



## **Comanche Special Forces Vet to Speak Here Nov. 6**

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Tasiwoopa api, a Comanche/Mohawk and 24-year veteran with U.S. Special Forces who has worked as a writer, reviewer and human services specialist, will speak on Tuesday, Nov. 6, at SUNY Cortland.

His talk, "Psychology of Culture and Its Impact on Soldiers and Their Families: Cultural Differences Between Indigenous and White Soldiers and How Their Respective Societies Herald Their Departure and Return from Armed Combat," will begin at 7 p.m. in Brockway Hall Jacobus Lounge.

Presented by the Psychology Department, the lecture is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Tasiwoopa api, who has previously spoken at the College, served in U.S. Army Special Forces as an occupational safety and health specialist, a combat medic, a diplomatic military liaison posted to embassies and an instructor of indigenous populations. He earned the Bronze Star, Silver Star and Purple Heart.

Upon retiring from the armed forces, he entered the field of human services, working with veterans and sufferers of post-traumatic stress disorder. He has a master's degree in human relations from the University of Oklahoma.

Tasiwoopa api has remained close to his traditional elders and knowledge, working as master apprentice with the Comanche Language Education Project. A regular contributor to WWII Magazine, he interviewed, in Comanche, the last surviving Comanche Codetalker, culminating in a co-authored article for the magazine.

A documentary filmmaker and producer, Tasiwoopa api has captured on film a record of the concerns of the 133rd Engineering Company preparing for deployment as members of the 9th Infantry Division of the Wyoming National Guard. He has worked on this project with Sierra Adare-Tasiwoopa api, his spouse and co-founder of their not-for-profit organization, Educational Fundamentals. He plans to interview and film members of the same military unit as they return home from Iraq.

The lecture is supported by a Campus Artist and Lecture Series grant. For more information, call the Psychology Department at (607) 753-4218.