**Korea**

Army Master Sgt. Ola L. Mize

**Vietnam**

Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie Adkins
Army Sgt. 1st Class Eugene Ashley, Jr.*
Army Sgt. Gary B. Beikirch
Army Master Sgt. Roy P. Benavidez
Army Sgt. 1st Class William M. Bryant*
Army Sgt. Brian L. Baker*
Army Staff Sgt. Jon R. Cavaiani
Army Staff Sgt. Drew D. Dix
Army Capt. Roger H. C. Donlon
Air Force Maj. Bernard F. Fisher
Air Force Capt. James P. Fleming
Army 1st Lt. Loren D. Hagen*
Army Master Sgt. Charles E. Hosking, Jr.*
Army 1st Lt. Robert L. Howard
Air Force Lt. Col. Joe M. Jackson
Air Force Col. William A. Jones III
Army Specialist 5th Class John J. Kedenburg*
Navy Lt. j.g. (SEAL) Joseph R. Kerrey
Army Specialist 4th Class Robert D. Law*
Air Force Airman 1st Class John L. Levitow
Army Sgt. 1st Class Gary L. Littrell
Army Staff Sgt. Franklin D. Miller
Sgt. 1st Class Melvin Morris
Navy Lt. (SEAL) Thomas R. Norris
Navy Seaman David G. Ouellet*
Army Staff Sgt. Robert J. Pruden*
Army Staff Sgt. Laszlo Rabel*
Army Capt. Ronald E. Ray
Army Master Sgt. Jose Rodela
Army 1st Lt. George K. Sisler*
Navy Engineman 2nd Class (SEAL) Michael E. Thornton
Army Capt. Humbert R. Versace*
Army 1st Lt. Charles Q. Williams
Navy Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class James E. Williams
Army Sgt. Gordon D. Yntema*
Army Sgt. 1st Class Fred W. Zabitosky

**Somalia**

Army Master Sgt. Gary I. Gordon*
Army Sgt. 1st Class Randall D. Shughart*

**Afghanistan**

Senior Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Edward C. Byers Jr.
Army Staff Sgt. Robert J. Miller*
Navy Lt. (SEAL) Michael P. Murphy*
Army Sgt. 1st Class Leroy A. Petry

**Iraq**

Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Michael A. Monsoor*

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* Awarded posthumously
The Bull Simons Award was first awarded in 1990. The award recognizes recipients who embody “the true spirit, values, and skills of a Special Operations warrior.” Col. Arthur “Bull” Simons, whom the award is named after, was the epitome of these attributes. The Bull Simons Award is USSOCOM’s highest honor.

**Bull Simons Award Recipients**

The Bull Simons Award was first awarded in 1990. The award recognizes recipients who embody “the true spirit, values, and skills of a Special Operations warrior.” Col. Arthur “Bull” Simons, whom the award is named after, was the epitome of these attributes. The Bull Simons Award is USSOCOM’s highest honor.

Army Col. Robert Howard - 2014
Army Chief Warrant Officer Fred Arooji - 2013
Air Force Master Sgt. Scott Fales - 2012
Army Maj. Gen. Eldon Bargewell - 2010
Army Col. Chuck Fry - 2009
Army Maj. Caesar Civitella - 2008
Army Maj. Richard "Dick" Meadows - 2006
Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest Tabata - 2004
Army Col. Charlie Beckwith - 2001
Army Gen. James Lindsay - 1998
The Honorable William Cohen - 1997
The Honorable Sam Nunn - 1997
Army Col. Aaron Bank - 1994
The Honorable John Marsh Jr. - 1993
Mr. H. Ross Perot - 1990
The Hall of Honor was established in 2010 and recognizes those who have served with great distinction and have demonstrated leadership and selfless service within the SOF community.

2010
Air Force Maj. Gen. John Alison
Army Col. Aaron Bank
Army Col. Charlie Beckwith
Master Chief Petty Officer Rudolph Boesch
Marine Corps Maj. James Capers
Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Evans Carlson
Army Brig. Gen. William Darby
Navy Capt. David Del Guidice
Command Sgt. Maj. William Grimes
Army Lt. Col. Michael Grimm
Rear Adm. Draper Kauffman
Chief Master Sgt. Michael Lampe
Army Maj. Gen. Robert McClure
Air Force Col. William Takacs

2011
Air Force Col. John Carney
Command Sgt. Maj. Galen Kittleson
Rear Adm. Irve LeMoyne
Marine Corps Lt. Col. George O’Dell
Navy Capt. Norman Olson
Marine Corps Col. Peter Ortiz
Master Chief Petty Officer James Parks
Army Maj. Larry Thorne
Chief Master Sgt. William Walter
Army Sgt. Maj. Billy Waugh
Army Lt. Gen William Yarborough

2012
Air Force Master Sgt. Scott Fales
Army Maj. Gen. Robert Frederick
Army Maj. Gen. Frank Merrill
Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Norrad
Chief Master Sgt. Gordon Scott
Army Brig. Gen. Russell Volckmann

2013
Army Chief Warrant Officer Fred Arooji
Army Col. Christopher Costa
Army Col. Jeffrey Jones

2014
Army Sgt. Maj. Joseph Brauch
Air Force Col. Phillip Cochran
Mr. Richard Lunger
Air Force Lt. Gen. Leroy Manor
Air Force Col. Kenneth Poole
Army Maj. Gen. Sidney Shachnow

2015
Army 1st Lt. Jack L. Knight
Air Force Col. James H. Kyle
Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Lamb
Marine Corps Lt. Col. Terrence Moore
Marine Corps Col. John W. Ripley
Army Col. Phillip R. Stewart
Army Col. Lynn B. Stull
Army Chief Warrant Officer Paul Zeisman

2016
Army Maj. Caesar Civitella
Marine Corps Col. Robert Coates
Marine Corps Master Sgt. John Mosser
Air Force Col. Billy “Rusty” Napier
Army Maj. Thomas Powell
**Headquarters USSOCOM**

**Location** - MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

**Established** - April 16, 1987

**Commander** - U.S. Army Gen. Raymond A. Thomas III


**Vice Commander** - U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Thomas J. Trask

**Command Sergeant Major** - Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick L. McCauley

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

**People** - Headquarters approximately 2,500/Entire command nearly 70,000

**Headquarters Staff**

**Chief of Staff and Command Support Directorate** - U. S. Air Force Maj. Gen. J. Marcus Hicks

**Special Operations Forces Acquisition, Technology & Logistics** - Mr. James Geurts

- **J4 Directorate of Logistics**

**Special Operations Financial Management** - Mr. D. Mark Peterson


- **J1 Directorate of Personnel**
- **J7/J9 Directorate of Training, Doctrine, and Capability Development**
- **Preservation of the Force and Families**

**J2 Directorate of Intelligence** - U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Gary Johnston


**J5 Directorate of Strategy, Plans and Policy** - Mr. William Miller

**J6 Directorate of Communications** - Mr. John Wilcox

**J8 Directorate of Force Structure, Requirements, Resources and Strategic Assessments** - U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Sean Swindell

**Joint Special Operations University** - Dr. Brian A. Maher
U.S. Army Gen. Raymond A. Thomas III
Commander

Command Sgt. Major Patrick L. McCauley
Command Sergeant Major

Deputy Commander

Vice Commander
USSOCOM Mission

USSOCOM synchronizes the planning of Special Operations and provides Special Operations Forces to support persistent, networked and distributed Global Combatant Command operations in order to protect and advance our Nation’s interests.

What USSOCOM Does

- Civil Affairs
- Counterinsurgency
- Counterterrorism
- Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Direct Action
- Foreign Humanitarian Assistance
- Foreign Internal Defense
- Hostage Rescue and Recovery
- Military Information Support Operations
- Security Force Assistance
- Special Reconnaissance
- Unconventional Warfare
- Preparation of the Environment

Title 10 Authorities

- Develop Special Operations strategy, doctrine and tactics, promotions, assignments, retention, training and professional military education
- Prepare and submit budget proposals for Special Operations Forces - Ensure Special Operations Forces’ combat readiness
- Exercise authority, direction and control over Special Operations expenditures - Monitor Special Operations Forces preparedness to carry out assigned missions
- Train assigned forces - Develop and acquire Special Operations-peculiar equipment, materiel, supplies and services
- Conduct specialized courses of instruction - Command and control of U.S.-based Special Operations Forces
- Validate requirements - Provide Special Operations Forces to the geographic combatant commanders
- Establish requirement priorities - Activities specified by the President or Secretary of Defense
- Ensure interoperability of equipment and forces
- Formulate and submit intelligence support requirements
- Monitor Special Operations officers’
Direct Action

Military Information Support Operations

Civil Affairs

Foreign Internal Defense

Unconventional Warfare
USASOC IS HOME TO:
- Special Forces (Green Berets)
- Rangers
- Special Operations Aviators
- Civil Affairs Soldiers
- Military Information Support Operators
- Training Cadre
- Sustainment Soldiers

LOCATION: Fort Bragg, North Carolina
ESTABLISHED: Dec. 1, 1989
MISSION: To enhance the readiness of Army Special Operations Forces.
PEOPLE: Approximately 27,000
SINE PARI – WITHOUT EQUAL
**Special Forces**

Special Forces (Green Berets) units perform seven missions - unconventional warfare, foreign internal defense, special reconnaissance, direct action, combating terrorism, and counter-proliferation. These missions make Special Forces unique because they are employed in peacetime, conflict and war. The Special Forces motto is “De Oppresso Liber - to Free the Oppressed.”

**Rangers**

The 75th Ranger Regiment is a unique Special Operations force comprised of the specially selected and well-trained Soldiers constantly tested for the privilege of serving in the Regiment. Rangers can conduct large-scale Joint Forced Entry operations or Special Operations raids across the globe. The 75th Ranger Regiment’s motto is “Rangers Lead The Way.”

**Army Special Operations Aviators**

The 160th SOAR aviators are highly trained and ready to accomplish the very toughest rotary-wing missions in all environments, anywhere in the world, day or night, with unparalleled precision. The professionalism and capabilities of Army Special Operations Aviation are developed through a “train as you fight” mentality.
Military Information Support Operators

MISO cover a broad range of U.S. political, military, economic and ideological activities used by the U.S. government to secure national objectives. MISO units develop, produce and disseminate truthful information to foreign audiences in support of U.S. policies.

Civil Affairs Soldiers

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.

Training Cadre

The U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School assesses, trains, educates and manages Soldiers within the Special Forces, Military Information Support Operations and Civil Affairs career fields.

Sustainment Soldiers

Sustainers are responsible for providing logistical, medical and signal support for Army Special Operations Forces worldwide in support of contingency missions and warfighting commanders.
NAVSPECWARCOM is home to:
- Sea, Air, Land (SEALs)
- Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen (SWCC)
- Enablers

**Location:** Coronado, California  
**Established:** April 16, 1987  
**Mission:** Man, train, equip, educate, deploy, resource, and sustain forces to conduct direct action and special reconnaissance, support advise-and-assist programs, and build partner capability, in or out of the maritime environment, by employing tailored capabilities in support of military commanders, Chiefs of Mission, interagency, and foreign partners and allies.  
**People:** Approximately 10,000
Sea, Air, Land (SEAL)

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.
Enablers

If SEALs and SWCC are considered to be the action arms of NSW, then the Enablers are the backbone of the organization. SEALs rely heavily on the services of technicians such as mobile communications teams, tactical cryptologic support and explosive ordnance disposal specialists. Enablers contribute heavily toward the success of the special warfare operations mission.
AFSOC IS HOME TO:

Air Commandos

- Special Tactics
- Special Operations Aviators
- Support Air Commandos

LOCATION: Hurlburt Field, Florida
ESTABLISHED: May 22, 1990
MISSION: Provide our Nation’s specialized airpower capability across the spectrum of conflict. Any place, any time, anywhere.
VISION: Air Commandos. Ready today, relevant tomorrow, resilient always.
PEOPLE: Approximately 19,500
Special Tactics

Air Force Special Operations Command’s Special Tactics Airmen are highly-skilled operators trained and equipped to operate under difficult conditions with stealth, speed, and teamwork. **Combat Controllers** are certified air traffic controllers trained to infiltrate undetected via sea, air or land into combat and hostile environments to establish assault zones or airfields, while simultaneously conducting air traffic control, fire support, command and control, direct action, counter-terrorism, foreign internal defense, humanitarian assistance and special reconnaissance. **Pararescuemen**, or PJs, are the only Defense Department specialty specifically trained and equipped to conduct conventional and unconventional recovery operations. **Special Operations Weather Team** members are Air Force meteorologists with unique training to operate in hostile or denied territory to assess environmental data, conduct environmental special reconnaissance, and forecast operational impacts. AFSOC Tactical Air Control Party members deploy with Special Operations Forces operating and supervising communication nets to support Army ground maneuver units. They are also certified in joint terminal attack control allowing them to orchestrate close air support. Lastly, the **Special Operations Surgical Team** is an extremely lightweight, mobile and rapidly deployable element that provides highly advanced trauma life support, life-saving damage-control surgery, pre/post-operative resuscitation and critical care, and CASEVAC aboard SOF aircraft and/or other opportune/civilian air, land or sea platforms.
Support Air Commandos

Air Commandos hold true to a proud warrior heritage. Serving in a variety of mission support, maintenance and medical career fields, they enable the AFSOC mission and ensure successful operations anytime...anyplace.

Special Operations Aviators

Air Force Special Operations Command aviators are America’s specialized air power. They fly a fleet of specially-modified aircraft -- mainly under the cover of darkness -- to conduct long-range infiltration and exfiltration; precision strike; aerial refueling; military information support operations; foreign internal defense; command and control; and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance anywhere in the world.
MARSOC is home to:
- Critical Skills Operators
- Special Operations Officers
- Special Operations Capabilities Specialists
- Special Operations Combat Services Specialists

Location: Camp Lejeune, North Carolina
Established: Feb. 24, 2006
Mission: MARSOC’s mission is to train, sustain, and deploy scalable, expeditionary forces worldwide to accomplish special operations missions assigned by U.S. Special Operations Command. To accomplish that, MARSOC equips and trains Marines to succeed in austere conditions against a wide range of adversaries. MARSOC executes complex, distributed operations in uncertain environments, achieving silent success and strategic impact.
People: Nearly 3,000
Critical Skills Operators/Special Operations Officers

Critical Skills Operators are the front line Marines and Sailors who are complex problem solvers able to operate across the full spectrum of special operations in small teams under ambiguous, sometimes austere, environments while maintaining a high level of mental flexibility and physical endurance. CSOs exemplify the Marine Corps’ concepts of distributed operations and the strategic corporal. These warrior-diplomats are able to operate across the spectrum of force. They are experts in utilizing the right force at the right time with the right effect. MARSOC forces provide foreign internal defense, special reconnaissance, and direct action capabilities to commanders.
Special Operations Capabilities and Combat Services Specialists

Special Operations Capabilities Specialists include Joint Terminal Attack Controllers who call in close air support aircraft and indirect fires for Marine special operations teams; communicators, who plan, install, operate, maintain and protect organic narrowband, voice, video and data radios, terminals and services in support of assigned missions; intelligence enablers who provide geospatial, human and signals intelligence; and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians. Special Operations Combat Service Support Specialists provide intrinsic combat service support and logistics capabilities including administrative, fiscal, medical, engineer, ammunition and supply.
The Joint Special Operations Command, located at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, is a sub-unified command of the U.S. Special Operations Command. It is charged to study Special Operations requirements and techniques, ensure interoperability and equipment standardization, plan and conduct Special Operations exercises and training, and develop joint Special Operations tactics.
MISSION
SOCAFRICA is a sub-unified command of USSOCOM under operational control of United States Africa Command, with headquarters in Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart-Möhringen, Germany. Subordinate SOCAFRICA organizations include: Special Operations Command Forward-East (Special Operations Command and Control Element - Horn of Africa), Special Operations Command Forward-Central (AFRICOM Counter-Lord’s Resistance Army Control Element), Special Operations Command Forward-West (Joint Special Operations Task Force-Trans Sahara), Naval Special Warfare Unit 10, Joint Special Operations Air Component Africa, and SOCAFRICA Signal Detachment. Commander SOCAFRICA serves as the Special Operations Advisor to Commander, USAFRICOM. SOCAFRICA’s primary responsibility is to exercise operational control over theater-assigned or allocated Air Force, Army, Marine, or Navy Special Operations Forces conducting operations, exercises, and theater security cooperation in the USAFRICOM area of responsibility.

COMMAND VISION
SOCAFRICA conducts the full spectrum of SOF missions and closely works with component, interagency and Partner Nations to protect U.S. lives and interests in Africa. The command builds tactical and operational counter-VEO (Violent Extremist Organization) capability in select, key partner nations and assists in developing regional security structures to create stability and combat transregional threats. SOCAFRICA activities directly support USAFRICOM’s four Theater Strategic Objectives of defeating VEOs, developing persistent access to partner nations through SOF engagement, building partner nation and regional capacity that promotes stability, and mitigating the underlying conditions that permit violent extremism.

AREA OF FOCUS
The African continent is large and diverse-three-and-a-half times the size of the United States, with 54 countries spanning 11 million square miles. SOCAFRICA is routinely engaged, on average, in half of these countries; working with and through our African counterparts.

MAJOR ENGAGEMENT
Flintlock is an exercise focused on improving military interoperability and capacity building of participating militaries from Northern and Western Africa, Europe and the United States.
**Commander** - U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Darsie D. Rogers  
**Senior Enlisted Advisor** - Command Sgt. Maj. Marc W. Eckard

**MISSION**

SOCCENT, in partnership with Interagency and International Partners, supports CENTCOM’s and SOCOM’s objectives by employing Special Operations to deter and degrade malign actors, influence relevant populations, and enhance regional partners to protect U.S. national interests and maintain regional stability. When directed, SOCCENT employs Special Operations Forces for contingency and crisis response.

**Command Vision**

Assist Commander, USCENTCOM in strengthening regional stability and protecting U.S. interests. SOCCENT will employ a combination of SOF core activities, engagements, and posture in conjunction with interagency partners, other CENTCOM components, and partner nation’s SOF and CT forces. Expand the capabilities of regional SOF and CT Forces and provide them with enhanced capabilities while influencing relevant target populations. These actions counter threats and maintain our deep understanding of the environment, enabling us to achieve our assigned tasks. We will relentlessly empower our people with rich information and decentralized authority in a networked enterprise that’s constantly improving in speed, agility, and effectiveness. We succeed in our mission by making effective and sustained contributions towards CENTCOM and SOCOM’s desired end states.

**Area of Focus**

SOCCENT’s area of focus includes 20 countries. These countries include Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, and Yemen.

**Major Engagement**

Eager Lion is one of U.S. CENTCOM’s premiere exercises held in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan annually. Eager Lion is designed to promote cooperation and interoperability among more than 11,000 participating troops, build functional capacity and enhance readiness.
Theater Special Operations Command - Europe

Commander - U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Mark Schwartz
Senior Enlisted Advisor - Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Andrew I. Harrison

Mission
SOCEUR employs Special Operations Forces across the USEUCOM area of responsibility to enable deterrence, strengthen European security collective capabilities and interoperability, and counter transnational threats to protect U.S. personnel and interests.

Command Vision
SOCEUR will integrate with the USEUCOM components and the Interagency to achieve USEUCOM theater objectives. SOCEUR will preserve its distinct theater operational response capability through a culture of readiness, decentralized mission command, and empowered tactical operators. The priorities for SOF operational employment are to gain and maintain persistent access to areas of potential conflict and violent extremist organizations areas of operations, to enable preparation of the environment tasks in support of USEUCOM OPLANs and CONPLANs, while assuring our European Allies and partners of U.S. commitments to bilateral and NATO obligations.

Area of Focus
SOCEUR’s area of responsibility is derived from USEUCOM’s area of responsibility, consisting of 51 independent countries that extend from Greenland east through the European continent and all of Russia and south of the continent to include the Mediterranean Sea, south to the Caucus region and Israel. Within USEUCOM’s area of responsibility, SOCEUR’s principle area of focus is to defend NATO on USEUCOM’s eastern flank. SOCEUR’s other key focus area is combating terrorism in USEUCOM’s southern flank.

Major Engagement
Jackal Stone is an annual Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed Special Operations Forces exercise coordinated by SOCEUR with participating SOF and support enablers from varying partner countries throughout Europe. SOCEUR is fully integrated into Operation Atlantic Resolve and NATO Enhanced Forward Presence.

Established Jan. 22, 1955
**THEATER SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND - KOREA**

**COMMANDER** - U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Tony D. Bauernfeind  
**SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR** - Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Timothy Boehmer

**MISSION**

SOCKOR plans and conducts Special Operations in support of the Commander of United States Forces/United Nations Commander/Combined Forces Commander in armistice, crisis and war. SOCKOR is a functional component command of United States Forces Korea, tasked to plan and conduct Special Operations in the Korean theater of operations.

**COMMAND VISION**

Since its inception, SOCKOR continues to be the only theater SOC in which U.S. and host nation SOF are institutionally organized for combined operations. SOCKOR and Republic of Korea (ROK) Army Special Warfare Command (SWC) regularly train in their combined roles, while SOCKOR’s Special Forces Detachment acts as the liaison between ROK Special Forces and the U.S. Special Forces.

**AREA OF FOCUS**

In peacetime, SOCKOR is responsible for the planning, training, and execution of all U.S. SOF activities in Korea. The SOCKOR Commander serves as senior advisor to COMUSFK regarding all U.S. SOF issues. If the armistice fails, SOCKOR and ROK SWC will combine to establish the Combined Unconventional Warfare Task Force (CUWTF) under the Combined Forces Command. Under the current plan, when CUWTF is formed, the SOCKOR Commander becomes the CUWTF Deputy Commander. SOCKOR is then designated as the United Nations Command Special Operations Component under the United Nations Command, with the SOCKOR Commander as the Special Operations Component Commander.

**MAJOR ENGAGEMENT**

Foal Eagle is a bilateral series of annual, defense-driven training events intended to increase readiness, protect the region, and maintain stability on the Korean peninsula. It is a multinational, joint-service exercise focusing on tactical-based warfare throughout the peninsula of Korea.
Theater Special Operations Command - North

Established Nov. 5th, 2013

Commander - U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Christopher M. Burns
Senior Enlisted Advisor - Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffery D. Stigall

Mission
SOCNORTH in partnership with the interagency and regional SOF, synchronize operations against terrorist networks and their acquisition or use of weapons of mass destruction, and when directed, employs fully capable SOF to defend the homeland in depth and respond to crisis.

Command Vision
SOCNORTH will be responsive, capable, and postured to provide USNORTHCOM with scalable SOF options to contribute to the defense of the homeland with emphasis on counterterrorism, counter weapons of mass destruction-terrorism, and counter transnational organized crime in Mexico. Critical to our success is the expanding and strengthening of our posture across the area of responsibility to achieve a tailored and discrete presence with our mission partners. This includes DoD, partner-nation SOF, and the U.S. interagency. As a node with the Network, we will develop, exercise, and advocate for SOF capabilities required by commander of USNORTHCOM. Success is defined by achieving mutual trust and confidence with our critical mission partners that result in gaining and maintaining all domain awareness allowing timely response throughout the AOR by trained, organized and ready SOF.

Area of Focus
SOCNORTH’s area of responsibility mirrors that of USNORTHCOM and includes air, land, and sea approaches and encompasses the continental United States, Alaska, Canada, Mexico, and the surrounding water out to approximately 500 nautical miles. It also includes the Gulf of Mexico, the Straits of Florida, and portions of the Caribbean region to include the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The commander of SOCNORTH is responsible for maintaining existing relationships with regional SOF organizations in Canada, Mexico, and the Bahamas and facilitates their contributions to the cooperative defense of North America.

Major Engagement
Vital Archer is a yearly exercise focused on the USNORTHCOM counterterrorism mission. It is a command post exercise as well as a field training exercise. Field training includes response to chemical, biological, and nuclear incidents. SOCNORTH also executes several exercises annually that rehearse SOF specific support to lead U.S. government agencies for resolution of threats to the homeland.
**Theater Special Operations Command - Pacific**

**Commander** - U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Bryan P. Fenton  
**Senior Enlisted Advisor** - Command Sgt. Maj. Joaquin S. Cruz III

**Mission**

SOCPAC is a sub-unified command of USSOCOM under the operational control of U.S. Pacific Command and serves as the functional component for all Special Operations missions deployed throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. SOCPAC coordinates, plans, and directs all Special Operations in the Pacific theater supporting Commander, USPACOM objectives of deterring aggression, responding quickly to crisis, and defeating threats to the United States and its interests.

**Command Vision**

Provide flexible response to contingencies in the Indo-Asia-Pacific. Integral to this capability is our forward-deployed posture and continuous engagement with partners and ally forces, heightening mutual interoperability and our regional expertise. Mission command of our forces is founded on trust and enabled when responsibility resides at the lowest possible level - with competent SOF elements empowered to maximize our diverse team. Creative solutions leverage the breadth and depth of our interagency network, informed by consideration of the regional context and inherent complexity of the mission sets. Our success is predicated upon a healthy, motivated force, trained, educated and fully supported by our programs and processes.

**Area of Focus**

SOCPAC’s area of focus includes 36 countries and encompasses half of the earth’s surface. SOCPAC divides its area of focus into four regions:  
- **South East Asia**: Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.  
- **South Asia**: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka.  
- **Northeast Asia and Oceania**: Australia, China, Fiji, Japan, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Mongolia, Nauru, New Zealand, North Korea, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

**Major Engagement**

The biennial Pacific Area Special Operations Conference (PASOC) is SOCPAC’s largest multilateral engagement. PASOC brings together SOF leaders from around the region to discuss challenges to regional security, share information and best practices to improve regional security, and build habitual relationships.
Theater Special Operations Command - South

**Commander** - U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Collin P. Green
**Senior Enlisted Advisor** - Command Sgt. Maj. Amil Alvarez

**Mission**
SOC SOUTH is a sub-unified command of USSOCOM under the operational control of U.S. Southern Command. It is a joint Special Operations headquarters that plans and executes Special Operations in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

**Command Vision**
Enhancing security and stability in the Americas with our interagency partners and partner nations by establishing a networked defense that will detect, deter, disrupt and defeat illicit transnational elements.

**Area of Focus**
Its area of responsibility includes 31 countries and 15 territories and divides its area of focus into four regions: **Caribbean**: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos Islands. **Central America**: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. **Andean Ridge**: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela. **Southern Cone**: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

**Major Engagements**
**Fuerzas Comando**: A Special Operations skills competition and senior leader seminar designed to promote military-to-military relationships, interoperability, and regional security.
**Fused Response**: An annual exercise designed to improve time-sensitive crisis action planning and joint integration with partner nation and government agencies.
**Panamax**: A multinational combined/joint task force exercise designed to respond to any request from the governments of Panama and Colombia to protect and guarantee safe passage of traffic through the Panama Canal and ensure its neutrality.
Commander
Senior Enlisted Advisor
Command Sgt. Maj. Lyle Marsh

MISSION
NATO Special Operations Component Command - Afghanistan/Special Operations Joint Task Force-Afghanistan (NSOCC-A/SOJTF-A) conducts Security Force Assistance and targeted Counterterrorism (CT) in Afghanistan to ensure the enduring relevance proficiency, capability, and sustainability of the Afghan Special Security Force as a CT partner, and to deny safe haven to al Qaeda and its affiliates and adherents.

Special Operations Task Force — Afghanistan: SOTF-A conducts Foreign Internal Defense (FID) throughout Afghanistan to improve partnered unit capacity, capability, and self-sustainability.

Combined Joint Special Operations Aviation Component — Afghanistan: CJSOAC-A conducts special and conventional aviation operations to include assault, fires, mobility and intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance within Afghanistan in support of SOJTF-A.

General Command Police Special Units Special Operations Advisory Group: GCPSU and SOAG builds enduring tactical Ministry of the Interior capabilities with specialized units in order to neutralize insurgent networks, protect the population, and create a stable environment for the populace.

Task Force: Conducts offensive operations in Afghanistan to degrade the Taliban, Al-Qaeda, and the Haqqani Networks against terrorist organizations and supporting networks in order to prevent the reestablishment of operationally significant safe havens which threaten the United States, international community, and stability and sovereignty of government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Area of Focus
Afghan National Army Special Operations Command: ANASOC is comprised of two elements: the Afghan Commandos and the Afghan Special Forces. Commandos conduct specialized light infantry operations in support of regional Afghan National Army Corps counterinsurgency operations, and provide a strategic response capability for the government of Afghanistan. The Afghan National Army Special Forces specializes in internal defense by putting a specialized Afghan special operations team into the local populace.

Special Mission Wing: The SMW works in close partnership with members of ANASOC, as well as other Afghan National Security Force partners to provide lift, air support, and ISR capabilities with Mi-17s and PC-12 aircraft.

Afghan Local Police: The ALP program is an Afghan Minister of Interior sponsored, village-focused security program, which complements counterinsurgency efforts by assisting and supporting rural areas with limited or no Afghan National Security Forces presence in order to enable conditions for improved security, governance and development.

National Mission Units: The NMUs are Afghan Ministry of the Interior units which conduct special police law enforcement in high threat environments in order to uphold the laws of government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
AC-130U Spooky/AC-130W Stinger II

Primary function: Close air support and air interdiction.

CV-22B Osprey

**EC-130J Commando Solo**

**Primary function:** Military information support operations.

**Dimensions:** Wingspan 132 ft. 6 in.; length 97 ft.; height 38 ft. 8 in.

**Speed:** 335 mph. **Range:** 2300 miles **Crew:** 10.

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**MC-12W**

**Primary function:** Intensive, surveillance and reconnaissance

**Speed:** 359 mph. **Dimensions:** 57 ft., 11 in.; length 46 ft., 8 in.; height 14 ft., 4 in. **Range:** 2400 miles **Crew:** Four.

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**MC-130H Combat Talon II**

**Primary function:** Infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of Special Operations Forces.

**Speed:** 300 mph. **Dimensions:** Wingspan 132 ft. 7 in.; length MC-130E 100 ft. 10 in.; MC-130H 99 ft. 9 in.; height 38 ft. 6 in. **Range:** 2700 miles **Crew:** Seven.

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**MC-130J Commando II**

**Primary function:** Infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of Special Operations Forces; in-flight refueling of special operations vertical lift aircraft.

**Speed:** 416 mph. **Dimensions:** Wingspan 132 ft. 7 in.; length 97 ft. 9 in.; height 38 ft. 9 in. **Range:** 3000 miles **Crew:** Five.

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NSAV (Light) PC-12

**Primary function:** Provides rapid, short suspense operational movement of personnel.

**Speed:** 359 mph. **Dimensions:** Wingspan 57 ft. 11 in., length 46 ft. 8 in.; height 14 ft. 4 in. **Range:** 2700 miles **Crew:** Two.

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**U-28A**

**Primary Function:** Provides a manned fixed-wing, on-call/surge capability for Improved Tactical Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance in support of Special Operations Forces.

**Dimensions:** Wingspan: 53 feet 3 in., Height: 14 ft. **Speed:** 250 mph. **Range:** 1,500 nautical miles **Crew:** Four.
**Aircraft - Rotary Wing**

**MH-6M Little Bird**

*Primary function:* Close air support.  
*Speed:* 143 mph.  
*Dimensions:* Length: 32.05 ft., rotor diameter: 27.5 ft., height: 8 ft. 11 in.  
*Range:* 250 miles.  
*Armament:* 2x 12.7 mm GAU-19 or 2x 7.62 mm M134 minigun, 2x M260 rocket pods or 2x MJ-12 rocket pod; Anti-tank guided missile, 2x AGM-114 Hellfire air to ground missiles.  
*Crew:* Two.

**MH-60L/M Black Hawk**

*Primary Function:* Conduct overt or clandestine infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of Special Operations Forces.  
*Speed:* Max 222 mph, Cruise 138 mph.  
*Dimensions:* Length: 64 ft. 10 in.  
*Range:* 500 miles.  
*Payload:* 10 personnel with internal tanks.  
*Armament:* 2 x 7.62 miniguns.  
*Crew:* Four.

**MH-60L/M Black Hawk Defensive Armed Penetrator (DAP)**

*Primary Function:* Armed escort and fire support for Special Operations Forces.  
*Speed:* Max 222 mph, Cruise 138 mph.  
*Dimensions:* Length: 64 ft. 10 in.  
*Range:* 450NM.  
*Armament:* 2 x 7.62 mm M134 minigun, M230 30mm ChainGun, 70mm Hydra rockets, AGM-114 Hellfire air to ground missiles.  
*Crew:* Four.

**MH-47 Chinook**

*Primary function:* Conduct overt and clandestine infiltration, exfiltration, heavy assault, resupply, and sling load operations.  
*Speed:* Max 195 mph, cruise 132 mph.  
*Dimensions:* Length 99 ft. rotor diameter: 60 ft. height: 18 ft. 8 in.  
*Unrefueled Range:* 525 NM.  
*Armament:* M-134 and M-240 7.62mm machine guns.  
*Crew:* Six.
MQ-1 Predator

MQ-9 Reaper

AECV/Puma AE

Viking 400 (V400)
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.

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.
The MK VIII MOD 1 SEAL Delivery Vehicle is a free-flooding wet submersible designed for undersea Special Operations including direct action, hydrographic reconnaissance and insertion/extraction of SEALs. SDVs can be inserted into the water via a DDS-equipped submarine, or surface ships.

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. The 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. The divers who operate the DDS control assist in all launch and recovery operations.

The MK VIII MOD 1 SEAL Delivery Vehicle is a free-flooding wet submersible designed for undersea Special Operations including direct action, hydrographic reconnaissance and insertion/extraction of SEALs. SDVs can be inserted into the water via a DDS-equipped submarine, or surface ships.
Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle

The RG-31/RG-33 Auxiliary Utility Vehicles provide protection for SOF operators against the expanded use of improvised explosive devices, and provide a lethal offensive capability in the form of an integrated remote weapon station.

MRAP All Terrain Vehicle

The M-ATV provides a mine-resistant all-terrain vehicle capability specifically for small-unit combat operations in highly restricted rural, mountainous, and urban environments.

Ground Mobility Vehicle

The GMV is a standardized joint SOF combat vehicle with the operational flexibility to support the SOF core activities of direct action, special reconnaissance, unconventional warfare, counterterrorism, security force assistance, and counterinsurgency operations.
Lightweight Tactical All Terrain Vehicle

The LTATV is a side-by-side seat vehicle that provides a light, all-terrain capability to allow SOF to undertake operations across a wide variety of missions with increased mobility and maneuverability. The LTATV is internally transportable by MH-47 and CV-22 variant aircraft; carries two personnel; can be used for a multitude of operations from logistic support to casualty evacuation; and provides a high degree of speed and mobility over rough terrain.

All Terrain Vehicle

The ATV provides individual, all-terrain mobility to deployed SOF in austere locations and for a myriad of Special Operations missions. The vehicles are extremely flexible and internally transportable within rotary wing assets, and they allow fully combat-equipped SOF operators to move around the battlespace rapidly in terrain not easily navigated by larger, heavier vehicles.
**SOF TRUTHS**

- Humans are more important than hardware
- Quality is better than quantity
- SOF cannot be mass produced
- Competent SOF cannot be created after emergencies occur
- Most Special Operations require non-SOF support
The Typical Special Operator ...

- Is married and has at least two kids
- Average age is 29 years-old enlisted; 34 years-old officer
- Has 8 years experience in the General Purpose Forces
- Receives cultural and language training
- Has attended multiple advanced tactical schools
- Enjoys games which require problem solving like chess
- Is well educated and likely to have a college degree
- Is a thinking athlete - water polo, track, wrestling or football
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