



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 & 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 prepare 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

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 57,000 active duty, Reserve and National Guard

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and 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



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 Lejuene, N.C.



Air Force Special Operations Command
Hurlburt Field, Fla.



Joint Special Operations University
Hurlburt Field, Fla.



U.S. Special Operations Command
MacDill Air Force Base, 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 an Army Service Component Command to enhance the readiness of Special Operations Forces. 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 five 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 John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School and the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne), both headquartered at Fort Bragg, N.C. The component subordinate units include the 75th Ranger Regiment, headquartered at Fort Benning, Ga.; 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Ky.; 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C.; 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C.; and 528th Sustainment Brigade (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 **John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School** is responsible for selecting, training and educating Special Operations Forces and leader development.

The school teaches more than 10,000 students in more than 100 different courses each year.

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.

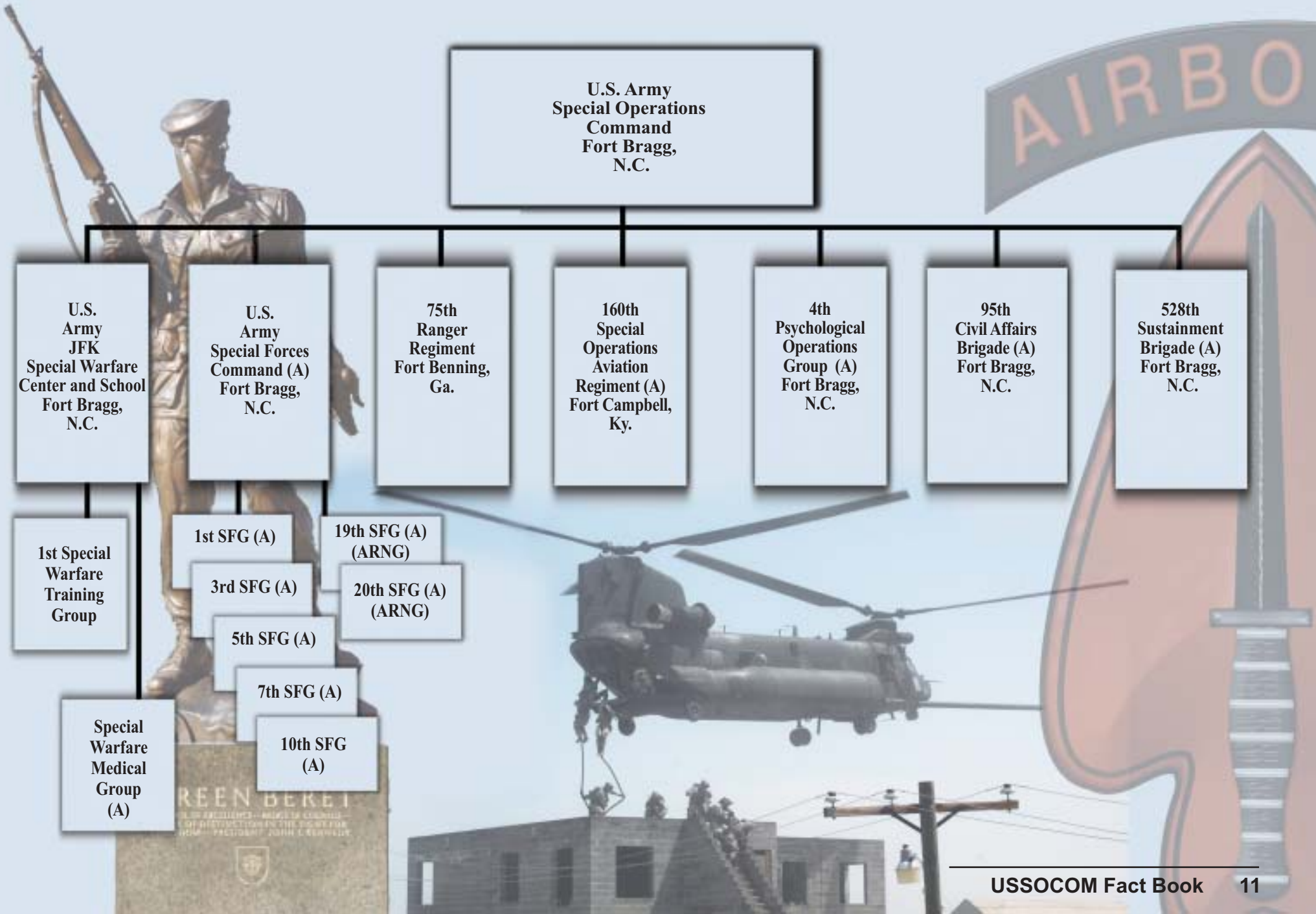
The mission of **Psychological Operations** is to disseminate truthful information to foreign audiences in support of U.S. goals and objectives. PSYOP units accomplish their mission by disseminating messages in the form of leaflets, posters, broadcasts and audiovisual tapes.

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.

The **528th Sustainment Brigade (Airborne)**, formerly the Sustainment Brigade (Special Operations) (Airborne), was activated Dec. 18, 2008. The 528th Sustainment Brigade (Airborne) provides combat service support and combat health support to Army SOF in the full spectrum of conflict.



U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND





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 Civil Affairs, Psychological Operations and Special Forces.

The Center and School's 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) conducts a wide spectrum of special operations training.

The Training Group's 1st Battalion conducts the majority of training in the Special Forces Qualification Course: Phase I is the three-week Special Forces Assessment and Selection course, Phase II is language. Phase III is small unit tactics training with Phase IV being the Weapons, Engineer, Communications and the Officer Qualification course. Phase V is the culmination exercise known as Robin Sage.

The 2nd Battalion teaches advanced Special Operations skills including weapons training, military free fall and combat diving.

They also teach the 18F Military Occupational Skills course,

or Special Forces Intelligence Sergeant's course.

The 3rd Battalion is responsible for all Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations training and conducts an extensive regional studies program. The battalion is home to the only Army Special Operations Advanced Individual Training programs for Reserve Component Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations and Active Duty Psychological Operations Soldiers.

The 4th 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 Special Warfare Medical Group (Airborne) is responsible for all U.S. Military Special Operations Forces' combat medical training including Army Rangers, Army Civil Affairs medics and Navy Corpsmen.

The Noncommissioned Officer Academy prepares enlisted Soldiers for leadership positions in the Civil Affairs, Psychological Operations and Special Forces. 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 Warrant Officer Institute is the only warrant officer branch in the U.S. Army to select and train candidates and provide for their life-long education and development. While the Special Forces warrant officer is a master technician of the Special Forces trade, they are the only combat leaders in the Army Warrant Officer Corps.

An integral role for the Center and School is the development of training programs taught within USAJFKSWCS. The Directorate of Training and Doctrine is responsible for the production of 36 Field Manuals and 80 pieces of Army Special Operations doctrine.

The Directorate of Special Operations Proponency serves to keep the Army Special Operations community relevant and healthy. The directorate is tasked with developing and implementing personnel career plans and programs, which optimize the Army Special Operations branches.

The Special Warfare Center and School conducts more than 100 different courses and trains more than 10,000 students annually.



U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND



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, combating terrorism, counter proliferation, 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.





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 Rifle 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 Regimental Special Troops Battalion provides the Ranger Regiment and Special Operations Forces with increased operational capabilities to sustained combat operations. The RSTB conducts command and control communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance functions in support of the Regiment and other special operations task forces.

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."



U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

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. The 160th SOAR (A) 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 (A) 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, and 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



AIRBORNE

USASOC



4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne)

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

95th Civil Affairs Brigade



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 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. 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.



528th Sustainment Brigade (Airborne)

The 528th Sustainment Brigade (Airborne) was activated Dec. 18, 2008. Formerly the Sustainment Brigade (Special Operations) (Airborne), the brigade assumes the lineage of the 528th Support Battalion. As part of the overall Army Special Operations Forces logistics transformation, the 528th Sustainment Brigade (Airborne) sets the operational level logistics conditions to enable ARSOF operations worldwide

using three ARSOF Support Operations Teams, two Special Operations Resuscitation Teams, and five ARSOF Liaison Elements. The 528th Sustainment Brigade (Airborne) plans, coordinates and provides operational and tactical communications for Army Special Operations Task Force commanders with the 112th Special Operations Signal Battalion (Airborne).





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.

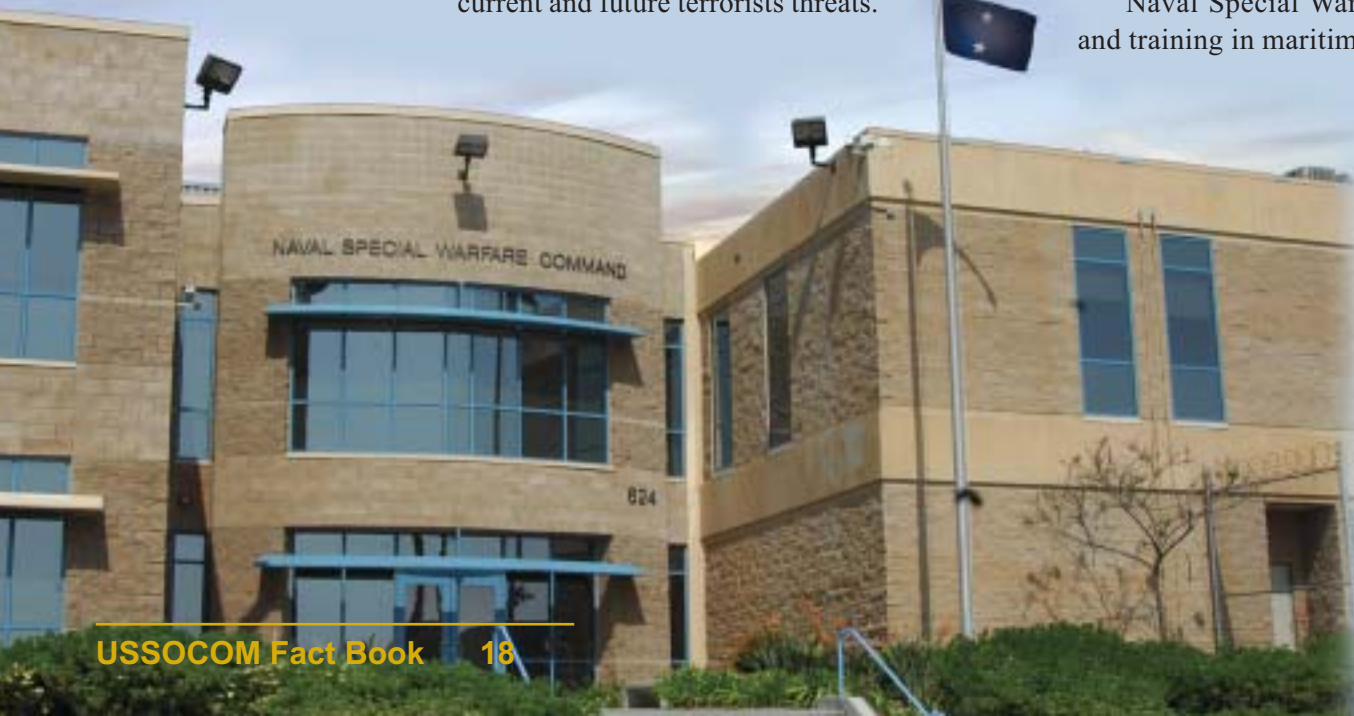
A tactical force with strategic impact, NSW mission areas include special reconnaissance, direct action, unconventional warfare, combating terrorism, foreign internal defense, information warfare, security assistance, counter-drug operations, personnel recovery and hydrographic reconnaissance. NSW core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

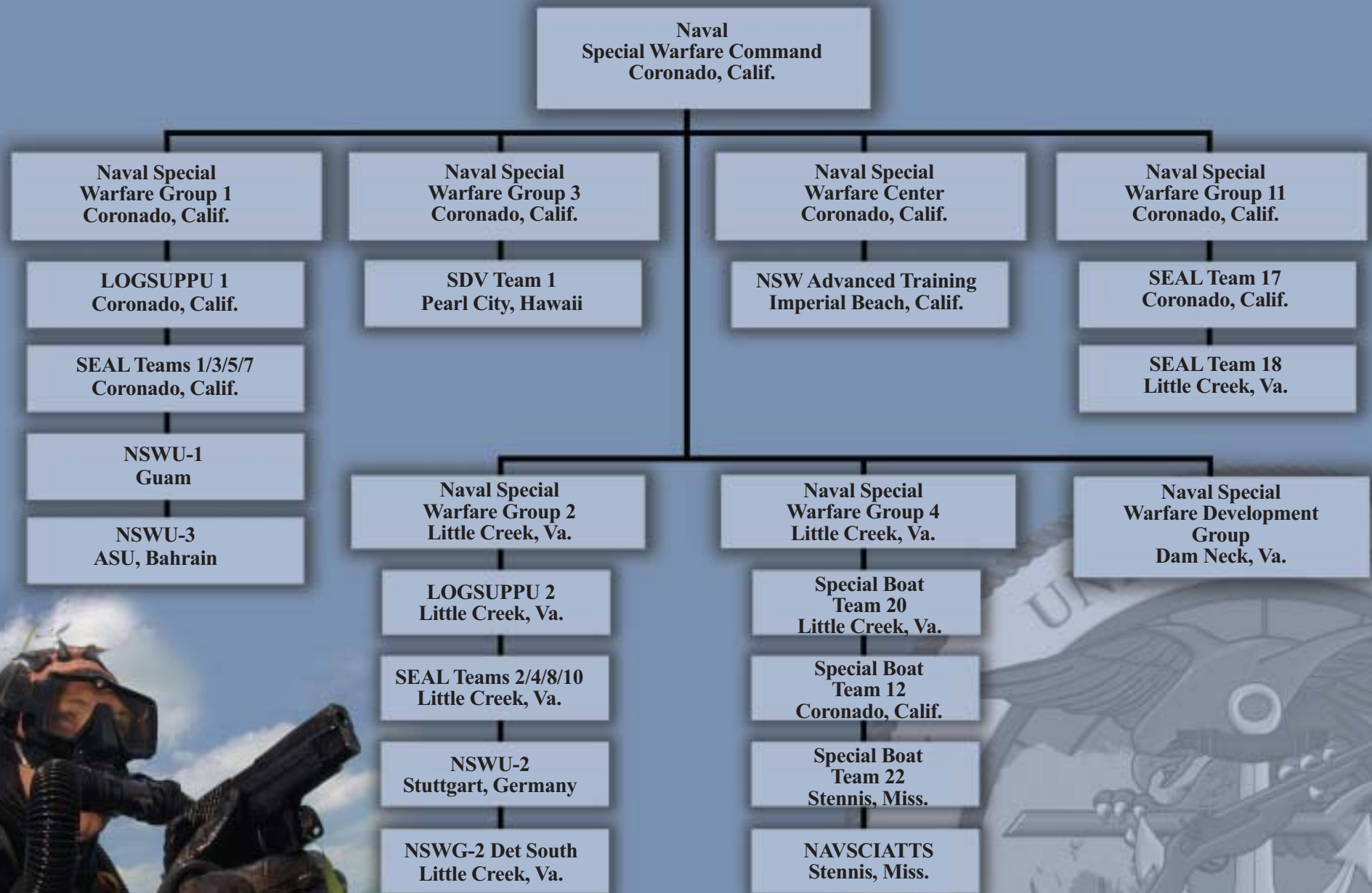
Naval Special Warfare Combat Service Support Teams provide full-spectrum logistics support to SEAL (sea, air, land) Teams, Special Boat Teams, NSW Task Groups/Task Units. Tasking for each CSST includes crisis-action and logistics planning and coordination, in-theater contracting, small purchase and leasing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



NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE COMMAND



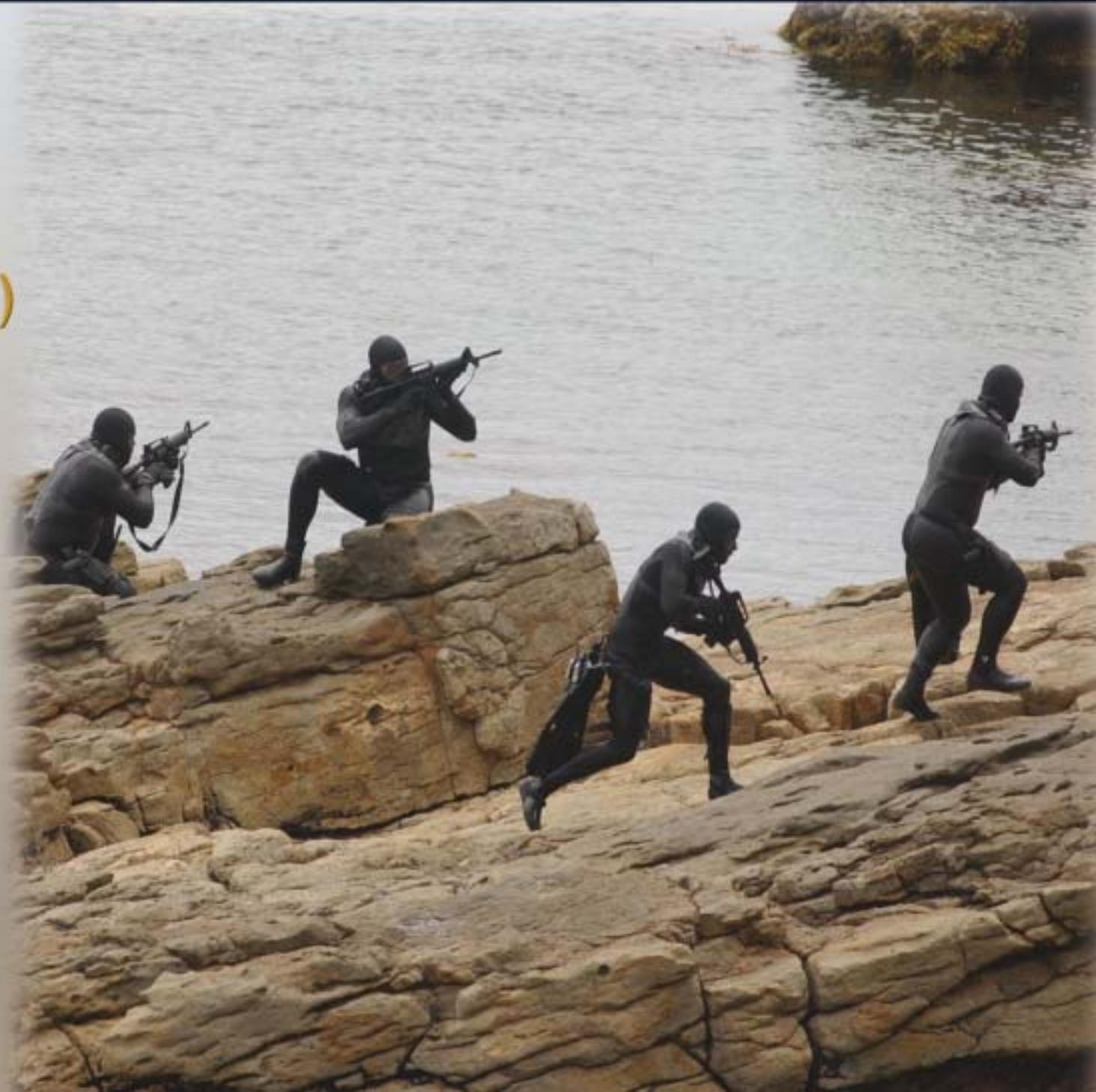


NAVSPECWARCOM

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 and Dry Deck Shelters. DDS deliver SDVs and specially trained forces from modified submarines. When teamed with their host submarines, 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 RHIB 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

SEAL Delivery Vehicle (SDV)

The MK VIII MOD 1 SEAL Delivery Vehicle (SDV) is a free-flooding wet submersible designed for undersea special operations including direct action, hydrographic reconnaissance and insertion/extraction of SEALs. It uses a Doppler Navigation Sonar and forward-looking obstacle avoidance sonar to navigate through the water and an underwater telephone with secure, unsecure and data modes to communicate. SDVs can be inserted into the water via a DDS-equipped submarine, MK V SOC or surface ships.

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 assist in all launch and recovery operations.

SEAL Delivery Vehicle (SDV)



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

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

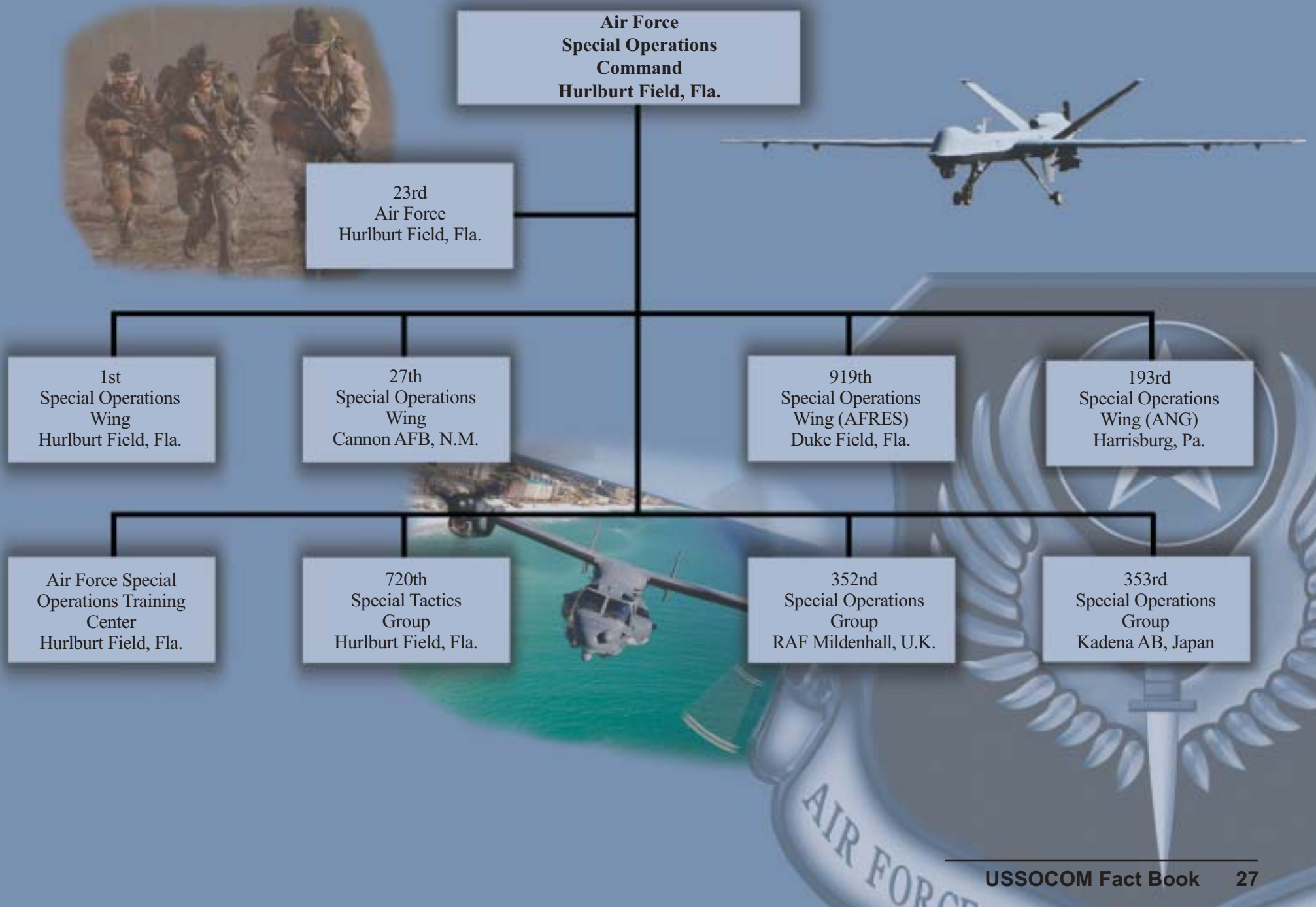
AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

Air Force Special Operations Command, located at Hurlburt Field, Fla., was established May 22, 1990. AFSOC, the air component to USSOCOM, presents combat-ready Air Force Special Operations Forces to conduct and support global special operations missions. AFSOF is comprised of uniquely trained active duty, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard personnel. The total force is rapidly deployable and equipped with highly specialized and modified aircraft. AFSOC Air Commandos deliver the Nation's specialized airpower to provide SOF mobility, intelligence support, forward presence and engagement with coalition partners.

AFSOC 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), information operations and airborne radio and television broadcast for psychological operations.



AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND





AFSOC

SPECIAL TACTICS

Special Tactics, AFSOC's Battlefield Airmen, is composed of combat control, pararescue, 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. Its mission is to recruit, assess, select, indoctrinate, train and educate Air Commandos, other Special Operations Forces and SOF enablers. These missions include aircrew qualification, special tactics, Combat Aviation Advisor and courses conducted at the Air Force Special Operations School.

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.

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 Weathermen, medical field skills, advanced skills for Special Operations Security Forces, integrated combat skills for Combat Aviation Advisors, and Tactical Air Control Party Airmen.

In July 2009, STTS established STTS Det 1 in Yuma, Ariz., to execute the Special Operations Tactical Air Control Course (SOTACC), recently transferred from USASOC to AFSOC to conduct Joint training for SOCOM's Terminal

Attack Controllers.

The 19th Special Operations Squadron is an advanced weapons instruction and mission rehearsal unit and is AFSOC's formal school for AC-130U, 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. As a Total Force Initiative, the 5th Special Operations Squadron (Air Force Reserve) has an associate relationship with the 19th SOS with the mission of providing basic aircrew training for U-28A and Combat Aviation Advisor aircrews.

AFSOTC's newest squadron, the 551st Special Operations Squadron is AFSOC's Formal Training Unit at Cannon Air Force Base, N.M. The unit provides aircrew training at AFSOC's newest base to include AC-130H, M-28, Q-200, MQ-1/9 Unmanned Aerial Systems, and MC-130W Dragon Spear, making maximum use of the aircraft recently moved to Clovis, N.M.

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 DoD. Every day, the 6th SOS has Air Commandos deployed to any given theater of the globe and maintains 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 resupply. They set up navigational aid equipment anywhere in the world to guide aircraft for landing on austere 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 Air Force weather technicians with unique training to operate in hostile or denied territory. They gather, assess, and interpret weather and environmental intelligence from forward deployed locations, working with Special Operations Forces. They collect weather, river, snow, ocean, and terrain intelligence; assist mission planning; generate accurate mission-tailored target and route forecasts in support of global special operations; and train joint force members and coalition partners to take and communicate limited weather observations. Additionally, Special Operations Weathermen conduct special reconnaissance, collect upper air data, organize, establish and maintain weather data reporting networks, determine host nation meteorological capabilities and train foreign national forces. Every Special Operations Forces mission is planned using the intelligence and coordination of Special Operations Weathermen.



AFSOC

AFSOC Aircraft



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-130H** model is known as "**Spectre**." The **AC-130U** model is called "**Spooky**." The U-model is the most recent version of the AC-130 gunship. Both models of the AC-130 employ up-to-date technology and can attack two targets simultaneously.

The **Combat Shadow** flies 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.

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 Aircraft



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-130J Commando Solo III**, 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 Aircraft



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**, **M-28**, **PC-12** and **Q-200**. 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.

AFSOC Aircraft



The MQ-9 is a true hybrid of capabilities, bridging the gap between traditional intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance attributes with those of a dedicated close air support aircraft. The MQ-9's unique combination of long loiter, full motion video, and precision strike weapons is at the forefront of a transformation in the manner by which airpower is tasked and employed.



The **Battlefield 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 be controlled by one Operator using a handheld remote control unit.



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.

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 was then designated as the Marine Special Operations Advisor Group.

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

In April 2009, MSOAG was re-designated as the **Marine Special Operations Regiment** with the 1st, 2d, and 3d MSOBs as subordinate units. The newly designated **3d MSOB** incorporated the structure and personnel from MSOAG's former companies.

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 and trains Marine Special Operations Forces and is responsible for developing doctrine.

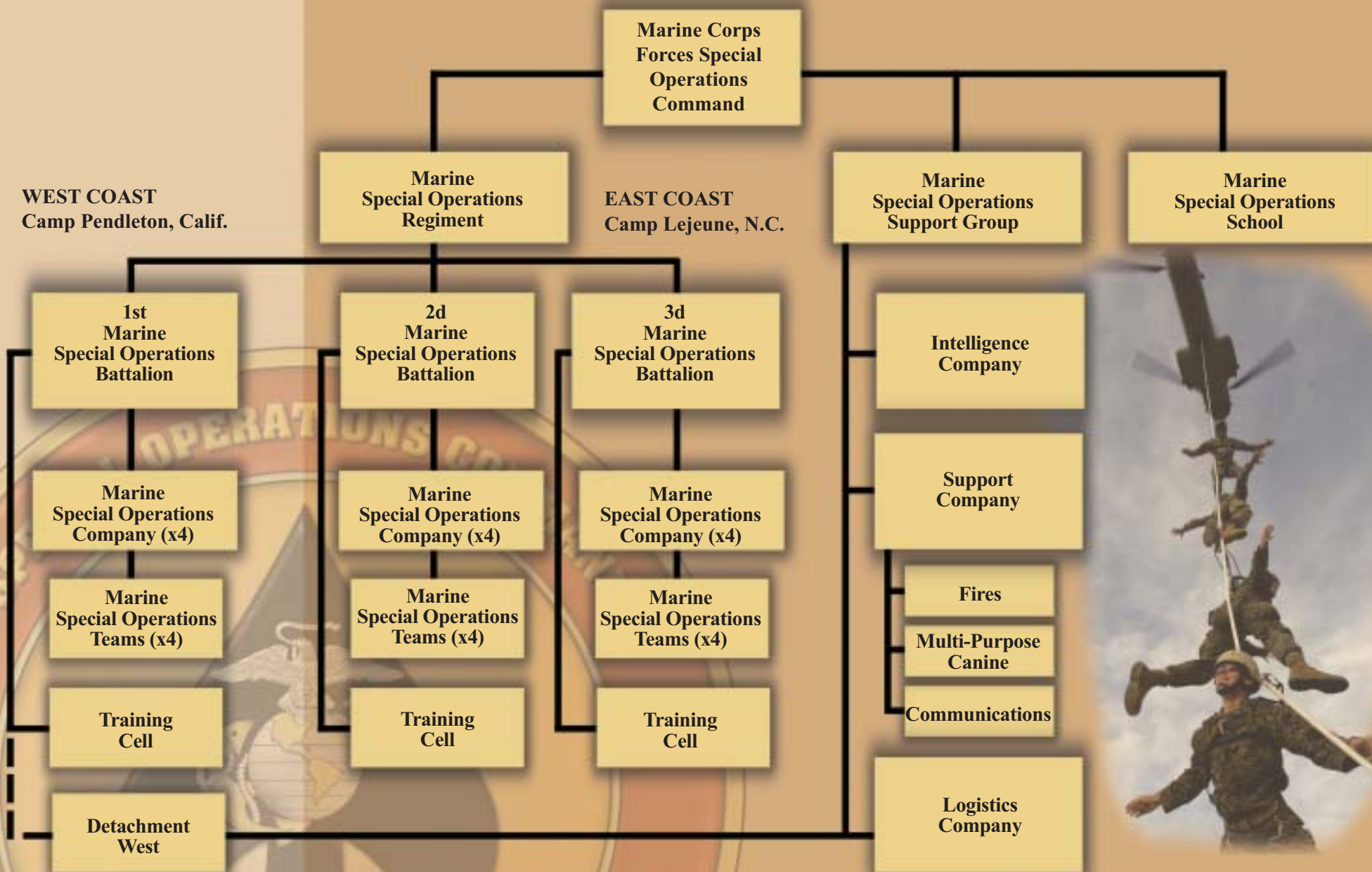
As a service component of USSOCOM, MARSOC is tasked by the commander of USSOCOM to train, organize, equip and when directed by commander of USSOCOM, deploy task organized, scalable and responsive U.S. Marine Corps Special Operations Forces worldwide in support of combatant commanders and other agencies. MARSOC has been directed to conduct foreign internal defense, special reconnaissance, and direct action. 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 Marine Special Operations Teams conducting foreign internal defense and Marine Special Operations Companies from the Marine Special Operations Battalions conducting foreign internal defense, special reconnaissance and direct action.



MARINE CORPS FORCES

SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND





MARSOC



Marine Special Operations Regiment

The Marine Special Operations Regiment (MSOR) consists of a Headquarters Company and three Marine Special Operations Battalions (1st, 2d and 3d). The Regiment 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 as well as the capability to form the nucleus of a Joint Special Operations Task Force. Marines and Sailors of the MSOR 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. MSOR deployments are coordinated by MARSOC, through USSOCOM, in accordance with engagement priorities for Overseas Contingency Operations.

1st, 2d and 3d Marine Special Operations Battalions



The Marine Special Operations Battalions are organized, trained and equipped to deploy for worldwide missions as directed by MARSOC. The battalions consist of four Marine Special Operations Companies and are task organized with personnel uniquely skilled in special equipment support, intelligence and fire-support. Each MSOC is commanded by a Marine major and capable of deploying task-organized, expeditionary Special Operations Forces for Foreign Internal Defense, special reconnaissance and direct-action missions in support of the geographic combatant commanders. The Marine Special Operations Companies are uniquely organized and tailored to support the geographic combatant commanders with the capability to conduct distributed operations and littoral and counterinsurgency expertise while bringing a language and cultural capability to missions in support of USSOCOM. Each team within the company is designed and capable of limited split-team operations and trained to conduct FID, DA and SR missions both unilaterally and with partnered nation forces.



MARINE CORPS FORCES

SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND



Marine Special Operations Support Group

The Marine Special Operations Support Group provides support capabilities for worldwide Special Operations missions as directed by the MARSOC commander. The MSOSG specifically provides all-source intelligence fusion, combined arms coordination, multi-purpose canine, Special Operations communications, and limited combat service support capability to MARSOC forces. The MSOSG deploys these capabilities in tailored operational support detachments.



Marine Special Operations School

Marine Special Operations School screens, assesses, selects and trains Marines and Sailors for Special Operations assignments in MARSOC; provides advanced individual special operations training; plans and executes the component exercise program; and serves as MARSOC's training and education proponent, in order to support MARSOC requirements.

MSOS is tasked to:

- Conduct a formal Assessment and Selection Program
- Conduct an entry level Special Operations training course to train NCOs and company grade officers for Special Operations assignments within MARSOC
- Conduct MARSOC's component exercise program
- Conduct Special Operations advanced and specialty courses
- Develop MARSOF standards, doctrine and Tactics, Techniques and Procedures
- Serve as MARSOC's proponent for weapons and optics requirements
- Serve as the training and education link between MARSOC, USMC and SOCOM component SOF Schools to support MARSOC requirements

USSOCOM

SUBORDINATE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMANDS



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.



JSOU

The **Joint Special Operations University** resides at Hurlburt Field, Fla. JSOU's mission is to educate Special Operations Forces executive, senior, and intermediate leaders and selected other national and international security decision-makers, both military and civilian, through teaching, research, and outreach in the science and art of Joint Special Operations.



JMISC

As a Joint Subordinate Command within USSOCOM, the **Joint Military Information Support Command** serves as a key contributor in the DoD's ongoing efforts to erode adversary power, will and influence. JMISC is responsible to plan, coordinate, integrate, and when directed, execute transregional influence over relevant populations in support of Combatant Commands, OSD, and select government agencies to achieve operational, strategic, and national goals and objectives. The senior-level military and DoD civilians who compose the organization include: psychological operations specialists, strategic and regional intelligence analysts, behavioral scientists, cultural advisors, media experts, and multi-media product developers. The JMISC provides the DoD with a dynamic, responsive and sophisticated influence capability that plans, coordinates and manages the execution of transregional information programs in support of the DoD and regional security objectives.



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.

SOCCENT

Special Operations Command Central (SOCCENT), headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base, 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 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 Operations 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 Overseas Contingency Operations, 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 anytime.

SOCAFRICA

On 1 October 2008, SOCAFRICA was established as U.S. Africa Command's Theater Special Operations Command--a functional, sub-unified special operations command for Africa. SOCAFRICA contributes to U.S. Africa Command's mission through the application of the full spectrum of Special Operations Forces capabilities including civil affairs, information operations, theater security cooperation, crisis response, and campaign planning.

THEATER SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMANDS





SOCEUR

SOCPAC

SOCKOR

SOCAFICA

SOCCENT



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**
- ♠ **Most Special Operations require non-SOF support**



Milestones ^{In} Special

William Donovan



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



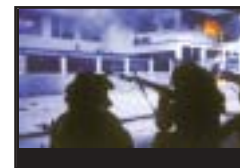
Operation Ivory Coast
Nov. 20-21, 1970



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 &

1991

Operation Provide Comfort
Iraq 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

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



Operation Enduring Freedom
Afghanistan
Oct. 19, 2001 - Present



Operation
Enduring Freedom
Philippines
Jan. 2002 - Present



Operation Iraqi Freedom
March 19, 2003 - 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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