operations units. In concert with safety controls and the

experience and expertise of cadre members, medical support personnel are vital to SWCS' mission.

"This job keeps your skills sharp because you never know what to expect," said Cole. "Everyone really knows their stuff and is competent in the field, which makes it fun."

Cole said these medics are great to work with because they are forward thinkers able to analyze situations, decipher causes and work to prevent injuries.

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Sgt. 1st Class Scott Cole
Medical NCO, 1st Battalion, 1st SWTG(A)

Office of Strategic Communication aligns SWCS' image

By Maj. David Butler

Chief, SWCS Office of Strategic Communication

The U.S. Army John F Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School is embarking on a new era of communicating. Let me introduce you to the SWCS Office of Strategic Communication.

The mission of the OSC is to cohesively communicate the SWCS mission through professionally branded products and services.

The command group has aligned each of SWCS' major communication medium under one umbrella. The OSC is comprised of four elements: public affairs, special projects, video and *Special Warfare* magazine.

This does two things for Soldiers, civilians and Families in SWCS. Now every training video, magazine, public-affairs product or poster will be branded the same and send our organization's message in concert. It is this professional image that our organization will present to the world. Second, you are our customers. When you need a product, video or public-affairs support you can come to one place: the OSC. We will ensure that you are taken care of properly and your needs are addressed.

The *Special Warfare* magazine has established a steering committee made up of volunteer members of our organization – now you have a say in ARSOF's only professional development publication. For information on our next meeting, please shoot an e-mail to pao_swcs@soc.mil.

In addition to recently winning two Army-level awards for journalism, the public affairs staff has redesigned public-affairs training in SWCS. Each student will be exposed multiple times, in the classroom and in practice, to public-affairs training based on U.S. Special Operations Command guidance so that they are adequately prepared to deploy anywhere and represent themselves and their units in a professional manner.

SWCS has become the only unit in the U.S. Army Special Operations Command to improve and update its organizational public website. Ours can be found at www.soc.mil/swcs.

The video team has graduated to the next generation of classroom teaching, where students are exposed repeatedly to the same course material through modern and entertaining videos meant to solidify their knowledge in key principles that will help to make successful operators. The video team has also gained and tested field capability where products can be filmed, edited and produced on-site.

The newly established special projects section serves you with amazing quickness and personal service. The OSC alignment has given what once was an additional duty an appreciated purpose and clear direction. Recent products include a qualification course graduation program redesign, the SWCS course catalog and minting the SWCS' organizational wine.

Every individual in SWCS communicates; we are giving you a better set of tools.

If you have a communications need or need advice on how to get your part of the message out, visit us on the first floor of Bryant Hall or e-mail us at pao_swcs@soc.mil. We look forward to helping you.



Butler

SWCS Staff Profile

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Barclay

Medical NCO, Special Forces Assessment & Selection



Sgt. 1st Class Mark Barclay has been a medic for 17 years, during which he has deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. His life of service started early in the Boy Scouts and as a lifeguard; he later volunteered as an emergency medical technician. Now he serves as a medic for Special Forces Assessment & Selection, run several times a year at Camp Mackall, N.C., where he works up to 220 hours per 19-day cycle. Through that time, Barclay combines his medical experience with his interest in helping people and dedication to service.

On job satisfaction:

I became a medic because I liked helping people and providing treatment to prolong life and educate to minimize the risk of injuries. Every good medic will put themselves in harm's way to ensure the safety of the Soldiers we care for.

On his team of medics:

My medics do a great job, not only are they benefiting the community by keeping Soldiers healthy and better prepared for their future tasks but they are showing the importance of preventing and reducing injuries. There's a great sense of pride in the quality care we provide to so many Soldiers with so few, yet skilled, medics. With other jobs, a medic is assigned to a platoon of about 40 Soldiers but each of our medics may be responsible for more than 70 at a time.

On the candidates he treats:

We host a huge crowd with a variety of education levels and military skills. The interactions we have with the candidates are one of the first times many of them are exposed to Special Forces and special operations. We need to make a good first impression to instill confidence that we really know what we're doing; maybe so much that we'll inspire them to become an 18D.

On the benefits of his experience:

My experience deploying is helpful because when you're deployed it's a dual role; you have sick call for everyday issues, then you travel with groups that might be hit by an improvised explosive device and you have to do whatever it takes to fix their injuries quickly. That helps here because you've already seen a wide variety of things and it's easier to recognize and minimize some issues.

Upcoming Event Highlight

Experiential Learning Portfolio-Building Workshop

"The road to success begins with experience"

Experiential learning is a process through which students develop knowledge, skills and values from indirect experiences outside of a traditional academic setting. Experiential learning encompasses a variety of activities including internships, service learning, undergraduate research, study abroad and other creative and professional work experiences. In this one-day workshop, participants will learn to identify and document experiential learning in a format that is acceptable to colleges and universities.

This workshop reinforces the SWCS Commanding General's commitment to professionalizing the force by opening new avenues through which military and civilians, students, the operational force and SWCS staff and faculty can gain additional understanding of themselves, their learning experiences and their educational opportunities.

This workshop on experiential learning is the first of several which will bring new facets to the programs and services offered through DRSE. SWCS personnel should look for more of these one-day workshops in the future.

For more information, please contact Ann Marie Famulari in the Directorate of Regional Studies and Education at (910) 432-9604 or famulaan@soc.mil

9 a.m. to 4 p.m., June 14 in Bank Hall on Fort Bragg, N.C.

SWCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12	D Company, 3rd Battalion Activation Ceremony 8:30 a.m. JFK Plaza	U.S. Army Birthday	15	Military Information Support Operations Qualification Course Graduation 9:30 a.m. JFK Auditorium	17	18
19	SWCS NCO and Soldier of the Year Competition (all week)	21	Robin Sage ends	23	24	25
26	5th Battalion, 1st SWTG(A) Activation Ceremony 9 a.m. JFK Plaza	6th Battalion, 1st SWTG(A) Activation Ceremony 8:30 a.m. JFK Plaza	29	30	Training holiday	2