

**DETER, DISRUPT AND DEFEAT TERRORIST THREATS**

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# **FACT BOOK**

United States  
Special Operations Command



# FACT BOOK

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## **USSOCOM MISSION**

**Provide fully capable Special Operations Forces to defend the United States and its interests.**

**Synchronize planning of global operations against terrorist networks.**





# USSOCOM PRIORITIES

## Deter, Disrupt & Defeat Terrorist Threats

- Plan & Conduct Special Operations
- Emphasize Persistent, Culturally-Attuned Engagement
- Foster Interagency Cooperation

## Develop & Support our People & Families

- Focus on Quality
- Care for our People and Families
- Train & Educate the Joint Warrior/Diplomat

## Sustain & Modernize the Force

- Equip the Operator
- Upgrade SOF Mobility
- Obtain Persistent Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance Systems





# USSOCOM

The Department of Defense (DOD) activated U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) April 16, 1987, at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. DOD created the new unified command in response to congressional action in the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 and the Nunn-Cohen Amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act of 1987. Congress mandated a new four-star command be activated to prepare Special Operations Forces (SOF) to carry out assigned missions and, if directed by the president or secretary of defense (SECDEF), to plan for and conduct special operations.

To enable USSOCOM to carry out its mission, Congress gave the new command specific authorities and responsibilities:

## **Title 10 Authorities and Responsibilities**

- ♠ Develop special operations strategy, doctrine and tactics
- ♠ Prepare and submit budget proposals for SOF
- ♠ Exercise authority, direction and control over special operations expenditures
- ♠ Train assigned forces
- ♠ Conduct specialized courses of instruction
- ♠ Validate requirements
- ♠ Establish requirement priorities
- ♠ Ensure interoperability of equipment and forces
- ♠ Formulate and submit intelligence support requirements
- ♠ Monitor Special Operations officers' promotions, assignments, retention, training and professional military education
- ♠ Ensure Special Operations Forces' combat readiness
- ♠ Monitor Special Operations Forces' preparedness to carry out assigned missions

♠ Develop and acquire special operations-peculiar equipment, materiel, supplies and services

In addition to the service-like authorities of developing training and monitoring readiness, some of the authorities Congress gave USSOCOM are unique responsibilities for a unified command. USSOCOM is not dependent on the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Air Force for its budget or to develop and buy new equipment, supplies or services for the command. USSOCOM has its own budgetary authorities and responsibilities through a specific Major Force Program (MFP-11) in DOD's budget. Additionally, USSOCOM has its own acquisition authorities, so it can develop and buy special operations-peculiar equipment, supplies or services.

Before the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, USSOCOM's primary focus was on its supporting command mission of organizing, training and equipping SOF and providing those forces to support the geographic combatant commanders and U.S. ambassadors and their country teams. The president further expanded USSOCOM's responsibilities in the 2004 Unified Command Plan. The Unified Command Plan assigned USSOCOM responsibility for synchronizing Department of Defense plans against global terrorist networks and, as directed, conducting global operations. USSOCOM receives, reviews, coordinates and prioritizes all DoD plans that support the global campaign against terror, and then makes recommendations to the Joint Staff regarding force and resource allocations to meet global requirements.



USSOCOM has approximately 54,000 active duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Department of Defense (DOD) civilians assigned to the headquarters, its four components and one sub-unified command. USSOCOM's components are U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC), Naval Special Warfare Command (NAVSPECWARCOM), Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) and Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC). The Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) is a USSOCOM sub-unified command.

### SOF Core Activities

**Direct Action:** Short-duration strikes and other small-scale offensive actions taken to seize, destroy, capture or recover in denied areas.

**Special Reconnaissance:** Acquiring information concerning the capabilities, intentions and activities of an enemy.

**Unconventional Warfare:** Operations conducted by, through and with surrogate forces that are organized, trained, equipped, supported and directed by external forces.

**Foreign Internal Defense:** Providing training and other assistance to foreign governments and their militaries to enable the foreign government to provide for its country's national security.

**Civil Affairs Operations:** Activities that establish, maintain or influence relations between U.S. forces and foreign civil authorities and

civilian populations to facilitate U.S. military operations.

**Counterterrorism:** Measures taken to prevent, deter and respond to terrorism.

**Psychological Operations:** Operations that provide truthful information to foreign audiences that influence behavior in support of U.S. military operations.

**Information Operations:** Operations designed to achieve information superiority by adversely affecting enemy information and systems while protecting U.S. information and systems.

**Counterproliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction:** Actions taken to locate, seize, destroy or capture, recover and render such weapons safe.

**Security Force Assistance:** Unified action by joint, interagency, intergovernmental and multinational community to sustain and assist host nation or regional security forces in support of a legitimate authority.

**Counterinsurgency Operations:** Those military, paramilitary, political, economic, psychological and civic actions taken by a government to defeat insurgency.

**Activities Specified by the president or SECDEF**





# USSOCOM COMPONENT COMMANDS



**U.S. Naval  
Special Warfare  
Command**

Naval Base  
Coronado, Calif.







**Joint Special Operations Command**  
Fort Bragg, N.C.



**U. S. Army  
Special Operations  
Command**  
Fort Bragg, N.C.



**U.S. Marine Corps Forces  
Special Operations  
Command**  
Camp Lejeune, N.C.



**U.S. Air Force  
Special Operations  
Command**  
Hurlburt Field, Fla.



**Joint Special Operations  
University**  
Hurlburt Field, Fla.



**U.S. Special Operations  
Command**  
MacDill AFB, Fla.



AIRBORNE

USASOC



# U.S. Army Special Operations Command

U.S. Army Special Operations Command was established Dec. 1, 1989, by the Department of the Army at Fort Bragg, N.C., as a Army Service Component Command to enhance the readiness of SOF. USASOC is home to the elite fighting forces who conduct operations across the full spectrum of warfare, including unconventional warfare, counterproliferation, direct action, psychological operations, special reconnaissance, civil affairs, foreign internal defense and information operations.

USASOC commands and controls two component subordinate commands, and four component subordinate units, which in turn train and maintain forces for deployment by USSOCOM to combatant command theaters worldwide.

USASOC's two component subordinate commands are U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne), and the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, both headquartered at Fort Bragg, N.C. The component subordinate units include the Sustainment Brigade (Special Operations) (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C.; 75th Ranger Regiment, headquartered at Fort Benning, Ga.; 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Ky.; 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C.; and 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The command also provides oversight of Army National Guard Special Forces' readiness, organization, training and employment in coordination with the National Guard Bureau and state adjutants general.

The mission of the **Special Forces** groups is to plan, prepare for, and when

directed, deploy to conduct unconventional warfare, foreign internal defense, special reconnaissance and direct actions in support of U.S. national policy objectives within designated areas of responsibility.

The units continually train to conduct unconventional warfare in any of its forms — guerrilla warfare, subversion and sabotage. The Soldiers are also trained in direct-action operations and special reconnaissance.

Approximately 1,400 Soldiers are assigned to each group. The 12-man "A" Team is the key operating element of the Special Forces group.

**Rangers** are the masters of special light infantry operations. These include attacks to temporarily seize and secure key objectives and other light infantry operations requiring unique capabilities. Like their Special Forces counterparts, Rangers can infiltrate into an area by land, sea or air.

The **160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne)** is a unique unit. It provides support to Special Operations Forces on a worldwide basis with three types of modified helicopters.

The capabilities of the aviation units include inserting, resupplying and extracting U.S. and Allied SOF personnel. They also assist in SOF search and rescue, and escape and evasion activities. In addition to general aviation support to SOF, these units provide airborne command and control, and fire support.

The mission of **Psychological Operations** is to disseminate truthful information to foreign audiences in support of U.S. goals and objectives. PSYOP units accomplish their mission by disseminating messages in the form of leaflets, posters, broadcasts and audiovisual tapes.

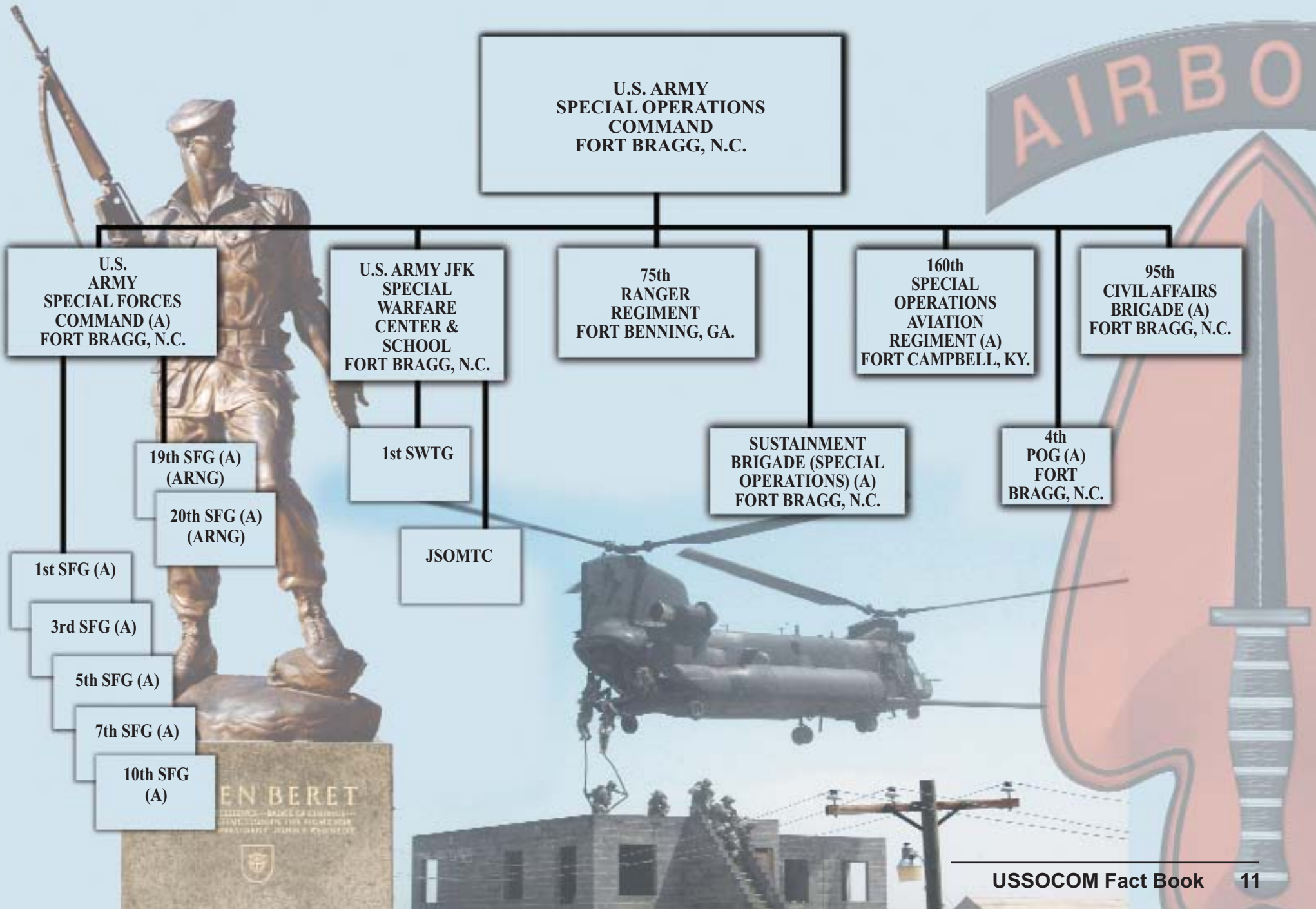
The **Civil Affairs** units are designed to prevent civilian interference with tactical operations, to assist commanders in discharging their responsibilities toward the civilian population, and to provide liaison with civilian government agencies.

**Sustainment Brigade (Special Operations) (Airborne)** was activated Dec. 2, 2005, as part of the overall Army Special Operations Forces logistics transformation. SBSO(A) provides combat service support and combat health support to Army SOF in the full spectrum of conflict.





# U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND



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USASOC



## U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne)



The Army 1st Special Operations Command was redesignated the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) Nov. 27, 1990. The mission of USASFC (A) is to organize, equip, train, validate and prepare Special Forces units to deploy and execute operational requirements for the U.S. military's warfighting geographical combatant commanders throughout the world.

Within USASFC (A), there are five active component groups and two U.S. Army National Guard groups. Each group has three line battalions, a group support battalion and a headquarters company. The companies within the line battalions

have six Operational Detachment Alphas, or A-teams, assigned to them. The ODA is the heart and soul of SF operations.

Unlike any other divisional-sized unit, USASFC (A) components are not located in one place, but spread out from coast-to-coast and throughout the world.

Each Special Forces Group is regionally oriented to support one of the warfighting geographic combatant commanders (GCCs). Special Forces Soldiers routinely deploy in support of the GCCs of U.S. European Command, U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Central Command and U.S. Africa Command.

Special Forces units perform seven doctrinal missions: unconventional warfare, foreign internal defense, special reconnaissance, direct action, combatting terrorism, counterproliferation, and information operations. These missions make Special Forces unique in the U.S. military because they are employed throughout the three stages of the operational continuum: peacetime, conflict and war.

Special Forces Command's unconventional warfare capabilities provide a viable military option for a variety of operational taskings that are inappropriate or infeasible for conventional forces, making it the U.S. military's premier unconventional warfare force.

Foreign internal defense operations, SF's main peacetime mission, are designed to help friendly developing nations by working with their military and police forces to improve their technical skills, understanding of human rights issues, and to help with humanitarian and civic action projects.

SF units are often required to perform additional, or collateral, activities outside their primary missions. These collateral activities are coalition warfare/support, combat search and rescue, security assistance, peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, humanitarian de-mining and counter-drug operations.

On an everyday basis, Soldiers of the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) are deployed around the world, living up to their motto – De Oppresso Liber “To Free the Oppressed.”





## John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School



The U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School — USASOC’s special operations university — is responsible for special operations training, leader development, doctrine and personnel proponency for Special Forces, Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations.

The Center and School’s training group conducts the complete spectrum of special operations training.

The Group’s 1st Battalion conducts four of the six phases of training in the Special Forces training pipeline: Phase I is the three-week Special Forces Assessment and Selection course, Phase II is Small Unit Tactics training and Phase IV is the unconventional warfare exercise known as “Robin Sage.” Phase VI is the Survival, Escape, Resistance and Evasion course.

The 2nd Battalion teaches advanced Special

Operations skills in weapons training; military free fall and combat diving. They also teach all Special Forces Warrant Officer courses and the 18F Military Occupational Skills course, or Special Forces Intelligence Sergeant’s course.

The 3rd Battalion conducts Phase V of the Special Forces training pipeline – language training. Additionally, 3rd Battalion is responsible for all civil affairs and psychological operations training and conducts an extensive regional studies program.

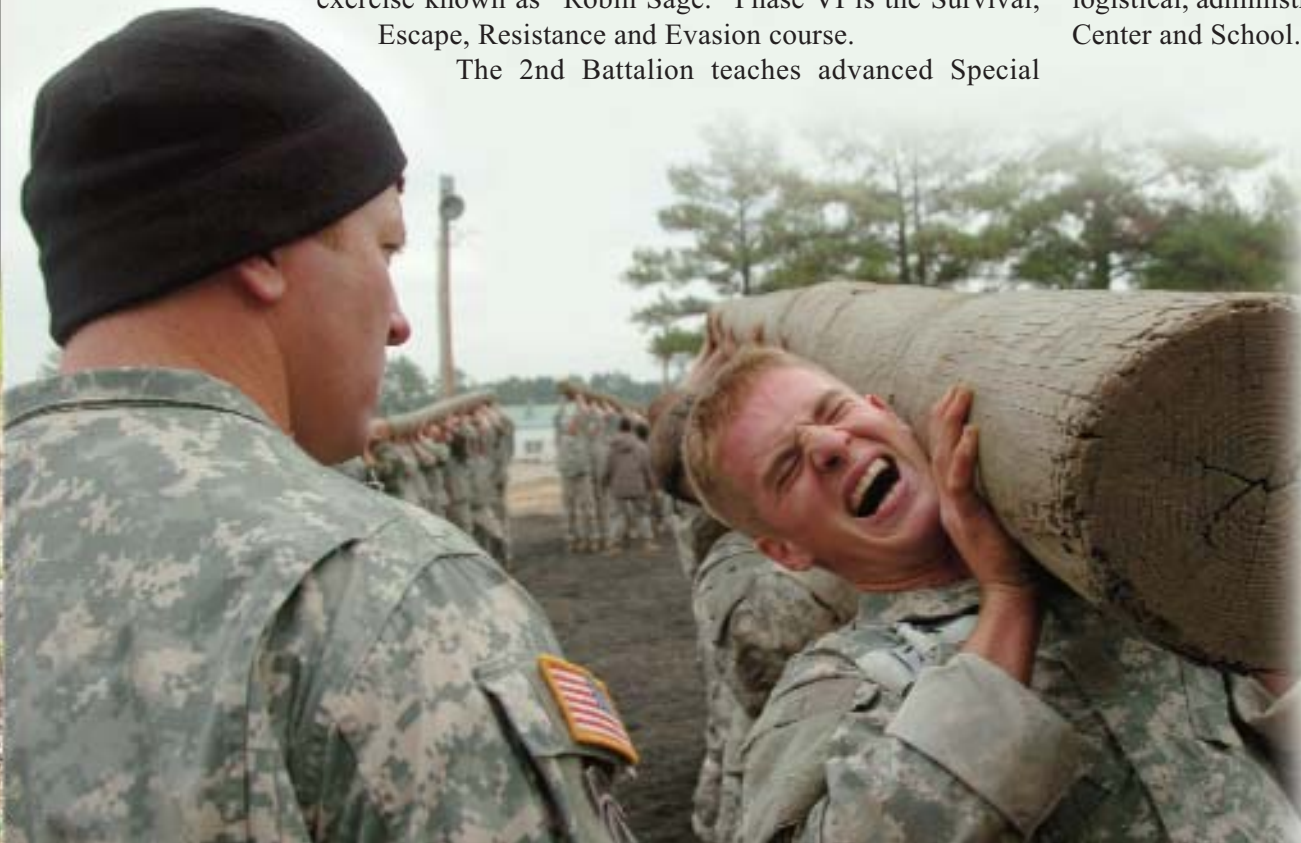
The 4th Battalion conducts Phase III of the SF training pipeline including the Weapons, Engineer, Communications and Medical Sergeant’s courses and the Officer Qualification course.

The Support Battalion, consisting of 29 different combat service support MOSs allows the training battalions to focus on quality training by providing the logistical, administrative, transportation and facility management support to the Center and School.

The Joint Special Operations Medical Training Center is responsible for all U.S. Military Special Operations Forces’ combat medical training including Army Rangers and Navy SEALs.

The Noncommissioned Officer Academy prepares enlisted Soldiers for leadership positions in all Army Special Operations Forces including Special Forces, Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations. Soldiers receive training in leadership skills, military studies, resource management, effective communication, operations and intelligence, unconventional warfare, operational planning, psychological operations and advanced military occupational skills.

The Center and School conducts more than 100 different courses and trains over 14,000 students annually. Since 1963, the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School has trained Special Operations Forces.





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USASOC



The 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) began as an emergency deployment from Fort Campbell, Ky., in 1980 evolving into a highly specialized SOF rotary wing aviation capability today. The 160th SOAR is the USASOC's special operations aviation unit specifically manned, equipped and trained to provide precision aviation support to SOF worldwide under any operational and threat environment. To accomplish its mission, the 160th SOAR employs a unique combination of sophisticated, highly modified and combat proven aircraft, (MH-60/MH-47/MH-6/AH-6). These aircraft, coupled with the regiment's stringently selected and highly trained aircrews, provide SOF with an ever-expanding array of reliable aviation capabilities. This includes precision rotary wing operations; long-range infiltrations/exfiltration, performing in adverse weather and all terrain/environmental conditions. The regiment can also conduct long-range precision attack and close air support for ground SOF and personnel recovery.



## 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment [Airborne]



MH-6/AH-6



MH-47



MH-60



## 75th Ranger Regiment

The 75th Ranger Regiment is a lethal, agile and flexible force, capable of conducting direct-action raids and forced entry operations across the entire spectrum of combat. The Regiment sustains deployed forces conducting combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is also transforming to meet future operational requirements, without sacrificing mission success.

Each of the three geographically dispersed Ranger battalions can deploy anywhere in the world for no-notice missions. Their capabilities include direct-action raids, seizing key terrain such as airfields, and destroying

strategic facilities. Rangers are capable of conducting squad- through regimental-size operations using a variety of infiltration techniques including airborne, air assault and ground platforms. The Regiment has an intensive screening and selection process. Rangers are resourced to maintain exceptional proficiency, experience and readiness. Their training encompasses arctic, jungle, desert and mountain operations, as well as amphibious instruction. Training and executing missions at night and during adverse weather demonstrates their motto, "Rangers lead the way."



AIRBORNE

USASOC



# 4th Psychological Operations Group

4th Psychological Operations Group is a vital part of the broad range of U.S. political, military, economic and ideological activities used by the U.S. government to secure national objectives. PSYOP units develop, produce and disseminate information to foreign audiences in support of U.S. policies and national objectives. Used during peacetime, contingency operations and declared

war, these activities are not a form of force, but are force multipliers that use nonviolent means in often violent environments. Persuading rather than compelling physically, they rely on logic, fear, desire or other motivational factors to promote specific emotions, attitudes or behaviors. The ultimate objective of U.S. military psychological operations is to influence target audiences to take action favorable to the policies of the United States and its allies.



# U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND



## Sustainment Brigade (Special Operations) (Airborne)

Sustainment Brigade (Special Operations) (Airborne) activated Dec. 2, 2005, as part of the overall Army Special Operations Forces logistics transformation. SBSO(A) provides combat service support and combat health support to Army SOF in the full spectrum of conflict. It also plans, coordinates and provides operational

and tactical communications for Joint Special Operations Task Force commanders with the 112th Special Operations Signal Battalion (Airborne), the Brigade Troops Battalion, the Army SOF Support Cell, two Medical Level II teams, and five Special Operation Liaison Elements.



activities, plan and execute noncombatant evacuation, support counterdrug operations and establish and maintain liaison with civilian aid agencies and other nongovernmental organizations.

In support of Special Operations, these culturally oriented, linguistically capable Soldiers may also be tasked to provide functional expertise for foreign internal defense operations, unconventional warfare operations and direct-action missions.

Civil Affairs units support military commanders by working with civil authorities and civilian populations in the commander's area of operations during peacetime, contingency operations and war.

Civil Affairs specialists identify critical requirements needed by local citizens in war or disaster situations. They also locate civilian resources to support military operations, help minimize civilian interference with operations, support national assistance

The functional structure of Civil Affairs Forces and their expertise, training and orientation provide a capability for emergency coordination and administration where political-economic structures have been incapacitated.





# NAVSPECWARCOM

## Naval Special Warfare Command

Naval Special Warfare Command is the maritime component of U.S. Special Operations Command. Established at Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, Calif., in April 1987, NAVSPECWARCOM's mission is to organize, train, man, equip, educate, sustain, maintain combat readiness and deploy Naval Special Warfare Forces to accomplish Special Operations missions worldwide. NSW Forces operate independently or in conjunction with other SOF, allied units and coalition forces.

A tactical force with strategic impact, NSW mission areas include special reconnaissance, direct action, unconventional warfare, combating terrorism, foreign internal defense, information warfare, security assistance, counter-drug operations, personnel recovery and hydrographic reconnaissance.

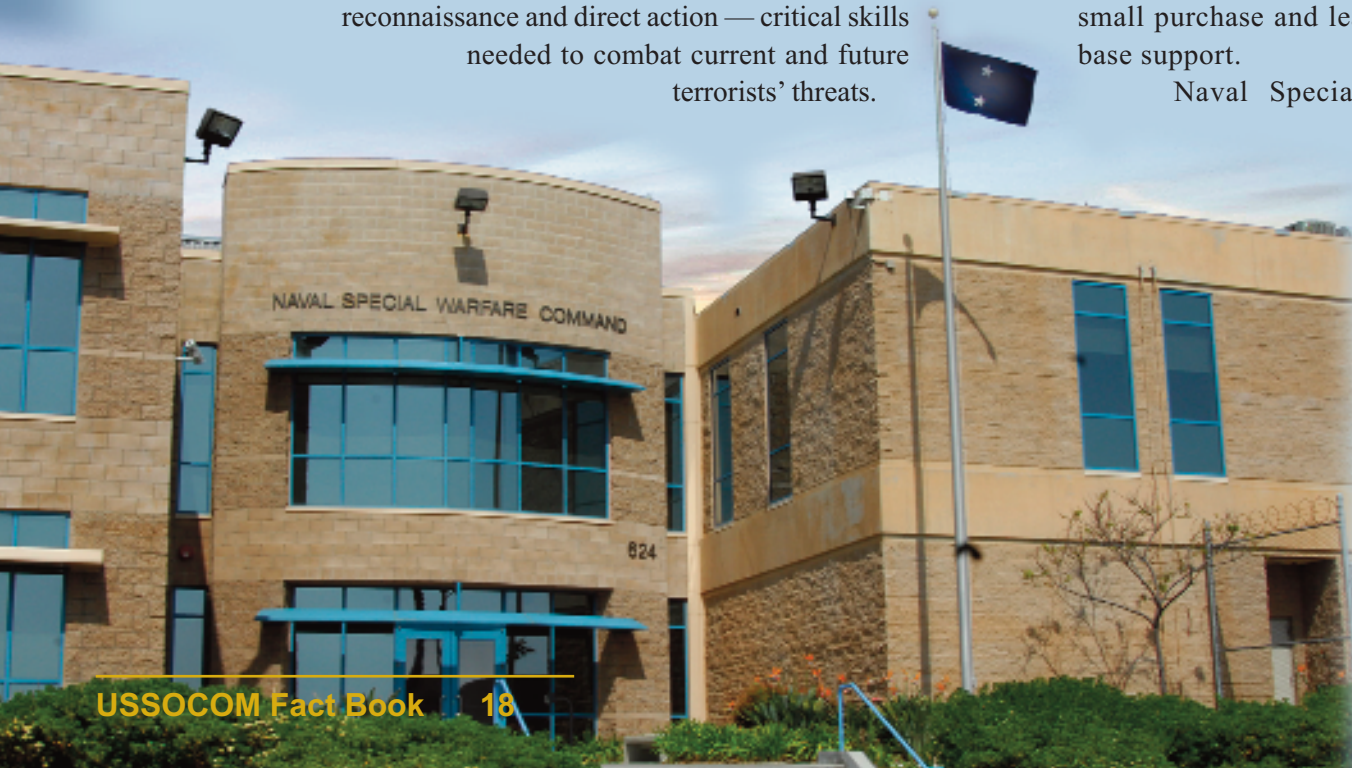
NSW core training is focused on strategic reconnaissance and direct action — critical skills needed to combat current and future terrorists' threats.

Naval Special Warfare Groups are major commands that train, equip and deploy components of NSW squadrons to meet the exercise, contingency and wartime requirements of geographic combatant commanders, Theater Special Operations Commands, and numbered fleets located around the world. Two logistical support units are responsible for equipping the teams, and two detachments assume responsibility for individual, unit and squadron level training. This allows NSW Operators to maintain a strong operational focus.

Naval Special Warfare Combat Service Support Teams provide full-spectrum logistics support to SEAL (sea, air, land) Teams, Special Boat Teams, NSW Task Groups/Task Units. Tasking for each CSST includes crisis-action and logistics planning and coordination; in-theater contracting, small purchase and leasing actions; and comprehensive forward operating base support.

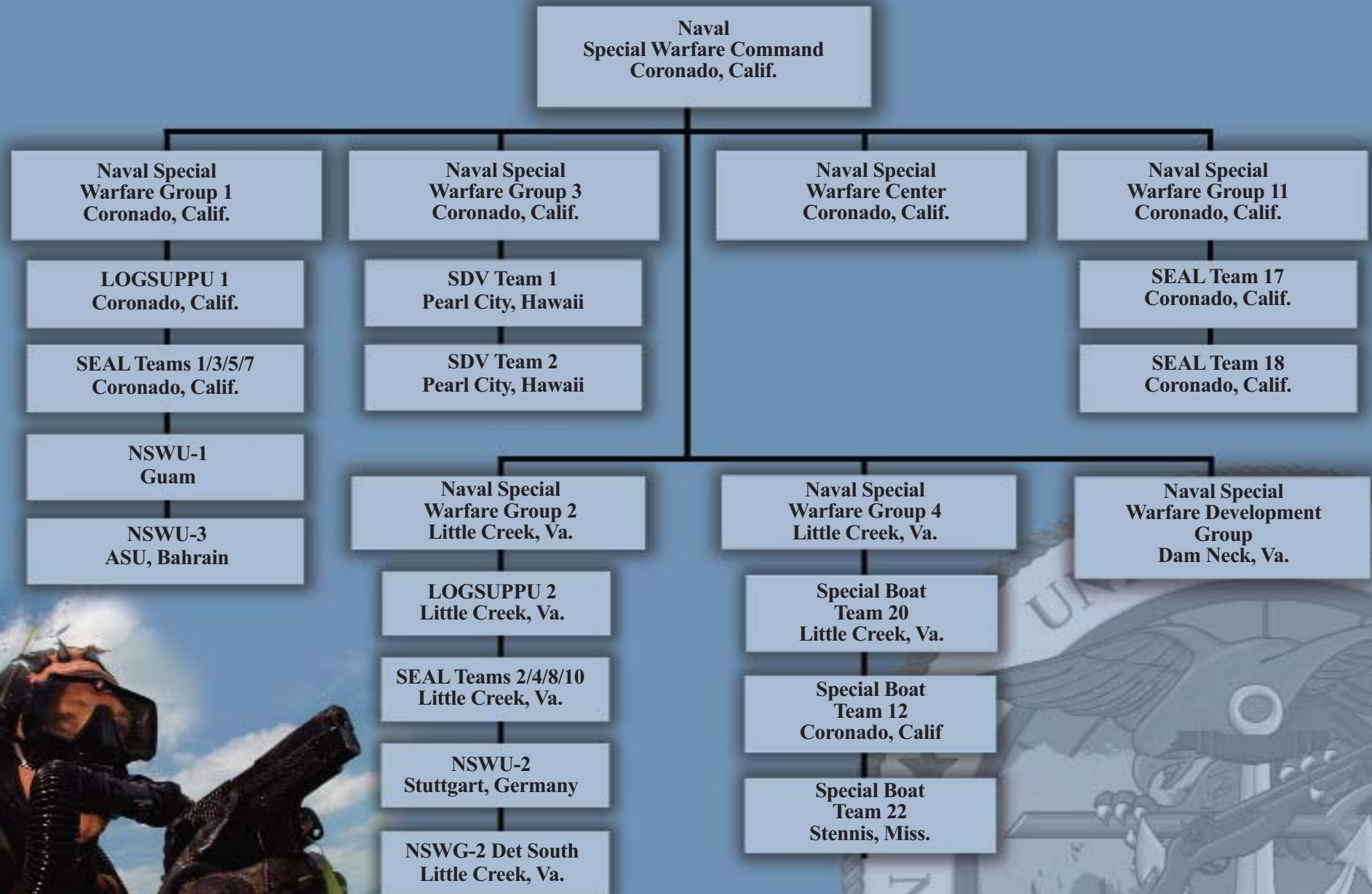
Naval Special Warfare Center provides basic and advanced instruction and training in maritime Special Operations to U.S. military and government personnel and members of select foreign armed forces. NSWC is responsible for the oversight of all courses that lead to individual SEAL and Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen qualifications or certifications.

Naval Special Warfare Development Group, located in Little Creek, Va., manages the test, evaluation and development of technology applicable to Naval Special Warfare forces. The command also develops maritime ground and airborne tactics for Naval Special Warfare and Department of Defense wide application.





# NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE COMMAND





# NAVSPECWARCOM

## SEALs (Sea, Air, Land)



The SEAL Team is the heart of the NSW force, a multipurpose combat force organized and trained to conduct a variety of special operations missions in all environments. SEALs conduct clandestine missions infiltrating their objective areas by fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft, Navy surface ships, combatant craft, submarines and ground mobility vehicles.





# NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE COMMAND

## Special Boat Teams (SBT)



Special Boat Teams (SBT) are manned by Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen (SWCC) who operate and maintain state-of-the-art surface craft to conduct coastal patrol and interdiction and support special operations missions. Focusing on infiltration and

exfiltration of SEALs and other SOF, SWCCs provide dedicated rapid mobility in shallow water areas where larger ships cannot operate. They also bring to the table a unique SOF capability:

Maritime Combatant Craft Aerial Delivery System — the ability to deliver combat craft via parachute drop.







# NAVSPECWARCOM

## SEAL Delivery Vehicle Teams

SEAL Delivery Vehicle Teams are specially trained SEALs and support personnel who conduct undersea operations from SDVs, Dry Deck Shelters, and the Advanced SEAL Delivery System. DDS deliver SDVs and specially trained forces from modified submarines. When teamed with their host submarines, the ASDS and SDV platforms provide the most clandestine maritime delivery capability in the world.





## Maritime Surface Platforms

### Rigid-hull Inflatable Boat

The Rigid-hull Inflatable Boat performs short-range insertion and extraction of SOF, limited coastal patrol, and interdiction and reconnaissance. The RIB is a high performance combatant craft that is air transportable by C-5 Galaxy, C-17 Globemaster and C-130 Hercules aircraft, and it can be air dropped from C-130 or larger military aircraft. Each craft is manned by a crew of three Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen and can carry eight SOF personnel.



### MK V Special Operations Craft

The MK V Special Operations Craft performs medium-range infiltration and extraction of SOF, limited coastal patrol and interdiction in low to medium threat environments. The MK V SOC is a high performance combatant craft sized to permit air deployment aboard C-5 aircraft. Each craft is manned by a crew of five Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen and can carry 16 SOF personnel.



### Special Operations Craft - Riverine

The Special Operations Craft-Riverine performs short-range insertion and extraction of SOF in riverine and littoral environments. The SOC-R is a high performance craft sized to permit air transport aboard C-130 or larger military aircraft. Each craft is manned by a crew of four Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen and can carry eight SOF personnel.





# NAVSPECWARCOM

## Undersea Platforms

### Advanced SEAL Delivery System

ASDS is the first long-range, dry combat submersible system designed to clandestinely insert and extract Special Operations forces and their combat gear in a full range of threat environments. ASDS transports SOF in a climate controlled environment, reducing the physical risk to the Operators and maximizing their ability to conduct the mission once they've arrived at the objective area.

### MK VIII MOD SEAL Delivery Vehicle and Dry Deck Shelter

The Dry Deck Shelter is a floodable pressure vessel carried by a host submarine for undersea operations. A minimum crew of six Navy divers operates the controls for flooding, draining and pressurizing the DDS. Host submarine provides the DDS with electrical power and high-pressure air. The DDS can be used to launch and recover a SEAL Delivery Vehicle or to conduct mass swimmer lock-out/lock-

in operations utilizing SEALs and Combat Rubber Raiding Craft (CRRC). The divers who operate the DDS control and assist in all launch and recovery operations.



**MK VIII MOD SEAL Delivery Vehicle (SDV) and Dry Deck Shelter (DDS)**



**Advanced SEAL Delivery System (ASDS)**



## Ground Mobility Platforms

### Ground Mobility Vehicle – Navy

The GMV-N is a SEAL-specific humvee that employs a multitude of weapons and is fitted with a modular armor kit. Depending on the mission, armor can be added or removed to either increase speed and maneuverability or increase protection. The GMV-N can carry up to five Operators into some of the harshest terrain in the world. Every member of a SEAL team completes an intensive, four-week tactical ground mobility training course where they learn the limitations of the vehicle, basic maintenance and tactical driving skill sets.

### Mine Resistant/Ambush Protected Vehicle

The SOCOM employed MRAP is a vehicle with similar handling capabilities as the GMV-N, but has been specifically developed to protect the crew from explosive events. The v-hull is designed to survive direct blasts and prevent the crew inside from suffering severe injuries. The weapons system in the turret is remote-operated from inside the cabin, eliminating the exposed gunner position. The MRAP can carry up to eight combat-ready Operators.



Mine Resistant/ Ambush Protected Vehicle (MRAP)



Ground Mobility Vehicle – Navy (GMV-N)





# AFSOC

## AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

Air Force Special Operations Command located at Hurlburt Field, Fla., was established May 22, 1990. AFSOC, the air component to USSOCOM, is responsible for the readiness of active duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard SOF for worldwide deployment. AFSOC is comprised of highly trained, rapidly deployable Airmen equipped with highly specialized fixed wing aircraft. AFSOC's aerospace warriors deliver the Nation's specialized airpower to provide SOF mobility, specialized intelligence support, forward presence and engagement with coalition partners.

AFSOC Forces' missions include close air support/precision firepower, infiltration, exfiltration, resupply, aerial refueling, air/ground interface (Battlefield Airmen), aviation foreign internal defense, intelligence support to special operations (including unmanned aerial surveillance), and airborne radio and television broadcast for psychological operations.





# AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

**Air Force  
Special Operations  
Command**  
Hurlburt Field, Fla.

23rd  
Air Force  
Hurlburt Field, Fla.

623rd  
Air Operations  
Center  
Hurlburt Field, Fla.

11th  
Intelligence Sq.  
Hurlburt Field, Fla.

18th  
Flight Test Sq.  
Hurlburt Field, Fla.

919th  
Special Operations  
Wing (AFRES)  
Duke Field, Fla.

5th Special Operations  
Sq. (AFRES)  
(AFSOTC)  
Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Air Force Special  
Operations Training  
Center  
Hurlburt Field, Fla.

U.S. Air Force  
Special Operations  
School  
Hurlburt Field, Fla.

19th  
Special Operations  
Squadron (TRNG)  
Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Special Tactics  
Training Sq.  
Hurlburt Field, Fla.

720th  
Special Tactics  
Group  
Hurlburt Field, Fla.

10th  
Combat Weather Sq.  
Hurlburt Field Fla.

21st  
Special Tactics Sq.  
Pope AFB, N.C.

22nd  
Special Tactics Sq.  
McChord AFB, Wash.

23rd  
Special Tactics Sq.  
Hurlburt Field, Fla.

24th  
Special Tactics Sq.  
Fort Bragg, N.C.

17th  
Air Support  
Operations Sq.  
Fort Bragg, N.C.

1st  
Special Operations  
Wing  
Hurlburt Field, Fla.

27th  
Special Operations  
Wing  
Cannon AFB, N.M.

193rd  
Special Operations  
Wing  
Harrisburg, Penn.

352nd  
Special  
Operations Group  
RAF Mildenhall, U.K.

353rd  
Special Operations  
Group  
Kadena AB, Japan



# AFSOC

## SPECIAL TACTICS

Special Tactics, AFSOC's Battlefield Airmen, is comprised of combat control, pararescue and special operations weather, and tactical air control party personnel capable of providing terminal guidance for weapons, control of assault zone aircraft, fire support, mission planning, medical and weather support. Special Tactics Teams frequently operate with Navy SEALs, Army Rangers and Special Forces in direct action, airfield seizure and personnel recovery missions in hostile territory.





# AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

## AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS TRAINING CENTER

The Air Force Special Operations Training Center is a primary support unit of AFSOC. The training center mission is to recruit, assess, select and conduct AFSOC-specific training, including aircrew qualification, special tactics, Combat Aviation Advisor and courses conducted at the Air Force Special Operations School.

The 19th Special Operations Squadron is an advanced weapons instruction and mission rehearsal unit and is AFSOC's formal school for AC-130H, AC-130U, MC-130E, U-28 and Combat Aviation Advisors. The squadron teaches more than 1,100 classes in 70 distinct syllabi of instruction for initial mission qualification, instructor upgrade and continuation refresher training.

The Special Tactics Training Squadron conducts advanced skills training for combat controllers, pararescuemen and special tactics officers before they depart for operational special tactics squadrons. The STTS mission will

expand to train special operations weather Airmen, AFSOC's Deployed Aircraft Ground Response Element, integrated combat skills for Combat Aviation Advisors, and will integrate Tactical Air Control Party Airmen into the third phase of the special tactics advanced skills training curriculum.

The Air Force Special Operations School offers focused education in irregular warfare, regional studies and cultural awareness, Special Operations Forces professional development to educate Air Commandos, the special operations community, services and other U.S. government agencies.

A total force integration effort, the AFSOTC brings together the strengths of active duty, Reserve, Air National Guard, Department of Defense civilians and contract personnel to form an integrated education team dedicated to training new Air Commandos and building warrior ethos to navigate uncertain times ahead.







# AFSOC

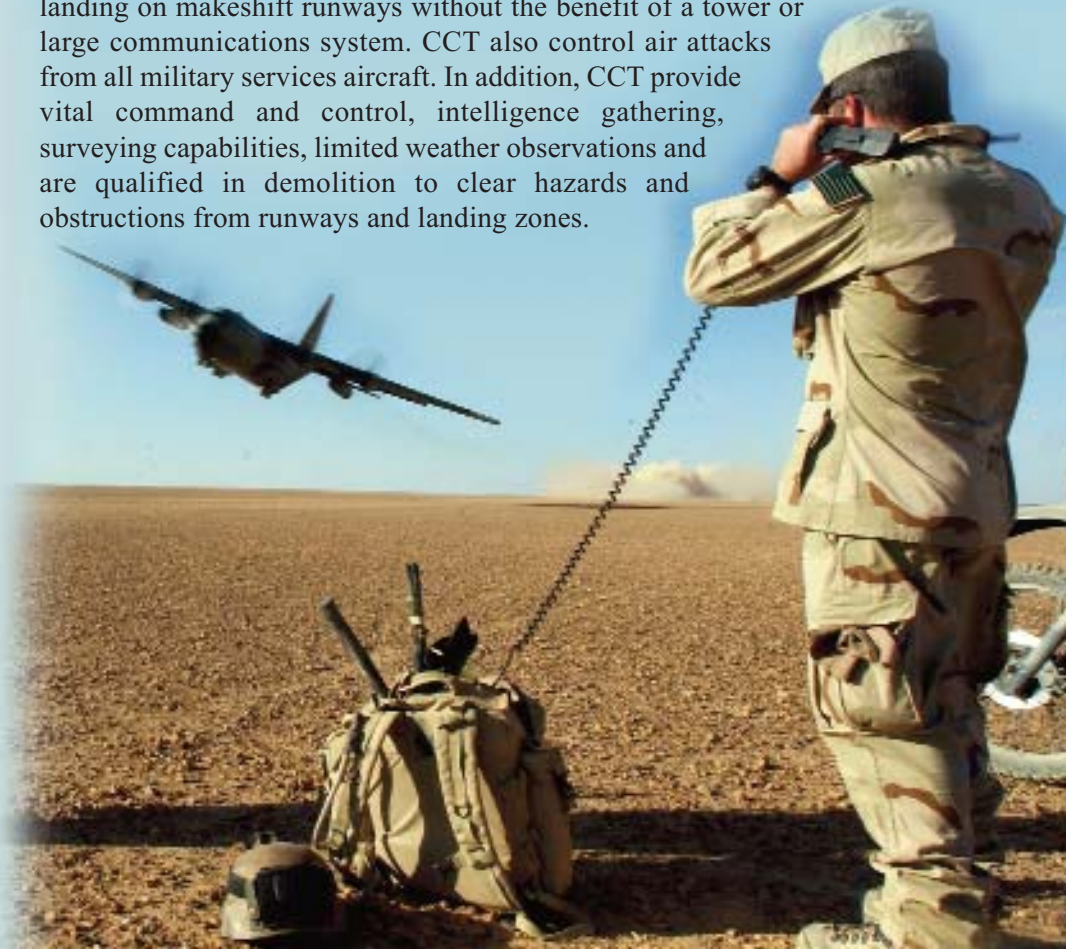
## Combat Aviation Advisors

Combat Aviation Advisors of the 6th Special Operations Squadron help U.S. global partners to wield airpower. These Air Commandos are culturally savvy, linguistically trained and politically astute Airmen, hand selected for their skill, maturity and professionalism to advise foreign forces in rotary and fixed-wing combat aviation, maintenance, base support, security and tactics. They execute the aviation foreign internal defense mission and train foreign units in specialized and unconventional tactics. The 6th SOS is the only combat aviation advisory unit in the DOD. Every day, the 6th SOS has Air Commandos deployed to any given theater of the globe and maintain instructor qualifications on numerous foreign-made aircraft.



## Combat Controllers

Combat Controllers are Special Operators and certified air traffic controllers who are an integral part of the Air Force Battlefield Airmen team. Their motto, "First There," indicates the CCT commitment to be the first deployed into restricted environments by air, land or sea to establish assault zones. The assault zone is a drop zone for parachute operations, a landing zone for fixed wing or helicopter operations, or an extraction zone for low altitude re-supply. They set up navigational aid equipment anywhere in the world to guide aircraft for landing on makeshift runways without the benefit of a tower or large communications system. CCT also control air attacks from all military services aircraft. In addition, CCT provide vital command and control, intelligence gathering, surveying capabilities, limited weather observations and are qualified in demolition to clear hazards and obstructions from runways and landing zones.





# AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

## Pararescuemen

Pararescuemen are the only DOD specialty specifically trained and equipped to conduct conventional and unconventional recovery operations. A PJ's primary function is as a personnel recovery specialist, with emergency trauma medical capabilities in humanitarian and combat environments. They deploy in any available manner, from any available platform, to include air-land-sea tactics, into restricted environments to contact, authenticate, extract, treat, stabilize and evacuate injured personnel, while acting in an enemy-evading, recovery role. PJs participate in combat search and rescue, peacetime search and rescue, and protection of the president of the United States, and conduct other operations at the commander's direction. Their motto, "That Others May Live," reaffirms the Pararescueman's commitment to saving lives and self-sacrifice.



## Special Operations Weathermen

Special Operations Weathermen are trained meteorologists with forward ground combat capabilities. They interpret weather data and provide intelligence from deployed locations. Working with Special Operations teams, they collect localized weather intelligence, assist mission planning, generate accurate and mission-tailored target and route forecasts in support of global special operations, conduct special weather reconnaissance and train foreign national forces. The 10th Combat Weather Squadron motto, "Coela Bellatores" or "Weather Warriors," confirms the commitment to deploy into restricted environments by air, land or sea to observe and analyze all weather data from "mud to sun."





# AFSOC

## AFSOC Equipment



The **AC-130** gunship's primary missions are close air support, air interdiction and force protection.

Close air support missions include troops in enemy contact, convoy escort and urban operations.

Air interdiction missions are conducted against preplanned targets or targets of opportunity. Force protection missions include air base defense and facilities defense.

The **AC-130U** employs the latest technologies and can attack two targets simultaneously. The **AC-130H**'s is known as "**Spectre**." The **AC-130U**'s is called "**Spooky**" The U-model is the most recent version of a C-130 gunship.

The **Combat Shadow** flies clandestine or covert low visibility, single or multi-ship low-level missions intruding into politically sensitive or hostile territory to provide air refueling for special operations helicopters.

The **MC-130P** primarily flies missions at night to reduce probability of visual acquisition and intercept by airborne threats. Secondary missions include airdrop of leaflets, small Special Operations teams, resupply bundles, combat rubber raiding craft, as well as covert takeoff and landings and in-flight refueling as a receiver.

**MC-130W Combat Spear:** The **MC-130W** Combat Spear conducts infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of U.S. and Allied Special Operations Forces.

The MC-130W has the most technologically advanced refueling system available, and provides the ability to refuel special operations helicopters and the CV-22. The navigation suite is a fully integrated Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System that interfaces with Low Power Color Radar and Infrared Detection System.

Other collateral missions include forward arming and refueling, specialized ordnance delivery, airdrops in support of psychological operations and limited command and control capabilities.



# AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

## AFSOC Equipment



The **MC-130E Combat Talon I** and **MC-130H Combat Talon II** provide infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of SOF and equipment in hostile or denied territory. Secondary missions include psychological operations and helicopter air refueling.

Both aircraft feature terrain-following and terrain-avoidance radars capable of operations as low as 250 feet in adverse weather conditions. They can locate and either land or airdrop on small, unmarked zones with pinpoint accuracy day or night.



The **EC-130E/J Commando Solo**, a specially modified four-engine Hercules transport, conducts information operations, psychological operations and civil affairs broadcasts in AM, FM, HF, TV and military communications bands.

A typical mission consists of the Commando Solo flying near and broadcasting to the desired audience – either military or civilian personnel. Modifications made to Commando Solo include enhanced navigation systems, self-protection equipment, air refueling and the capability of broadcasting radio and color TV on all worldwide standards.



The **CV-22 Osprey** is a tiltrotor aircraft that combines the vertical takeoff, hover and vertical landing qualities of a helicopter with the long range, fuel efficiency and speed characteristics of a turboprop aircraft. Its mission is to conduct long range infiltration, exfiltration and resupply missions for Special Operations Forces.

This versatile, self-deployable aircraft offers increased speed and range over other rotary-wing aircraft, enabling Air Force Special Operations Command aircrews to execute long-range special operations missions.

The CV-22 can perform missions that normally would require both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft.



# AFSOC

## AFSOC Equipment



### Intra-theater Airlift

The AFSOC intra-theater airlift fleet provides mobility for small Special Operations teams within an area of responsibility. The fleet, made up of light and medium lift aircraft, is able to perform takeoffs and landings on short, unimproved runways.

Currently, the fleet consists of the **U-28A** and **M-28**. This growing mission set will likely see the addition of more airframes in the future.



The **MQ-1 Predator** is a medium-altitude, long-endurance, remotely piloted aircraft. The MQ-1's primary mission is interdiction and conducting armed reconnaissance against critical, perishable targets.

When the MQ-1 is not actively pursuing its primary mission, it acts as the Joint Forces Air Component Commander-owned theater asset for reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition in support of the geographic combatant commanders.



# AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

## AFSOC Equipment



The **Battle Air Targeting Micro Air Vehicle (BATMAV)** Small Unmanned Aircraft System provides real-time direct situational awareness and target information for Air Force Special Operations Command Battlefield Airmen.

The BATMAV falls into the class known as micro UAS. The BATMAV UAS features the expendable BATMAV Air Vehicle, a Ground Control Unit and Communications Ground Station.

BATMAV is a collapsible lightweight AV with a two-bladed propeller driven by a small electric motor. The BATMAV is equipped with an internal Global Positioning System / Inertial Navigation System, autopilot and two on-board cameras.

The system can function autonomously, or controlled by one Operator using a handheld remote control unit.



The **RQ-11 Raven** Small Unmanned Aircraft System provides real-time direct situational awareness and target information for Air Force Special Operations Command Battlefield Airmen and Air Force Security Forces.

The Raven falls into the class of Air Force small UAS known as man-portable UAS. The Raven UAS features two Air Vehicles (AV), a Ground Control Unit, Remote Video Terminal, transit cases, and support equipment.

Two specially trained Airmen operate the Raven AV. The AV can be controlled manually or can autonomously navigate a preplanned route. Raven includes a color electro-optical camera and an infrared camera for night operations.

The Raven has proven itself in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.



# MARSOC

## Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command

In October 2005, the secretary of defense directed the formation of a Marine component of U.S. Special Operations Command. It was determined the Marine Corps would initially form a unit of approximately 2,500 to serve with USSOCOM. MARSOC reached full operational capability in October 2008.

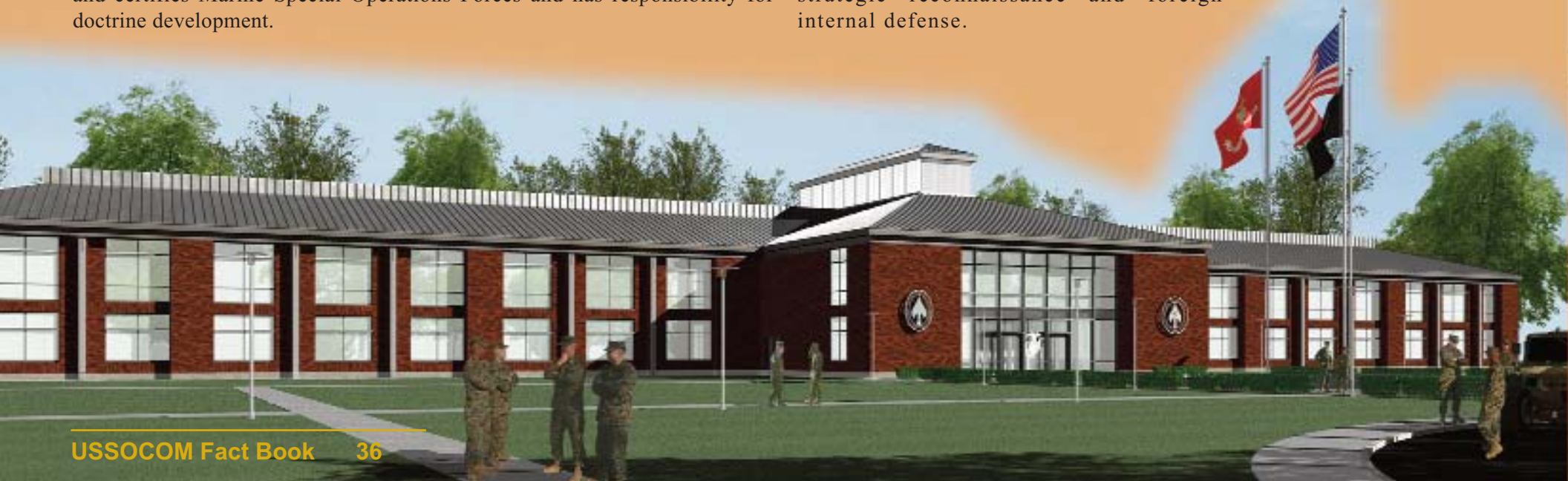
On Feb. 24, 2006, **MARSOC** activated at Camp Lejeune, N.C. MARSOC initially consisted of a small staff and the Foreign Military Training Unit, which had been formed to conduct foreign internal defense. FMTU is now designated as the **Marine Special Operations Advisor Group**.

In the months after the activation of MARSOC, the structure and personnel of both 1st and 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company transferred to MARSOC to form the **1st and 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalions**.

MARSOC also formed the **Marine Special Operations Support Group** and the **Marine Special Operations School**. The MSOSG provides combat support and combat service support to MARSOC Units, to include: logistics, communication and intelligence. The MSOS screens, assesses, selects, trains and certifies Marine Special Operations Forces and has responsibility for doctrine development.

As a service component of USSOCOM, MARSOC is tasked by the commander of USSOCOM to train, organize, equip and when directed by commander of USSOCOM, deploy task organized, scaleable and responsive U.S. Marine Corps Special Operations Forces worldwide in support of combatant commanders and other agencies. MARSOC has been directed to conduct foreign internal defense, direct action and special reconnaissance. Commander, USSOCOM assigns MARSOC missions based on USSOCOM priorities. MARSOC units then deploy under USSOCOM deployment orders.

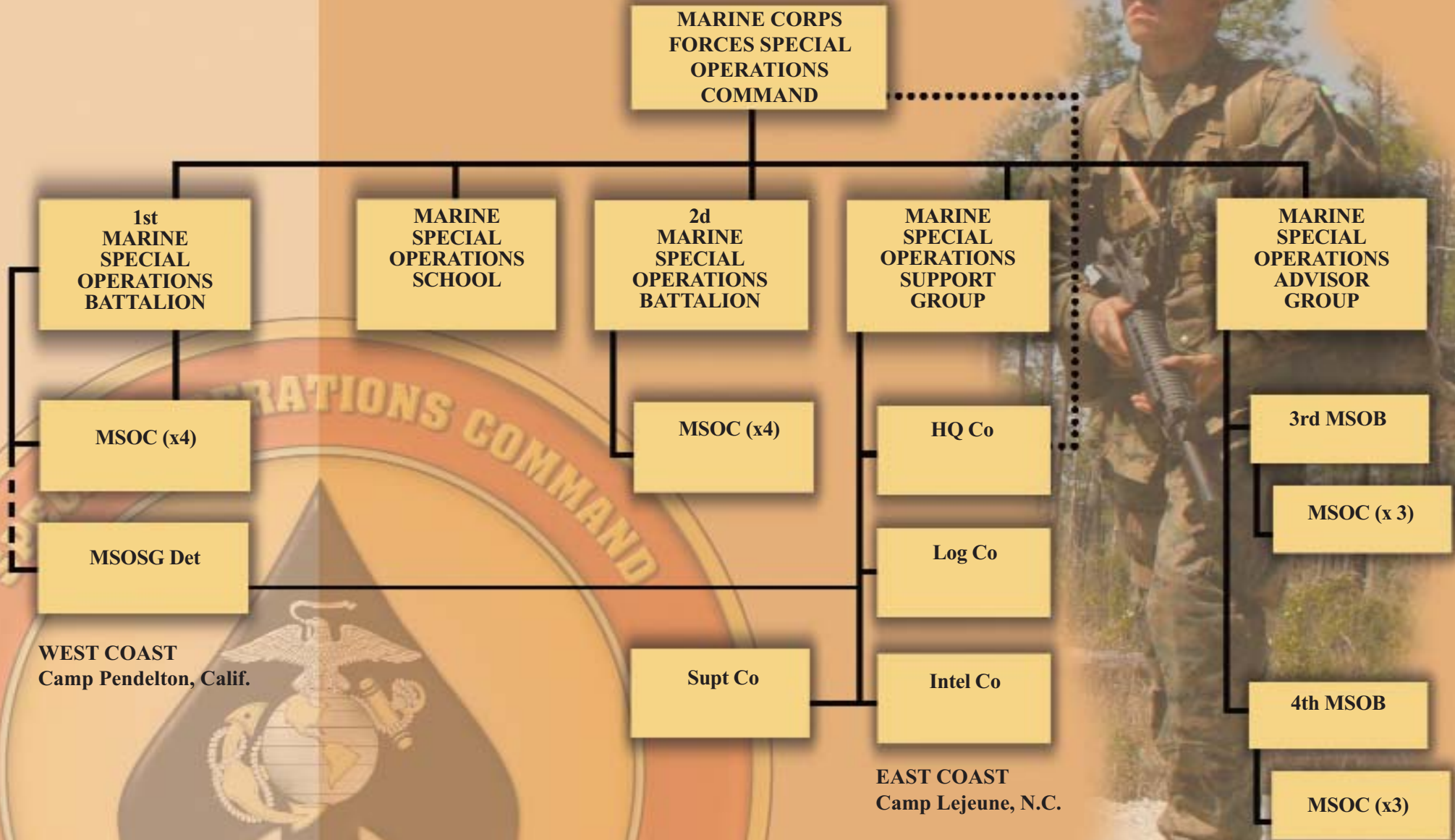
MARSOC deployed its first units in August 2006, six months after initial activation. Since then, MARSOC has continuously deployed. MARSOC's current deployments include MSOAG Teams conducting foreign internal defense and Marine Special Operations Companies from the Marine Special Operations battalions conducting direct action, strategic reconnaissance and foreign internal defense.





# MARINE CORPS FORCES

## SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND







# MARSOC



## Marine Special Operations Advisor Group

The Marine Special Operations Advisor Group, which consists of a Headquarters Company and 3rd and 4th Marine Special Operations Battalions, provides tailored military combat-skills training and advisor support for identified foreign forces in order to enhance their tactical capabilities and to prepare the environment as directed by USSOCOM. Marines and Sailors of the MSOAG train, advise and assist friendly host-nation forces—including naval and maritime military and paramilitary forces—to enable them to support their governments' internal security and stability, to counter subversion and to reduce the risk of violence from internal and external threats. MSOAG deployments are coordinated by MARSOC, through USSOCOM, in accordance with engagement priorities within the Global War on Terrorism.

## 1st and 2d Marine Special Operations Battalions

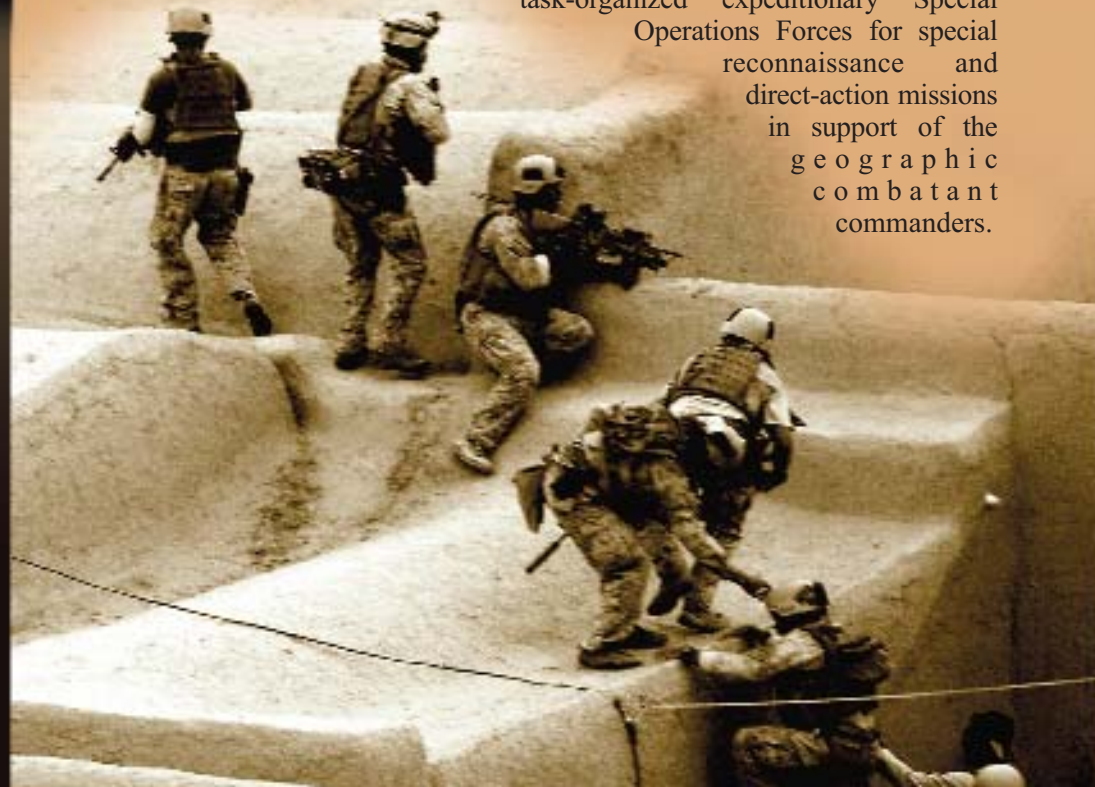


The 2d Marine Special Operations Battalion was activated May 15, 2006, and is headquartered at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The 2d MSOB is organized, trained and equipped to deploy for worldwide missions as directed by MARSOC. The battalion consists of four Marine Special Operations Companies and is task-organized with personnel uniquely skilled in special equipment support, intelligence and fire-support.

1st MSOB activated on Oct. 26, 2006, with four MSOCs and is headquartered at Camp Pendleton, Calif. 1st Force Reconnaissance Company was used as their starting base of operators.

Each MSOC is commanded by a Marine major and capable of deploying task-organized expeditionary Special Operations Forces for special reconnaissance and direct-action missions in support of the geographic combatant commanders.





# MARINE CORPS FORCES

## SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND



### Marine Special Operations Support Group

The Marine Special Operations Support Group provides specified support capabilities for worldwide Special Operations missions as directed by MARSOC. The MSOSG specifically provides combined arms planning and coordination, K-9 support, special operations communications support, combat service support (including logistics) and all-source intelligence fusion capability. The MSOSG can deploy tailored support detachments as directed by MARSOC.



### Marine Special Operations School

The Marine Special Operations School performs the screening, training, assessment and doctrinal development functions for MARSOC. The school has a Special Operations Training Branch and the SOTB provides Special Operations training in tactics, techniques and procedures, and evaluation and certification of MARSOC Forces to specified conditions and standards for SOF. The Marines of MSOS are Operators with the training, experience and mature judgment to plan, coordinate, instruct and supervise development of SOF special reconnaissance and direct action skills.

# USSOCOM



## JSOC

Established in 1980, the **Joint Special Operations Command** is a sub-unified command of USSOCOM. JSOC provides a joint headquarters to study Special Operations requirements, ensures interoperability and equipment standardization, develops joint Special Operations plans and tactics, and conducts joint Special Operations exercises and training.

### THEATER SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMANDS

Each geographic combatant command and Joint Forces Command has a Special Operations component commander just like it has a ground, air and naval component commander. The commander of the Theater Special Operations Command is responsible for commanding all SOF in the theater to which the TSOC is assigned. The TSOC is a sub-unified command of the geographic combatant command and the source of expertise in all areas of Special Operations. The TSOC provides the geographic combatant commanders with a separate element to plan and control joint SOF in their theater.

The TSOCs ensure SOF capabilities are considered throughout the entire planning process and that SOF are fully integrated into both peacetime and wartime planning. The TSOC commander is responsible to the geographic combatant commander for planning and conducting joint Special Operations in the theater, ensuring Special Operations Forces capabilities are matched to mission requirements, exercising operational control of SOF for joint Special Operations, and advising the geographic combatant commander and component commanders in the theater on the proper employment of SOF. Additionally, the SOC's can provide the nucleus for a Joint Special Operations Task Force (JSOTF) – a quick reaction command and control element that can respond immediately to regional emergencies.



## SOCCENT

Special Operations Command Central (SOCCENT), headquartered at MacDill AFB, Fla., is a subordinate unified command of U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM). It is responsible for planning Special Operations throughout the USCENTCOM area of responsibility (AOR); planning and conducting peacetime joint/combined Special Operations training exercises; and orchestrating command and control of peacetime and wartime Special Operations as directed. SOCCENT exercises operational control of assigned and attached SOF that deploy for the execution of training and for operational missions in the USCENTCOM AOR as directed by the USCENTCOM commander. When directed by the USCENTCOM commander, SOCCENT forms the nucleus of a JSOTF.



## SOCEUR

Special Operations Command Europe (SOCEUR) headquarters is located at Patch Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany. SOCEUR is a subordinate unified command of U.S. European Command exercising operational control of theater Army, Navy and Air Force Special Operation Forces. SOCEUR is responsible to the commander of USEUCOM and the Supreme Allied Commander Europe for SOF readiness, targeting, exercises, plans, joint and combined training, NATO/partnership activities, and execution of counterterrorism, peacetime and contingency operations.



## SOCPAC

Special Operations Command Pacific (SOCPAC), located at Camp H. M. Smith, Oahu, Hawaii, is a sub-unified command and serves as the SOF component command for the U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM). The AOR of the commander in chief, U.S. Pacific Command, represents the largest geographic area of the unified commands. It covers over half of the earth's surface with more than 105 million square miles and nearly 60 percent of the world's population. Distance, diversity, and change characterize the USPACOM AOR.





## SOCKOR

Special Operations Command Korea (SOCKOR), located at Camp Kim in Yongsan, Korea, is the Theater SOC responsible for Special Operations on the Korean peninsula and, when established, the Korean Theater of Operations (KTO). The KTO and SOCKOR exist because there has never been a peace treaty officially ending the Korean War. Military forces on the Korean Peninsula maintain a heightened state of readiness to respond to the resumption of hostilities with little or no warning.



## SOCJFCOM

Special Operations Command - Joint Forces Command (SOCJFCOM) is a sub-unified command of USJFCOM and is unique among all other Theater Special Operations Commands assigned to combatant commanders. SOCJFCOM is DoD's primary joint Special Operations Forces trainer and integrator. SOCJFCOM's mission is to train conventional and Special Operations joint force commanders and their staffs in the employment of SOF focusing on full integration of SOF and conventional forces in planning and execution to enhance warfighting readiness. Located in Norfolk, Va., SOCJFCOM supports all geographic combatant commanders and joint task forces in the Global War on Terrorism, as well as Combined Joint Special Operations Task Forces in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, Theater SOCs and the U.S. Special Operations Command Center for Special Operations.



## SOCSOUTH

A subordinate unified command of U.S. Southern Command, SOCSOUTH is the theater functional component for Special Operations. It is responsible for all Special Operations Forces in the theater to include Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Forces. SOCSOUTH's headquarters is located at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla. SOCSOUTH is composed of a joint headquarters, three permanently assigned operational units, and CONUS-based deployed SOF. The command manages more than 200 SOF deployments per year with an average of 42 missions in 26 countries at any time.



## SOCAFRICA

Following the presidential direction to establish AFRICOM Sept. 30, 2008, SOCEUR designated a transition team to plan and execute the establishment of AFRICOM's Theater Special Operations Command. The transition team is working with Special Operations Command Pacific, Special Operations Command Central, SOCEUR, AFRICOM, EUCOM, and USSOCOM to determine requirements and obtain resources for SOCAFRICA. SOCAFRICA is projected to be fully operationally capable in March 2009 as a functional subordinate unified Special Operations Command for Africa. SOCAFRICA will have its headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany.

# THEATER SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMANDS







**SOCEUR**



**SOCAFRIKA**



**SOCCENT**



**SOCPAC**



**SOCKOR**





# SOF TRUTHS



**-Humans are more important than hardware**

**-SOF cannot be mass produced**







**-Quality is better  
than quantity**

**-Competent SOF  
cannot be created  
after emergencies occur**





# Milestones In Special

William Donovan



Office of Coordinator of Information(COI) predecessor to the OSS established July 11, 1941



Operation Ivory Coast  
Nov. 20-21, 1970



Operation Eagle Claw  
April 24, 1980



Operation Earnest Will  
July 1987 - Sept. 1989



Operation Just Cause Panama  
Dec. 1989 - Jan. 1990



Operations Desert Storm  
Aug. 1990 - Feb.

Operation Urgent Fury (Grenada)  
Key impetus to USSOCOM establishment  
Oct. 25, 1983

**USSOCOM**  
formally established as four-star headquarters  
April 16, 1987



WORLD WAR II

KOREAN WAR

VIETNAM WAR

PERSIAN GULF WAR



Office of the Strategic Services (OSS)  
June 13, 1942



Joint Special Operations Command  
Oct. 22, 1980



Naval Special Warfare Command  
April 16, 1987



WWII



# Operations History



United Shield &  
Joint Forge  
1991



Haiti - Operations  
Support Democracy  
**May 1991- Sept. 1994**  
Uphold Democracy  
**Sept. 1994 - March 1995**  
Restore Democracy  
**March 1995 - UN Mission**



Somalia - Operations  
**1992-1995**  
Restore Hope  
UNOSOM II  
Task Force Ranger  
United Shield



Bosnia - Operations  
Operation Joint Endeavor  
**Dec. 1995 - Dec. 1996**  
Joint Guard  
**Dec. 1996 - June 1998**  
Joint Forge  
**June 1998 - May 2001**



Operation Enduring Freedom  
Afghanistan  
**Oct. 19, 2001 - Present**



Operation Iraqi Freedom  
**March 19, 2003 - Present**

Operation Provide Comfort  
Iraq 1991

Kosovo - Operations  
Joint Guardian  
**June 1999 - 2006**  
Allied Force  
**March 1999 -  
June 1999**



Operation  
Enduring Freedom  
Philippines  
**Jan. 2002 - Present**



OIF OEF

U.S. Army Special  
Operations Command  
Dec. 1, 1989



Air Force Special  
Operations Command  
May 22, 1990



Operation Noble Eagle  
Sept. 11, 2001



Marine Corps Forces Special  
Operations Command  
Feb. 24, 2006

Present



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