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July 17, 2009

Naval Special Warfare: Globally Positioned, Mission-Tailored Maritime Forces

"...in those moments of danger and decision, these Americans did what they were trained to do. They remembered their skills. They did their duty. They performed their job. They stood their watch. They took their time and then they took their shot. And they brought that Captain home."

– President Barack Obama, on the April 20 rescue of Capt. Richard Phillips, USNA Commencement, May 22, 2009

The Maritime Strategy ensures maritime security while deterring future conflicts. Piracy on the high seas is just one example of today's conflicts which are increasingly characterized by a hybrid of traditional and irregular tactics, decentralized planning and execution, and non-state actors using both simple and sophisticated technologies in innovative ways. Naval Special Warfare's core capabilities directly support execution of Irregular Warfare and the Maritime Strategy.

Persistent Global Presence with Purpose

- SEALs and Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen (SWCC) have been engaged in sustained combat operations for more than seven years while simultaneously maintaining forward presence around the globe. This global reach extends beyond traditional deployment areas and reflects missions ranging from counter-terrorism operations to an increased emphasis on security force assistance and Irregular Warfare.

Deterrence and Maritime Security

- Naval Special Warfare is closely partnered with Gulf Cooperation Council states to increase maritime security and build partner nation capacity within the Persian Gulf maritime environment.
- Naval Small Craft Instruction and Technical Training School trains partner nation security forces in high-level riverine and coastal craft operations to increase mutual security and alliances in waterways around the globe.

"Irregular Warfare is about people, not platforms." - [IV JOC SEP07](#)

- Irregular Warfare depends not just on military prowess but on understanding social dynamics such as tribal politics, social networks, religious influences, and cultural mores. From the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Naval Special Warfare has developed Iraqi Special Operations Forces to build capacity and ensure long-term security through key leader engagements and civic-military operations aimed at influencing the population and providing collective security with the government of Iraq.
- Since 2002, Naval Special Warfare has been working with the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines, supporting its mission to conduct and oversee humanitarian civic action programs that are part of the U.S. Pacific Command's long-term security assistance partnership.
- The Navy needs patient, persistent and culturally astute personnel to build local relationships and partnerships essential to executing Irregular Warfare. Naval Special Warfare is working with countries such as Thailand, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain, conducting combined training and exercises involving human rights awareness and joint mission planning.

Key Messages

- Using state-of-the-art equipment and employing the elements of surprise, mobility and firepower in a disciplined and controlled manner, Naval Special Warfare can attack unsuspecting enemies many times their size and help shape the battlespace.
- The strength of the Naval Special Warfare community is its people. Naval Special Warfare's most important weapon will always be the SEAL and SWCC operator and the Navy technical specialists who support them.

Facts & Figures

- Naval Special Warfare forces are currently deployed in more than 40 countries around the world.
- This year, Naval Special Warfare has trained with forces from dozens of countries, including Afghanistan, Brazil, Colombia, Iraq, Korea and Panama to name a few.
- The Naval Small Craft Instruction and Technical Training School has provided training to more than 6,000 international students from more than 55 countries.