Table of Contents

Heroes 4
Medal of Honor Recipients 6
Bull Simons Award Recipients 8
Commando Hall of Honor Inductees 9
Headquarters 10
Organization 12
Leadership 13
Mission 14
Commands 16
USSOCOM and Component Map 18
U.S. Army Special Operations Command 20
Naval Special Warfare Command 24
Air Force Special Operations Command 28
Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command 32
Joint Special Operations Command 36
Special Operations Command - Africa 37
Special Operations Command - Central 38
Special Operations Command - Europe 39
Special Operations Command - Korea 40
Special Operations Command - North 41
Special Operations Command - Pacific 42
Special Operations Command - South 43
Theater Special Operations Commands Map 44
Equipment 46
Aircraft 48
Maritime 52
Ground 54
SOF Truths 57
The SOF Operator 58
Glossary 59

U.S. Army Col. Curtis Kellogg
Special Operations
Office of Communication Director

Michael Bottoms
Managing Editor

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Heroes

Headquarters
Commands
Equipment

U.S. Army
Sgt. 1st Class
Leroy A. Petry

U.S. Army
Sgt. 1st Class
William M. Bryant

U.S. Army
Master Sgt.
Roy P. Benavidez

U.S. Navy
Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL)
Edward C. Byers Jr.
Special Operations Forces

Medal of Honor

Recipients
World War I

World War II
  U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Kenneth D. Bailey
  U.S. Marine Corps Pfc. Henry Gurke
  U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Clyde Thomason
  U.S. Army Lt. Jack L. Knight

Korea
  U.S. Army Master Sgt. Ola L. Mize
  U.S. Army Col. Ralph Puckett, Jr.

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

Somalia
  U.S. Navy Master Sgt. Gary J. Gordon
  U.S. Army 1st Class Randall D. Shughart

Afghanistan
  U.S. Navy Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Edward C. Byers Jr.
  U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Christopher A. Celiz
  U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert J. Miller
  U.S. Navy Lt. (SEAL) Michael P. Murphy
  U.S. Army Master Sgt. Leroy A. Petry
  U.S. Army Master Sgt. Earl Plumlee
  U.S. Navy Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Britt Slabinski
  U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Ronald J. Shurer II
  U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Matthew O. Williams

Iraq
  U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class (SEAL) Michael A. Monsoor
  U.S. Army Sgt. Major Thomas P. Payne
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.

U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Dennis Wolfe - 2018
U.S. Army Gen. Peter Schoomaker - 2016
U.S. Army Col. Robert Howard - 2014
U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Fred Arooji - 2013
U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Scott Fales - 2012
U.S. Army Col. Chuck Fry - 2009
U.S. Army Maj. Caesar Civitella - 2008
The Honorable William Cohen - 1997
The Honorable Sam Nunn - 1997
U.S. Army Col. Aaron Bank - 1994
The Honorable John Marsh Jr. - 1993
Mr. H. Ross Perot - 1990
Commando Hall of Honor

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. Air Force Col. William Takacs

2011
U.S. Air Force Col. John Carney
U.S. Command Sgt. Maj. Galen Kittleson
U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Irve LeMoynne
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 Varborough

2012
U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Scott Fales
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 Voickmann

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 Commons
U.S. Army Master Sgt. Michael A. Pelaez
U.S. Army Col. Christopher E. St. John

2018
U.S. Army Maj. Raymond P. Ambrozak
U.S. Navy Capt. (SEAL) Charles Heron
U.S. Air Force Col. William J. Komitzer
U.S. Army Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal

2019
U.S. Army Lt. Col. Leif Bangsboell
Mrs. Virginia Hall
U.S. Army Col. Charles R. Munske
U.S. Navy Command Master Chief (SEAL) Richard M. Rogers
Headquarters USSOCOM

Role - Organize, train, equip and provide fully capable special operations forces to defend the United States and its interests.

Personnel - Entire command more than 70,000
Location - MacDill Air Force Base, Florida
Established - April 16, 1987
Commander - U.S. Army Gen. Richard D. Clarke
Deputy Commander - U.S. Navy Vice Adm. (SEAL) Vice Adm. Collin P. Green
Vice Commander - U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Tony D. Bauernfeind
Senior Enlisted Leader - U.S. Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. Gregory A. Smith

Headquarters Staff
Chief of Staff - U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Marcus S. Evans
J1 Directorate of Personnel - U.S. Army Col. Kelly K. Steele
J2 Directorate of Intelligence - U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Nicholas M. Homan
J4 Directorate of Logistics - U.S. Army Col. Derek K. Jansen
J5 Directorate of Strategy, Plans and Policy - Ms. Kimberly C. Field
J6 Directorate of Communications - Mr. Peter J. Tragakis
Special Operations Forces Acquisition, Technology & Logistics - Mr. James H. Smith
Special Operations Financial Management - Mr. Mark D. Peterson
Joint Special Operations University - Dr. Isaiah Wilson
USSOCOM Mission

USSOCOM develops and employs fully capable special operations forces to conduct global special operations and activities as part of the joint force to support persistent, networked and distributed combatant command operations and campaigns against state and non-state actors to protect and advance U.S. policies and objectives.

USSOCOM Priorities

- Compete and win for the nation
- Preserve and grow readiness
- Innovate for future threats
- Advance partnerships
- Strengthen our force and family

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

Title 10 Authorities

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

Military Information Support Operations

Direct Action

Unconventional Warfare

Foreign Internal Defense
United States Army Special Operations Command

**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 35,000

USASOC is home to:
- Special Forces (Green Berets)
- Rangers
- Special Operations Aviators
- Civil Affairs Soldiers
- Psychological Operations Units
- Training Cadre
- Sustainment Soldiers

Web Address: www.soc.mil


Command Sergeant Major: Command Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Weimer
SINE PARI – WITHOUT EQUAL
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 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

Army special operations 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.
Psychological Operations Units

These units consist of Psychological Operations forces that conduct military information support operations, civil authorities information support, and military deception that support a broad range of U.S. political, military, economic and ideological activities used by the government to secure national objectives. PSYOP 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, psychological 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 10,500

Web Address
www.nsw.navy.mil

Commander
Rear Adm. H. Wyman Howard III

Force Master Chief
Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) William A. King
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, explosive ordnance disposal specialists and medical support. 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 16,800
Special Tactics

Special Tactics Airmen are the Air Force’s ground special operations component. With more than 650 combat mission support Airmen and 1,000 Special Tactics operators in 29 locations, our operators are experts in global access, precision strike, personnel recovery and battlefield surgery operations. **Global access** - Special Tactics teams can assess, open, and control major airfields to clandestine dirt strips in either permissive or hostile locations, providing strategic access for our nation’s military. Special Tactics ensures U.S. and allied nations can access man-made and naturally contested, degraded and operationally-challenged environments, providing options for assault and power projection. **Battlefield surgery** - Special Operations Surgical Teams’ proximity to the fight and ability to conduct high-level surgical operations in austere environments saves lives, builds relationships with the local populace and provide psychological stability for joint and allied forces combating the enemy. **Personnel recovery** - Special Tactics teams have the ability to conduct personnel recovery missions, from rapid mission planning to technical rescue, treatment and exfiltration. With in-depth medical and rescue expertise, along with their deployment capabilities, ST Airmen are able to perform rescue missions in the world’s most remote areas. **Precision strike** - Special Tactics Airmen are highly-trained in kinetic and non-kinetic precision strike—from coordinating with aircraft to direct accurate munitions to humanitarian aid drops from the ground.
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 – in permissive, contested, denied, or politically sensitive locations as missions dictate – to conduct long-range infiltration and exfiltration; non-standard aviation; precision strike; aerial refueling; military information support operations; foreign internal defense; command and control; and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance anywhere in the world.

Combat Aviation Advisors

Combat Aviation Advisors (CAAs) are Air Commandos responsible for the conduct of special operations activities by, with, and through foreign aviation forces. CAAs are tasked to carry out Foreign Internal Defense, Security Force Assistance, and Unconventional Warfare missions on behalf of USSOCOM. They are trained in a wide range of specialized skills that they use to carry out SOF Mobility, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, Agile Strike, and Surface Integration. When directed, USSOCOM employs mission-tailored Operational Aviation Detachments (OAD) to support combatant commanders' regional objectives.
Commander
Maj. Gen. James F. Glynn

Location:
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

Established:
Feb. 24, 2006

Mission:
Marine Forces Special Operations Command is made up of more than 120 military occupational specialties encompassed within the MARSOC Headquarters, Marine Raider Training Center, Marine Raider Support Group, and Marine Raider Regiment all working together to support special operations. Through specialized and advanced training, MARSOC builds upon the Raiders’ unique attributes and ethos as Marines to produce agile, scalable, fully-enabled, and responsive SOF, comprised of operators and SOF-specific combat support and combat service support specialists. MARSOC formations are task organized for every assigned mission. Marine Raiders leverage their robust mission command and fused operations and intelligence down to the team level to succeed in distributed environments, and enable partners at the tactical and operational levels of war. MARSOC provides supported commanders with full-spectrum special operations capabilities to combat complex transregional problems.

People:
Approximately 3,500

MARSOC is home to:
- Critical Skills Operators/Special Operations Officers
- Special Operations Independent Duty Corpsmen
- Special Operations Capabilities Specialists
- Combat Service Support Specialists

Web Address
www.marsoc.marines.mil

Command Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. Anthony J. Loftus
Critical Skills Operators/Special Operations Officers

Critical Skills Operators and Special Operations Officers are assessed, selected and trained to solve complex problems and to operate across the full spectrum of special operations 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 decentralized leadership. They are experts in utilizing the right force, at the right time, with the right effect. With tight-knit teams of agile, adaptable operators, MARSOC punches well above its weight class.

Special Operations Independent Duty Corpsman

Special Operations Independent Duty Corpsman are full time enlisted special operations medical providers within the MARSOC and SOCOM enterprise. They are mission critical members of the Marine special operations team, proficient in the core skills, and in advanced medical skills as defined by USSOCOM, providing tactical, medical and operational services across the full spectrum of special operations. They serve as the embedded medical subject matter expert for amphibious and ground reconnaissance, surface and subsurface maritime operations, airborne operations, direct action, special reconnaissance, maritime interdiction, foreign internal defense, irregular and unconventional warfare as a non-physician provider, independent of a medical officer.
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; Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technicians, and multipurpose canine handlers who employ canines in support of special operations. SOCS are assigned to billets at the team, company, and battalion levels. Upon assignment to MARSOC, Marines attend the SOF Training Course, Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape, and advanced SOF-specific MOS training. Upon completion of this training, enlisted Marines are designated SOCS and awarded the 8071 MOS. This program is designed to equip high-performing Marines with additional skills and concepts required to be effective in special operations. SOCS are assigned to MARSOC for five-year tour lengths and are eligible for additional career-enhancing opportunities within the special operations community.

Combat Service Support Specialists serve one standard tour with MARSOC in their primary MOS providing intrinsic combat service support and logistics capabilities, including administrative, fiscal, medical, engineer, ammunition and supply.
Joint Special Operations Command

The Joint Special Operations Command, located at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, is a sub-unified command of the U.S. Special Operations Command. JSOC prepares assigned, attached and augmented forces and, when directed, conducts special operations against threats to protect the homeland and U.S. interests abroad.
**Special Operations Command - Africa**

**Commander** - U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Milton J. Sands III  
**Senior Enlisted Leader** - Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Albaugh  
**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 Task Force - East Africa, Special Operations Task Force - North West Africa, 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.

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2022 USSOCOM Fact Book  
37
**Commander** - U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Frank M. Bradley  
**Senior Enlisted Leader** - Master Gunnery Sgt. Andrew D. McCurry  
**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, SOCENT employs special operations forces for contingency and crisis response.

**Command Vision**
Assist commander, USCENTCOM in strengthening regional stability and protecting U.S. interests. SOCENT 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**
SOCENT’s area of focus includes 20 countries. These countries include Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, 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.
SOCEUR will integrate with the USEUCOM components and the Interagency to achieve 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.

Command Vision
Across Europe, our adversaries are challenging national sovereignty, alliance solidarity, and U.S. resolve. Within this contested environment, SOCEUR is uniquely postured to galvanize the interagency with Allies and partners to counter malign influence, build cohesion, rapidly respond to emerging threats, and if necessary, defeat aggression.

SOCEUR is an inclusive community, dedicated to a culture where all voices are heard, respected, and valued. We benefit from a broad range of perspectives, backgrounds, experiences, and historical relevance to foster enduring teamwork and camaraderie as the most trusted special operations partner in Europe.

Area of Focus
SOCEUR’s Area of Responsibility (AOR) consists of the 51 countries within US European Command’s AOR that extends from Greenland east through the European continent and all of Russia, and south of the continent to include the Mediterranean Sea, south to the Caucasus region and Israel.

Major Engagements
Trojan Footprint is the premier special operations forces exercise in Europe. While the exercise is focused on improving the ability of SOF to counter myriad threats, it also increases integration with conventional forces and enhances interoperability with our NATO allies and European partners. Most importantly, Trojan Footprint fortifies military readiness, cultivates trust, and develops lasting relationships which promote peace and stability throughout Europe. incorporates NATO Allies and partners across Europe to exercise multinational mission command across echelon, and integrate SOF with conventional forces to set conditions for the combined joint force.
**Special Operations Command - Korea**

**Commander** - U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Michael E. Martin  
**Senior Enlisted Leader** - Command Sgt. Maj. Joann Naumann  
**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) and ROK Naval Special Warfare Flotilla personnel regularly train in their combined roles, while SOCKOR's Special Forces Detachment-39 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 (CFC). Under the current plan, when CSOCC-K is formed, the SOCKOR commander becomes both the CSOCC-K deputy commander and the Special Operations Joint Task Force-Korea (SOJTF-K) commander. SOCKOR is also designated as the United Nations Command Special Operations Component (UNCSOC) under the United Nations Command (UNC).

SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER - Chief Master Sgt. Clint A. Grizzell

ESTABLISHED - Nov. 5, 2013

MISSION

SOCNORTH in conjunction with interagency and regional partners – plans, coordinates and when directed, executes special operations to defend the United States and its interests.

COMMAND VISION

SOCNORTH provides USNORTHCOM an understanding of irregular threats and facilitates cooperative action with mission partners in defense of the Homeland. As an integral member of the USNORTHCOM team, SOCNORTH provides unique options to support their #1 priority – Homeland Defense. SOCNORTH is USNORTHCOM’s supported command for counterterrorism, counter weapons of mass destruction, and counter transnational organized crime.

AREA OF FOCUS

SOCNORTH maintains relationships with the U.S. interagency, Canadian and Mexican SOF, and the Royal Bahamian Defence and Police Forces, enabling and enhancing their contributions to the cooperative defense of North America. SOCNORTH’s area of responsibility encompasses Mexico, Canada, the Homeland and portions of the northern Caribbean region to include: The Bahamas, Puerto Rico, U.S. and U.K. Virgin Islands, the Turks and Caicos, and Bermuda. SOCNORTH’s maritime domain extends out to approximately 500 nautical miles in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and includes the Arctic Ocean (above 75° North) and southern approaches.

MAJOR ENGAGEMENT

SOCNORTH participates in two major exercises annually. VITAL ARCHER is focused on the USNORTHCOM counterterrorism mission. VIGILANT SHIELD focuses on USNORTHCOM’s homeland defense mission against threats in all domains. SOCNORTH also executes interagency exercises each year to rehearse SOF-specific support for resolution of threats to the Homeland.
**Special Operations Command - Pacific**

**Commander** - U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Joshua M. Rudd  
**Senior Enlisted Leader** - Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Dave Isom  
**Established** - Nov. 1, 1983

**Mission**

SOCPAC is a sub-unified command of USSOCOM under the operational control U.S. Indo-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, USINDOPACOM 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-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.
MISSION
SOCSOUTH plans and coordinates special operations to find and fix threats and enable the interagency, intelligence community, and partner nations to counter threats to U.S. interests, maintain regional stability and compete in a complex environment. On order, SOCSOUTH employs special operations for contingency and crisis response.

COMMAND VISION
SOCSOUTH competes in a complex environment to challenge and counter evolving threats and respond rapidly to emerging crisis and ensure a secure area of responsibility.

AREA OF FOCUS
Its area of responsibility includes 31 countries and 16 areas of special sovereignty 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. 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aircraft</th>
<th>Primary Function</th>
<th>Speed</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Armament</th>
<th>Crew</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AC-130W Stinger II</td>
<td>Close air support and air interdiction</td>
<td>300 mph</td>
<td>Wingspan 132 ft. 7 in.; length 97 ft. 9 in.; height 38 ft. 6 in.</td>
<td>1300 miles</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Seven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AC-130J Ghostrider</td>
<td>Close air support and air interdiction</td>
<td>385 mph</td>
<td>Wingspan 132 ft. 7 in.; length 97 ft. 9 in.; height 38 ft. 9 in.</td>
<td>3000 miles</td>
<td>30 mm Bushmaster II chain gun, 105mm Howitzer, AGM-176 Griffin and GBU-39/B Small Diameter Bomb</td>
<td>Nine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CV-22B Osprey</td>
<td>Special operations forces long range infiltration, exfiltration and resupply</td>
<td>277 mph</td>
<td>Wingspan 116 ft. 7 in.; length 104 ft. 8 in.; height 32 ft. 8 in.</td>
<td>1,010 miles</td>
<td>Crew: Four</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-145 Sky Truck</td>
<td>Short takeoff and landing, aerial delivery, multi-engine currency and training for Combat Aviation Advisors</td>
<td>223 mph</td>
<td>Wingspan 100 ft. 4 in.; length 100 ft. 4 in.; height 36 ft. 3 in.</td>
<td>1,000 miles</td>
<td>Crew: Three</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-146A Wolfhound</td>
<td>Short takeoff and landing, austere delivery of personnel and cargo, and casualty evacuation</td>
<td>In excess of 310 mph</td>
<td>Wingspan 68 ft. 10 in., length 69 ft. 10 in., height 23 ft. 9 in.</td>
<td>1500 miles</td>
<td>Crew: Three</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-27J Spartan</td>
<td>Parachute jump training and currency for SOF paratroopers</td>
<td>362 mph</td>
<td>Wingspan 94 ft. 2 in., length 94 ft. 2 in., height 31 ft. 8 in.</td>
<td>1100 miles</td>
<td>Crew: Three</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Aircraft - Fixed Wing**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Primary Function</th>
<th>Speed</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Crew</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EC-130J Commando</td>
<td>Military information support operations.</td>
<td>335 mph</td>
<td>Wingspan 132 ft. 6 in.; length 97 ft.; height 38 ft. 8 in.</td>
<td>2300 miles</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solo</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC-12W</td>
<td>Intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance</td>
<td>359 mph</td>
<td>Wingspan 57 ft.; length 46 ft.; height 14 ft.; 4 in.</td>
<td>2400 miles</td>
<td>Four</td>
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<tr>
<td>MC-130H Combat</td>
<td>Infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of special operations forces.</td>
<td>300 mph</td>
<td>Wingspan 132 ft. 7 in.; length 100 ft. 10 in.; height 99 ft. 9 in.; height 38 ft. 6 in.</td>
<td>2700 miles</td>
<td>Seven</td>
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<tr>
<td>Talon II</td>
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<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>416 mph</td>
<td>Wingspan 132 ft. 7 in.; length 97 ft. 9 in.; height 38 ft. 9 in.</td>
<td>3000 miles</td>
<td>Five</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC-208 COMBAT CARAVAN</td>
<td>Armed Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance and strike currency and training for Combat Aviation Advisors</td>
<td>196 mph</td>
<td>Wingspan 52 ft. 1 in.; length 37 ft. 7 in.; height 14 ft. 6 in.</td>
<td>300-950 miles</td>
<td>Two</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>250 mph</td>
<td>Wingspan 53 ft. 3 in.; Height: 14 ft.</td>
<td>1,726 miles</td>
<td>Four</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2022 USSOCOM Fact Book
**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 MJ-12 rocket pod; Anti-tank guided missile, 2x AGM-114 Hellfire air to ground missiles. *Crew:* Two.

**MH-6M Little Bird**


**MH-6M Black Hawk**


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


**MH-47G Chinook**

AIRCRAFT - UNMANNED

**MQ-9 REAPER**

*Primary function:* Unmanned hunter/killer weapon system.  
*Speed:* 230 mph.  
*Dimensions:* Wingspan 66 ft.; length 36 ft.; height 12.5 ft.  
*Range:* 1150 miles.  
*Armament:* AGM-114 Hellfire missiles; GBU-12, GBU-38 JDAM.

**MTUAS**

*Primary function:* The Multi-Mission Tactical Unmanned Aerial System (MTUAS) Program acquires, fields, and sustains Navy special operators unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). These systems provide Naval Special Warfare Command an organic, tactical, runway independent UAS capable of deploying in both ground and maritime environments. The UAS is retrofitted with SOF unique payloads to provide near-real time airborne intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance to support theater operations.

**EOTACS**

*Primary function:* The Expeditionary Organic Tactical Airborne Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Capability Sets (EOTACS) program is specifically designed to procure commercial off the shelf/government off-the-shelf small unmanned aerial systems for rapid employment by special operations forces operators. EOTACS leverages the existing commercial market as well as partnerships with other government agencies in a family of systems program approach to ensure SOF operators have a range of capabilities they can tailor to their assigned mission.
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 and extraction of special operations forces and coastal patrol operations. The CCA is air transportable in a C-17 aircraft.

**Combatant Craft Medium**

The Combatant Craft Medium, operated by Special Boat Teams, is a reconfigurable multi-mission craft with a primary mission of SOF insertion, extraction, and fire support in medium-to-high threat environments. It can also support maritime interdiction and visit, board, search, and seizure operations; maritime intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance; and counter-terrorism operations.

**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.
MARITIME - UNDERSEA

DRY COMBAT SUBMERSIBLE

Naval Special Warfare is fielding two new undersea platforms - the Dry Combat Submersible (DCS) and the Shallow Water Combat Submersible (SEAL Delivery Vehicle (SDV) MK 11). The DCS has a dry interior, enabling longer mission durations with improved comfort and communication. DCS contains a compartment to carry operators, a swimmer lock-in/lock-out compartment, and a command compartment where the pilot and co-pilot operate the submersible.

SEAL DELIVERY VEHICLES

The SEAL Delivery Vehicle (SDV) MK8 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 Dry Deck Shelter equipped submarines, or surface ships. The SDV MK 11 is slightly larger than the SDV MK 8 with a longer range, higher payload capacity, more advanced computer and communication systems, and improved navigation functionality.

SOF COMBAT DIVING

The SOF Combat Diving program provides for the development, testing and fielding of SOF-peculiar diving equipment for SOF combat divers and interfaces this equipment for use with platforms developed and fielded by Program Executive Office-Maritime. The SOF Combat Diving program supports the fielding of new SOF-peculiar diving equipment via the Middle Tier of Acquisition Authority.
Ground Mobility Vehicle 1.1 (GMV 1.1)

The Ground Mobility Vehicle version 1.1 (GMV 1.1) is a highly mobile Special Operations combat vehicle with the operational flexibility to support a wide range of lethal and non-lethal Special Operations missions and core activities. The GMV 1.1 can be transported inside an MH-47.

Ground Mobility Vehicle 1.0 (GMV 1.0)

The Ground Mobility Vehicle 1.0 (GMV 1.0) is a medium-class High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle with Special Operations-peculiar modifications. Several variants have supported Special Operations Forces reliably in contingency and combat operations.

Non-Standard Commercial Vehicles

NSCV provides support to special operations forces during overseas missions in politically or operationally constrained permissive, semi-permissive, or denied operating environments.
**Lightweight Tactical All Terrain Vehicle**

The LTATV is a SOF modified commercial off-the-shelf lightweight vehicle that can be transported by CV-22, MH-53 and MH-47 aircraft. The vehicle is low-velocity air-drop certified. It consists of two- and four-seat variants with the ability to change configuration based upon mission and/or threat. It's intended to perform a variety of missions to include offset infiltration, reconnaissance and medical evacuation.

**MRAP All Terrain Vehicle**

The Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) family consists of the RG-33 and SOF M-ATV (1245). The RG-33 allows seven passengers and increased IED survivability. The SOF M-ATV (1245) is an armored highly mobile troop carrier designed to provide off-road mobility for five Operators while protecting them from IED threats.
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
- 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Glossary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATV</td>
<td>All Terrain Vehicle</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Critical Skills Operator</td>
</tr>
<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>JSOU</td>
<td>Joint Special Operations University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTATV</td>
<td>Lightweight Tactical All-Terrain Vehicle</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSCV</td>
<td>Non-Standard Commercial Vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSWC</td>
<td>Naval Special Warfare Command</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSWG</td>
<td>Naval Special Warfare Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PJ</td>
<td>Pararescueman</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEAL</td>
<td>Sea-Air-Land Forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF</td>
<td>Special Forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFG(A)</td>
<td>Special Forces Group (Airborne)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCAFIRCA</td>
<td>Special Operations Command-Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCCENT</td>
<td>Special Operations Command-Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCEUR</td>
<td>Special Operations Command-Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Special Operations Command-North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCPAC</td>
<td>Special Operations Command-Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC-R</td>
<td>Special Operations Craft-Riverine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOF</td>
<td>Special Operations Forces</td>
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<td>SRSE</td>
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<td>UAV</td>
<td>Unmanned Aerial Vehicle</td>
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<td>U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center &amp; School</td>
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<td>USSOCOM</td>
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