

U.S. Special Operations Command MacDill AFB, Florida

# Tip Spear

June 2025

## Exercise SOUTHERN STAR 2025 concludes in Chile





# United States Special Operations Command



**Exercise SOUTHERN STAR 2025 concludes in Chile ... 14**

## Tip of the Spear

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*(Cover) U.S. East Coast-based Naval Special Warfare Operators (SEALs) and Chilean Navy Special Forces operators conduct a helicopter assault force insertion for visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) training aboard the Chilean Navy replenishment oiler CNS Almirante Montt (AO-52) during SOUTHERN STAR 2025 in Valparaíso, Chile, May 30, 2025. SOUTHERN STAR 2025 is a multinational special operations exercise taking place across Chile from May 26 to June 8. The exercise brings together forces from six nations and 10 observer countries, totaling more than 2,700 participants, to enhance interoperability and strengthen global special operations partnerships through joint training from Antofagasta to Punta Arenas. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Leon Wong)) (Above) U.S. Marine Raiders and Chilean Commandos conduct a machine gun qualification on a range during Southern Star 2025 in Antofagasta, Chile, May 27, 2025. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Hunter Garcia)*



# The Quiet Professionals

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# U.S. Special Operations Command - Africa



## U.S. Army Civil Affairs performs first JCET with Guarda Nacional Guinea-Bissau

*By Tech. Sgt. Kirby Turbak  
Special Operations Command Africa*

BISSAU, Guinea-Bissau – U.S. Special Operations Command Africa recently concluded the first Civil Affairs joint combined exchange training with Guarda Nacional Guinea-Bissau near Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, May 30, 2025.

Members with the U.S. Army's 91st Civil Affairs Battalion collaborated with Guarda Nacional Guinea-Bissau to enhance military-to-military connections and readiness. Team interactions focused on developing skills in civil engagement, civil reconnaissance, civil network development and tactical combat casualty care.

"This training we have received has been very helpful to students and our leadership," said Guarda Nacional Ensign Jose Augusto S. Vaz. "We're able to work closer with our local communities to figure out their needs and open up communication between the military and civilians."

The JCETs provide a unique opportunity for U.S. and Guarda Nacional Guinea-Bissau forces to learn from each other's experiences and best practices. This JCET demonstrated the U.S. commitment to supporting Guarda Nacional Guinea-Bissau forces and promoting stability in the region.

"Throughout the course of instruction, we've built great relationships with the Guarda Nacional Guinea-Bissau forces," said U.S. Army Capt. Bowers, team commander of the 91st Civil Affairs Battalion. "This is a great start in military cooperation and laying a foundation toward continued operability."



***A member of the Guarda Nacional Guinea-Bissau briefs a U.S. Army Civil Affairs member during a joint combined exchange training near Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, May 29, 2025. The JCETs, specialized training involving U.S. special operations and host nation forces, forge enduring partnerships, contributing to African partner capacity and enhancing collective readiness to counter shared threats and promote peace through strength. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Kirby Turbak)***

Training exercises like this highlight U.S. SOCAFRICA's commitment to fostering security and stability through mutually beneficial engagements with partner nations. The collaborative efforts not only improve military readiness but also strengthen the bonds between the U.S. and its African partners, paving the way for enhanced cooperation when addressing regional challenges.





*Members of the Guarda Nacional Guinea-Bissau march to a nearby village to conduct a key leader engagement during a joint combined exchange training near Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, May 29, 2025. The JCETs, specialized training involving U.S. special operations and host nation forces, focus on cultural awareness and communication skills to ensure effective interaction with local communities. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Kirby Turbak)*







# U.S. Special Operations Command - Europe



## Lt. Gen. Braga honors D-Day Rangers in commemorative speech

*By U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Mireille Merilice  
U.S. Special Operations Command Europe*

NORMANDY, France – Under stormy clouds and amid the sharp scent of wet earth from the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc, Cricqueville-en-Bessin, France, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Jonathan Braga, commanding general of U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, spoke where U.S. Army Rangers once scaled 100-foot cliffs under fire June 6, 2025, to mark the 81st anniversary of Operation Overlord, widely known as D-Day.

In his speech, Braga spoke about the legacy of Lt. Col. James Earl Rudder and his 225 Rangers and what they did on this day in 1944.

“Uncertainty, doubt, fear in the hour of maximum danger,” Braga said, opening his remarks. “Every soldier grapples with these emotions under fire.”

Braga’s speech was part of a series of more than 80 commemorative events taking place across approximately 40 communities in Normandy, France, from June 3 to 8, 2025. This included a bilateral ceremony at the Normandy American Cemetery and an airborne operation on June 8. U.S. and Allied forces gathered to reflect on the human costs of the D-Day landings.

Braga recounted the pivotal decision Rudder made on the eve of the mission, relieving an officer whose fear had begun to undermine the unit.

“Rudder understood that fear left unchecked multiplies, and that the power of one man’s resolve can anchor an entire mission,” Braga said. “He didn’t wait for clarity. He took command.”

Braga focused on the individual acts of heroism that lead to collective courage. Among them was 19-year-old Pfc. Howard Bowens of New Jersey, who volunteered to serve as a Ranger.

“He wasn’t just a Ranger. He was a volunteer,” Braga said. “He understood that resolve at the top begins with a single grip at the bottom.”

Braga held up a historic WWII unit patch once worn by a Ranger who scaled the cliffs at Pointe du Hoc, now a symbol of personal courage, passed down through generations.

“This patch was stitched by brave hands and handed forward like a torch,” Braga said. “One person. One heroic action. That’s how history gets made.”

In a final call to service, Braga turned to the present, urging the next generation of leaders to meet uncertainty with action.

“If you dare, grab the rope, don the jersey of your generation, and do not let go.”



**U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Jonathan Braga, commanding general of U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, places a wreath during a D-Day ceremony commemorating the actions of U.S. Army Rangers who led the assault on Pointe du Hoc, Cricqueville-en-Bessin, June 5, 2025. U.S. military personnel traveled to France to mark the 81st anniversary of Operation Overlord, the Allied invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Sgt. Mireille Merilice-Roberts)**



# U.S. Special Operations Command - Europe



## 81st D-Day anniversary: French Resistance Monument

*By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Reece Heck  
U.S. Special Operations Command Europe*

SAINTE-MARIE-DU-MONT, France – In a solemn and stirring ceremony at the Normandy French Resistance Memorial, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Richard E. Angle, commanding general of Allied Special Operations Forces Command and U.S. Special Operations Command Europe, paid tribute to the brave men and women of the French Resistance whose efforts were vital to the success of the Allied liberation of Europe during World War II.

The event brought together French, American, and Danish dignitaries, veterans' representatives, and local citizens in a powerful act of remembrance. Just a short distance from Utah Beach — where Allied troops stormed ashore on June 6, 1944 — the monument stands as a timeless symbol of courage, collaboration and sacrifice.

Among those in attendance were World War II veterans Harold Radish and Raymond E. Sweeney, whose courage and sacrifice embodied the spirit of the commemoration. Harold served as a reconnaissance sergeant with the 90th Infantry Division, fighting in the Battle of the Bulge and enduring captivity at Stalag 12A



*U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Richard E. Angle, commander of Allied Special Operations Command, provides remarks during the French Resistance Monument Ceremony on June 4, 2025. The French Resistance Monument was erected in 2021 to honor the contributions of Special Operations Forces in Europe. The success of the elite Jedburgh teams during WWII was due in part to support from the French Resistance. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Reece Heck)*





***U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Richard E. Angle, commander of Allied Special Operations Forces Command, provides remarks during the French Resistance Monument Ceremony at Sainte-Marie-Du-Mont, France, June 4, 2025. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Reece Heck)***

after a daring mission behind enemy lines. Raymond served in the Red Ball Express, the vital convoy system supplying Allied forces, and was later taken prisoner while supporting operations across Europe. Both men faced the hardships of war and imprisonment with remarkable resilience, and their presence at the ceremony served as a powerful reminder of the enduring cost of freedom. We thank them for their unwavering courage and commitment.

In his address, Angle emphasized the enduring significance of the monument, stating, “This monument is more than bronze and stone. It is a sentinel of memory.”

Far more than a tribute to the past, the memorial serves to educate future generations about the pivotal role played by the French Resistance. In the critical days leading up to and following D-Day, Resistance fighters gathered intelligence, sabotaged enemy communications, and disrupted German troop movements—contributions that proved decisive to the success of the Normandy landings and the broader Allied campaign, including the Provence landings of August 15, 1944.

Their impact was not only operational but moral. The Resistance was a collective stand against tyranny, carried out by ordinary citizens with extraordinary resolve.

The monument also honors the enduring alliance between France and the United States — two nations united by a shared commitment to liberty. It commemorates the 94 Operation Jedburgh teams, composed of members of the British Special Operations Executive, the American Office of Strategic Services, and the Free French Forces. Parachuting into occupied France, these special operations teams helped equip and direct the Maquis, playing a critical role in disrupting enemy forces during the Normandy invasion.

Armed with little more than radios and resolve, the Jedburghs became the vanguard of today’s special forces — embodying the principles of unity, precision, and innovation that remain essential to modern military operations.

As the world commemorates the 81st anniversary of D-Day, Lt. Gen. Angle offered a resounding call to remembrance and action, declaring, “Let us never forget that the flame of freedom was kept alive by those who refused to stand aside. Their legacy is our inheritance. Their fight is our call.”

These words echo across Normandy and through generations, reminding us that freedom is not preserved by ceremony alone, but by a continued commitment to the values it represents.

The Normandy French Resistance Memorial stands not only as a tribute to past heroism, but as a guidepost for the future — a call to resist tyranny, defend liberty, and honor those who fought for both.

“Because this is what courage looks like. This is what sacrifice demands. And this is what freedom requires—still,” said Joseph (Joey) Ivanov, retired U.S. Special Forces officer and founder of the Normandy French Resistance Memorial.

As the world marks the 81st anniversary of the D-Day landings, ceremonies such as this serve as vital reminders: freedom is never won alone. It is secured through shared courage, deep alliances, and the moral will to act in the face of injustice.

The legacy of the Resistance lives on—not just in stone, but in spirit. And that spirit remains a beacon for all who seek a freer, more just world.



***U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Richard E. Angle, commander of Allied Special Operations Forces Command, speaks to a multi-national audience during the French Resistance Monument Ceremony at Sainte-Marie-Du-Mont, France, June 4, 2025. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Reece Heck)***



# *U.S. Special Operations Command - Europe*



## **U.S. Special Operations Forces, NATO allies advance cyber, space capabilities in Swift Response 25**

*By U.S. Army Sgt. Anthony Ackah-Mensah  
U.S. Special Operations Command Europe*

PABRADE, Lithuania — Green Berets with U.S. Army 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) trained alongside NATO Allies during Swift Response 25, a sub-exercise of DEFENDER 25, held in Pabrade and other locations, May 8–18, 2025.

A key feature of this year's exercise was the use of space and cyber capabilities in support of special operations behind simulated enemy lines. Green Berets and Allied special operations forces executed coordinated actions that enabled real-time detection, tracking, identification and neutralization of a notional biological threat.

The integration of special operations forces with cyber and space capabilities represents a critical step forward in countering chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats. By combining SOF's ability to operate deep in contested areas with the reach and precision of the cyber effects, the U.S. and NATO can reduce an adversary's capacity to function and deny them the strategic benefits of employing chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons.

"On the modern battlefield, and here at Swift Response 25, U.S. Special Forces are leveraging their ability to penetrate deep behind enemy lines to facilitate space and cyber warfare to reduce critical enemy capabilities," said U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Sean Sarokas, company sergeant major with 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Swift Response participants included host nations Norway, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden, and Finland. The exercise focused on the rapid deployment of forces to strengthen key capabilities and improve operational integration. Training scenarios included simulated raids, ambushes, and joint maneuvers designed to test both conventional and unconventional tactics.




***Two Green Berets with the U.S. Army 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) apprehend a Lithuanian National Volunteer Defense Forces soldier acting as an opposing force in a simulated Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear raid during Swift Response 25 in Pabrade, Lithuania, May 12, 2025. Swift Response 25 highlights the enhanced combat capabilities of U.S. forces and NATO Allies through rehearsed integration in preparation for large-scale combat operations. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Anthony Ackah-Mensah)***

Swift Response 25 is one of three sub-exercises of DEFENDER 25, the largest U.S. Army exercise in Europe. Roughly 4,000 U.S. forces and 2,000 Allies and partners participated in Swift Response 25.

Allied and partner forces behind enemy lines is a core strength of U.S. Special Forces. Training alongside Allied and partner forces ensures everyone is ready, technically and tactically, when real-world missions arise according to a 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) captain.

"It is great for NATO forces to get together and bring all that [training] together in one cohesive picture," said a 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) captain. "We share tactics, techniques, and the standard operating procedures in order to work more cohesively together."





*Two Green Berets with the U.S. Army 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and a Lithuanian National Volunteer Defense Forces soldier exit a building after conducting a simulated raid during Swift Response 25 in Pabrade, Lithuania, May 12, 2025. Swift Response 25 is a multinational sub-exercise of DEFENDER 25 that highlights the shared security commitment of U.S. forces and NATO Allies through rehearsed integration for large-scale combat operations. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Anthony Ackah-Mensah)*



# U.S. Special Operations Command - Korea



## U.S., ROK personnel enhance counter gray zone burden sharing through routine SOF core activity training

*By U.S. Air Force Maj. Christopher Mesnard  
Special Operations Command Korea*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea – Personnel with Special Operations Command Korea completed two weeks' worth of forensics, entry and specialized tactics training with South Korean counterparts near Jeju City, Republic of Korea between May 7-23, 2025.

The training events continue a decades-long relationship between U.S. special operations forces and their ROK Allies with the intent of advancing skills to meet mutual homeland defense needs.

The need for defense readiness stems from North Korea's weapons of mass destruction program advancement, conventional military build-ups, increased gray-zone and irregular activities, unprecedented malicious cyber-based activities, and the Kim regime's propensity for leveraging other nations in the Northeast Asia region for their own transactional and belligerent purposes.

"Our first priority is to ensure the defense of our homelands," said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Derek N. Lipson, commander of SOCKOR. "We do this every day through a ready, capable, and combined special operations force



*U.S. Special Operations Command Korea personnel conduct close-range, small- arms training with the Jeju Special Operation Unit personnel at Jeju City, Republic of Korea, May 20, 2025. Advancing continued interoperability between the two nations, the routine training involved U.S. special operations personnel and the Jeju Special Operations Unit personnel. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Justin Yarborough)*





***A member of the Jeju Special Operation Unit, fires their rifle during training at Jeju City, Republic of Korea, May 19, 2025. Advancing continued interoperability between the two nations, the routine training involved U.S. special operations personnel and the Jeju Special Operations Unit personnel. The U.S. SOF community has a no-fail crisis response mission, and the training enables burden sharing between the two nations as a means for countering grey-zone and other irregular activities which threaten a free and open Indo-Pacific. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Justin Yarborough)***

that deters aggression, competes below the level of armed conflict, and will prevail in crisis or conflict if our adversaries ever miscalculate our commitment to a peaceful and stable Indo-Pacific region.”

Divided into classroom and practical application programs of instruction, the two weeks of training advanced the continuum of readiness Lipson emphasizes remains critical for ensuring a credible deterrent force and stability in the region.

“When I think of what it takes to bring a fully trained and equipped operator with their appropriate enablers into a fight, we can’t expect to surge readiness when a crisis hits,” said Lipson. “For any future crisis response, which is our no fail mission in SOF, our nations’ ability to win is based on the investment in hardware, capabilities, and most importantly the people and relationships we have right now.”

The combined teams near Jeju City conducted various instructional blocks focused on forensics activities, small unit tactics, extending cyber-based options to the tactical edge, and the ability to identify chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear material.

Through this training, Lipson envisions a ready force that meets the needs of senior leaders looking to compete below the level of armed conflict while also meeting the broader defense and security needs that maintain a peaceful and stable Indo-Pacific region.

Recently, U.S. Army Gen. Xavier Brunson, commander of U.S. Forces Korea, United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, emphasized the geographic proximity of USFK to the DPRK, Russia, and PRC, and the command’s ability to provide options to the nation’s most senior leaders.

Additionally, Brunson stated the command’s ability to impose costs on adversaries in competition and crisis should be factored in to how the leaders of those nations perceive USFK’s role in the region. For Brunson, the unquestionable sentiment he wants adversaries to arrive at is that today is not the day to disrupt peace and stability in the region.

“In any conflict, time and distance are pervasive adversaries,” said Brunson. “We can, however, leverage [USFK’s] geography and positional advantage to great effect. Our presence in the region gives our adversaries pause and ultimately supports the defense of the homeland from freedom’s front yard.”

As the special operations proponent for USFK, SOCKOR enables a ready and capable SOF to meet national defense requirements in Northeast Asia while upholding Alliance commitments with the ROK.

The personnel at SOCKOR routinely train with ROK and multinational counterparts to meet national defense requirements in support of the ironclad U.S.-ROK Alliance and meet the needs of senior leaders.



***U.S. Special Operations Command Korea personnel conduct a small unit training program of instruction with Jeju Special Operation Unit personnel, discussing tactical movements and reacting to fire at Jeju City, Republic of Korea, May 21, 2025. Advancing continued interoperability between the two nations, the routine training involved U.S. special operations personnel and the Jeju Special Operations Unit personnel. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Justin Yarborough)***



# U.S. Special Operations Command - South



## Exercise SOUTHERN STAR 2025 concludes in Chile

*By U.S. Army Spc. Jade Archuleta  
Special Operations Command South*

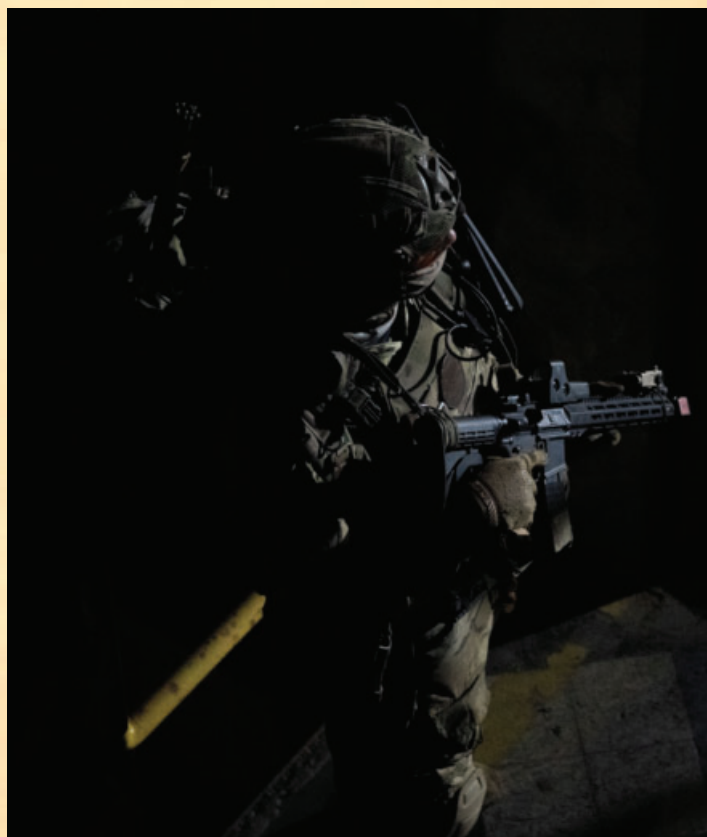
SANTIAGO, Chile — The Chilean-led exercise SOUTHERN STAR 2025 concluded during a closing ceremony near Santiago, Chile, June 8, 2025. The two-week, biennial exercise, sponsored by U.S. Southern Command, took place in various locations around Chile — from Antofagasta in the north to Punta Arenas in the south.

SOUTHERN STAR 2025, the largest special operations forces training exercise in the Western Hemisphere, brought together forces from six nations and 10 observer countries, totaling more than 2,500 participants. Participating nations included Spain, Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay and the U.S., with observers from Japan, Peru, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

The exercise focuses on strengthening partnerships between countries, training special operations forces personnel, and collaborating on ideas and strategies in the face of shared challenges. Partner forces train in staged, real-world hostile situations, such as: compound raids, search and rescue; visit, board, search and seizure, and live fire weapons training, to increase tactical performance under pressure and strive toward successful mission results.

“SOUTHERN STAR 2025 plays a pivotal role in strengthening regional collaboration and integration among partner nations,” said Alfredo Moreno, U.S. Special Operation Command South’s chief of joint training and exercises and a lead planner of SOUTHERN STAR 2025. “By bringing together special operations forces from across the region, the exercise fosters interoperability, mutual trust, and shared operational standards. SOUTHERN STAR 2025 not only improves tactical and strategic readiness but also bolsters diplomatic and military ties, promoting a unified approach to regional stability.”

Multinational operations and exercises like SS25 increase the ability of the U.S. and its collective partners to operate together in joint, high-intensity environments, improving readiness, responsiveness, and interoperability in both peacetime and crisis.




***A Chilean Navy Special Forces operator sets security in a simulated direct action raid during SOUTHERN STAR '25 in Laguna Verde, Chile, June 7, 2025. SOUTHERN STAR '25 is a multinational special operations exercise taking place across Chile from May 26 to June 8. The exercise brings together forces from six nations and 10 observer countries, totaling more than 2,700 participants, to enhance interoperability and strengthen global special operations partnerships through joint training from Antofagasta to Punta Arenas. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Leon Wong)***



*U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers combined with Chilean, Columbian and Spanish soldiers demonstrate urban tactics to the Chilean Minister of Defense, Mrs. Adriana Delpiano Puelma in Colina, Chile as part of the SOUTHERN STAR 2025 exercise, June 05, 2025. SOUTHERN STAR 2025 is a multinational special operations exercise taking place across Chile from May 26 to June 8. The exercise brings together forces from six nations and 10 observer countries, totaling more than 2,700 participants, to enhance interoperability and strengthen global special operations partnerships through joint training from Antofagasta to Punta Arenas. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt Elijah Florence)*





A photograph of Retired U.S. Navy Adm. William McRaven speaking at a wooden podium. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a dark tie. He has grey hair and glasses. The podium has a microphone. In the background, there is a red and white striped flag on the left and a blue flag with a white emblem on the right. The background is a clear blue sky.

*Retired U.S. Navy Adm. William McRaven, former commander, Naval Special Warfare Group 1, speaks during NSWG-1's 50th anniversary ceremony at the Silver Strand Training Complex in San Diego, California, May 22, 2025. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Alex Perlman)*



# Naval Special Warfare Command

## Naval Special Warfare Group ONE celebrates 50 Years



### *Courtesy Story*

#### *Naval Special Warfare Group ONE*

SAN DIEGO, California — Retired and active operators, civilians, and combat support representing warfighters from every era of American combat since the Vietnam War, reunited with former and current teammates on May 22, 2025, to celebrate a milestone – 50 years of Naval Special Warfare Group (NSWG-1).

Established on April 1, 1975, NSWG-1 was created in response to a directive from Washington, D.C., instructing the Commander of Naval Surface Forces U.S. Pacific Fleet (now called U.S. Pacific Fleet) to establish a permanent home for the group at Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, California.

“Having spent many years on both the active-duty side and in the private sector, I can say with utmost confidence that there is no other community like NSWG-1,” said retired NSWG-1 U.S. Navy Command Master Chief Jason Tuschen. “We demand excellence and uphold our values. Our organization’s Operators, Sailors, and civilians prioritize selfless service, which makes NSWG-1 exceptional and contributes to its success – and what will keep the organization relevant for another 50 years.”

Building on a legacy that began before 1962, Naval Special Warfare Group ONE’s 50th anniversary celebrates a half-century of continuous adaptation and unwavering commitment following President Kennedy’s initial direction to establish the force.

“In the last 50 years, SEALs from NSWG-1 have fought in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Somalia, Yemen and the Philippines, said retired U.S. Navy Admiral and former NSWG-1 Commander William McRaven. “While our weapons, boats and teams have evolved, one constant remains: our people. The men and women of Group ONE are as professional, committed, and honorable today as they were in 1975.”

NSWG-1’s legacy builds on a rich history of naval special operations dating back to 1942, when the Amphibious Scouts and Raiders and the Naval Demolition Unit were formed to



***Retired U.S. Navy Master Chief Jason Tuschen, former Command Master Chief, Naval Special Warfare Group 1 speaks during NSWG-1’s 50th anniversary ceremony on May 22, 2025, at the Silver Strand Training Complex in San Diego. NSW provides maritime special operations force capabilities to enable Joint Force lethality and survivability inside denied and contested areas. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class***

conduct critical missions during Operation Torch, the Allied invasion of North Africa. These units laid the foundation for the modern SEAL teams.

For 30 years following its inception, Naval Special Warfare built a reputation for unmatched strength, lethality, and quiet professionalism, expanding its global presence and capabilities. This legacy of excellence paved the way for the establishment of NSWG-1 in 1975 and continues to define the command today.

Naval Special Warfare Group ONE is currently headquartered in San Diego, where a dedicated team of nearly 1,700 Sailors, government civilians, and industry partners who work across 11 program offices.

Naval Special Warfare Command provides maritime Special Operations Forces capability to enable Joint Force lethality and survivability in denied and contested areas. This is achieved through focused development in long-range fires, maritime kinetic effects, and maritime non-kinetic effects, delivered primarily through O-5-led Maritime Special Operations Task Forces.



# Naval Special Warfare Command

## SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team ONE

### teammate receives prestigious 2025 USO Service Member of the Year Award

*NSW Courtesy story*

SAN DIEGO, California — The Naval Special Warfare community is proud to recognize Chief Navy Diver Pearce Decker of SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team ONE (SDV Team ONE) as the 2025 USO Service Member of the Year. He received the award at the USO Gala in Washington, DC, on May 29, 2025, for demonstrating exceptional heroism during an at-sea operation.

This esteemed award recognizes Chief Decker's extraordinary bravery, selfless dedication to duty, and unwavering commitment to the Navy's standards and values.

"Chief Decker's positive influence is felt throughout our command," said Command Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL) Derek Romsland. "He possesses a remarkable balance of assertiveness and openness to others' perspectives, fostering sound decision-making and building strong relationships with fellow Chiefs and teammates. His decisive actions during a crisis at sea surprised no one at the command; it's simply who he is."

Chief Decker's heroic actions took place when a teammate was ejected into the ocean at night in a high sea state. Without hesitation, Chief Decker sprang into action, locating the displaced operator and directing a rescue swimmer to their location and ensuring the safety of his teammates.

When asked about his experience, Chief Decker humbly stated, "I am extremely humbled by the recognition. We had a great team on that operation; it was crucial we all persevered through such demanding circumstances."

In addition to his selection as the Navy's USO Servicemember of the Year, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth presented Chief Decker with the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for the same operation during a March 25, 2025, visit to Hawaii - a testament to Decker's exceptional service and bravery.



**SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team ONE Chief Navy Diver Pearce Decker of SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team ONE Receives Prestigious 2025 USO Service Member of the Year Award. (Courtesy photo)**

"I feel honored," said Decker. "The same award was given to President John F. Kennedy for his extremely heroic conduct as commanding officer of Motor Torpedo Boat 109, following the collision and sinking of that vessel in the Pacific War Area in 1943."

Throughout the four-hour contingency, Decker placed himself in extraordinary danger to save a teammate, demonstrating the very best of what it means to be a Sailor and a Naval Special Warfare warrior.

"Fortunately, no one was severely injured, and the team was able to recover all personnel, which was my number one priority," Chief Decker said. "Trusting your instincts and remaining calm is crucial during times of chaos. The clearer and more concise you can communicate to those around will help immensely in working together. I had an awesome group of men who trusted my decisions and were able to quickly communicate on actions needed to get through the event."







# Naval Special Warfare Command

## Naval Special Warfare ordnance training



*U.S. East Coast-based Naval Special Warfare Operators (SEALs) fire a M252 mortar during training at Fort Smith, Arkansas, June 9, 2025. Naval Special Warfare Group TWO produces, supports and deploys the world's most lethal maritime special operations forces to ensure the United States will deter and win wars. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Jake Vernier)*









# U.S. Army Special Operations Command



## Uncommon courage: Two Originals earn Soldier's Medal

*By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael Wood  
10th Special Forces Group (Airborne)*

FORT CARSON, Colorado. — Two U.S. Army Soldiers, Sgt. 1st Class Robert “Bobby” A. Haran and Staff Sgt. John C. Pinnock, both assigned to 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), were awarded the Soldier’s Medal during a ceremony at Fort Carson, May 28, 2025. Both “Originals,” as members of 10th Group are known, demonstrated uncommon valor in separate harrowing situations, ultimately preserving lives.

U.S. Army Col. Justin Hufnagel, commander of 10th SFG(A), presided over the ceremony, while U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Lawrence Ferguson, commanding general of 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne), delivered remarks and presented the prestigious awards.

Before presenting the medals, both Ferguson and Hufnagel addressed the assembled crowd.

“When America looks at our formations, we want them to see the best of themselves,” said Ferguson. “That is what we got here today, and that is why we are here.”

The Soldier’s Medal, established by an Act of Congress on July 2, 1925, is the nation’s highest peacetime award for heroism not involving direct contact with an enemy. It recognizes distinguished individual acts of heroism on behalf of fellow soldiers or civilians.

“We have the opportunity to honor two phenomenal NCO’s (Non-Commissioned Officers) whose actions exemplify the highest values of this group and Special Forces Command,” said Hufnagel. “Less than 300 people in the active force are wearing the Soldier’s Medal today, and we’re proud to include two Originals to their ranks.”

Every Soldier’s Medal tells a unique story of courage in the face of unforeseen danger. Far from traditional battlefields, these prestigious awards recognize individual acts of heroism where service members demonstrate extraordinary bravery, often putting their own lives at risk.



**U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Lawrence G. Ferguson (right) awards the Soldier’s Medal to Staff Sgt. John C. Pinnock (left) assigned to Group Support Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) on Fort Carson, Colorado, May 28, 2025. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Chris Sanger)**

On December 14, 2023, Pinnock was on a family cruise vacation with a Royal Caribbean cruise ship docked in Labadee, Haiti. As he walked on the pier with his brother, he noticed 77-year-old Michael White, from Orlando, Florida, driving a mobility scooter dangerously close to the edge of the dock.

“I thought this man would correct his course,” Pinnock said. “But before I could say anything, I realized the man was driving off of the pier.”

The scooter plunged about 10 feet into the gap between the ship and the pier. Without hesitation, Pinnock ran to White, touching his shoulder just as he fell, then quickly jumped into the narrow space. Pinnock immediately reached around White’s neck and under his left arm, treading water with him.

“I had this sense of despair and complete hopelessness,” said White. “And suddenly Connor popped up beside me, grabbed me and said, ‘Hello sir, this is Sgt. Pinnock from the United States Army; I’ve got you.’”



Cruise ship employees and Pinnock's brother quickly reacted, extending help from the pier before throwing an innertube down to them. Pinnock held onto both White and the innertube. When attempts to pull them up by rope proved difficult due to White's injuries, Pinnock instructed them to stop. An additional innertube, without a rope, was then thrown down.

As Pinnock tried to place an innertube over White's head, White revealed his shoulder was broken, making arm maneuverability impossible. Pinnock's brother and the employees on the pier then directed them to swim a short distance to a nearby buoy with a chain running into the water. However, upon reaching it, Pinnock realized the chain offered no means of exit.

"Connor shouted, 'This ain't working, this ain't working,'" said White. "Connor is strong; he could have swum the entire length of this ship without a problem, but I could tell he was getting tired, but he refused to leave me."

A jet ski operator and a rescue swimmer with a floating buoy soon arrived. The rescue swimmer and Pinnock worked together to turn White onto his back and onto the rescue mat. Pinnock then pushed White further onto the mat to ensure he remained in a stable position.

After securing White, the jet ski operator instructed Pinnock to get off the personal watercraft, likely due to concerns about the combined weight. Pinnock re-entered the water beneath the pier, where the rescue swimmer assisted him in swimming out from under the structure. The rescue swimmer asked Pinnock if White was a family member.

"No," Pinnock replied. "I just tried to help him."

On May 6, 2023, Haran and a teammate with the Special Operations Mountain Warfare Training Center (SOMWTC), Advanced Skills Company, reached the 14,023-foot summit of Wilson Peak near Telluride, Colorado. During their ski descent, his teammate attempted a kick turn to reverse direction, but his lead ski hit a rock, ejecting him from his binding and causing him to fall uncontrollably over 2,000 vertical feet.

Haran made the critical decision to descend the mountain's steepest and most hazardous part on foot rather than attempting to ski it, which would have been slower and much riskier. Just before Haran reached a narrow, gully-like channel known as a couloir, his teammate contacted him via a two-way radio, confirming he was injured but conscious and in a relatively safe location.

Placing himself in significant peril and disregarding his safety, Haran used mountaineering crampons (spiked attachments on his boots) and an ice axe to maintain a grip on the near-vertical face. He moved methodically to avoid triggering an avalanche. Because he was now alone and had to cover 2,200 vertical feet as quickly as possible, using a

rope for protection during the descent was not an option. Similarly, attempting to ski the planned route solo through the couloir carried an extreme risk of releasing additional avalanches or rockfall onto his teammate's still-unknown position.

As he descended, Haran retrieved both of his teammate's skis and poles, planning to use them as a makeshift litter if his teammate couldn't walk. Upon reaching his teammate, Haran began assessing him for cold weather injuries and trauma.

"When Bobby reached his teammate he immediately assessed that his teammate had sustained life-threatening injuries," said Haran's Noncommissioned Officer in Charge. "His teammate had a broken sternum, broken hip, broken shoulder, a tibia, a fibula, he had internal bleeding, he had a torn aorta in his heart, a torn lower intestine, and to top that off, he was in the first stages of hypothermia."

Given the severe nature of his teammate's injuries and the unknown extent of his internal wounds, Haran immediately activated his emergency satellite device to initiate a casualty evacuation. He directly communicated with the San Miguel Search and Rescue (SAR) team leader, who confirmed a helicopter evacuation was possible. Haran then carefully moved his injured teammate several hundred feet further down to a flat area suitable for a helicopter landing zone.

The rescue helicopter arrived in approximately two hours. After initial assessments, the SAR team decided to airlift the injured teammate to St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado. Once the casualty was safely evacuated, Haran skied the remainder of the mountain back to the trailhead.

"Bobby, without a doubt, is the only individual that comes to mind that could have performed the way he did that day," Haran's NCOIC concluded. "Because of all his training, perseverance, and wherewithal, it resulted in him saving his teammate's life."



***U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Lawrence G. Ferguson pins the Soldier's Medal on Sgt. 1st Class Robert A. Haran assigned to 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) on Fort Carson, Colorado (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David Cordova)***



# U.S. Army Special Operations Command

## U.S. Special Operations Forces jump to commemorate D-Day Anniversary



*A Green Beret with 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), prepares to land during a commemorative jump at Le Mont-Saint-Michel, France, June 4, 2025. These jumps are part of the commemoration of the 81st anniversary of Operation Overlord, the Allied invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944, widely known as D-Day. Service members from approximately 25 units took part in more than 80 commemorative events from June 3 to June 8, in approximately 40 French communities throughout the Normandy region -- including a bilateral ceremony at Normandy American Cemetery on June 6, and a commemorative airborne operation on June 8. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Sgt. Mireille Merilice-Roberts)*







# Air Force Special Operations Command



## AFSOC celebrates 35 years, showcases airpower during anniversary ceremony

*By Air Force Special Operations Command Public Affairs*

HURLBURT FIELD, Florida — Hundreds gathered at the Hurlburt Field Memorial Air Park, June 6, 2025, for a ceremony celebrating Air Force Special Operations Command's 35th anniversary.

The ceremony commemorated AFSOC's history, the proud legacy of its Air Commandos, and featured an aerial demonstration for those in attendance.

Distinguished guests in attendance included five former AFSOC commanders, four former AFSOC deputy commanders, and five former AFSOC command chiefs. We also welcomed 17 general officers from across the enterprise and 12 local civic leaders who help support the base community.

During his ceremony remarks, U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael Conley, commander of AFSOC, emphasized that AFSOC's strength lies in its people.

"This anniversary provides us with an opportunity to honor our fellow Air Commandos who have served, sacrificed, and excelled within our ranks," said Conley. "They are the heart and soul of AFSOC."

During the ceremony, each era of AFSOC's missions were highlighted, from the early days of Operation Just Cause and Desert Storm to the long campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the current focus on global competition. Veterans in attendance from each era were recognized for their invaluable contributions to the command.

"This legacy, honed by AFSOC's past leaders, laid the groundwork for innovation and adaptation," said Conley. "Their vision for a specialized airpower component, capable of meeting evolving threats, has directly shaped the aircraft we field today."

The aerial advantage of AFSOC was on full display during a ceremonial flyover which included a C-146A Wolfhound, U-28A Draco, MC-12 Liberty, OA-1K Skyraider II, CV-22 Osprey, MC-130J Commando II, and an AC-130J Ghost Rider. Another prominent theme of the ceremony was



**U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael Conley, Air Force Special Operations Command commander, gives remarks during a ceremony celebrating AFSOC's 35th anniversary at Hurlburt Field, Florida, June 6, 2025. Members of the AFSOC community came together to celebrate the milestone and recognize the contributions of everyone who has served in the command. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Natalie Fiorilli)**

AFSOC's enduring spirit of adaption, leading to the modernized technology and agile force employment the command leverages today.

"AFSOC activated with just over 5,000 personnel, roughly one percent of the Air Force," said Conley. "Today, we are a combat proven force of over 20,000 Air Commandos, operating in a world far more complex and challenging than most could have imagined in 1990. Air Commandos have provided our Nation with outsized combat capability relative to our size."

Of course, the AFSOC community could not reflect on the past without taking time to remember those who are no longer with us. During the ceremony, the families of fallen Air Commandos were honored, acknowledging their strength and resilience while carrying on the legacy of their loved ones.

"Let us honor the legacy of those who came before us and continue to uphold the values that define the Air Commando spirit," said Conley. The path forward will be demanding, but AFSOC's commitment remains crystal clear."



*Aircrews assigned to Air Force Special Operations Command perform a ceremonial flyover in celebration of AFSOC's 35th anniversary at Hurlburt Field, Florida, June 6, 2025. For 35 years, AFSOC has been at the forefront of special operations by delivering unique capabilities to the joint force to help the nation win across the spectrum of conflict. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Natalie Fiorilli)*





# Air Force Special Operations Command



## The Steadfast Line hosts media day

*A social media videographer films a CV-22 Osprey demonstration during media day at Melrose Air Force Range, New Mexico, May 28, 2025. The tour concluded with a CV-22 tiltrotor air-to-air refueling with an MC-130, highlighting the complexity and coordination required in real-world special operations missions. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Corinna Morlan)*









# Air Force Special Operations Command



## AFSOC welcomes incoming command chief: Chief Master Sgt. Courtney Freeman

*By Air Force Special Operations Command Public Affairs*

HURLBURT FIELD, Florida. — Chief Master Sgt. Courtney Freeman assumed command chief responsibilities for Air Force Special Operations Command during a formal Assumption of Responsibility ceremony at Hurlburt Field, Florida, June 2, 2025.

Freeman becomes the 12th command chief of AFSOC, representing approximately 21,000 total force and civilian Air Commandos worldwide.

U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael Conley, commander of AFSOC presided over the ceremony focusing on the need to cultivate discipline, resilience and adaptability within the ranks to ensure AFSOC remains at the forefront of special operations.

“Chief Freeman, I know you share this vision, and with your extensive AFSOC and leadership experience, I am confident that your guidance will be instrumental in leading our enlisted force through the challenges ahead,” said Conley. “I look forward to working alongside you to strengthen our Air Commandos and ensure that AFSOC continues to be the best in the world at what we do.”

The Assumption of Responsibility ceremony highlights the critical role of the senior enlisted leader in maintaining the morale, welfare and readiness of the force, while fostering the culture of disciplined professionalism and resilience that defines Air Commandos.

Freeman addressed the audience, emphasizing the importance of teamwork and the unique capabilities of AFSOC Airmen.

“Air Commandos operate with unmatched skill, discipline and resolve. They embody the very essence of quiet professionalism,” said Freeman. “As your command chief, I stand with you shoulder to shoulder to ensure that we remain ready to be whatever our nation needs us to be any place, any time, anywhere.”



**U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Courtney Freeman, left, Air Force Special Operations Command's incoming command chief, and Lt. Gen. Michael Conley, right, AFSOC commander, shake hands during an assumption of responsibility ceremony at Hurlburt Field, Florida, June 2, 2025. As AFSOC command chief, Freeman is the voice of enlisted Air Commandos and a key advisor to the AFSOC commander. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Natalie Fiorilli)**

Among those in attendance were Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Dave Flossi, along with numerous other leaders, Air Commandos, and family members.

Freeman entered the Air Force in 1997. He's served as an enlisted aircrew member at the squadron, group and wing levels. Freeman holds qualifications in various aircraft totaling over 4,000 hours including over 1,000 hours of combat time. Prior to his current position, he was the senior enlisted leader for the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.





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# Marine Forces, Special Operations Command **MARSOC conducts training at Camp Guernsey**



*Marines assigned to Marine Forces, Special Operations Command (MARSOC) conduct tactical training at Camp Guernsey Joint Training Center, Wyoming, April 7, 2025. The facility supports military readiness through diverse resources, including live-fire ranges, urban combat environments, convoy operations courses and rugged terrain for realistic field exercises. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Joseph Burns)*







# Headquarters - U.S. Special Operations Command U.S. SOCOM Enterprise Service Member of the Year

***By: U.S. Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Cutler Brice  
U.S. Special Operations Command***

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Florida. — Members of the elite special operations forces, often referred to as “the tip of the spear,” faced off last month during U.S. Special Operations Command’s annual Service Member of the Year competition. Thirteen elite warriors, representing the best of the best from across the special operations community, went head-to-head in a grueling four-day test of skill, endurance and mental toughness.

These individuals volunteered to compete from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force special operations commands, Joint Special Operations Command, each of the seven Theater Special Operations Commands, and U.S. SOCOM Headquarters. Each competitor earned their spot through superior performance and dedication.

“The U.S. SOCOM Service Member of the Year competition has been going on for over 10 years, and every year we change it up to keep it fresh and challenging,” said U.S. Army Sergeant 1st Class Jeffrey Schneider, SMOY competition noncommissioned officer in charge with U.S. SOCOM.



***Command senior enlisted leaders with U.S. Special Operations Command host a panel for participants during the 2025 U.S. SOCOM Service Member of the Year competition at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, April 10, 2025. The annual competition includes volunteers from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force special operations commands, Joint Special Operations Command, the seven Theater Special Operations Commands, and U.S. SOCOM Headquarters. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. Cutler Brice)***





***Special Operations Forces members with U.S. Special Operations Command participate in the 2025 U.S. SOCOM Service Member of the Year competition at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, April 9, 2025. The annual competition includes volunteers from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force special operations commands, Joint Special Operations Command, the seven Theater Special Operations Commands, and U.S. SOCOM Headquarters. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. Cutler Brice)***

The competition was designed to push these already high-performing service members to their absolute limits. They tackled a written essay, physical fitness test, marksmanship event, ruck march and run, and a series of warrior skills tests. The skills test incorporated combat medicine, communications, expert weapons handling and navigating through unfamiliar terrain.

“If you look at the hardest problems facing our Nation in the darkest corners of this Earth – you will find our special operations noncommissioned officers solving them,” said U.S. Army Gen. Bryan P. Fenton, commander of U.S. SOCOM. “Our NCOs exemplify the precision and the lethality of your special operations teams and demonstrate our competitive and comparative advantage. They are the reason we are envied by militaries around the globe.”

Judges scored each event, tallying up the points to determine the winner. The competition ended with a panel of questions led by the command senior enlisted leaders from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps special operations commands.

“Everyone worked together, encouraging one another through the challenge this week,” said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Brandon Hochevar, a pharmacy technician at Special Warfare Medical Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, North Carolina. “Working together as a team and sharing different methods of how we do things has been something I feel very fortunate to have been a part of.”

This year’s competition highlighted the standards expected of special operations forces, showcasing the dedication and commitment required to maintain the United States military edge. By testing these warriors across a range of combat-relevant skills, the competition directly supports U.S. SOCOM’s goal of building a more lethal and effective fighting force.

“Every individual who came here, volunteered to be here and a part of special operations” said U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Shane Shorter, command senior enlisted leader of U.S. SOCOM. “We expect them to do their job and be experts in their job every day, but what the panel appreciates is the willingness to volunteer and go above and beyond their day-to-day jobs to compete in this Competition to maybe have the chance to win or lose.”

The winner was from Naval Special Warfare Command, Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, San Diego, California, and was recognized during a banquet dinner at SOF Week 2025, May 8, 2025, where he received the U.S. SOCOM Service Member of the Year Award and a Joint Service Commendation Medal. This recognition not only celebrates individual achievement but also highlights the talent and dedication each competitor, showcasing the caliber of the service members within the special operations community.



***A U.S. Navy Sailor assigned to U.S. Special Operations Command, accepts an award during the Special Operations Forces Week award ceremony in Tampa, Florida, May 8, 2025. U.S. Special Operations Command and the Global Special Operations Forces Foundation annually co-host Special Operations Forces Week for the international SOF community to share lessons learned across the Department of Defense, the interagency, allies and partners, academia and industry. These relationships demonstrate the power of partnership to ensure our warfighters’ readiness. The SOF Week venue provides the team of teams to gather for collaboration, education and modernization in support of national defense priorities. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Marleah Miller)***



# **Headquarters - U.S. Special Operations Command**

## **U.S. Special Operations Command hosts first ever International Commander's Forum to build generational relationships during Special Operations Forces Week 2025**

*By Michael Bottoms*  
*U.S. Special Operations Command*

TAMPA, Florida — U.S. Special Operations Command kicked off Special Operations Forces Week 2025 with an International Commander's Forum. The forum was attended by 311 participants from 61 countries with 78 Special Operations Forces units represented.

The Forum was incorporated this year directly based on recommendations after the 2024 SOF Week. USSOCOM's international division recognized that the most valuable part of the week was the interaction between command teams. Maintaining strong networks, and developing generational relationships is the strength of special operations.

Building generational relationships takes commitment. While SOF Week is fast paced, with the displays, panels, keynote speakers, so it was a deliberate effort to start the week with this Forum to set the tone. Gen. Bryan Fenton, commander U.S. Special Operations Command often says, "relationships are our competitive advantage."

USSOCOM has always recognized the significant role that international partnerships play in accomplishing the mission of special operations forces around the globe. To grow and develop generational partnerships, the Command hosted more than 60 countries from around the world.

The conference was attended by King of Jordan Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein along with Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth and the Chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff Gen. Dan Caine and current and retired senior military leaders.

"In today's contested world SOF does not go alone. They go first, but they also go with partners. SOF's ability to work by, with and through international partners pays huge dividends on our border, in the Indo-Pacific and around the world," said Hegseth. "Partners, as I see so many of our partners right here in the front, are central to how SOF works. They must believe that America is strong, that peace through strength is real, then they want to come into our orbit and be force multipliers. I'm talking about generational relationships that we have built with partner forces around the globe."

"The fusion of what we have in this room — interagency, industry, academia, practitioners, and policymakers — is tied together and galvanized towards irregular and asymmetric options," said Fenton. "We're the scalpel, but when the time comes, we can bring the hammer too."

A special operations officer from Japan reflected on his relationship with U.S. SOF.

"My relationship with U.S. SOF has been built on trust, mutual respect, and shared experiences in the field. We've trained, planned, and operated together—not as separate forces, but as one team with a common mission.



That connection has only deepened over time. Generational partnerships ensure that knowledge, values, and strategic alignment are passed down and sustained. I was surprised and deeply moved when I discovered that my jump buddy from 1st SFG ten years ago was now serving as J3-I Director, USSOCOM as my counterpart. In today's rapidly evolving threat environment, it's not just about the mission at hand—it's about building a legacy of trust and collaboration that empowers future operators and leaders," he said. "I

want to express my deepest gratitude to the SOCOM community. Your commitment, humility, and professionalism have inspired me throughout my journey. To my partners—let's

continue building something greater than ourselves. The mission continues, and so does our unbreakable bond."

A Jordanian special operations officer emphasized the strategic value of long-lasting relationships between allies.

"Our relationship is strategic, productive, and collaborative. This is an historical, long-lasting relationship that we will always maintain.

Relationships continue to grow in unprecedented ways with an increase in joint combat operations and UAS development for both Special Operations organizations. Generational partnerships are also extremely important. We continue to build on our partnerships to reach a level of trust that leads us to greater interoperability, seamless integration, and eventual interdependence to fight together as force multipliers," he said.

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*Our relationship is strategic, productive, and collaborative. This is an historical, long-lasting relationship that we will always maintain. Relationships continue to grow in unprecedented ways with an increase in joint combat operations and UAS development for both Special Operations organizations.*

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SOF employs a partnership model around the world to build partner nation security force capacity and capability. The intangible power of generational partnerships comes from thoughtful, deliberate, and

persistent interactions that lead to partnerships, and this intentional effort is irreplaceable for advancing and protecting U.S. national security interests.



**Gen. Bryan Fenton, commander U.S. Special Operations Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. Shane Shorter, command senior enlisted leader, host SOF Week International Commander's Forum to begin Special Operations Forces Week 2025 in Tampa Bay, Florida, May 5, 2025. U.S. Special Operations Command and the Global Special Operations Forces Foundation annually co-host SOF Week for the international SOF community to share lessons learned across the Department of Defense, the interagency, allies and partners, academia and industry. These relationships demonstrate the power of partnership to ensure our warfighters' readiness. The SOF Week venue provides the team of teams to gather for collaboration, education and modernization in support of national defense priorities. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by SSgt Cutler Brice)**



# Headquarters - U.S. Special Operations Command **U.S. SOCOM in Europe**

*A Norwegian military watercraft conducts a coastal capabilities demonstration during U.S. Special Operations Command's visit to Norway, June 8, 2025. The trip reinforced the collective effort to deepen special operations partnerships and enhance regional unity across Europe. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Staff Sgt. Cutler Brice)*









*Members of Latvia's Special Operations, while working with Green Berets with the U.S. Army 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), provide overhead security as part of a Latvian-led capabilities demonstration at the Street Art Festival, Riga, Latvia, June 8, 2025. These engagements ensure both nations remain ready and responsive to evolving security challenges. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Liseth Espinel).*

