

USAJFKSWCS hosts Mexican Special Warfare Center

“Building partnership capacity elsewhere in the world also remains important for sharing the costs and responsibilities of global leadership. Across the globe we will seek to be the security partner of choice, pursuing new partnerships with a growing number of nations — including those in Africa and Latin America — whose interests and viewpoints are merging into a common vision of freedom, stability, and prosperity. Whenever possible, we will develop innovative, low-cost, and small-footprint approaches to achieve our security objectives, relying on exercises, rotational presence, and advisory capabilities.”

—Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership:
Priorities for 21st Century Defense,
January 2012

In March of 2013, Special Forces doctrine writers at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School hosted a week-long working group with the Mexican Special Warfare Center, the Centro de Adiestramiento de las Fuerzas Especiales. The event was an opportunity to advise and collaborate with the Mexican Army in a center-to-center venue to enhance regional partnership and understanding. The mutual exchange produced a comprehensive Mexican Special Forces doctrine plan. Both centers will continue to work together based on this established relationship.

Plans for the working group began in the fall of 2012 when the Mexican Special Forces command visited SWCS. Brig. Gen. Carlos Cesar Gomez, commander of the Mexican Army Special Forces, along with the C.A.F.E. commander Lt. Col. Gallegos identified a gap in their doctrine in regards to special operations and expressed a desire to conduct further dialogue on the topic. The U.S. Army Northern Command Special Operations Directorate representative CW3 Jose Villareal and SF Doctrine Developer CW2 Mark Roland worked together to plan the exchange.

Prior to the visit, the Mexican Army had no Special Forces doctrine for policy makers, strategic planners, operational and tactical units. This left Lt. Col. Gallegos, the commander of the C.A.F.E. with a difficult challenge. As the proponent for various Mexican SOF activities, and the point of responsibility for developing the techniques,



COMPAÑERO Special Forces doctrine writers work alongside Soldiers from the Centro de Adiestramiento de las Fuerzas Especiales.

tactics and procedures for SF units and the greater army, the commander did not have manuals showing what “right looks like” for the force to instruct, train and employ.

Through three days of discussions and exchanges of ideas that lead to mutual understanding, the working group drafted a system that will provide Mexican Special Forces the doctrine to inform policy makers, sister services and the force. At the operational and tactical level there will be common language and concepts for all to use and reference when educating, training and employing the force. For the tactical-level operator there will be established TTP’s to refer to when necessary.

There is a wealth of SOF experience, cultural and language capabilities that can be applied to regional activities. ARSOF 2022 directs the force to “develop CONUS-based capabilities to develop partner-nation SOF doctrine, training and education institutions.” Utilizing these skills develops and maintains the capabil-

ity of our force as we are building partnerships and achieving this goal.

The U.S. national defense paradigm is partnership; this is clear in the guidance given from the 2012 Defense Guidance, SOF 2020 and ARSOF 2022 visions. This partnership is the history and roots of our force, and the way we help others meet their growing security and defense needs. Center-to-center partnership is an efficient way to provide our partners with the concepts and mechanisms to cement tactical gains with operational concepts in order to achieve mutual strategic success.

The doctrine exchange between Mexico’s C.A.F.E. and the USAJFKSWCS concluded with two SOF training centers coming away with a completed product, mutual understanding and long-term commitments for continued exchanges. For those who participated, it was an opportunity to use regional focus, language and partnership to validate current ARSOF goals. **SW**