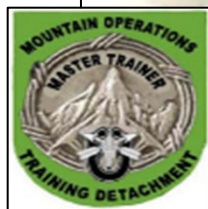


Special Operations Mountain Warfare Training Center

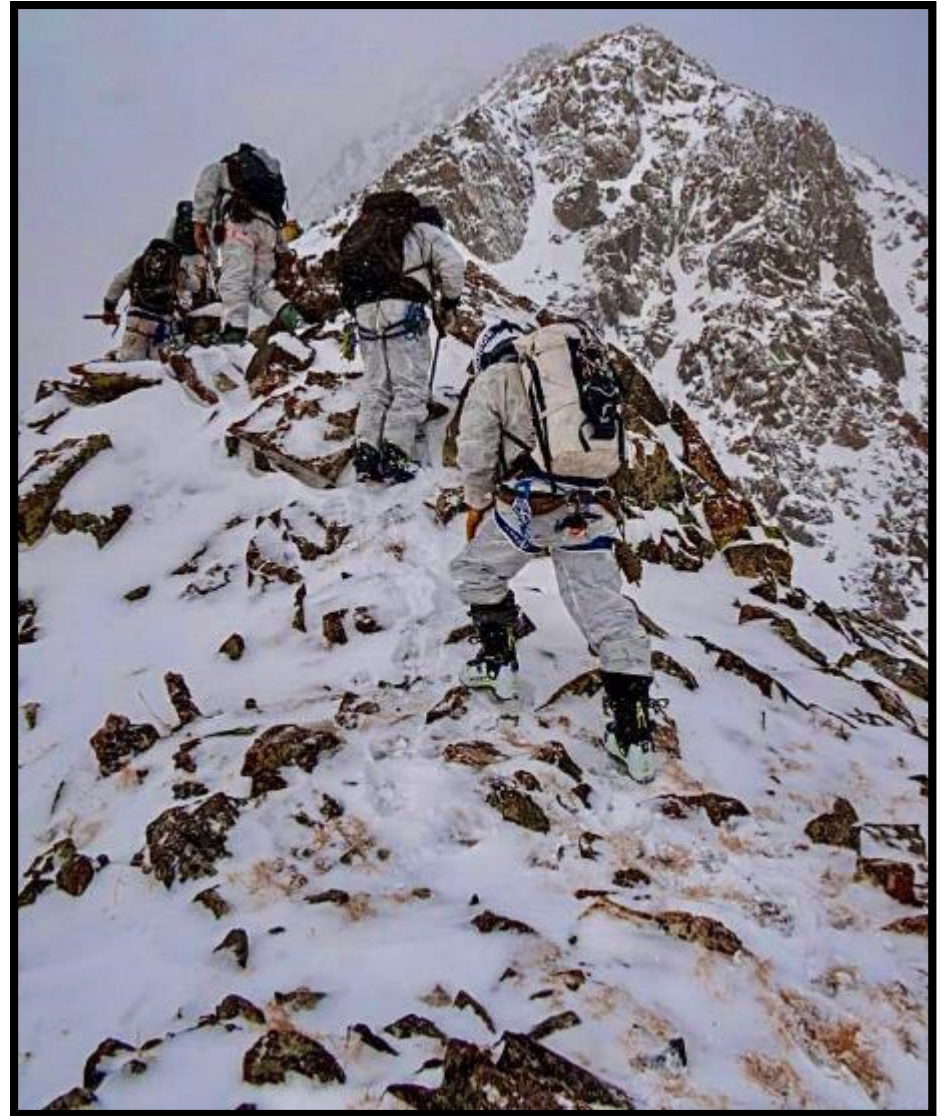




Agenda



- Mission
- Background
- School History
- Cadre
- Capabilities
- Courses Provided
- Supporting the Regiment
- Instructor Training
- Doctrine Development
- Contact Information





Mission



The Special Operations Mountain Warfare Training Center (SOMWTC), trains, certifies, and sustains United States Special Operations Forces (USSOF) personnel in all Military Mountain Operations, including advanced high altitude mountain operations, technical terrain exploitation, and extreme cold weather survival in order to conduct worldwide MMO supporting and achieving U.S. policies, strategic goals and objectives.

On order, SOMWTC supports Theater Special Operations Commands (TSOC) objectives through the deployment of SOMWTC instructors to augment Special Forces Operational Detachment – Alphas (SFOD-As).



Background



Background Information

- SOMWTC is USSOCOM's Military Mountain Operations Lead Component
- 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) is our higher headquarters
- USSOCOM G37 is the overseeing authority

Courses Provided:

- Summer Mountain Operator Course (SMOC)
- Winter Mountain Operator Course (WMOC)
- Alpine Mobility Skills Course (AMSC)



Expanded Purpose



Expanded Purpose: SOMWTC is the USSOCOM Mountain Warfare Lead Component responsible for establishing training standards, instruction, student certifications, doctrine, regulations, while advising USSOF Commanders on MMO worldwide.

Key Tasks:

1. Meet USASOC MMO certification requirements by training USSOF in technical exploitation of mountainous environments.
2. Conduct annual Critical Task Review Boards (CTRBs) for Summer Mountain Operator Course (SMOC) and Winter Mountain Operator Course (WMOC) providing USASOC and USSOCOM updates to MMO doctrine.
3. Observe, assess and validate all AFSOC, MARSOC & NSW Mountain Warfare training programs and equipment fielding (JSATs/JSOTs).
4. Operationalize SOMWTC instructors to supplement MMO expertise throughout USSOF in support of strategic U.S. objectives.



School History



- 1996 – Special Forces Mountain Program created within 10th SFG (A)
- 2009 – 34x Mountain SFOD-A's within the Special Forces Regiment
- 2010 – Program transitioned from 10th SFG(A) to USA Special Force Command G3 (USASFC) and the 1st Special Warfare Training Group (SWTG (A))
- 2011 – Achieved SOCOM Joint SOF Assessment Team (JSAT) Validation
- 2012 – Program returned to 10th SFG(A) from 1st SWTG(A) due to sustain reqs.
- 2021 – USASOC Regulation 350-12: 'Special Operations Mountain Warfare Program' updated and rewritten, PDSI Approved (C3B, C4B)
- 2022 – US Army HRC approved ASI for SMOC and WMOC graduates

Current Training Model:

- Level III (Basic) – Unit-level Instruction by organic SMOC/WMOC graduates
- Level II (Senior) – Summer Mountain Operator Course (7 weeks)
- Level I (Master) – Winter Mountain Operator Course (8 weeks)



SOMWTC Cadre



SOMWTC Command Team

	10 th Group CPT Paul Rogers (18A) Arrived 9/2022 Loss 12/2023 OIC	10 th Group CW2 Mike Mettler (180A) Arrived 12/2022 Loss 12/2024 Operations Warrant	10 th Group MSG Powell (18Z) Arrived 9/2019 Retire 03/2024 NCOIC	10 th Group SFC Curtis (18B) Arrived 7/2017 Loss 07/2023 Chief Instructor	
1 st SFG(A)	3 rd SFG(A)	5 th SFG(A)	7 th SFG(A)	10 th SFG(A)	19 th SFG(A)
1 st Group SFC Bell (18D) Arrived 08/2020 Loss 08/2023	3 rd Group SFC Shepherd (18B) Arrived 08/2020 Loss 08/2023	5 th Group SFC Ezell (18B) Arrived 07/2022 Loss 07/2025	7 th Group SFC Edwards (18F) Arrived 11/2020 Loss 6/2023	10 th Group SFC Brown (18B) Arrived 01/2022 Loss 6/2025	19 th Group VACANT
1 st Group SFC Cosico (18E) Arrived 11/2021 Loss 11/2024	10 th Group SFC Howell (18B) Arrived 12/2019 Loss 01/2023	5 th Group SFC Criste (18D) Arrived 11/2022 Loss 11/2025	7 th Group SFC Hraback (18E) Arrived 6/2021 Loss 06/2024	10 th Group SSG Haran (18D) Arrived 05/2022 Loss 06/2025	20 th SFG(A)
10 th Group SFC Prosvirnin(18B) Arrived 02/2018 Loss 06/2023	3 rd Group VACANT	10 th Group SFC Clinch (18C) Arrived 07/2021 Loss 07/2024	7 th Group SFC Lindsey (18C) Arrived 07/2022 Loss 07/2025	10 th Group SFC Geesaman (18F) Arrived 11/2022 Loss 11/2025	20 th Group VACANT
			7 th Group SSG Wiley (18D) Arrived 11/2022 Loss 11/2025		

Special Operations Mountain Warfare Training Center (SOMWTC)



Special Operations Mountain Warfare Training Center



SOMWTC

- SOCOM Lead Component for high altitude mountain training
- 2 Summer Mountain Operator Courses (7 weeks each; 14 weeks total)
- 1 Winter Mountain Operator Course (7 weeks)
- 1 Alpine Mobility Skills Course (2 weeks)
- 7 week instructor train-up: SMOC
- 6 week instructor train-up: WMOC
- Sustainment training for Regiment (CONUS & OCONUS)

36 weeks/year in the mountains



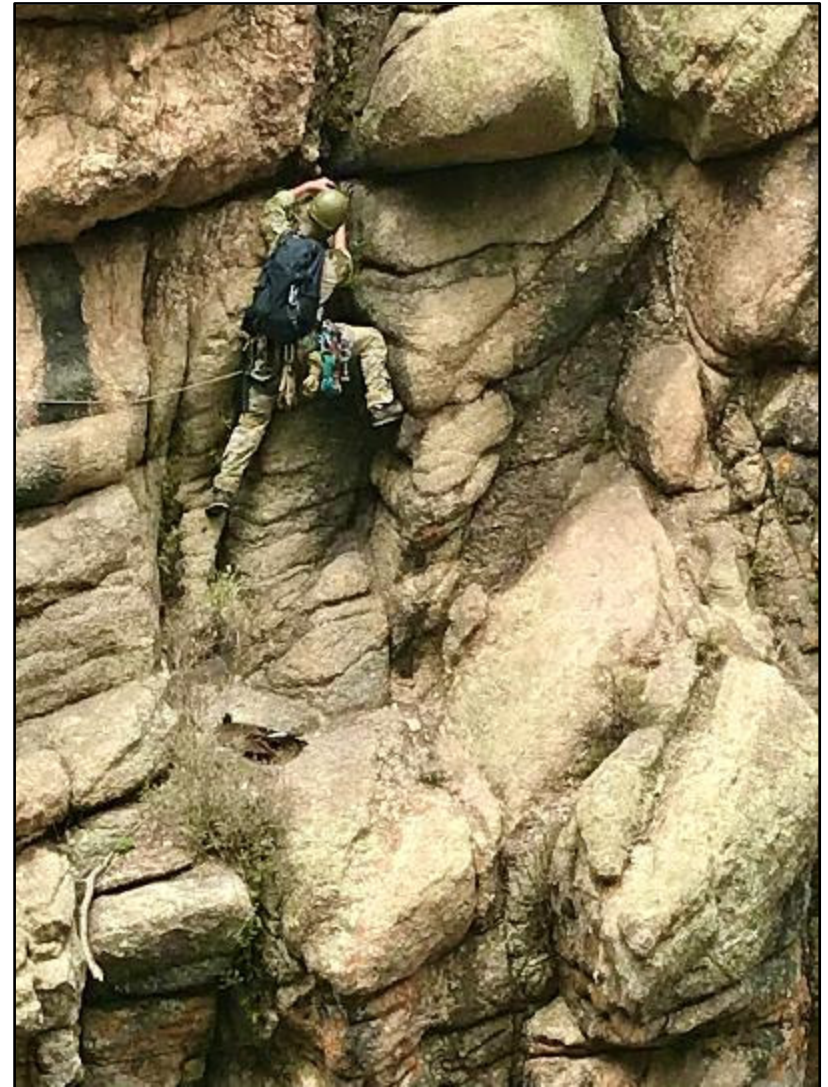


Summer Mountain Operator Course (SMOC)



Key Tasks:

- Basic Mountain Operator Skills Entrance Testing
 - Employ Natural and Artificial Anchors
 - Hauling and Lowering Systems
 - Deliberate and Improvised Rescue
 - Single and Multi-pitch Lead Climbing
 - Improvised Lead Climber Rescue
 - Construct and Manage Fixed Lines
 - Long Range Patrolling Techniques
 - Live Fire Situational Training Exercises (STX)
 - SFOD-A MMO Planning
 - Graded Tactical 3-day CULEX
-
- Course Length: 7 weeks (3 Phases)
 - 2 Courses per year
 - Throughput: 48x graduates per year



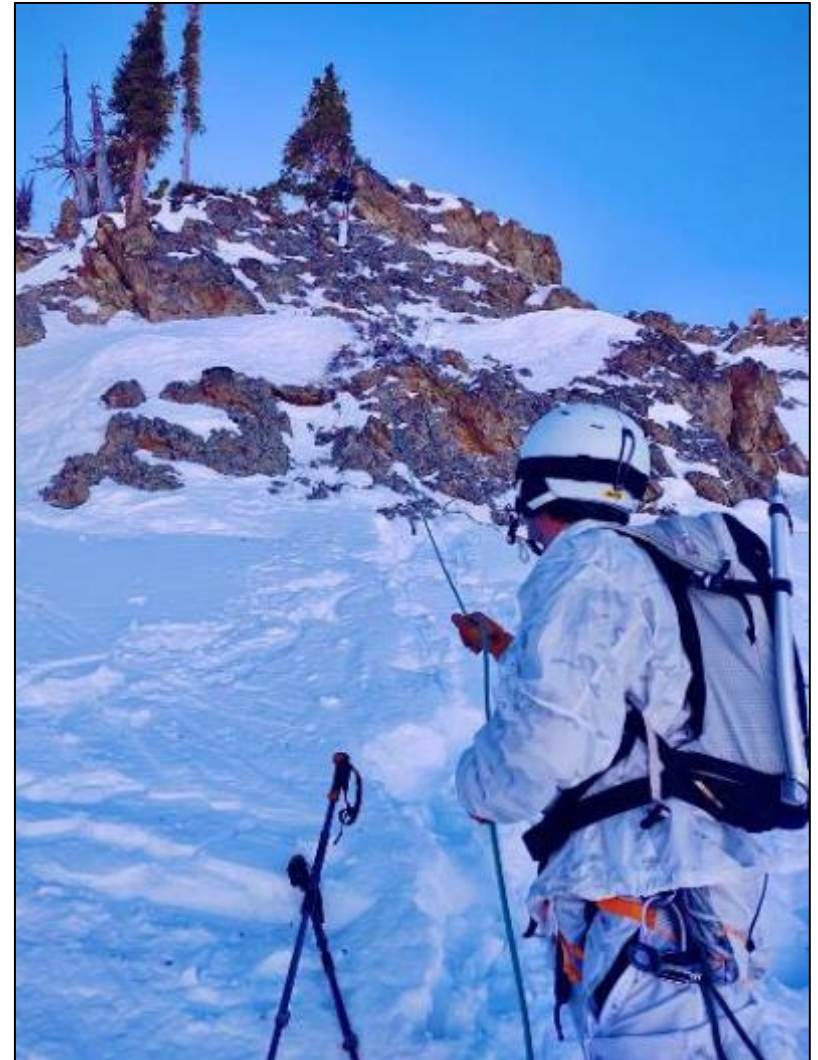


Winter Mountain Operator Course (WMOC)



Key Tasks:

- SMOC Skills Entrance Testing
 - Alpine/Backcountry Ski Training
 - Lead Single and Multi-burial Avalanche Casualty Rescue Ops
 - Construct/Employ Snow/Ice Anchors
 - Conduct Snowpack Analysis
 - Lead Crevasse Rescue Techniques
 - Lead High-Angle Rescue on Steep Snow
 - Conduct Winter Survival Techniques
 - Live Fire Situational Training Exercises
 - Heliborne MOST and RAPIDS
 - SFOD-A Winter MMO Planning
 - Graded Tactical 3-day CULEX
-
- Course Length: 8 weeks (3 Phases)
 - 1 Courses per year
 - Throughput: 24x graduates per year





Alpine Mobility Skills Course (AMSC)



Optional Perquisite to the WMOC, participant must be graduate of the SMOC to attend

Key Tasks:

- Ski Movement Fundamentals
 - Introduction to Backcountry Skiing
 - Conduct Survival Skiing Techniques
-
- Graduates of the AMSC learn to ski at an intermediate level and are more likely to pass the ski assessment during WMOC
 - Course Length: 2 weeks (1 Phase)
 - 1 Courses per year
 - Throughput: 24x graduates per year





Supporting the Regiment



- (1) All Special Forces Groups will maintain a minimum of one Mountain Detachment per Battalion. In addition to these requirements, all (AD) and (ARNG) Special Forces Groups will maintain a minimum of one winter-certified Mountain Detachment (out of the minimum required number of three).
- (2) Winter-certified Mountain Detachments (Level One) will consist of, at a minimum, two Winter Mountain Operators, two Summer Mountain Operators, and the remainder current Basic Mountain Operators, Summer *and* Winter.
- (3) Summer-certified Mountain Detachments (Level Two) will consist of, at a minimum, four Summer Mountain Operators and the remainder current BMO-Summer.



Supporting the Regiment



Support to Global Special Operations:

SOMWTC operationalizes instructors to supplement MMO expertise throughout USSOF in support of strategic U.S. objectives.

Support to SOCOM Mountain Operations:

SOMWTC provides senior instructors to conduct joint assessments and validations of other SOF mountain warfare schools, including NSW, AFSOC, MARSOC, and partner nation mountain programs.

Support to 1st SFC Mountain Operations:

SOMWTC welcomes and invites qualified mountain operators to be guest instructors at all offered courses.



Instructor Training



SOMWTC Instructor Profile:

- Post-team time Winter Mountain Operators (C4B).
- ALL instructors REQUIRED to be WMOC certified (C4B).
- Levied instructors often arrive *unqualified (Requires ASI)*.**
- SOMWTC must train these instructors “in house” prior to utilization.
- SOMWTC prefers to receive instructors with operational military mountaineering experience

Instructor Training Pipeline:

- SOF Basic Mountain Operator-Summer (BMO-S) certified (2 Weeks)
- Summer Mountain Operator Course (7 weeks)
- SOF Basic Mountain Operator-Winter (BMO-W) certified (3 Weeks)
- Winter Mountain Operator Course (7 weeks)
- AIARE Level 1/2 (1 Week)
- AIARE Pro (1 Week)
- Rigging for Rescue (2 Weeks)
- PSIA Level 1 (1 Week)
- Wilderness First Responder (WFR) (1 week)
- SMOC Instructor Certification (6 weeks)
- WMOC Instructor Certification (6 weeks)
- Special Operations Instructor Course (SOIC) (2 Weeks)

***SOMWTC Instructors have a MINIMUM 39 weeks training invested.**





Guest Instructors



SOMWTC Welcomes Guest Instructors!



- We routinely host guest instructors from throughout the U.S. Military including:
 - Marine Special Operations
 - Naval Special Warfare
 - Air Force Special Operations
- SOMWTC has also hosted instructors and/or observers from partner nations during Summer or Winter Mountain Operator Courses
- Reach out to us if you are interested!



Doctrine Development



350-12

*USASOC Regulation 350-12

Training

Special Operations Forces Mountain Operations

08 January 2019



HEADQUARTERS

UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS
COMMAND

FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA 28310-9110

350-34

USSOCOM MANUAL 350-34

UNITED STATES SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

7701 Tampa Point Boulevard

MacDill Air Force Base, Florida 33621-5323

USSOCOM MANUAL

Number 350-34

12 December 2018

TRAINING

U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES BASELINE
INTEROPERABLE STANDARDS – MOUNTAINEERING OPERATIONS

FOREWORD

1. Purpose. This manual implements policies and procedures, assigns responsibilities, and defines tasks, conditions, and standards that apply to the training of U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) personnel in Mountaineering Operations.

2. Applicability. This manual is applicable to all units under USSOCOM, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Naval Special Warfare Command, Air Force Special Operations Command, Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, Special Operations Command, Theater Special Operations Commands, and the National Guard and State National Guard Units and Detachments.

3. Proponent. The proponent is the USSOCOM Directorate of Joint Special Operations Forces (SOJ) Development, Training & Education Division (J7-T&E), Individual Training Branch (J7-T&E-T), Attention: Planning and Policy, 7701 Tampa Point Boulevard, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida 33621-5323.

(J7-T&E)

*This Manual supersedes M 350-34, 04 November 2014. (See Summary of Changes on page ii.)

Pages: 44

COVER

i



1st SFC(A) references:



350-1

SOC Reg 350-1

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND
2929 DESERT STORM DRIVE
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA 28310-9110

USASOC Regulation
No. 350-1

Training
Army Special Operations Forces (ARSO) Training

History. This publication is a major revision and supersedes USASOC Regulation 350-1, dated 24 July 2006 with Rapid Action Revision, dated 5 April 2011.

Summary. This publication prescribes policies, procedures and responsibilities for conducting the United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) training leader development.

Applicability. This regulation is applicable to HQ, USASOC and all assigned or attached subordinate commands and their personnel whether Active, Reserve or National Guard, it also applies to Department of the Army Civilian employees.

Proponent and exception authority. The proponent of this regulation is the Deputy Chief of Staff (DCS), G-3. The proponent has the authority to approve exceptions or waivers to this regulation that are consistent with controlling law and regulations. Subordinate Commands/Component Subordinate Units (CSCs/CSUs) may request a waiver of this regulation by providing justification that includes a full analysis of the expected benefits. All requests will be endorsed by the commander and forwarded through their higher headquarters to the policy proponent. Refer to AR 25-30 for specific guidance.

Internal Control System. This regulation is subject to the requirements of AR 11-2. It contains internal control provisions but does not contain checklists for conducting internal control reviews.

Supplementation. Supplementation of this regulation is authorized at the CSC/CSU level when additional command directed requirements are established in order to provide a single source for training and education requirements and guidance across the command.

Suggested Improvements. The proponent of this regulation is USASOC DCS, G3 (AOOP), Fort Bragg, NC 28310-9110. Users are encouraged to submit recommended changes, suggest improvements, and reports of errors to the proponent on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms).

Distribution. Distribution A: Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.

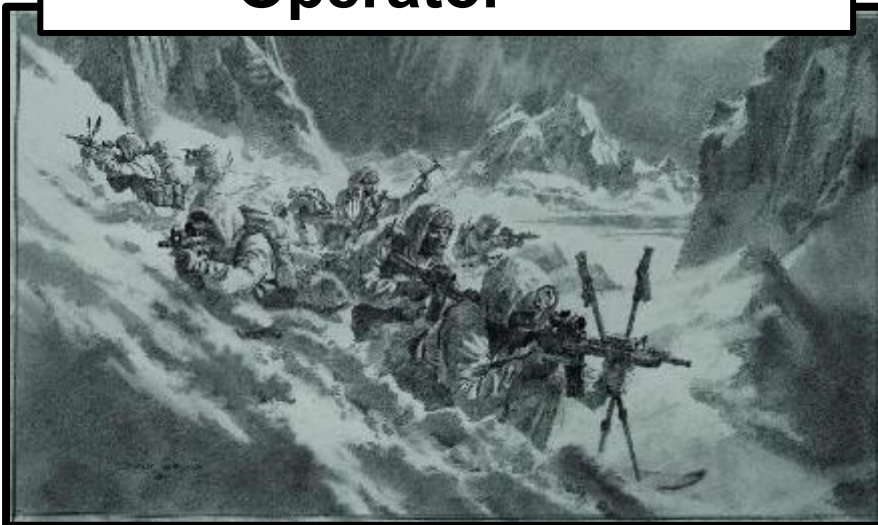


Personnel Development Skill Identifier (PDSI)



C3B

C3B: Summer Mountain Operator



Senior Mountaineering (Level 2)

- a. PDSI Code Proponent.
Commander, U. S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (AOJK-SFP), Fort Bragg, NC.
- b. PDSI qualifications. Successful completion of the Special Operations Advanced Mountaineering School (SOAMS) Senior Mountaineering Course (Level 2) conducted under the auspices of US Army Special Operation Command.
- c. Activities authorized to submit requests for award of PDSI.
USAJFKSWCS (ATTN: AOJK-SFP or AOJK-DTD-PRP), 3004 Ardennes St (Stop A), Fort Bragg, NC 28310-9610.
- d. Restrictions. For use with AOCs 11 and 18 officers in grades O3-O5, warrant officer MOS 180A in grades W2-W5 or enlisted CMFs 11 and 18 in grades E6-E9; and any other AOC or CMF deemed appropriate by the PDSI Code Proponent on a by-exception basis.
- e. Estimated termination date.
Indefinite.

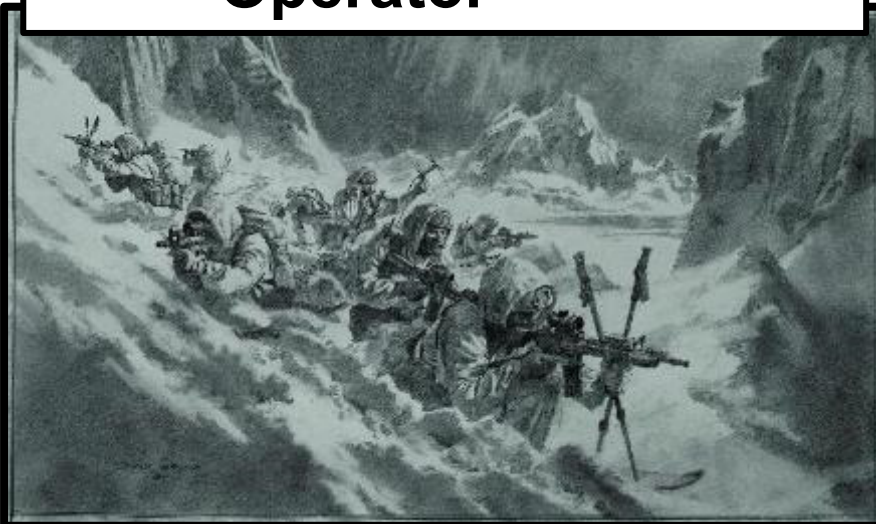


Personnel Development Skill Identifier (PDSI)



C4B

C4B: Winter Mountain Operator



Mountaineering Leaders (Level 1)

- a. PDSI Code Proponent.
Commander, U. S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (AOJK-SFP), Fort Bragg, NC.
- b. PDSI qualifications. Successful completion of the Special Operations Advanced Mountaineering School (SOAMS) Mountain Leaders Course (Level 1) conducted under the auspices of US Army Special Operation Command.
- c. Activities authorized to submit requests for award of PDSI.
USAJFKSWCS (ATTN: AOJK-SFP or AOJK-DTD-PRP), 3004 Ardennes St (Stop A), Fort Bragg, NC 28310-9610.
- d. Restrictions. For use with AOCs 11 and 18 officers grades O3 thru O5, warrant officer MOS 180A in grades W2 thru W5 and enlisted CMFs 11 or 18 in grades E6 thru E9; and any other AOC or CMF deemed appropriate by the PDSI Code Proponent on a by-exception basis.
- e. Estimated termination date.
Indefinite.



Student entrance standards:



- 50 question mountain knowledge written test
- Equipment lay-out & inspection

Hands-on skills testing:

- Basic knots
- Hauling (3:1/5:1)
- Lowering w/ knot pass
- Leader rescue
- Belay techniques
- Rappelling techniques

Fitness Assessment:

- Incline (45 mins) **PASS/FAIL**
- 8 dead hang pull-ups **PASS/FAIL**



Questions?



SOMWTC Office: 719-524-3242

[Special Operations Mountain Warfare Training Center \(SOMWTC\) - Home](#)
[\(sharepoint-mil.us\)](#)

Email: paul.r.rogers.mil@socom.mil