

**INTRODUCTION TO  
U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND**



*“USSOCOM leads, plans, synchronizes, and as directed, executes global operations against terrorist networks. USSOCOM trains, organizes, equips and deploys combat ready Special Operations Forces to combatant commands.”*



# U.S. Special Operations Command



The Department of Defense (DOD) activated U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) on April 16, 1987, at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. DOD activated 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:

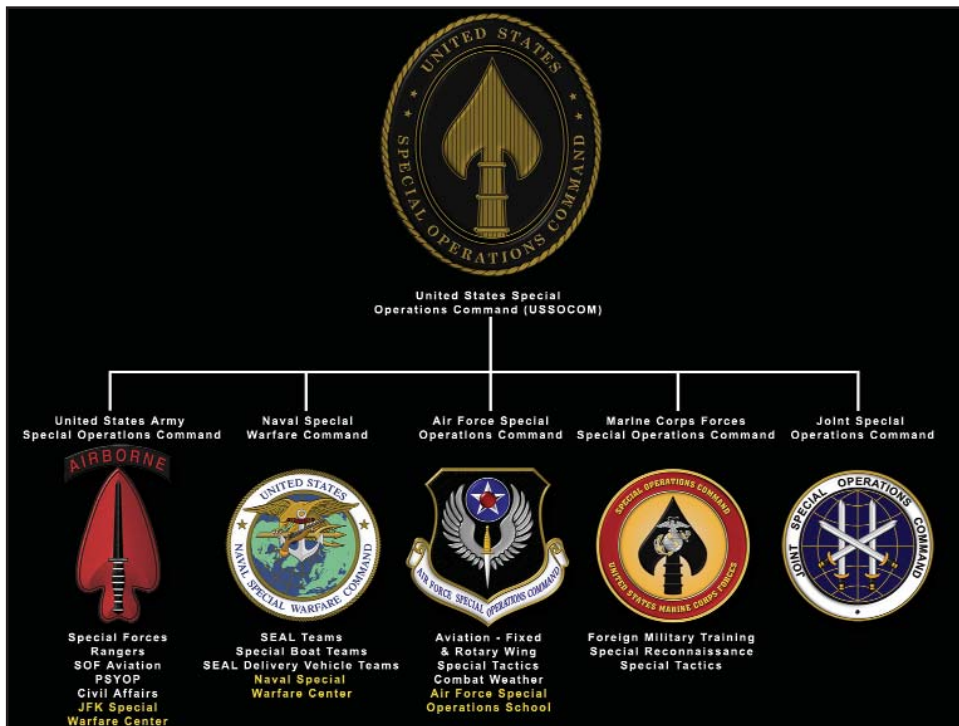
## Title 10 Authorities and Responsibilities

- 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.
- 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, Marines 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 also 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 America, USSOCOM's primary focus was on its supporting command mission of

organizing, training and equipping SOF and providing those forces to work for 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 (UCP), to "serving as the lead combatant commander for planning, synchronizing, and as directed, executing global operations against terrorist networks in coordination with other combatant commanders. The addition of synchronization responsibility enables USSOCOM to arrange military actions to ensure optimum employment of force. This authority combined with USSOCOM's global mission makes USSOCOM a combatant command able to affect military action on a global scale, across all geographic boundaries.

USSOCOM has approximately 53,000 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. The Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) is a USSOCOM sub-unified command.



## SOF CORE ACTIVITIES

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**Counter-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD)** – actions taken to locate, identify, seize, destroy or capture, recover and render such weapons safe.

**Counterterrorism** – measures taken to prevent, deter and respond to terrorism.

**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.

**Special Reconnaissance** – acquiring information concerning the capabilities, intentions and activities of an enemy.

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

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

**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.

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

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



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# U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC)



**U.S. Army Special Operations Command** – On Dec. 1, 1989, the Department of the Army established the U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, N.C., as a major Army command to enhance the readiness of

Army SOF. USASOC is home to the elite fighting force experts in conducting 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 six major subordinate elements, which in turn train and maintain forces for deployment by USSOCOM to combatant command theaters worldwide.

USASOC's major subordinate commands include the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne), and the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and

School, all located at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Its major subordinate units include the U.S.

Army Special Operations Support

Command (Airborne) at Fort

Bragg, 75th Ranger Regiment headquartered at Fort Benning, Ga., the

160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) Fort Campbell, Ky.,

95th Civil Affairs Brigade at Fort Bragg, and the 4th Psychological Operations

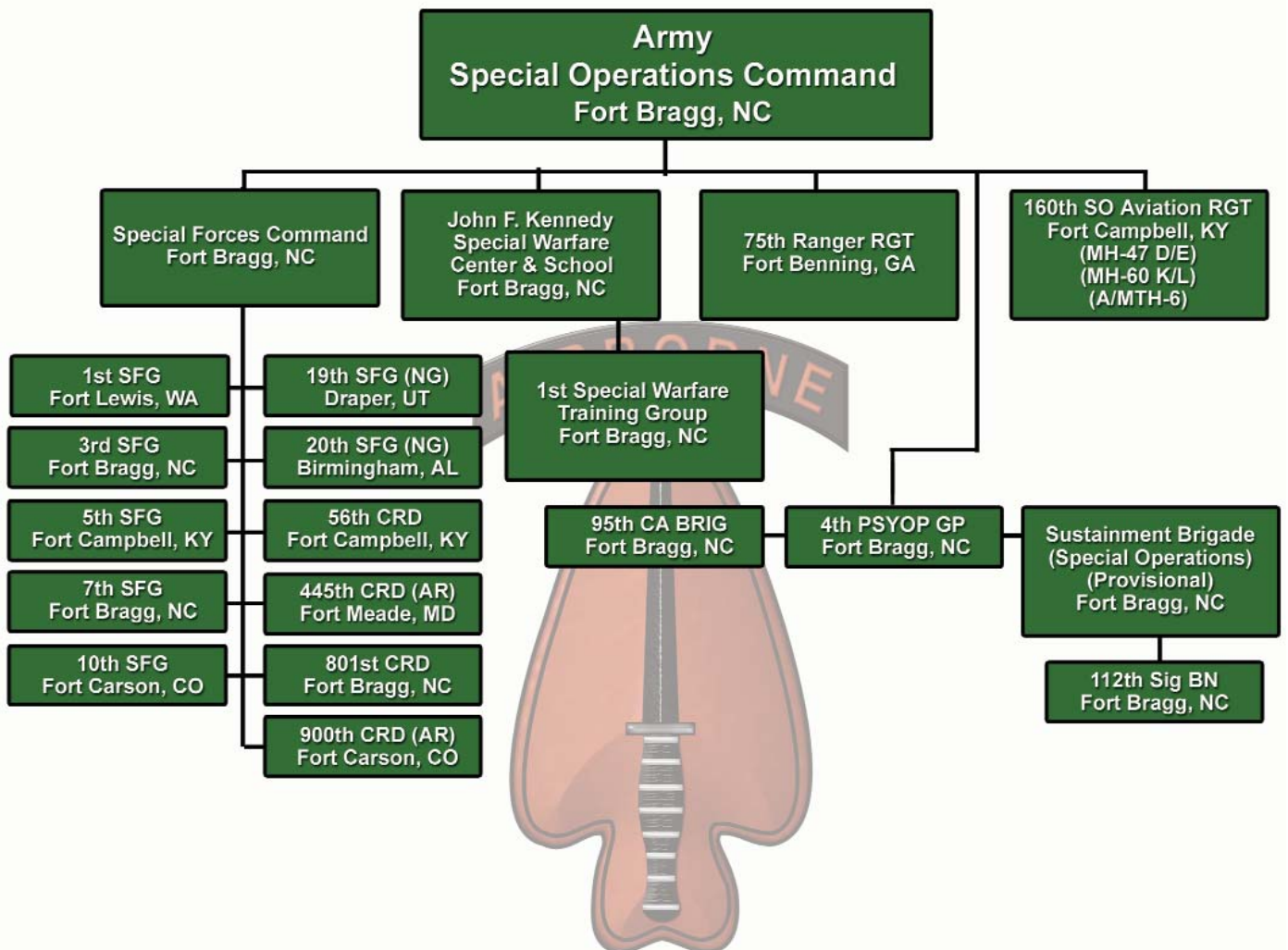
Group at Fort Bragg.

USASOC commands both active-duty and Army

Reserve Special Operations Forces. 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.



## Major Subordinate Commands

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



**U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) or USASFC** – U.S. Army 1st Special Operations Command was redesignated the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) on November 27, 1990. The mission of USASFC is to train, resource, equip, validate and prepare Special Forces (SF) units to deploy and execute operational missions for the U.S. military’s geographic combatant commanders throughout the world. USASFC’s major subordinate units include five active Special Forces Groups and two U.S. Army National Guard Special Forces Groups. Each SF group has three battalions consisting of three operational companies, a group support company and a headquarters company. The operational companies have six 12-man Operational Detachment Alphas (ODA), or A-teams, assigned to them. The ODA is the heart

and soul of SF operations. ODA teams consist of a detachment commander, assistant detachment commander, operations sergeant, intelligence sergeant, weapons sergeants (x2), engineer sergeants (x2), medical sergeants (x2), communications sergeants (x2). SF units perform six missions: unconventional warfare, foreign internal defense, special reconnaissance, direct action, counterproliferation and information operations. On a daily basis, SF Soldiers are deployed around the world, living up to their motto – De Oppresso Liber, “To Free the Oppressed.”

### The U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School

**The U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (USAJFKSWCS)** – The mission of the USAJFKSWCS is to support the War on Terrorism by building the future operational force using rapidly evolving tactics, techniques, procedures and equipment. SWCS is responsible for special operations training and leader development, as well as doctrine and personnel proponentcy for U.S. Army Special Forces, Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations. SWCS conducts 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; Phase III is the weapons, engineer, communications and medical sergeant courses and the officer qualification course. Phase IV is the comprehensive language training, and V is the culminating unconventional warfare exercise, known as “Robin Sage.” They also teach advanced special operations skills in weapons training, military free fall and underwater operations. SWCS conducts extensive advanced regional analysis programs for CA and PSYOP.



The Joint Special Operations Medical Training Center is a state of the art facility where all U.S. military special operations forces’ combat medical training, including Army Rangers and Navy SEALs.

## Major Subordinate Units

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### 75th Ranger Regiment

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**75th Ranger Regiment** – The Ranger Regiment is a lethal, agile and flexible force, capable of executing special operations and any light infantry missions. Their mission is to plan and conduct joint special military operations in support of U.S. policies and objectives. 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 remains an all-volunteer force with 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 mission at night and during adverse weather demonstrates their motto, Rangers lead the way.



### 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment

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**The 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) or SOAR**– What began as an emergency deployment from Fort Campbell, Ky., in 1980 has become a highly specialized, SOF rotary wing aviation capability. The 160th SOAR is the Army's special operations aviation unit specifically manned, equipped and trained to provide no-notice, focused and 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 aircrew members, provide the SOF community with an ever-expanding array of reliable aviation capabilities including: precision rotary wing operations in complex urban areas; long range infiltrations/exfiltrations under high threat, adverse weather and all terrain/environmental conditions; long-range precision attack and close air support to ground SOF in contact; and personnel recovery.



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## 95TH CIVIL AFFAIRS BRIGADE

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**95th Civil Affairs Brigade** trains, validates, monitors readiness, and prepares assigned CA forces for deployment to conduct worldwide special operations. CA units support military commanders by working to minimize the effect of civilians in the battlespace and by coordinating with civil authorities and civilian populations to lessen the impact of military operations on them during peace, contingency operations and declared war. CA supports both conventional and SOF missions, and are capable of assisting and supporting the civil administration. Long after the guns have fallen silent, the men and women of Civil Affairs continue to provide assistance to foreign governments, and to stabilize regions in turmoil.



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## 4TH PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS GROUP

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**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.

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## U.S. Army Special Operations Support Command (Airborne)

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**U.S. Army Sustainment Brigade (Special Operations) (Airborne) (Provisional) or SBSO(A)** – U.S. Army Special Operations Support Command inactivated and became the Sustainment Brigade Special Operations (Airborne) December 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 (BTB), the ARSOF Support Cell (ASC), two Medical Level II teams, and five Special Operation Liaison Elements (ALE).







# Naval Special Warfare Command (NAVSPECWARCOM)

**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 oversees the organization, training, equipping and readiness of all active duty and Reserve Naval Special Warfare (NSW) forces. NSW forces operate worldwide, independently or in conjunction with other SOF, allied units and coalition forces.

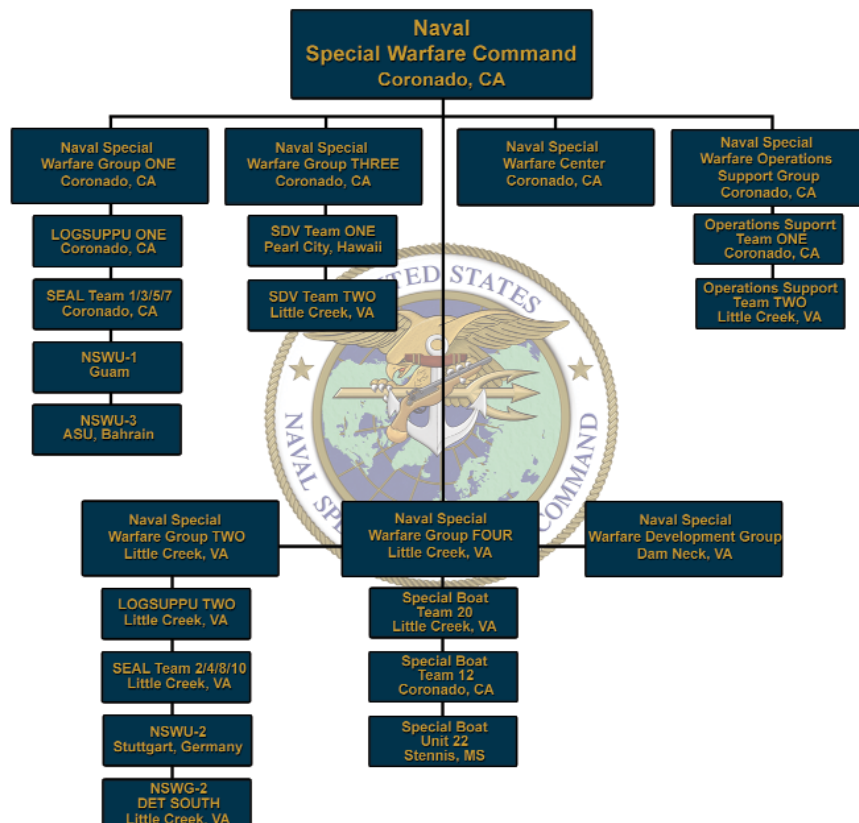
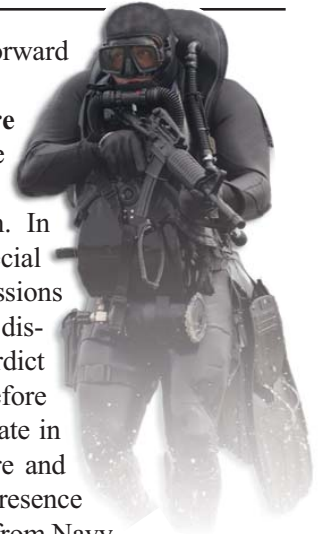
**Naval Special Warfare Groups** – major commands that train, equip and deploy components of NSW squadrons to meet the exercise, contingency, and wartime requirements of the regional combatant commanders, theater special operations commands and numbered fleets located around the world. Each group’s logistics and support unit assumes responsibility for equipping the teams, and each group’s training detachment assumes responsibility for individual, unit and squadron level training. This consolidation effort allows NSW operators to maintain a strong operational focus.

**Naval Special Warfare Combat Service Support Teams (CSST)** is assigned to each NSW Group to provide full-spectrum logistics support for designated SEAL (sea, air, land) Teams, Special Boat Units, NSW Task Groups/Task Units and/or special mission units. Tasking for each CSST includes three primary mission elements to include OPLAN/CONPLAN and crisis-action logistic planning and coordination; in-theater contracting, small purchase and lease

actions; and comprehensive forward operating base support.

**Naval Special Warfare Squadrons** are responsive, versatile and effective force packages fighting the Global War on Terrorism. In addition to being experts in special reconnaissance and direct action missions – SEALs are postured to fight a dispersed enemy on their turf, to interdict enemy forces, ashore or afloat before they can act. NSW forces can operate in small groups from 4 to 16 or more and have a continuous overseas global presence with their ability to quickly deploy from Navy ships, submarines and aviation platforms, overseas bases and NSW’s forward-based units. NSW operators are also trusted teammates in the fight against terrorism – networked to operate, communicate and share information with key allied partners, U.S. joint forces, and other U.S. government agencies.

**Naval Special Warfare Center (NSWC)** 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.



## NAVSPECWARCOM Warriors

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### Sea, Air, Land Commandos (SEALs)

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The **SEAL Team** is the heart of the NSW force, a multipurpose combat force organized, trained to conduct a variety of special missions in all operational environments. SEALs infiltrate their objective areas by fixed and rotary-winged aircraft, Navy surface ships, combatant craft, submarines and ground mobility vehicles to conduct clandestine and direct action missions. SEAL mission areas include unconventional warfare, direct action, counterterrorism, special reconnaissance and foreign internal defense.

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### Special Boat Teams (SBT)

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**Special Boat Teams** operate Rigid Inflatable Boats, MK-V Special Operations Craft and Special Operations Craft – Riverine. Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen (SWCC) operate and maintain these state-of-the-art boats 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.



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### SEAL Delivery Vehicle (SDV) Teams

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**SDV Teams** are specially trained SEALs and support personnel who operate and maintain SDVs, Dry Deck Shelters (DDS), and the Advanced SEAL Delivery System. The ASDS is a dry-submersible vessel that can be launched from a Navy submarine, while SDVs are wet submersibles, which provide clandestine reconnaissance, direct action and passenger delivery capability in maritime environments. 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.

## NAVSPECWARCOM Warriors Weapon Systems

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### Rigid-hull Inflatable Boat (RIB)

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The **Rigid-hull Inflatable Boat** performs short-range insertion and extraction of SOF, limited coastal patrol and interdiction, reconnaissance. The RIB is a high performance combatant craft and is air transportable by C-5 Galaxy, C-17 Globemaster and C-130 Hercules aircraft and 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.



### Mark V Special Operations Craft (SOC)

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

### Special Operations Craft Riverine (SOCR)

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The **Special Operations Craft Riverine** performs short-range insertion and extraction of SOF in riverine and littoral environments. The SOCR 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.



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**U. S. Army Special Operations Command**  
Fort Bragg, NC



**Joint Special Operations Command**  
Fort Bragg, NC

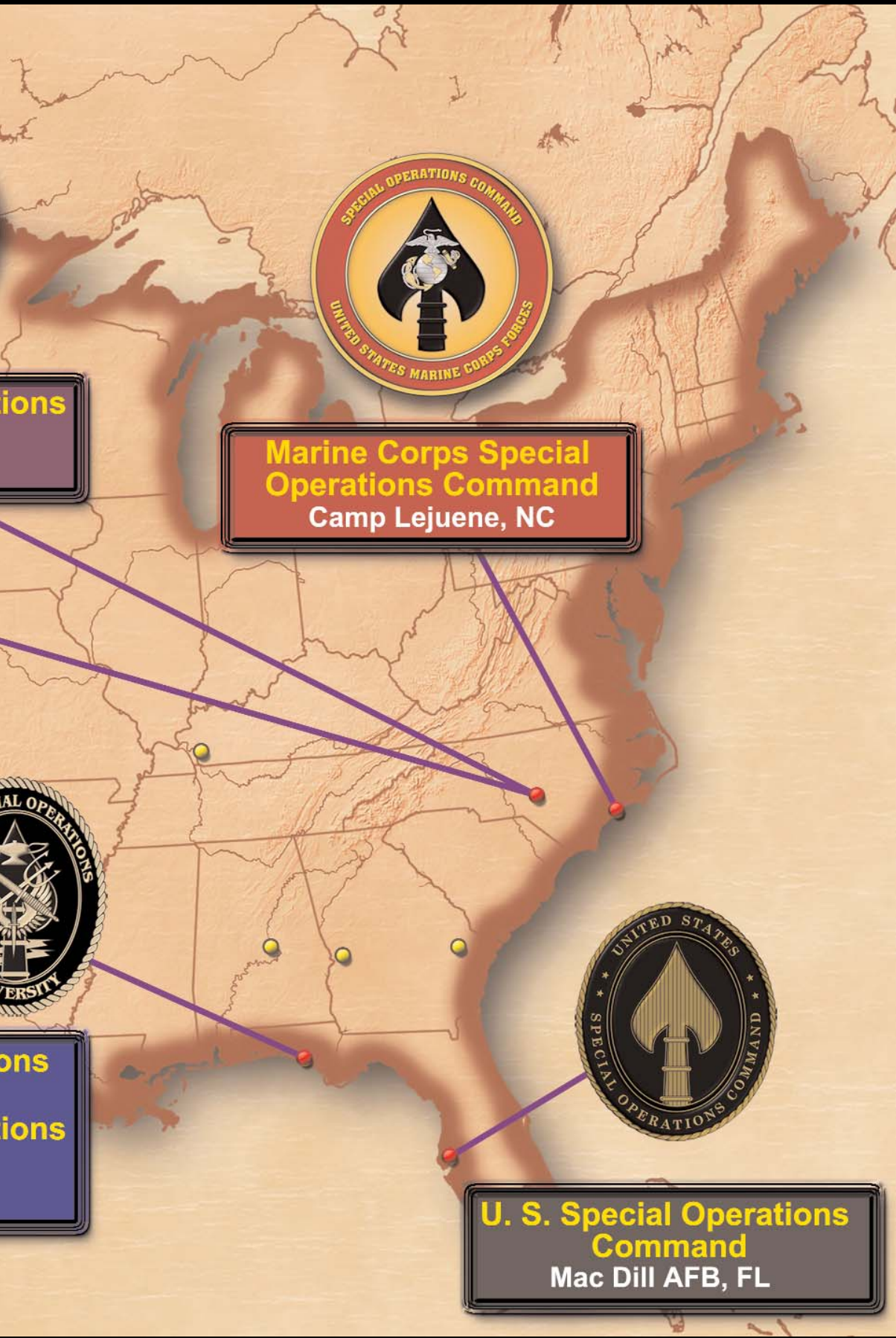


**Naval Special Warfare Command**  
Naval Base Coronado, CA



**AF Special Operations Command**  
**Joint Special Operations University**  
Hurlburt Field, FL





**Marine Corps Special Operations Command**  
Camp Lejuene, NC



**U. S. Special Operations Command**  
Mac Dill AFB, FL





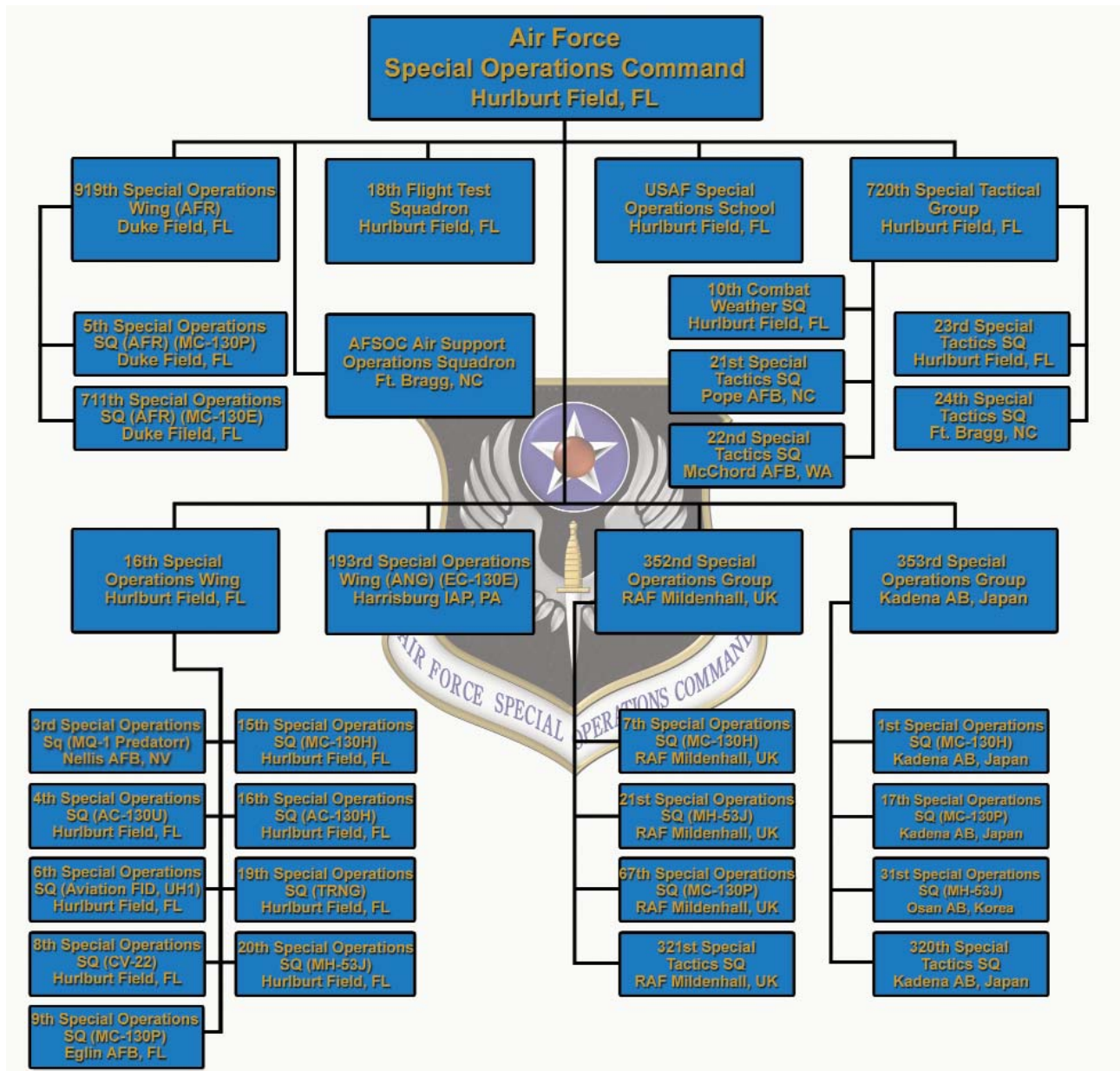
# Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC)

**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 and rotary winged aircraft. AFSOC's aerospace warriors deliver the Nation's specialized air power to provide SOF mobility, forward presence and engagement. Air Force Special Operations Forces missions include insertion, extraction, resupply, aerial fire support, refueling, combat search and rescue and PSYOP.

**Special Tactics:** Special tactics is comprised of combat control, pararescue and special operations weather personnel capable of providing terminal guidance for weapons, control of assault zone aircraft, fire support,

mission planning, medical support, 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. AFSOC's unique capabilities include airborne radio and television broadcast for psychological operations, as well as combat aviation advisors provide foreign internal defense.

The **Air Force Special Operations School** is a support unit of AFSOC. Courses are focused in one of four areas: asymmetric warfare education, regional/cultural awareness, Special Operations Forces professional development and joint operations.



## Combat Controllers (CCT)

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**Combat Controllers** are special operators and certified air traffic controllers who are an integral part of the Air Force Battlefield Airman 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.

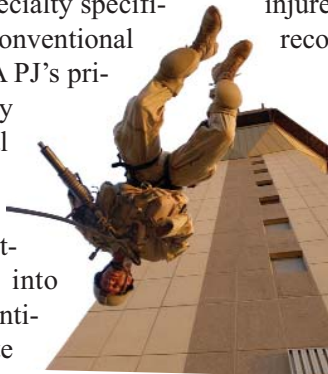
They set up navigational aid equipment anywhere in the world to guide aircraft for landing on makeshift runways without the benefit of a tower or large communications system. CCT also control air attacks from all military services aircraft. In addition, CCT provide vital command and control, intelligence gathering, surveying capabilities, limited weather observations and are qualified in demolition to clear hazards and obstructions from runways and landing zones.



## Pararescuemen (PJs)

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**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, astronaut and space hardware recovery support for NASA, protection of the President of the United States, and conduct other operations at the commander’s direction.

Their motto “These Things I Do That Others May Live” reaffirms the Pararescueman’s commitment to saving lives and self-sacrifice.

## Special Operations Weathermen

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**Special Operations Weathermen** are trained meteorologist 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.”



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## Combat Aviation Advisors

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Combat Aviation Advisors of the 6th Special Operations Squadron help our 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 is the only combat aviation advisory unit in the DOD. Every day, the 6th has Air Commandos deployed to any given theater of the globe and maintain instructor qualifications on numerous foreign made aircraft.



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## AFSOC Warriors Weapon Systems

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### CV-22 Osprey

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The **CV-22** adds new capability and fills a long-standing USSOCOM requirement to conduct long-range infiltration/exfiltration/resupply missions in one night.

This versatile, self-deployable aircraft offers increased speed and range over other rotary-wing aircraft, and can perform missions that normally would require both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft.

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### MH-53J/M Pave Low

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The **Pave Low's** mission is low-level, long-range, undetected penetration into denied areas, day or night, in adverse weather, for infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of Special Operations Forces.

The terrain-following and terrain-avoidance radar, forward-looking infrared sensor, inertial navigation system with global positioning system, along with a projected map display enable the crew to follow terrain contours and avoid obstacles, making low-level penetration possible.



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### AC-130H/U Gunship

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The **AC-130 gunship's** primary missions are close air support, air interdiction and force protection. Close air support missions include, troops in 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 call sign is "Spectre." The AC-130U's call sign is "Spooky." The U-model is the most recent version of a C-130 gunship.



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## MC-130P Shadow

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The **Combat Shadow** flies clandestine or covert low visibility, single or multi-ship low-level missions intruding 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 take-off and landings and in-flight refueling as a receiver.



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## EC-130E/J Command Solo

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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 a single-ship orbit offset from the desired target audience – either military or civilian personnel.

Many modifications have been made to Commando Solo. These include enhanced navigation systems, self-protection equipment, air refueling and the capability of broadcasting radio and color TV on all worldwide standards.

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## MC-130E/H Combat Talon I/II

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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.



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## MQ-1 Predator Unmanned Ariel Vehicle

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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.





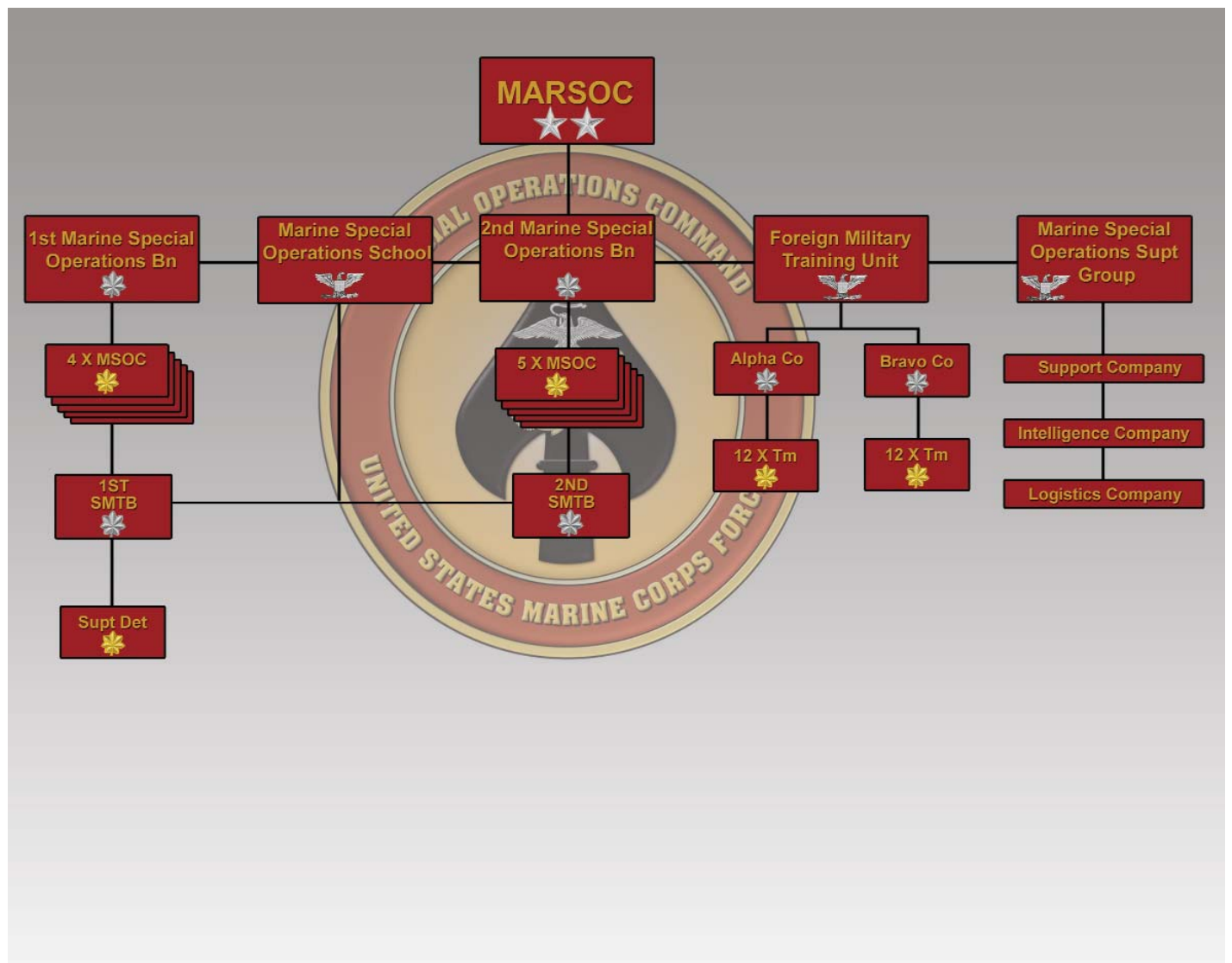
# MARINE CORPS FORCES SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND (MARSOC)

The Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command is the Marine Corps component of SOF and was established February 24, 2006. It is headquartered at Camp Lejeune, N.C. and will include approximately 2,600 Marines and Sailors. MARSOC performs the Title 10 functions of manning, organizing, training, and equipping Marine Special Operations Forces to accomplish its mission. The MARSOC headquarters is responsible for identifying Marine special operations-unique requirements; development of MAR-SOF tactics, techniques, procedures, and doctrine; and execution of assigned missions in accordance with designated conditions and standards.

A Marine Corps major general commands MARSOC with a supporting staff designed to be compatible in all functional areas with both USSOCOM and

Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC). The MARSOC HQ is a non-deployable unit, the MARSOC Command Group and members of his staff may “battle roster” as needed to deploy in support of USSOCOM tasks to form, deploy, and employ a Joint Special Operations Task Force.

MARSOC includes five subordinate commands: The Foreign Military Training Unit, Marines Special Operations Battalions East and West, the Marine Special Operations Support Group, and the Marine Special Operations School.



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## The Foreign Military Training Unit (FMTU)

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The **Foreign Military Training Unit** 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 FMTU assess, 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, counter subversion, and reduce the risk of violence from internal and external threats. FMTU deployments are coordinated by SOCOM in accordance with engagement priorities within the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT).

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## Marine Special Operations Battalions

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Two **Marine Special Operations Battalions**, one on each coast, are organized, trained, and equipped to deploy for worldwide missions as directed by MARSOC. Each MSOB consists of several Marine Special Operations Companies and is task-organized with personnel uniquely skilled in special equipment support, intelligence and fire-support. The battalions will perform typical special operations roles conducting direct action, special reconnaissance, and foreign internal defense.



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## The Marine Corps Special Operations Support Group (MSOSG)

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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 U.S. Special Operations Command.

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## The Marine Special Operations School (MSOS)

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The **Marine Special Operations School** performs the screening, recruiting, training, assessment, and doctrinal development functions for MARSOC. It includes two subordinate Special Missions Training Branches (SMTBs), one on each coast. The SMTBs provide 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 will be operators with the training, experience, and mature judgment to plan, coordinate, instruct, and supervise development SOF special reconnaissance and direct action skills.

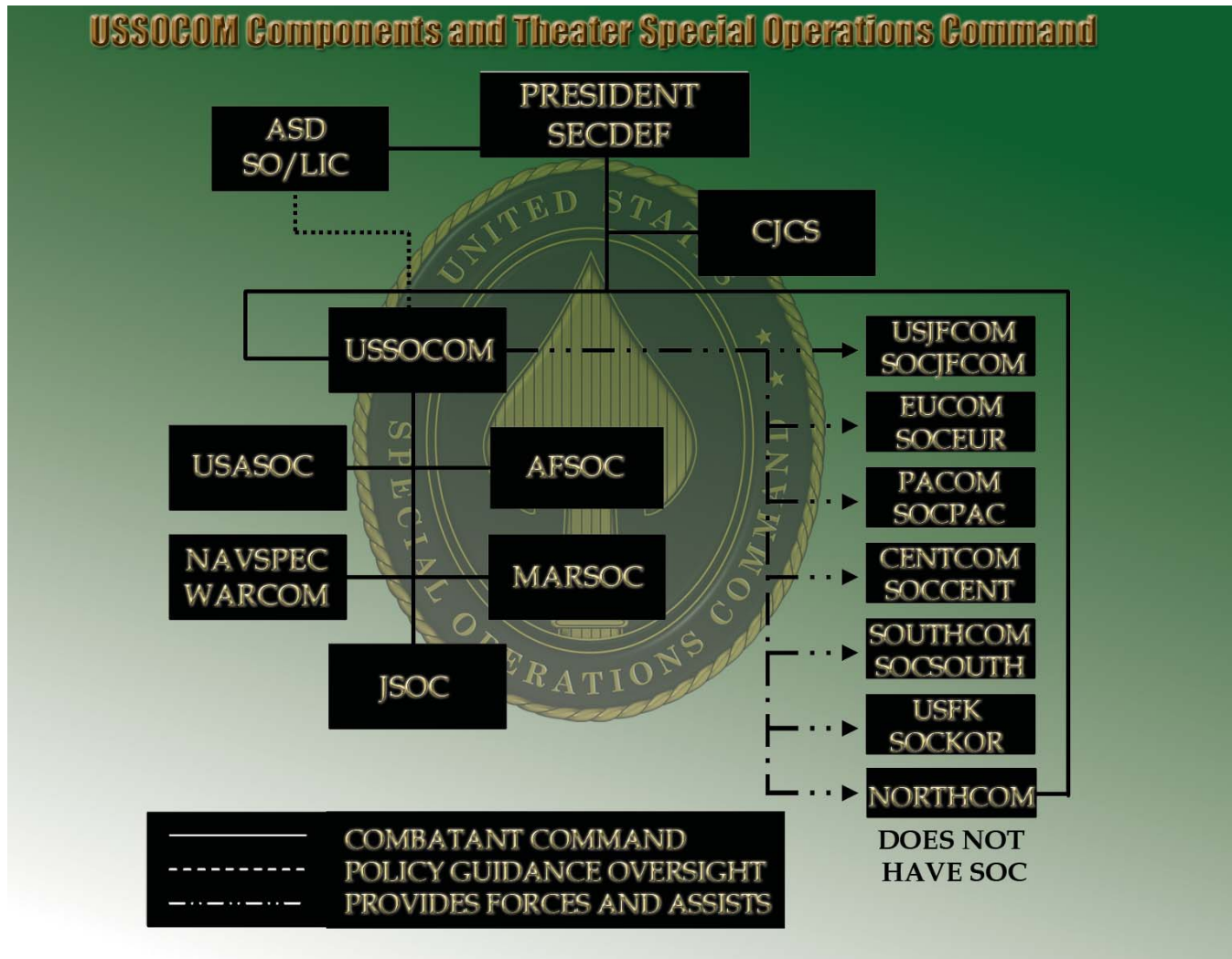




## Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC)

Established in 1980, the **Joint Special Operations Command** is a sub-unified command of USSOCOM. JSOC provides a joint headquarters to study special operations require-

ments, ensures interoperability and equipment standardization, develops joint special operations plans and tactics, and conducts joint special operations exercises and training.



## Theater Special Operations Commands (TSOC)

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 commander with a separate element to plan and control joint SOF in his 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 SOCs 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.

# 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

# USSOCOM VISION:

To be the premier team  
of special warriors,  
thoroughly prepared,  
properly equipped, and  
highly motivated:  
at the right place,  
at the right time,  
facing the right adversary,  
leading the Global War  
on Terrorism, accomplishing  
the strategic objectives  
of the United States.

