



# 56TH THEATER INFORMATION OPERATIONS GROUP 2025 ANNUAL REPORT





# COMMAND TEAM'S MESSAGE

The 56th Theater Information Operations Group (TIOG) proudly presents our 2025 Annual Report, showcasing the accomplishments of our innovative team of Information Warfare (IWAR), Intelligence, Public Affairs (PA), and Special Operations professionals. Once again, our Soldiers have demonstrated their commitment to operational excellence, reaffirming partnership and building a reputation of trust. The MSC began the year engaged in building readiness and leaning forward on continuous transformation. As we close out the year, we have increased connectivity with our INDOPACOM partners and provided key insight to the emerging IWAR and PA Branches and proponents. The 56th succeeds because our people are priority, and we are humbled by the steadfast support of our Soldiers, their families, employers, and communities.

In 2025, the TIOG continued its vital contributions to contingency and theater security operations, deploying teams across four continents and supporting missions in five Geographic Combatant Commands. From Washington State to the Indo-Pacific and Middle East, and from Maryland to the Horn of Africa, the TIOG continued to set the example by building teams and partnerships able to thrive in complex environments. Our participation in joint and multinational exercises strengthened regional and global security, fostered trust, and deepened cooperation with our partners—particularly through enduring relationships with our State partners in Thailand and Malaysia. The 56th also upheld its commitment to domestic response operations, ready to protect our communities. with ready wildland firefighting response teams and deploying rapid response forces during the atmospheric rain which flooded western Washington.

Looking ahead to 2026, the 56th is ready to support our Partners, with perhaps the most robust set of experimentation and exercises commitments we have seen to date. Based on our reputation and successes, opportunities for increased structure, reach support, exchanges, and broadening assignments will continue to emerge. We will balance our commitments while improving our readiness to ensure Washington, our National Guard, and our Nation have the right people and right skills during competition. Lastly, we will continue to promote a unit culture that values hard work, relationships, converges across disciplines and drives innovation, embracing the creativity needed to deliver information and decisional advantage.

In closing, we want to thank our Soldiers and their supporters for their dedication to our team. This year has been one of the most rewarding of our careers – and we are honored to serve as your Command team.

## Defending Mercury!

**COL Casey De Groot** **CSM Tom Wickesser**  
**Commander** **CSM**



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# HISTORY OF THE 56TH THEATER INFORMATION OPERATIONS GROUP



When you think of Army Information Operations, you rarely think of Infantry, Artillery or Ordnance, but that is where the 56th TIOG started its path 100 years ago.

On September 30, 1918, Company D, 3d Infantry was organized and federally recognized in Seattle, Wash. The short lived Infantry Company was converted to Field Artillery in May 1921, under the flag of Battery D, 146th Field Artillery Regiment.

As tensions grew in the European and Pacific Theater during World War II, Battery D was called into federal service on February 16, 1940 for mobilization training in Seattle. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the unit conducted outreach to the community, preparing them for a possible attack in the Puget Sound area all while preparing to mobilize.

In February 1942, Battery D, was reorganized for mobilization to New Guinea at Battery A, 167th Field Artillery, under the 41st Infantry Division.

From 1942 to December 1945, the men of Battery

A would fight in Luzon, Southern Philippines and travel to Japan for inactivation and demobilization back home.

After returning home, the unit moved from Seattle to Vancouver and continued to serve at Battery A until a consolidation in April 1959. Battery A joined with Service Battery to create Company A in the newly developed 241st Signal Battalion with a focus on communications. As part of the 41st Infantry Division the unit worked alongside other Washington National Guard units; 1st Battalion 161st Infantry and 2nd Battalion 146th Field Artillery.

The 1960s saw a lot of changes for the unit, as it would undergo multiple reorganizations, consolidations and moves. In October 1971 the unit saw one of its most important consolidations when it joined together with 115th Transportation Group, to become the 116th Support Center, stationed in Olympia before moving to Camp Murray.

In August 1990, the world saw a new threat emerging in the Middle East, as Saddam Hussein's Iraqi military invaded Kuwait, causing a reaction by the United States to mobilize more than 700,000 troops for Operation Desert Shield from January 17,

1991 to February 28, 1991. Eight members of the 116th Support Center (Rear Area Operations) traveled to the Middle East on a 90-day tour in August 1991. As tensions on the Iraq, Saudi Arabia border heightened, the entire 80 member unit was mobilized on December 6, 1990 for a six-month tour in the Middle East. On June 24, 1991, all members would return home to Camp Murray. The unit was relocated to the Ellensburg armory in September 1992.

One more consolidation in September 2006 prepared the unit for its future reorganization as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 56th TIOG, which was federally recognized in January 28, 2009, under the 96th Troop Command.

As conflicts around the world changed, a greater need for synchronizing the non-kinetic battlefield began to take shape. Unit commanders were asking more from non-traditional warfighters, like public affairs, civil affairs and psychological operations. The Army noticed that Information Operations was becoming as important to the combatant commanders as traditional means.

During a major transformation in July 2015, the Washington Army National Guard found the perfect opportunity to stand up the 56th TIOG as a Brigade-sized element.

"Placing units with similar missions in the same MSC provide better opportunities to support one another," said Col. (Ret) Curt Simonson, former commander, 56th TIOG in 2016. "This benefits our soldiers, the Washington Army National Guard and the commanders we support in the Pacific Theater."

The 56th TIOG, would now combine specialized units under one umbrella. Soldiers in the Military Intelligence, Special Operations and Information Operations career fields would work together for better collaboration and planning while completing their individual missions.

"Another commonality of these units is engagement in the Asia-Pacific region," said Simonson. "A significant portion of the Washington Army National Guard's participation in this region comes from special forces, military intelligence and information operations units. Bringing them together will make it easier to synchronize efforts in support of commanders in the Pacific."





# UNITS OF THE 56TH THEATER INFORMATION OPERATIONS GROUP



## 56TH THEATER INFORMATION OPERATIONS GROUP

**Federal Mission:** On order, the 56th TIOG provides trained and ready, tailored Information Operations, Military Intelligence, and Special Operations forces to Army Service Component Commands and Combatant Commands to synchronize efforts across all phases of operations.

**Location:**  
**Joint Base**  
**Lewis-McChord**



**COL Casey De Groot**  
**CSM Tom Wickesser**



## 110TH INFORMATION OPERATIONS BATTALION

**Federal Mission:** 110th Information Operations Battalion provides trained, deployable, culturally aware, and regionally focused Information Operations Teams, including cyber, in direct support at all echelons to perform tactical through theater/strategic IO tasks.

**Location:**  
**Annapolis,**  
**Maryland**



**LTC Tuan Le**  
**CSM Ramon Burks**



## 156TH INFORMATION OPERATIONS BATTALION

**Federal Mission:** On order, the 156th IOB provides trained and ready, tailored IO forces to Army Service Component Commands, functional task forces, and Combatant Commands to synchronize IO effects in concert with other lines of effort across all phases of operations.

**Location:**  
**Joint Base**  
**Lewis-McChord**



**LTC Joseph Trudeau**  
**CSM Andrew MacKay**



## 341ST MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION (LINGUIST)

**Federal Mission:** On order, the 341st Military Intelligence Battalion (Linguist) provides the Army with CI, HUMINT, SIGINT and foreign language support for all Army echelons, and serves as a center for language training and development.

**Location:**  
**JBLM,**  
**Fairchild Air**  
**Force Base,**  
**Vancouver**



**LTC Robert Goertzen**  
**CSM Laurie Graham**



**Location:**  
**Joint Base**  
**Lewis-McChord**

## 122ND THEATER PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUPPORT ELEMENT

**Federal Mission:** To provide direct public affairs support through planning, coordination, execution, and supervision of public affairs operations in support of Theater Army, joint, interagency, intergovernmental, and multinational operations.

**State Mission:** To inform and educate Soldiers, prospective Soldiers, and members of the public by providing public affairs coverage and support to higher headquarters public affairs offices to tell the story of the WAARNG during IDTs, Annual Trainings and Domestic Operations.



**LTC Joseph Siemandel**  
**CSM Jeff Dvorak**



**Location:**  
**Joint Base**  
**Lewis-McChord**

## SPECIAL OPERATIONS DETACHMENT - PACIFIC (SOD-P)

**Federal Mission:** Special Operations Detachment - Pacific (SOD-P) provides trained, prepared, and equipped augmentation to the United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) and the Special Operations Command Pacific (SOCOPAC). On order, conduct command and control, staff integration, and synchronization of joint special operations forces as a unit or as individual augmentees as determined by USASOC and SOCOPAC.



**COL David Coughran**  
**CSM Brendan Headrick**



**Location:**  
**Buckley**

## ALPHA COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 19TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP

**Federal Mission:** Company A, 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne) mans, trains, equips and deploys to conduct full spectrum irregular warfare missions in support of Theater Special Operation Command's.



**MAJ Bennett Adams**  
**SGM Rolando Garcia**

**56th Theater Information Operations Group , 6205 Pendleton Ave. Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. 98433**  
**Phone: 253-983-7337**

### STAFF

**XO** - MAJ (P) Drew Nevins  
**S1** - MAJ Beth Quinones  
**S2** - LTC Serena Stagnaro  
**S3** - LTC Michael Camerota  
**S4** - CPT Ryan Reith  
**S6** - MAJ Johnny Cochran

**Chaplain** - MAJ Denise Denniston  
**JAG** - CPT Danielle Zemola  
**OPS SGM** - SGM Andrew McKay  
**Medical** - Maj. Jennifer Erickson  
**Public Affairs** - MAJ Ailea Boisner

**Website:** <https://www.mil.wa.gov/national-guard/army-guard/56th-information-operations-brigade>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/56thTIOG/>



# STRATEGICALLY ALIGNED TO ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION



# WELCOME TO THE INFORMATION OPERATIONS READINESS CENTER

Broke Ground - October 24, 2013  
 Ribbon cutting - Sept. 29, 2015  
 Cost - \$27 million  
 Builder - Burns McDonnell

This 127,100-square-foot facility provides administrative, operations and specialized telecommunications spaces to serve as the headquarters of the 56th TIOG for the Washington Army National Guard. Designed for LEED Silver certification, the new facility features specialized administrative, planning, briefing and support areas to support the five operational units who occupy the facility. The work areas contain a mixture of command suites with self-contained private offices for each unit and large, open-plan workstation areas configured for a collaborative work environment. The facility at Joint Base Lewis-McChord reflects the character of the historic red brick facilities in the Old Fort District. The project was designed under contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District in collaboration with small business subconsultants Helix Design Group and AHBL. The project received a Seattle Society of American Military Engineers Project of Excellence Award and an Excellence in Masonry Award from the Masonry Institute of Washington.





# BATTALION COMMANDERS' MESSAGES



## 110TH INFORMATION OPERATIONS BATTALION

In 2025, the 110th Information Operations Battalion strengthened its operational reach and credibility across joint, interagency, and multinational environments. Soldiers supported key exercises, deployments, and professional development efforts that enhanced Information Operations capabilities within the Maryland Army National Guard and the joint force, demonstrating effective integration with partners in complex operational environments.

The battalion hosted the 3rd Annual 110th IO Symposium at Fort Meade, bringing together more than 90 uniformed and civilian Department of Defense professionals to exchange insights on Strategic IO, emerging technologies, psychological operations, and cyber operations. Additionally, Soldiers supported Exercise Pacific Sentry 2025, integrating with INDOPACOM J39 and allied partners to produce operational products and capture lessons that will inform future training.

Internationally, the 110th IO Battalion played a leading role during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 in Australia, augmenting a Multinational Information Operations Cell and leading Information Environment assessments. Through operational planning, daily working groups, and senior leader briefings, the battalion enhanced multinational interoperability and reinforced the Maryland National Guard's global Information Operations capability.

- LTC Tuan Lee



## 341ST MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION (LINGUIST)

The 341st Military Intelligence Battalion (Linguist) distinguished itself in Fiscal Year 2025, validating its critical role in global intelligence operations and strengthening partnerships across the force. The battalion was instrumental in advancing USARPAC training objectives by providing key linguistic support for premier exercises, including Yama Sakura and Cobra Gold. A significant achievement this year was the battalion's deeper integration with the 500th Military Intelligence Brigade Theater (MIB-T). The 341st supported Vigilant Pacific, the 500th MIB-T's collective CI/HUMINT exercise, marking the first time this event combined critical language and intelligence training.

The battalion's Soldiers honed their linguistic and tactical expertise through robust collaboration with the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade (Linguist), competing in Panther Strike and organizing another successful Valor Language Games. The battalion's excellence was formally recognized as it earned both the Language Program of the Year and Language Professional of the Year awards. Demonstrating its versatility, the 341st also expanded its impact beyond the Pacific Theater by delivering crucial intelligence support to national agencies through the Federated Reach Program (FRP).

Looking ahead, the 341st is poised to build on these successes. The battalion will continue to provide critical support to Overseas Deployment Training, State Partnership missions, and its strategic partnerships to sharpen capabilities in the Pacific. A key focus will be hosting the 2026 Panther Strike exercise at Camp Williams, Utah. This event will bring together all linguist battalions from the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade for unique intelligence and language training, reinforcing the battalion's relevance in the strategic intelligence arena.

- LTC Rob Goertzen, Valor 6



## 156TH INFORMATION OPERATIONS BATTALION

The 156th Information Operations Battalion continues to meet the mission requirements of both the state and the nation. The Serpent Battalion sustained continuous overseas deployments in support of joint special operations forces in the Middle East, while also providing information operations support to United States Cyber Command. Three Field Support Teams conducted overseas deployment training missions, reinforcing the battalion's global operational reach.

As personnel transitioned throughout the year, Soldiers continued to develop at the Field Support Team level, deliberately building toward the battalion's culminating training event, Operation ATHENS. This year's top-performing team, Field Support Team 1564, was led by Major Aaron Yen and Sergeant First Class Quinn Lautenslager.

Looking ahead to fiscal year 2026, the battalion anticipates senior Army-directed changes to the Information Operations force structure and training pipeline with the establishment of the Information Warfare branch. As always, the battalion remains committed to adapting, modernizing, and delivering information advantage in support of commanders at all levels.

- LTC Joseph Trudeau, Serpent 6



## 122ND THEATER PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUPPORT ELEMENT

The 122nd TPASE continued trending upward in FY25. Starting the year with support to Yama Sakura 87, public affairs professionals from the 122nd supported numerous missions in Thailand and Malaysia through State Partnership Program missions, Enduring Partners 2025 and Exercise Bersama Warrior. Stateside the unit stayed busy supporting the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team during Raven Focus 2025, 205th Regional Training Institute with Officer Candidate School Phase III and 176th Engineers during their Innovative Readiness Training Project for the City of Orting. The unit also supported the Florida National Guard's National Training Center rotation and even saw a soldier take home ultimate champion at the 2025 DoD Warrior Games. In total the 122nd provided critical public affairs support to more than 50 events throughout the year.

Looking forward to FY26, the 122nd will return to Thailand for Exercise Cobra Gold in the Spring, along with continued support to Bersama Warrior, Enduring Partners, Officer Candidate School and will introduce Tiger Balm in 2026 and 2027 to their ODT rotation. The unit is also poised to support the 341st Military Intelligence's Panther Strike rotation at JBLM as well as other ODTs and SPP engagements as requested.

- LTC Joseph Siemandel, Apollo 6



## SPECIAL OPERATIONS DETACHMENT - PACIFIC (SOD-P)

In 2025, the Special Operations Detachment-Pacific (SOD-P) decisively pivoted its mission to meet the dynamic challenges of the Indo-Pacific region, marking a significant year of strengthening partnerships and honing critical skills. This official orientation to the United States Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) ensures the detachment is precisely focused on the nation's priority theater.

The unit's commitment to international cooperation was showcased during Exercise COBRA GOLD 25 in Khorat, Thailand. In this vital staff planning exercise, SOD-P worked alongside the 1st Special Forces Division of the Royal Thai Army and Special Operations partners from Malaysia and Australia, enhancing joint operational planning and reinforcing regional alliances. Further strengthening these ties, SOD-P participated in a Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SME) in Malaysia as part of the State Partnership Program (SPP). This exchange centered on sharing expertise in maritime special operations, building crucial interoperability with key partners.

Throughout the year, SOD-P maintained a high state of readiness, successfully conducting three airborne operations at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) to ensure its soldiers remain proficient in their core skills. With its new focus and a year of significant achievements, SOD-P stands ready to support its partners and execute any mission within the Indo-Pacific.

- COL David Coughran, SEVEN 6



## ALPHA COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 19TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP

Alpha Company 1/19th Special Forces Group conducted a collective training year ahead of the readiness cycle upon receiving a NOS for operational utility. It validated at Ridge Runner Irregular Warfare Exercise in West Virginia, conducted PMT at Paiute Ghost in UT, and deployed to INDOPACOM to support strategic basing, build partner capacity, and maintain relationships through efforts to enhance foreign internal defense. ODA 9115 conducted an exemplary 4-week JCET to Thailand focused on a shooting and MAROPS POI. A Co 1/19th also capitalized on unique opportunities to train soldiers in niche skills like Technical Surveillance Counter Measures, Contested Communications Close Quarter Battle without Radios, UxS integration at every juncture. Moral is high and the soldiers of A Co 1/19th feel impactful and full of purpose.

- Maj. Bennett Adams, Ronin 6



# 56TH THEATER INFORMATION OPERATIONS GROUP

## ENGAGEMENTS, TRAINING AND DEPLOYMENTS

### NORTHCOM

WASHINGTON  
UTAH  
MARYLAND  
PENNSYLVANIA  
RHODE ISLAND  
WASHINGTON D.C.



Soldiers from the 122nd Theater Public Affairs Support Element participate in a Puget Sound Honor Flight event at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, April 12, 2025.



110th Information Operations Battalion soldiers held a dining-in following its 3rd Annual Information Operations Symposium at Fort Meade, Maryland.



A soldier from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group joined a group from the Malaysian Armed Forces at the 2025 LEAPFest in North Kingstown, Rhode Island.

### EuCOM

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
ESTONIA  
GERMANY  
POLAND



Five soldiers from 110th Information Operations Battalion teamed up with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo for a military-to-military engagement, enhancing cyber cooperation and boosting our partners' cyber security capabilities.

### CENTCOM

KUWAIT  
IRAQ  
SYRIA  
JORDAN  
AFGHANISTAN



Soldiers from the 56th TIOG were chosen to join the State Senior Enlisted Leaders during multiple exchanges with State Partners, Thailand and Malaysia at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2025.

### AFRICOM

DJIBOUTI  
EGYPT



Soldiers from Charlie Company, 341st Military Intelligence Battalion, Illinois Army National Guard took part in Bright Star 25's Command Post Exercise at Mohamed Naguib Military Base, Egypt, Aug. 31 to Sept. 19, 2025

### INDOPACOM

KINGDOM OF THAILAND  
MALAYSIA  
SOUTH KOREA  
HAWAII  
SINGAPORE  
AUSTRALIA  
INDIA



Soldiers from the 156th Information Operations Battalion take part in a staff exercise as part of Tiger Balm 2025 in Singapore. The next two years, the 56th TIOG will support with public affairs.



# 56TH THEATER INFORMATION OPERATIONS GROUP

## ENGAGEMENTS, TRAINING AND DEPLOYMENTS



### BEST LINGUIST COMPETITION - FEBRUARY

Seven Soldiers with the 341st Military Intelligence Battalion traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah, to compete in the seventh annual Best Linguist Competition, Feb. 6, 2025. The 341st linguists were awarded the title of Command Linguistics Program of the Year in what is the premier language competition across the entire Defense language Enterprise and provides a crossroads between foreign language training and Military Intelligence disciplines. This year's competition featured 280 participants across 40 teams, each consisting of seven members. Competitors represented over 100 organizations from across the national security enterprise. The scenario-driven competition covered all phases of the defense intelligence cycle, evaluating the linguists' ability to apply their language, cultural, and technical expertise across seven languages.



### TALISMAN SABER - JULY

From July 11–25, soldiers from the 56th, 110th and 156th Information Operations Battalion deployed to Gallipoli Barracks in Brisbane, Australia, to support Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 as part of the first Multinational Information Operations Center (MIOC) in the INDOPACOM area of responsibility. Alongside 12 partner nations, the team enabled collaborative information sharing and analysis within the Information Environment, supporting narrative assessment, countering misinformation and disinformation, and strengthening multinational interoperability across the Indo-Pacific.

The team led several key MIOC efforts, including daily situation reporting, IE and Strategic Communications working groups, and multinational briefings to senior exercise leadership. They also developed and presented two information environment CONOPs, reorganized the MIOC into line-of-effort teams to improve effectiveness, and reinforced partner relationships through participation in multinational cultural events.



### NGAUS CONFERENCE - AUGUST

Col. Casey De Groof, LTC Daniel Wessman, MAJ Jesse Morgan and CPT Julie Keppner joined a larger group of officers from the Washington National Guard at the National Guard Association of the United States 147th General Conference & Exhibition in Milwaukee, WI. The National Guard Association of the United States is the National Guard's primary advocate in Washington, educating Congress on the roles, capabilities and requirements of the nation's first military force.



### DoD WARRIOR GAMES WINNER - JULY

Sgt. Bianca Hayden, 122nd Theater Public Affairs Support Element, took home top honors at the 2025 Department of Defense Warrior Games in Colorado Springs, Colorado, July 26, 2025. Men and women from the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and U.S. Special Operations Command competed in the following adaptive sports: archery, cycling, field, indoor rowing, powerlifting, precision air, sitting volleyball, swimming, track, wheelchair basketball, and wheelchair rugby.



### 156TH CHANGE OF COMMAND AND ORDER OF ST. MAURICE AWARD - JANUARY

Brig. Gen. Michael Ake, Land Competent Commander, Washington Army National Guard present LTC Dan Wessman with the Order of St. Maurice Award during the Battalion Change of Command Ceremony at the Information Operations Readiness Center, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Jan. 11, 2025. During the ceremony LTC Dan Wessman, outgoing commander, relinquished command to LTC Joseph Trudeau, incoming commander.



# 56TH THEATER INFORMATION OPERATIONS GROUP

## ENGAGEMENTS, TRAINING AND DEPLOYMENTS



### COBRA GOLD 25 | ROYAL THAI ARMY, U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES SUBJECT MATTER EXCHANGE - FEBRUARY

Lop Buri, Thailand – Royal Thai Army 1st Special Forces Division and U.S. Special Operations Detachment - Pacific shared staff insights on the Joint Planning Process and combined operations during the 2025 Cobra Gold academic week subject matter expert exchange, February 17-21, 2025.

Facilitated by Joint Special Operations University, the bilateral exchange for Royal Thai Army Special Forces and U.S. Special Operations participants focused on knowledge of best practices through candid dialogue and iterative demonstrations of processes through hands-on exercises.

CG25 has three primary events: a command and control exercise, humanitarian civic assistance projects, and a field training exercise to enhance readiness and foster responses to security challenges and natural disasters. Approximately 30 nations participate, with 3,200 U.S. personnel directly involved, underscoring the importance of cooperation and goodwill.

JSOU's focus is joint special operations education and has the mandate to support U.S. Special Operations Command Pacific. SOCPAC serves as the operational component command for all SOF missions throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

The JSOU JPP academic SMEE prepared participants for aspects of special operations forces' integration during the Cobra Gold command and control event. JPP is a method to determine the use of military capabilities in time and space to achieve objectives within an acceptable level of risk.

"Having this academic SMEE as part of Cobra Gold 2025 demonstrates the importance both Thai and U.S. leadership place on cognitive warfare," said JSOU senior mentor retired U.S. Army Col. Scott Malone. "As part of its Joint SOF charter, the university is uniquely positioned to facilitate operational collaboration and the exchange of strategic thought amongst Special Operations partner forces."

JSOU's academic engagements enhance operational collaboration and strategic thinking among partner forces, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and adaptive thinking. Class discussion and group exercises were the primary means for the intellectual exchange.

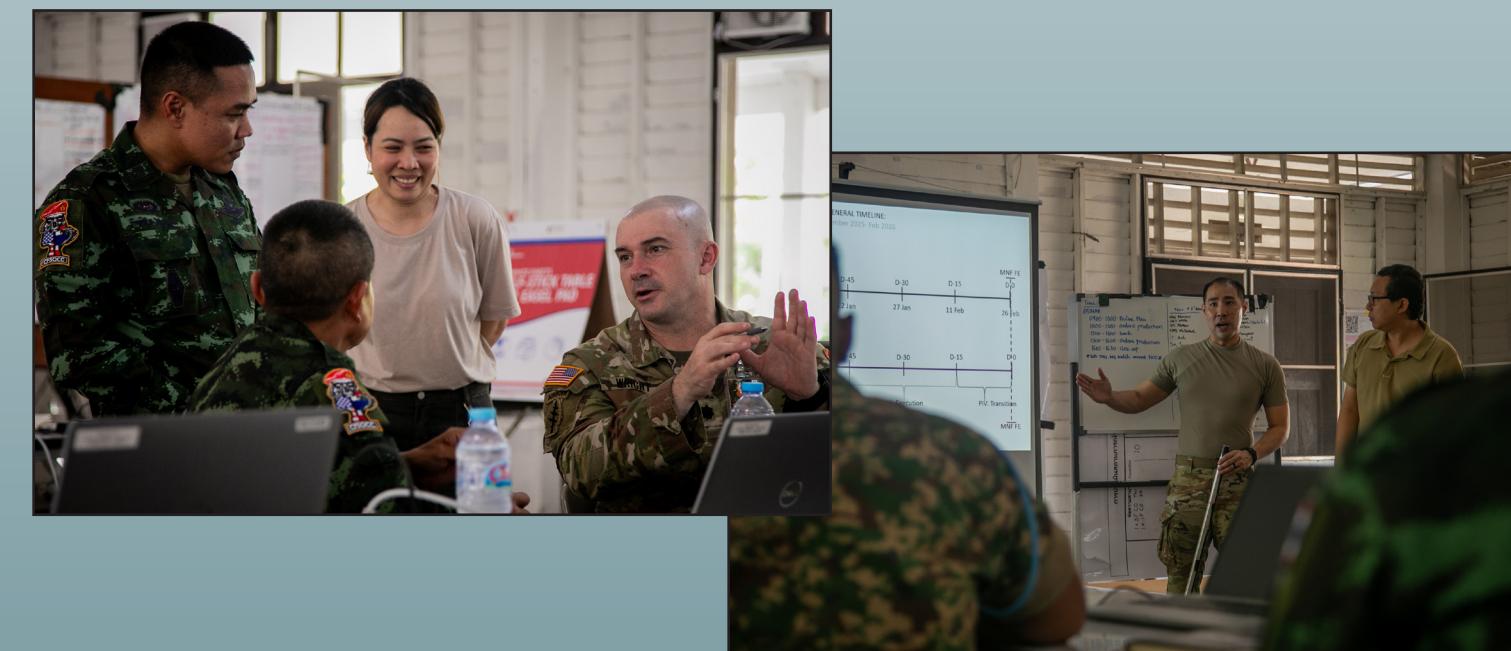
"The special operations professionals from Royal Thai Army 1st Special Forces Division and SOD-P collaboration nurtures a culture of continuous improvement and highlights adaptive thinking where knowledge transference and removing barriers to learning is paramount," said Malone. "This SMEE on day one placing Thai and U.S. participants together in working groups heightens learning and promotes intellectual exchange. This immediate placement allows for each individual to gain a sense of ownership as the combined team is built and fosters unbiased exchanges of best practices as the week progressed."

SOD-P provides trained, prepared, and equipped augmentation to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command and SOCPAC.

"This is an unparalleled opportunity for us to share our expertise with each other," said U.S. Army Col. David Coughran, commanding officer of SOD-P. "Our focus is on strengthening our combined operational proficiency and leadership acumen, ensuring we are all prepared to handle any eventuality."

CG25 is a visible symbol of the U.S.-Thai defense alliance, demonstrating the U.S.'s steadfast commitment to maintaining the conditions for peace and prosperity. Enhancing critical capabilities and readiness enables each force to jointly address regional stability in the Indo-Pacific.

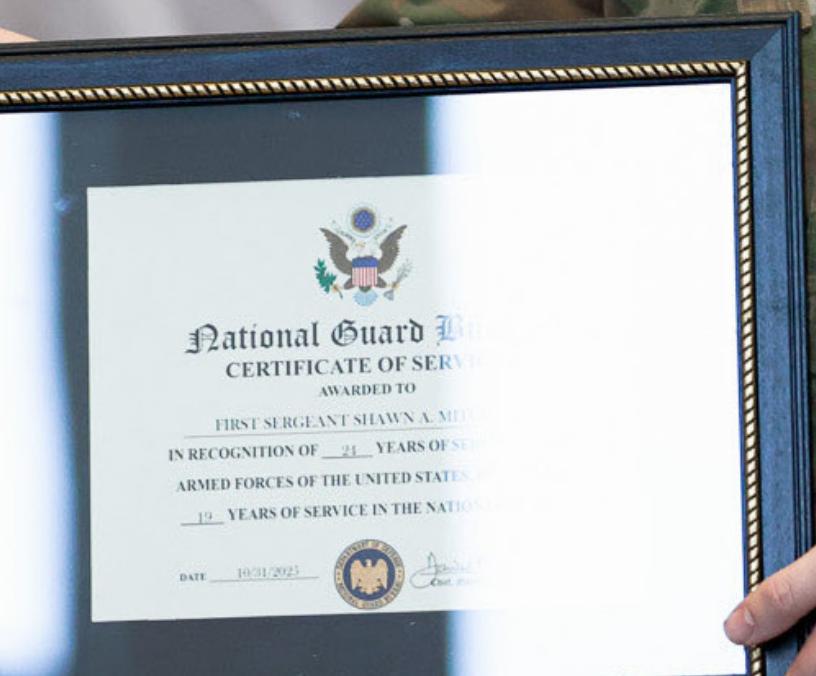
The 44th iteration of this exercise exemplifies the longstanding alliance with Thailand and reflects the shared commitment to preserving a peaceful, prosperous, and secure Indo-Pacific region.





# FAREWELL 2025 RETIREES

MAJ Alexis Stauffer  
SFC Brandon Schroeder  
SSG Michael Dean  
CW2 Micheal Flugel  
MAJ Jose Rosalespaez  
SFC Calvin Anderson  
MAJ Douglas McGregor  
LTC Vincent Kuchar  
SFC Ian Dahlseng  
SFC Peter Irungu  
SGT Gregory Grimsley  
1SG Brian Nau  
MAJ Bryan O'donnell  
SFC Derek Smith  
SFC Jose Lugo  
MSG Samuel Patrick  
SSG Thomas Faddis  
SFC Michael Webb  
LTC Johnathan Walker  
CW4 Albert Schoch  
SSG Berret OrrChavez  
MAJ Shawn Dillon  
SFC Thomas Ludwick  
SSG Gilda Johnson  
MSG Micah Kluth  
SGM Joseph Schooler  
1SG Shawn Mitchell



Above: Staff Sgt. Daniel Osborn, left, with Bravo Company, 156th Information Operations Battalion, stands with Mason County Sheriff Ryan Spurling after being awarded a Lifesaving Award for heroic actions in critical moments by the Mason County Sheriff's Office in Shelton, Wash., March 28, 2025. Osborn received this award for his role in saving a motorcyclist's life while on duty as a trooper with the Washington State Patrol.

Below: From July 28 to August 5, a Special Forces soldiers from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group served as the liaison for the Malaysian 10th Rapid Deployment Force participating in Leapfest at Camp Fogarty, Rhode Island. Leapfest is the world's largest international military static line competition, and this year featured 28 international teams. During the nine day event, the Malaysian team completed several static line jumps and one military free fall jump. The knowledge exchanged in conducting airborne operations and the camaraderie built strengthens our alliance with a partner country and in the broader Indo-Pacific theater.



**In Memory of CPT Amber Cetinel**  
**July 1, 1996 - October 28, 2025**



## **56TH THEATER INFORMATION OPERATIONS GROUP**

**110TH INFORMATION OPERATIONS BATTALION**

**156TH INFORMATION OPERATIONS BATTALION**

**341ST MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION**

**SPECIAL OPERATIONS DET. - PACIFIC**

**ALPHA 1ST BATTALION, 19TH SPECIAL FORCES**

**122ND THEATER PUBLIC AFFAIRS SUPPORT ELEMENT**