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Heroes

Headquarters

Commands

Equipment
SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES

Medal of Honor

RECIPIENTS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>War</th>
<th>Individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>World War I</strong></td>
<td>U.S. Army Maj. Gen. William Donovan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>World War II</strong></td>
<td>U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Kenneth D. Bailey</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.S. Marine Corps Pfc. Henry Gurke</td>
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<td></td>
<td>U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Clyde Thomason</td>
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<td></td>
<td>U.S. Army Lt. Jack L. Knight</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Korea</strong></td>
<td>U.S. Army Master Sgt. Ola L. Mize</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Eugene Ashley, Jr.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>U.S. Army Sgt. Gary B. Beikirch</td>
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<td>U.S. Army Master Sgt. Roy P. Benavidez</td>
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<td>U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class William M. Bryant</td>
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<td>U.S. Army Sgt. Brian L. Bunker</td>
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<td>U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jon R. Cavaiani</td>
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<td>U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Drew D. Dix</td>
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<td>U.S. Army Capt. Roger H. C. Donlon</td>
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<td>U.S. Air Force Capt. James P. Fleming</td>
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<td>U.S. Army 1st Lt. Loren D. Hagen</td>
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<td>U.S. Army 1st Lt. Robert L. Howard</td>
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<td></td>
<td>U.S. Air Force Col. William A. Jones III</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>U.S. Army Specialist 5th Class John J. Kenedburg</strong></td>
<td>U.S. Navy Lt. j.g. (SEAL) Joseph R. Kerrey</td>
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<td></td>
<td>U.S. Army Specialist 4th Class Robert D. Law</td>
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<td>U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class John L. Levitow</td>
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<td>U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Gary L. Littrell</td>
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<td>U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Franklin D. Miller</td>
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<td>U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Melvin Morris</td>
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<td></td>
<td>U.S. Navy Lt. (SEAL) Thomas R. Norris</td>
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<td></td>
<td>U.S. Navy Seaman David G. Ouellet</td>
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<td>U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert J. Pruden</td>
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<td>U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Laszlo Rabel</td>
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<td>U.S. Army Capt. Ronald E. Ray</td>
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<td>U.S. Army Master Sgt. Jose Rodela</td>
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<td>U.S. Army 1st Lt. George K. Sisler</td>
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<td>U.S. Navy Engineman 2nd Class (SEAL) Michael E. Thornton</td>
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<td>U.S. Navy Capt. Humbert R. Versace</td>
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<td>U.S. Army 1st Lt. Charles Q. Williams</td>
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<td>U.S. Navy Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class James E. Williams</td>
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<td>U.S. Army Sgt. Gordon D. Yntema</td>
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<td>U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Fred W. Zabitosky</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Somalia</strong></td>
<td>U.S. Army Master Sgt. Gary I. Gordon</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Afghanistan</strong></td>
<td>U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Randall D. Shughart</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Iraq</strong></td>
<td>U.S. Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Edward C. Byers Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert J. Miller</td>
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<td>U.S. Navy Lt. (SEAL) Michael P. Murphy</td>
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<td>U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Leroy A. Petry</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Michael A. Monsoor</strong></td>
<td>**U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Michael A. Monsoor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>U.S. Army Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>U.S. Army Col. Robert Howard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Fred Arooji</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Scott Fales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>U.S. Army Col. Chuck Fry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>U.S. Army Maj. Caesar Civitella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>U.S. Army Col. Charlie Beckwith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>U.S. Army Gen. James Lindsay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>The Honorable William Cohen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>The Honorable Sam Nunn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>U.S. Army Col. Aaron Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>The Honorable John Marsh Jr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Mr. H. Ross Perot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 special operations forces community.

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

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

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

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

2014
U.S. Air Force Col. Phillip Cochran
Mr. Richard Lunger
U.S. Air Force Col. Kenneth Poole
U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Sidney Shachnow

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

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

2017
U.S. Army Lt. Col. Herbert Avedon
U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Bruce Brandewie
U.S. Army Capt. Wade Y. Ishimoto
U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Harry McCommons
U.S. Army Master Sgt. Michael A. Pelaez
U.S. Army Col. Christopher E. St. John
Headquarters USSOCOM

Location - MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.
Established - April 16, 1987
Commander - U.S. Army Gen. Raymond A. Thomas III
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

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 - U.S. Army Charlone Stallworth
J2 Directorate of Intelligence - U.S. Army Col. Michelle Schmitt
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
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 - Hostage Rescue and Recovery
- Counterinsurgency - Military Information Support Operations
- Counterterrorism - Security Force Assistance
- Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction - Special Reconnaissance
- Direct Action - Unconventional Warfare
- Foreign Humanitarian Assistance - Preparation of the Environment
- Foreign Internal Defense

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’
United States Army Special Operations Command

WEB ADDRESS www.soc.mil

USASOC is Home to:
- Special Forces (Green Berets)
- Rangers
- Special Operations Aviators
- Civil Affairs Soldiers
- Military Information Support Units
- Training Cadre
- Sustainment Soldiers

Location: Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Established: Dec. 1, 1989

Mission: The United States Army Special Operations Command mans, trains, equips, educates, organizes, sustains, and supports forces to conduct special operations across the full range of military operations and spectrum of conflict in support of joint force commanders and interagency partners, to meet theater and national objectives

People: Approximately 33,000
Special Forces

Special Forces (Green Berets) units perform 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 Units

These units consist of Psychological Operations forces that conduct Military Information Support Operations (MISO), Civil Authorities Information Support, and Military Deception that support 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, the Special Operations Center of Excellence, assesses, selects, 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
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, counterterrorism, 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 any place...any time...anywhere.

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 recruits, organizes, trains, equips and deploys task-organized, scalable, expeditionary Marine Corps special operations forces worldwide to accomplish the full spectrum of special operations missions assigned by the commander, USSOCOM and/or the geographic combatant commanders via the Theater Special Operations Commands.

**People:** Nearly 3,000
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.
**Theater Special Operations Command - Africa**

**Commander** - U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. J. Marcus Hicks  
**Senior Enlisted Advisor** - Command Sgt. Maj. Lyle H. Marsh  
**Established** - Oct. 1, 2008

**Mission**

SOCAFRICA is a sub-unified command of USSOCOM under operational control of United States Africa Command, with headquarters in Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart-Mohringen, Germany. Subordinate SOCAFRICA organizations include: Special Operations Command Forward-East (Special Operations Command and Control Element - Horn of Africa), 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 one-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.
**THEATER SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND • CENTRAL**

**Commander** - U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Darsie D. Rogers  
**Senior Enlisted Advisor** - Command Sgt. Maj. Marc W. Eckard  
**Established** - Dec. 1, 1983

**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 counterterrorism 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 toward 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.
Commander - U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Mark Schwartz
Senior Enlisted Advisor - Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Andrew I. Harrison
Established - Jan. 22, 1955

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 operations plans and concepts plans, 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 combatting 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.
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
Established - July 14, 1986

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 Special Operations Component Command Korea (CSOCC-K) under the Combined Forces Command. Under the current plan, when CSOCC-K is formed, the SOCKOR Commander becomes the CSOCC-K deputy commander. SOCKOR is then designated as the United Nations Command Special Operations Component under the United Nations Command (UNSOC), 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**

**Commander** - U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Christopher M. Burns  
**Senior Enlisted Advisor** - Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey D. Stigall  
**Established** - Nov. 5, 2013

**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. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Daniel D. Yoo  
**Senior Enlisted Advisor** - Command Sgt. Maj. Joaquin S. Cruz III  
**Established** - Nov. 1, 1983

**Mission**

**SOCPAC** is a sub-unified command of USSOCOM under the operational control 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.
SOCSOUTH 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**

SOCSOUTH is committed to establishing a secure and stable USSOUTHCOM AOR. SOCSOUTH collaborates through interagency partners, conventional forces, allies, and partner nations, connected by an in-depth network, to understand, detect, deter, disrupt, and defeat threats of mutual interests. Our networked approach focuses SOF operations, activities, and actions through our lines of effort to **Build, Prepare, and Influence** in order to **Protect** the southern approaches into the U.S. As USSOUTHCOM’s counter terrorism lead and experts in countering trans-regional/transnational threat networks, we will be the premier partner of choice, a mutually supportive and interoperable partner, and through our culture of readiness, be able to quickly respond to crisis when directed.

**Area of Focus**

Its area of responsibility includes 31 countries and 16 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**

- **Fused Response**: An annual exercise designed to improve time-sensitive crisis action planning and joint integration with partner nation and government agencies.
- **Fuerzas Comando**: A special operations skills competition and senior leader seminar designed to promote military-to-military relationships, interoperability, and regional security.
- **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.
SOCEUR
Commander,
Mark Schwartz
HQ Stuttgart, Germany

SOCKOR
Commander,
U.S. Air Force
Brig. Gen.
Tony Bauernfiend
HQ Camp Kim, South Korea

SOCAFRICA
Commander,
J. Marcus Hicks
HQ Stuttgart, Germany

SOCPAC
Commander,
U.S. Marine Corps
Maj. Gen.
Daniel Yoo
HQ Camp Smith, HI.

Special Operations Command Africa (SOCAFRICA)
Special Operations Command Central (SOCCENT)
Special Operations Command Europe (SOCEUR)
Special Operations Command Korea (SOCKOR)
Special Operations Command North (SOCNORTH)
Special Operations Command Pacific (SOCPAC)
Special Operations Command South (SOCSOUTH)
AC-130U Spooky/AC-130W Stinger II

**Primary function:** Close air support and air interdiction.

**Speed:** 300 mph.

**Dimensions:**
- Wingspan: 132 ft. 7 in.
- Length: 97 ft. 9 in.
- Height: 38 ft. 6 in.

**Range:** 1300 miles.

**Armament:**
- AC-130U: 25mm Gatling gun, 40mm Bofors and 105mm Howitzer; AC-130W, 30mm Bushmaster II chain gun, AGM-176 Griffin and GBU-39/B Small Diameter Bomb.

**Crew:**
- AC-130U: 13
- AC-130W: 7

---

AC-130J Ghostrider

**Primary function:** Close air support and air interdiction.

**Speed:** 385 mph.

**Dimensions:**
- Wingspan: 132 ft. 7 in.
- Length: 97 ft. 9 in.
- Height: 38 ft. 9 in.

**Range:** 3000 miles.

**Armament:**
- 30 mm Bushmaster II chain gun, 105mm Howitzer, AGM-176 Griffin and GBU-39/B Small Diameter Bomb.

**Crew:** 9

---

C-145A

**Primary Function:** Provides rapid, flexible short-suspense operational movement of personnel.

**Speed:** Max 220 mph.

**Dimensions:**
- Length: 43 ft.
- Height: 16 ft. 1 in.

**Range:** 1010 miles.

**Crew:** 3

---

C-146A Wolfhound

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

**Speed:** In excess of 310 mph.

**Range:** 1500 miles

**Crew:** 3

---

C-27J Spartan

**Primary Function:** Transporting paratroopers.

**Dimensions:**
- Wingspan: 94 ft. 2 in.
- Length: 94 ft. 2 in.
- Height: 31 ft. 8 in.

**Speed:** Cruising speed 362 mph

**Range:** 1100 miles

**Crew:** 3

---

CV-22B Osprey

**Primary function:** Special operations forces long range infiltration, exfiltration and resupply.

**Speed:** 277 mph.

**Dimensions:**
- Wingspan: 84 ft. 7 in.
- Length: 57 ft. 4 in.
- Height: 22 ft. 1 in.

**Range:** 575 miles

**Crew:** 4
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Primary function</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Speed</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Crew</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EC-130J Commando Solo</td>
<td>Military information support operations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MC-12W</td>
<td>Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC-130H Combat Talon II</td>
<td>Infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of special operations forces.</td>
<td>132 ft. 7 in.; length 99 ft. 9 in.; height 38 ft. 6 in.</td>
<td>2700 miles</td>
<td>Seven</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC-130J Commando II</td>
<td>Infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of special operations forces; in-flight refueling of special operations vertical lift aircraft.</td>
<td>132 ft. 7 in.; length 97 ft. 9 in.; height 38 ft. 9 in.</td>
<td>3000 miles</td>
<td>Five</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSAV (Light) PC-12</td>
<td>Provides rapid, short suspense operational movement of personnel.</td>
<td>57 ft. 11 in.; length 46 ft. 8 in.; height 14 ft. 4 in.</td>
<td>2400 miles</td>
<td>Four</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U-28A</td>
<td>Provides a manned fixed-wing, on-call/surge capability for Improved Tactical Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance in support of special operations forces.</td>
<td>53 feet 3 in., Height: 14 ft.</td>
<td>1,500 nautical miles</td>
<td>Four</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AIRCRAFT - ROTARY WING

**AH-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 M1-12 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 mm 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 Chain gun, 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. **Refueled Range:** 525 NM. **Armament:** M-134 and M-240 7.62mm machine guns. **Crew:** Six.
AIRCRAFT - UNMANNED

MQ-1 Predator

MQ-9 Reaper

AECV/Puma AE

Viking 400 (V400)
**Maritime - Surface**

**Combatant Craft Assault**

The Combatant Craft Assault is a fast boat operated by Special Boat Teams. The CCA's primary role is medium range maritime interdiction operations in medium-to-high threat environments. It can also perform insertion extraction of special operations forces and coastal patrol operations. The CCA is air transportable in an C-17 aircraft.

**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 airtransport 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.
**Ground**

**Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle**

The RG-31/RG-33 Auxiliary Utility Vehicles provides protection for SOF operators against the expanded use of improvised explosive devices, and provides 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 Operator

- Is married and has at least two kids
- Average age is 29 years-old enlisted; 34 years-old officer
- Has eight 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
**Acronym Glossary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFB</td>
<td>Air Force Base</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFSOC</td>
<td>Air Force Special Operations Command</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATV</td>
<td>All Terrain Vehicle</td>
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<tr>
<td>C4</td>
<td>Command, Control, Communications and Computers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCA</td>
<td>Combatant Craft Assault</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCT</td>
<td>Combat Controller</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Critical Skills Operator</td>
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<tr>
<td>DoD</td>
<td>Department of Defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FID</td>
<td>Foreign Internal Defense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMV</td>
<td>Ground Mobility Vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISR</td>
<td>Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JCET</td>
<td>Joint Combined Exchange Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JSOC</td>
<td>Joint Special Operations Command</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JSOTF-P</td>
<td>Joint Special Operations Task Force - Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JSOU</td>
<td>Joint Special Operations University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTATV</td>
<td>Lightweight Tactical All-Terrain Vehicle</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARSOC</td>
<td>Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISO</td>
<td>Military Information Support Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRAP</td>
<td>Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NG</td>
<td>National Guard</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSCV</td>
<td>Non-Standard Commercial Vehicle</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSWC</td>
<td>Naval Special Warfare Command</td>
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<tr>
<td>NSWG</td>
<td>Naval Special Warfare Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>PJ</td>
<td>Pararescueman</td>
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<tr>
<td>RHIB</td>
<td>Rigid-hull Inflatable Boat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPA</td>
<td>Remotely Piloted Aircraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDVT</td>
<td>SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEAL</td>
<td>Sea-Air-Land forces</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEF</td>
<td>Special Forces</td>
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<tr>
<td>SFG(A)</td>
<td>Special Forces Group (Airborne)</td>
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<td>SOCAFRICA</td>
<td>Special Operations Command-Africa</td>
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<td>Special Operations Command-Europe</td>
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<td>SOCPAC</td>
<td>Special Operations Command-Pacific</td>
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<td>SOC-R</td>
<td>Special Operations Craft-Riverine</td>
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<td>SOCSOUTH</td>
<td>Special Operations Command South</td>
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<td>SOF</td>
<td>Special Operations Forces</td>
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<tr>
<td>SRSE</td>
<td>Special Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Exploitation</td>
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<td>SWCC</td>
<td>Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewman</td>
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<td>TSOC</td>
<td>Theater Special Operations Command</td>
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<td>UAV</td>
<td>Unmanned Aerial Vehicle</td>
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<td>USAJFKSWCS</td>
<td>U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center &amp; School</td>
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<td>U.S. Special Operations Aviation Command</td>
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<td>USSOCOM</td>
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