

U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM)

What is it?

The Army National Guard's 19th and 20th Special Forces Groups (SFGs) and the seven Special Operations Detachments (SODs) directly support the combatant commands worldwide through USSOCOM.

What has USSOCOM done?

FY11 saw two Army National Guard Special Forces Battalion deployments; one in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and one in support of Operation New Dawn, and a SOD deployment in support of Special Operations Command and Control Element (SOOCE) to the Horn of Africa and the 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Headquarters deployment supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Army National Guard special operations forces were also active in the counter-narcotics fight, in Southeast Asia and South America. Each group supported a number of joint combined exchange training events in various countries around the world. The two Special Forces Groups utilized nearly \$20 million in the successful execution of more than 14 combined training missions with foreign national Soldiers and the SODs utilized more than \$3 million supporting worldwide requirements. The SODs are oriented to their Theater Special Operations Commands within each of the geographical combatant commands, as well as USSOCOM. They form the nucleus of a combined joint special operations task force which can rapidly multiply a theater's special operations force capabilities.

What continuing efforts does USSOCOM have planned for the future?

The Special Operations Command has the SODs online to support combat advisor positions with the newly established Afghan Special Operations Command for the next 18 months. The 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) has been tasked with manning and executing the Operation Enduring Freedom-Caribbean and Central America missions for the next 12 months while the active component 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) completes their move to Eglin AFB, FL.

Why is this important to the Army National Guard?

Continuous use of ARNG Special Forces units ensures that the individuals and units maintain proficiency and relevancy in the Special Operations tactics, techniques, and procedures in ever changing environments.

Resources:

U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM)
www.socom.mil

Army National Guard Special Operations Division
https://gkportal.ngb.army.mil/sites/G3_ARO/SO/default.aspx

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Army National Guard
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www.arng.army.mil