



Army

Special Operations Command Information Booklet



Serving the Nation

Background

What is the Australian Army's Special Operations Command?

Special Operations Command is an Australian Army functional command and was established by the Australian Government in 2003 to respond to non-conventional threats to Australia's security.

Headquarters Special Forces Group is positioned underneath Special Operations Command.

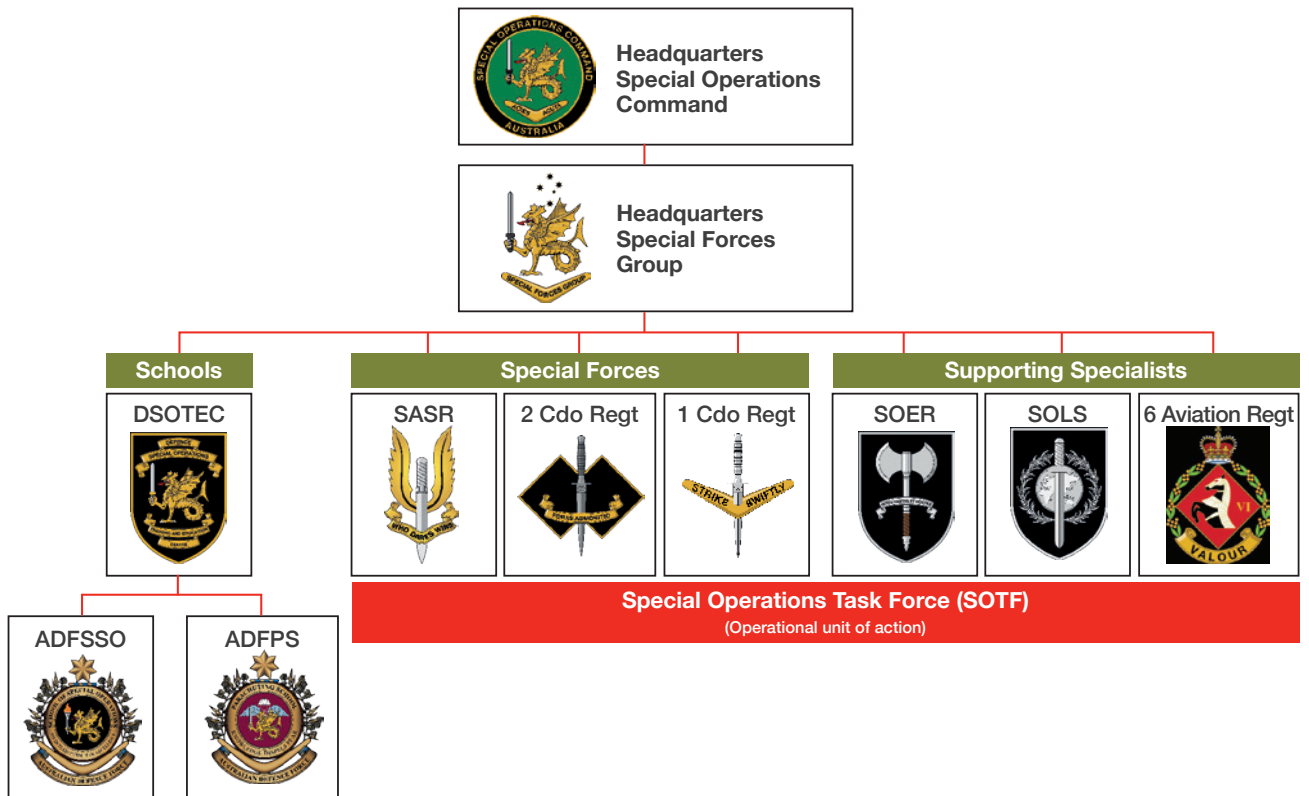
Headquarters Special Forces Group is an Australian Army brigade-level headquarters responsible for Special Operations Commands' units. The units are listed below in seniority order.

	Headquarters Special Operations Command (HQ SOCOMD)
	Headquarters Special Forces Group (HQ SFG)
	Defence Special Operations Training & Education Centre (DSOTEC)
	1st Commando Regiment (1 Cdo Regt)
	Special Air Service Regiment (SASR)
	2nd Commando Regiment (2 Cdo Regt)
	Special Operations Engineer Regiment (SOER)
	Australian Defence Force School of Special Operations (ADFSSO)
	Australian Defence Force Parachuting School (ADFPS)
	Special Operations Logistic Squadron (SOLS)

Our motto: 'Acies Acuta' is Latin for 'The Cutting Edge'

Structure

Leadership



Special Operations Commander for Australia

The Special Operations Commander for Australia (SOCAUST) is a Major General (two-star) position. The following table lists those who have been appointed to the SOCAUST position.

Special Operations Commander for Australia (SOCAUST)		
Major General	Duncan Lewis, DSC, CSC	2003–04
Major General	Mike Hindmarsh, AO, DSC, CSC	2004–08
Major General	Tim McOwan, DSC, CSM	2008–11
Major General	Peter 'Gus' Gilmore, AO, DSC	2011–13
Brigadier	Dan McDaniel, DSC, DSM	2013–14
Major General	Jeff Sengelman, DSC, AM, CSC	2014–17
Major General	Adam Findlay, AM	2017–21
Major General	Paul Kenny, DSC, DSM	January 2021–

*Correct as at November 2020

Training



Emblem

Special Operations Command's emblem is the Wyvern, a Welsh dragon surrounded in mystique that represents special operations capability.

- ▶ The wings represent airborne capability.
 - ▶ The shark tail represents water operations capability.
 - ▶ The two legs represent land capability.
 - ▶ The flaming tongue and sharpened claws represent offensive capability.
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Defence Special Operations Training and Education Centre



The Defence Special Operations Training and Education Centre is responsible for Special Operations Command's recruitment, selection, training, education and trade management.

Defence Special Operations Training and Education Centre was established to further develop a Australian Defence Force training continuum for special operations; seek efficiencies in training delivery; and ensure Special Operations Command training and education meets Defence's current and future needs.

Defence Special Operations Training and Education Centre is also leading Special Operations Command's Human Performance Optimisation initiatives by leading research, developing courses and conducting symposiums to ensure all Special Operations Command personnel remain at the cutting edge of the physical, psychological, social and technological human performance domains.

Australian Defence Force School of Special Operations



The Australian Defence Force School of Special Operations delivers training and education to Special Operations Command personnel and other Australian Defence Force special operations personnel.

The Australian Defence Force School of Special Operations is part of Special Operations Command's training structure under the Defence Special Operations Training and Education Centre.


Australian Defence Force Parachuting School



Australian Defence Force Parachuting School delivers parachute training and develops parachuting doctrine and equipment to meet the ADF's current and future needs. The Australian Defence Force Parachuting School is part of Special Operations Command's training structure under the Defence Special Operations Training and Education Centre. The school is also home to the Australian Army Red Berets.

Special Operations Command Units

1st Commando Regiment	
Established:	1955
Location:	Sydney, NSW and Melbourne, VIC.
Who we are: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The 1st Commando Regiment is an Australian Army Reserve special forces combat unit providing the Australian Government with unique special operations capabilities in support of the national interest. ▶ The 1st Commando Regiment has grown from two independent commando companies to include a signals squadron and a regimental headquarters. It is also home to the Australian Defence Force special warfare capability, which develops doctrine, delivers training and maintains capability. ▶ 1st Commando Regiment qualified commandos wear the Sherwood-green beret adopted from the Australian Army's close World War II association with the British Army and Royal Marine commandos.
Motto:	<i>'Strike Swiftly'</i>
Supported deployments:	Borneo, Vietnam, Somalia, Bougainville, Timor-Leste (East Timor), Solomon Islands, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Special Air Service Regiment	
Established:	25 July 1957. Formed as a Regiment on 4 September 1964.
Location:	Perth, WA.
Who we are: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The Special Air Service Regiment is an Australian Army special forces combat unit providing the Australian Government with unique special operations capabilities. ▶ The Special Air Service Regiment is also home to the Tactical Assault Group—West, a short notice counter-terrorist force able to respond to a terrorist incident of national importance or in support of state or territory police. ▶ Special Air Service Regiment personnel who are qualified special forces, wear the sand-coloured beret.
Motto:	<i>'Who Dares Wins'</i> borrowed from the British Special Air Service.
Supported deployments:	Special Air Service Regiment force elements have served in major conflicts such as Borneo, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq, and provided support to peace enforcement and peacekeeping operations including Rwanda, Somalia, Cambodia, Bougainville, South-West Pacific and Timor-Leste (East Timor). The Special Air Service Regiment was first deployed overseas in February 1965 to Borneo.

2nd Commando Regiment

Established:	1 February 1997 as 4th Battalion (Commando) Royal Australian Regiment. Renamed 2nd Commando Regiment on 19 June 2009.
Location:	Sydney, NSW.
Who we are: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 2nd Commando Regiment is an Australian Army special forces combat unit providing the Australian Government with unique capabilities. ▶ It is also home to the Tactical Assault Group—East, a high readiness counter-terrorist force able to respond to a terrorist incident of national importance or in support of state or territory-based police. ▶ 2nd Commando Regiment qualified commandos wear the Sherwood-green beret adopted from the Australian Army's close World War II association with the British Army and Royal Marine commandos.
Motto:	<i>'Foras admonitio'</i> Latin for 'Without Warning'.
Supported deployments:	Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste (East Timor), Iraq and Afghanistan.

Special Operations Engineer Regiment

Established:	24 February 2012.
Location:	Sydney, NSW.
Who we are: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The Special Operations Engineer Regiment is an Australian Army combat engineer unit providing special operations forces with mobility, survivability and specialist counter- chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) capabilities. ▶ Special Operations Engineer combat engineers are highly trained specialists who work alongside other special operations forces both within Australia and overseas.
Motto:	<i>'Inter Hastas et Hostes'</i> , which is Latin for 'Between spears and enemies', signifying the traditional sapper role and enduring unit requirements to operate in the dangerous space between enemy threat forces and Australian Army troops.
Supported deployments:	Iraq and Afghanistan.

Special Operations Logistic Squadron

Established:	Established as the Special Operations Combat Service Support Company in July 2003 and was renamed in 2007.
Location:	Sydney, NSW.
Who we are:	 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Special Operations Logistic Squadron is an Australian Army specialist logistic support unit providing diverse logistic support to Special Operations Command units domestically and while deployed on overseas operations. Special Operations Logistic Squadron is the only independent logistic squadron in the Australian Army.
Motto:	<i>'Assured support'</i>
Supported deployments:	Iraq and Afghanistan.

