



No Horsing Around

Before reporting for duty at West Point, local mules help future Civil Affairs medics practice veterinary skills



Soldiers attending the Civil Affairs Medical Sergeant course at the Special Warfare Medical Group (Airborne) learn to care for and handle mules by practicing techniques on Jack and Abe. Both mules were personally owned by Maj. Anne Hessinger, the SWMG(A) Veterinarian, until they were donated in December to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. to become the academy's newest mascots.

Story and photos by Dave Chace

SWCS Office of Strategic Communication

For the 10th straight year, U.S. Military Academy students, alumni and fans watched in horror as the U.S. Naval Academy dismantled the Black Knights' football team in the annual Army-Navy game, held Dec. 10.

Even the additional support from two experienced special-operations trainers wasn't enough to help West Point finally find a win against the long-dominant Midshipmen.

Jack and Abe, two mules raised in North Carolina, reported for duty at West Point just prior to the Army-Navy game in order to assume responsibility as the academy's mascots. West Point has maintained live mules as school mascots since 1899.

Jack and Abe were raised and conditioned by Maj. Anne Hessinger, the Special Warfare Medical Group (Airborne) Veterinarian, who manages all veterinary medicine and animal care blocks of instruction for special-operations medical training.

In a Nov. 30 equine care class, part of a full week of veterinary training in the Civil Affairs Medical Sergeant course, Jack and Abe assisted special-operations Soldiers by coming onto Fort Bragg for a

live practical application class on the many facets of horse and mule care.

"After a classroom portion, we bring the students out for hands-on training," Hessinger said. "They learn safety so they can work around the animal without getting hurt, as well as tacking, grooming, physical restraint and physical examinations."

Live experience caring for horses has been a consistent standard in SWCS veterinary training, but upon the closure of Fort Bragg's stables in 2011, Hessinger volunteered her own mules to work with students.

"I think the hands-on training is important, and I want to make sure the students have it," she said. "I think too often we're in a classroom, so any time we can reinforce those lessons with hands-on training, it helps the students remember more for longer."

"As long as I have mules and I'm stationed here, I'll continue to bring them in until we can find a more permanent solution," she said.

Special-operations medics must be trained to handle and inspect a variety of animals because their teams will likely need their expertise while deployed; from caring for and utilizing pack mules to inspecting meat offered as gifts by foreign villagers, special-operations medics could be the only medical resource available to a team for miles.

"There have been teams in Afghanistan that have used horses and mules in the mountains for stealth and access," Hessinger said. "Our Soldiers must also be prepared to treat local animals. If you've got a farmer who depends on his mule to get his goods to a market, and that mule's injured, then maybe they can treat it and improve some stability there."

Hessinger was stationed at the U.S. Military Academy as the installation's veterinarian from 2003 to 2006; during that assignment, she cared for and was even signed for the school's current mascots. After leaving West Point she adopted Jack and Abe with the idea that they could eventually take over as the academy's mascots.

"I'll be sorry to see them go, but it'll be cool to see them up there, especially if they do a good job," she said. To prepare the mules for the crowds and cannon fire involved with West Point football, Hessinger has acclimated them to noise from firecrackers and attention from large groups of strangers.

Upon their commission as West Point mascots, Jack and Abe were renamed Ranger III and Stryker. Guided by the school's cadet mule riders, they will continue to represent the U.S. Military Academy at sporting events, perhaps someday even in an Army football win against Annapolis.

Please join us in thanking our recently retired civilian team members

Thirteen U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School civilian employees retired from government service last week, many of whom were recognized in a U.S. Army Special Operations Command retirement ceremony Dec. 16 on Fort Bragg, N.C.

While we are returning from holiday leave and settling back into our work routines, these members of our SWCS team are starting a new chapter in their lives. Please join us in thanking each and every one of these individuals for their dedicated service to this organization and to our nation, and wish them luck for the future.

Marybeth Anderson-Cormier

Brenda J. Colbert

James E. Edwards

Clenon E. Freeman

Lynda Gibson

John A. Hughes

Joseph W. Lupyak

Donis E. Rice

Benjamin D. Saavedra

Jerry D. Steelman

Judy T. Steelman



Looking for a New Year resolution for 2012? Look no further! Resolve to submit story ideas and columns for publication in *Inside SWCS*, your command newsletter.

1st Quarter Civilian of the Quarter nominations are due Jan. 10

<https://arsocportal.soc.mil/swcs/g1/coq/default.aspx>



Ranger III and Stryker took over the duties of Raider, Ranger II and General Scott Dec. 8, 2011, as they were officially designated as the new Army Mule Mascots during a ceremony at Michie Stadium at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. Formerly known as Jack and Abe and raised by Maj. Anne Hessinger, Special Warfare Medical Group (Airborne) Veterinarian, these mules assisted in the training of special-operations medical sergeants attending training at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, N.C. (see front story).

Foreign Internal Defense: an Army special operations core task

By Gregory W. Georgevitch

Capabilities Development Integration Directorate

The newly developed Field Manual 3-05.2, Foreign Internal Defense, provides doctrinal guidance for the United States Army on conducting foreign internal defense. It is the keystone manual for all subordinate Army FID doctrine. FID has been and remains an Army special operations forces core task, a directed task for the entire spectrum of the conventional forces, and an operation/activity under the Irregular Warfare construct. The relevance of FID in the current operational environment continues to grow. ARSOF, the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense possess the capability to support a host nation in creating a military shield (through FID) in which interagency efforts can comprehensively operate to remove the root causes behind the problems of deteriorating security conditions.


FID is participation by civilian and military agencies of a government in any of the action programs taken by another government or other designated organization to free and protect its society from subversion, lawlessness, insurgency, terrorism, and other threats to its security. FID integrates a comprehensive approach, involving the holistic interaction between multinational, joint, Army and interagency efforts. Army efforts typically include ARSOF units because of their unique cultural and language capabilities.

Army FID operations may be conducted unilaterally in the absence of any other military effort or may support other ongoing military or civilian assistance efforts. FID under Army decisive action may be conducted to defeat an adversary or to establish conditions necessary to achieve the national strategic end state. FID principles intend to preclude the need to deploy large numbers of U.S. military personnel and equipment.

The Army FID practitioner must be aware of the complexity of enhancing the military capabilities of allies, coalitions and partner nations. The FID advisor is an adaptive problem-solver, a creative thinker and has the ability to work in a collaborative environment, building interagency and international partner capacity through a comprehensive unified approach. FID involves the ability to teach particular skills and simultaneously foster friendly relations with host nation counterparts and other U.S. government agencies.

FM 3-05.2, Foreign Internal Defense, September 2011, is published to provide the doctrinal guidance for the U.S. Army on the conduct of FID activities, which provide a comprehensive approach with indirect and direct options to regional security. The instruments of power are the ways, the security assistance resources are the means, and the regional strategic objectives are the ends that are achieved through foreign internal defense.

SWCS Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Federal Holiday	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	Training Holiday	14
15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17	18	19	20	21



U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School

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