



# FACT BOOK

## 2026



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U.S. Army Col. Alexandra Weiskopf  
**Special Operations Public Affairs Director**

**Cover Photo:** A U.S. Marine Raider transports personnel and equipment on a snow machine across Arctic terrain during ARCTIC EDGE 2026 (AE26) on Fort Greely, Alaska, Feb. 22, 2026. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ashley Low)

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## SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES

# MEDAL *of* HONOR

## RECIPIENTS



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. William J. Donovan  
1st SOF Medal of Honor Recipient  
Director of the Office of Strategic Services, 1942

### World War I

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. William J. Donovan

### World War II

U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Kenneth D. Bailey  
U.S. Navy Vice Adm. John D. Bulkeley  
U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Richard E. Bush  
U.S. Marine Corps Col. Justice M. Chambers  
U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Merritt A. Edson  
U.S. Marine Corps Pfc. Henry Gurke  
U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jack L. Knight  
U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Arthur M. Preston  
U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Clyde Thomason  
U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt.  
William G. Walsh  
U.S. Army Lt. Jack L. Knight

### Korea

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

### Vietnam

U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj.  
Bennie G. Adkins  
U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Eugene Ashley, Jr.  
U.S. Army Sgt. Gary B. Beikirch  
U.S. Army Master Sgt. Roy P. Benavidez  
U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class William M. Bryant  
U.S. Army Sgt. Brian L. Buker  
U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Jon R. Cavaiani  
U.S. Army Col. Paris D. Davis  
U.S. Army Maj. Drew D. Dix  
U.S. Army Col. Roger H. C. Donlon  
U.S. Army Maj. John J. Duffy  
U.S. Air Force Col. Bernard F. Fisher  
U.S. Air Force Col. James P. Fleming  
U.S. Army 1st Lt. Loren D. Hagen  
U.S. Army Master Sgt. Charles E. Hosking, Jr.  
U.S. Army Col. Robert L. Howard  
U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Joe M. Jackson  
U.S. Air Force Col. William A. Jones III  
U.S. Army Specialist 5th Class John J. Kedenburg  
U.S. Navy Capt. Thomas G. Kelley  
U.S. Navy Lt. j.g. Joseph R. Kerrey

### Vietnam (continued)

U.S. Army Specialist 4th Class Robert D. Law  
U.S. Air Force Sgt. John L. Levitow  
U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Gary L. Littrell  
U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Maj. Franklin D. Miller  
U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Melvin Morris  
U.S. Navy Lt. Thomas R. Norris  
U.S. Navy Seaman David G. Ouellet  
U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert J. Pruden  
U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Laszlo Rabel  
U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ronald E. Ray  
U.S. Army Master Sgt. Jose Rodela  
U.S. Army Capt. Gary M. Rose  
U.S. Army 1st Lt. George K. Sisler  
U.S. Navy Lt. Michael E. Thornton  
U.S. Army Capt. Humbert R. Versace  
U.S. Army 1st Lt. Charles Q. Williams  
U.S. Navy Boatswain's Mate 1st Class  
James E. Williams  
U.S. Army Sgt. Gordon D. Yntema  
U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Fred W. Zabitosky

### Somalia

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

### Afghanistan

U.S. Navy Master Chief Petty Officer  
Edward C. Byers, Jr.  
U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Christopher A. Celiz  
U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. John Chapman  
U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert J. Miller  
U.S. Navy Lt. Michael P. Murphy  
U.S. Army Master Sgt. Leroy A. Petry  
U.S. Army Master Sgt. Earl D. Plumlee  
U.S. Navy Master Chief Petty Officer  
Britt K. Slabinski  
U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ronald J. Shurer II  
U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Matthew O. Williams

### Iraq

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



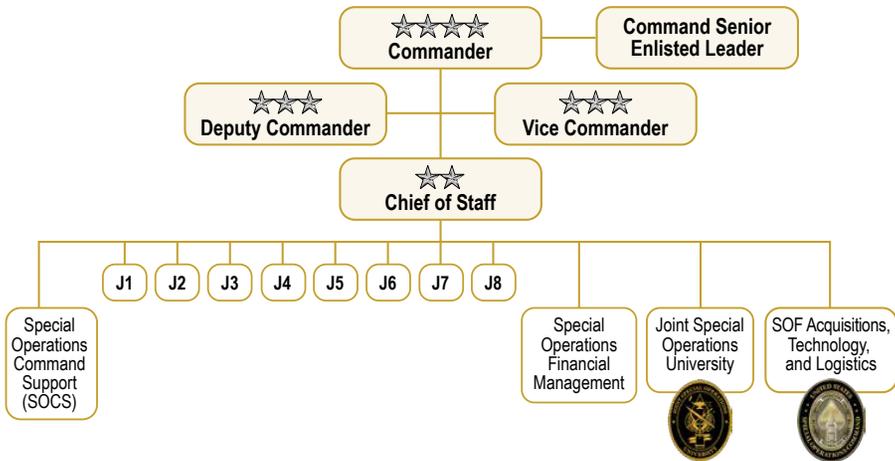
## USSOCOM Headquarters

**Location:** MacDill Air Force Base, Florida

**Established:** April 16, 1987

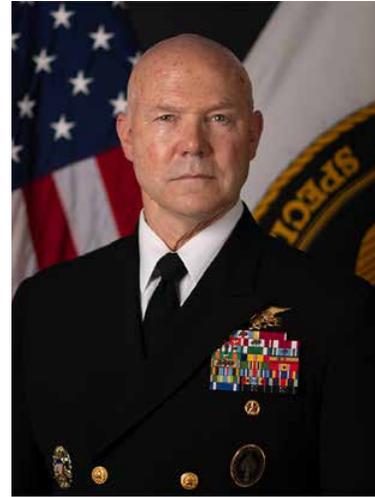
**People:** Approximately 3,500 throughout the Headquarters, nearly 70,000 across the entire Enterprise

USSOCOM was formally established as a unified combatant command. It is commanded by a four-star flag or general officer with the title Commander, USSOCOM.



The USSOCOM Commander exercises command authority/combatant command (CCMD) for all Special Operations Forces (SOF) unless otherwise assigned by the Secretary of War (SecWar). USSOCOM has four service component commands. These are Naval Special Warfare Command (NSWC), U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC), Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC), and Marine Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC).

## USSOCOM Leadership



**U.S. Navy Adm.  
Frank M. Bradley**  
Commander



**U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj.  
Andrew J. Krogman**  
Command Senior Enlisted Leader



**U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen.  
Sean M. Farrell**  
Deputy Commander



**U.S. Army Lt. Gen.  
Steven M. Marks**  
Vice Commander

## Our Mission

USSOCOM develops and employs the world's finest SOF to conduct global special operations and activities as part of the Joint Force, in concert with the U.S. Government Interagency, Allies, and Partners, to support persistent, networked, and distributed combatant command operations and campaigns against state and non-state actors all to protect and advance U.S. policies and objectives.

## Our Enterprise Priorities

**WIN:** Our mission is our purpose. Winning starts with empowerment. We empower our Joint SOF Sub-unified Commands (TSOCs and JSOC) by aligning authorities and resources to their mission needs. The power of our problem-solving formations is built upon the innovative spirit of our people, our critical competitive advantage. We systematize our well-practiced ability to fight, innovate, and present Joint SOF Task Forces tailored to the mission. We serve as the vanguard for our services to sense and close kill chains with asymmetric man-machine teams that leverage the element of surprise developed with Partners and Allies.

**PEOPLE:** Our competitive advantage and top priority. People are our weapons systems. They are our top sustainment priority. We reinforce a culture of meritocracy to attract, develop, and retain the best talent. At its most basic, meritocracy means rewarding those who merit but, more importantly, holding ourselves accountable when we fail to meet the mark. We focus on maintaining a culture of meritocracy through leadership focused on standards (which must be quantifiable, measurable, auditable, and appropriate to the missions SOF holds) and accountability (at both the individual and leader levels). We mandate annual assessments across all SOF personnel, focusing on physical, cognitive, and behavioral performance, to refine our approach to preserving our force and families.

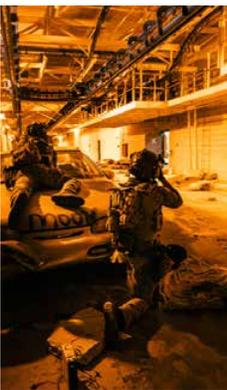
**TRANSFORM:** Transformation is our imperative. As the character of warfare changes, we adapt and evolve to take advantage of opportunities and face challenges. We embrace business process modernization to achieve auditability by 2028.

## What USSOCOM Does

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

## Title 10 Authorities

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



# USSOCOM and Components



# NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE COMMAND

## NAVSPECWARCOM

www.nsw.navy.mil

**Location:** Coronado, California

**Established:** April 16, 1987

**Mission:** NSW delivers maritime-based effects in support of the Joint Force. NSW mans, trains, equips, educates, deploys, resources, and sustains forces to conduct direct action and special reconnaissance, support advise-and-assist programs, and build partner capability, in or out of the maritime environment, by employing tailored capabilities in support of military commanders, chiefs of mission, interagency, and foreign partners and allies.

**People:** Approximately 11,000

**NAVSPECWARCOM is home to:**

- Sea, Air, Land (SEALs)
- Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen (SWCC)
- Combat Support
- Combat Service Support



**Commander**  
Rear Adm. Walter H. Allman III



**Command Senior Enlisted Leader**  
Force Master Chief Patrick C. West



**UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND**



www.army.mil/usasoc

**Location:** Fort Bragg, North Carolina

**Established:** Dec. 1, 1989

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

**People:** Approximately 36,000

**USASOC is home to:**

- Special Forces (Green Berets)
- Rangers
- Special Operations Aviators
- Civil Affairs Soldiers
- Psychological Operations
- Training Cadre
- Sustainment Soldiers



**Commander**  
**Lt. Gen.**  
**Lawrence G. Ferguson**



**Command Senior**  
**Enlisted Leader**  
**Command Sgt. Maj.**  
**David Waldo**



**U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND (USASOC)**



*SINE PARI – WITHOUT EQUAL*



# AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

# AFSOC

www.afsoc.af.mil

**Location:** Hurlburt Field, Florida

**Established:** May 22, 1990

**Mission:** AFSOC enables the U.S. Joint Force by delivering SOF maneuver, strike, ISR and air to ground integration across the spectrum of competition and conflict.

**Vision:** Air Commandos relevant to all-domain operations and ready to conduct special operations activities across the spectrum of conflict.

**People:** Approximately 17,000

### AFSOC is home to:

- Air Commandos
- Special Tactics
- Special Operations Aviators
- Support Air Commandos



**Commander**  
**Lt. Gen. Michael E. Conley**



**Command Senior Enlisted Leader**  
**Command Chief Master Sgt. Courtney C. Freeman**



# MARINE FORCES SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

# MARSOC

www.marsoc.marines.mil

**Location:** Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

**Established:** Feb. 24, 2006

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

**People:** Approximately 3,500

## MARSOC is home to:

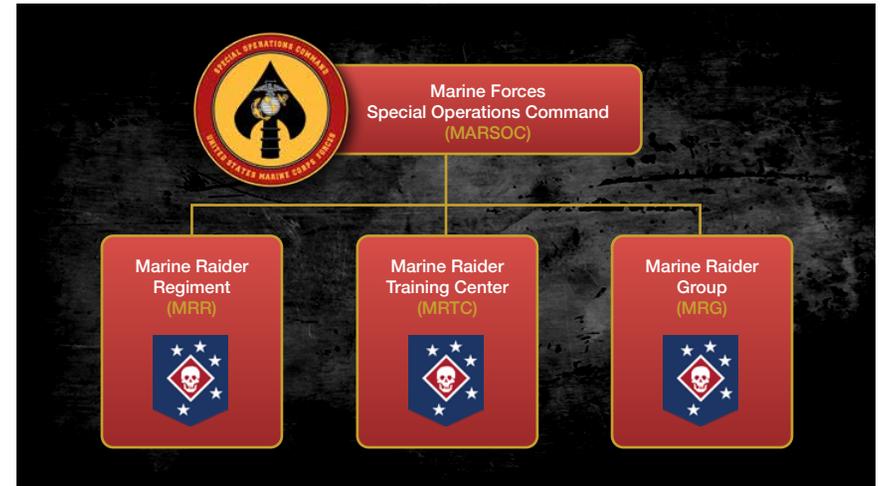
- Marine Raiders/Marine Raider Officers
- Special Operations Capabilities Specialists
- Special Operations Independent Duty Corpsmen
- Combat Service Support Specialists



**Commander**  
**Maj. Gen. Peter D. Huntley**



**Command Senior Enlisted Leader**  
**Sgt. Maj. Rafael C. Vargas**



## Theater Special Operations Commands



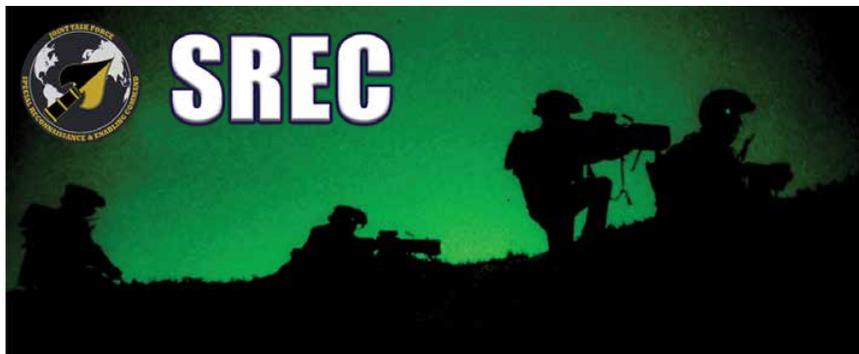
### Joint Special Operations Command

**Commander:** U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Jonathan P. Braga

**Command Senior Enlisted Leader:** Command Sgt. Maj. Walter Zajkowski

**Established:** Oct. 22, 1980

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



### Special Reconnaissance and Enabling Command

**Commander:** U.S. Navy Rear Adm Thomas A. Donovan

**Command Senior Enlisted Leader:** Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Kral

The **Joint Task Force SREC** is responsible for synchronizing, integrating, and enabling special reconnaissance (SR) capabilities across the joint force. It serves as a command and control (C2) body that focuses on leveraging and optimizing SR assets, which include technical, environmental, and human intelligence collection, to support special operations. The command works to improve the network architecture, data sharing, and collaboration between special reconnaissance units and other elements of the joint force to enhance overall mission effectiveness.



### Special Operations Command - Africa

**Commander:** U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Claude Tudor, Jr.

**Command Senior Enlisted Leader:** U.S Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. Evan R. Serpa

**Established:** Oct. 1, 2008

#### Mission

SOCAFRICA is a sub-unified command of USSOCOM under operational control of U.S. Africa Command, with headquarters in Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart-Mohringen, Germany. Subordinate SOCAFRICA organizations include: Joint Special Operations Task Force-Somalia, Special Operations Task Force - North West Africa, Special Operations Task Group-East Africa, CBRN Assessment and Response Team, Theater Civil Military Support Element, and SOCAFRICA Signal Detachment. Commander SOCAFRICA serves as the Special Operations Advisor to commander, USAFRICOM. SOCAFRICA's primary responsibility is to exercise operational control over theater-assigned or allocated Air Force, Army, Marine, or Navy special operations forces conducting operations, exercises, and theater security cooperation in the USAFRICOM area of responsibility.

#### Command Vision

SOCAFRICA conducts the full spectrum of SOF missions and closely works with component, interagency and partner nations to protect U.S. lives and interests in Africa. The command builds tactical and operational counter-VEO (violent extremist organization) capability in select, key partner nations and assists in developing regional security structures to create stability and combat transregional threats. SOCAFRICA activities directly support USAFRICOM's theater strategic objectives of enhancing African partner defense resilience, coordinating with African partners and allies on shared security interests, and exposing and countering threats.

#### Area of Focus

USAFRICOM's area of responsibility consists of 53 African states. SOCAF is routinely engaged, on average, in half of these countries, working with and through our African counterparts.

#### Major Engagement

**Flintlock** is an exercise focused on improving military interoperability and capacity building of participating militaries from Northern and Western Africa, Europe and the U.S.



## Special Operations Command - Central

**Commander:** U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Jasper Jeffers III

**Command Senior Enlisted Leader:** Command Sgt. Maj. Joshua King

**Established:** Oct. 1, 1985

### Mission

**SOCCENT**, in partnership with interagency and international partners, campaigns to support CENTCOM's and SOCOM's objectives by employing special operations to deter and degrade malign actors, influence relevant populations, and enhance regional partners to protect U.S. national interests and maintain regional stability. When directed, **SOCCENT** employs special operations forces for contingency and crisis response.

### Command Vision

Support the CENTCOM Commander in strengthening regional stability and protecting U.S. interests while adapting to shifts in the operating environment. As SOF, we assess that the partners, places, technology, and tools that made us successful over the past 20 years are unlikely to be the ones we need for the next 20 years. To address this, we will retool our campaign construct to work through interest aligned regional partners and leverage technology that expands our operational reach and efficiency. This campaign will support an Irregular Warfare approach that includes a bias to on-demand precision tactical intelligence and long term investments in the human capital of our regional partners. At all times, and in all efforts, we will safeguard the trust bestowed upon us by upholding the integrity, judgement, and relevance expected of special operators.

### Area of Focus

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

### Major Engagement

**Eager Lion** is one of CENTCOM's premiere exercises held in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan annually. **Eager Lion** is designed to promote cooperation and interoperability among more than 11,000 participating troops, build functional capacity, and enhance readiness.



## Special Operations Command - Europe

**Commander:** U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Richard E. Angle

**Command Senior Enlisted Leader:** Command Sgt. Maj. Steven W. Fields

**Established:** Jan. 22, 1955

### Mission

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

### Command Vision

Across Europe, our adversaries are challenging national sovereignty, alliance solidarity, and U.S. resolve. Within this contested environment, **SOCEUR** is uniquely postured to galvanize the interagency with Allies and partners to counter malign influence, build cohesion, rapidly respond to emerging threats, and if necessary, defeat aggression. **SOCEUR** is an inclusive community, dedicated to a culture where all voices are heard, respected, and valued. We benefit from a broad range of perspectives, backgrounds, experiences, and historical relevance to foster enduring teamwork and camaraderie as the most trusted special operations partner in Europe.

### Area of Focus

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

### Major Engagement

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



## Special Operations Command - Korea

**Commander:** U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Derek N. Lipson

**Command Senior Enlisted Leader:** Command Sgt. Maj. Frank E. Willson

**Established:** Oct. 1, 1988

### Mission

**SOCKOR** plans and conducts special operations in support of the commander of U.S. Forces Korea, United Nations Command, and Combined Forces Command during armistice, crisis, and war. SOCKOR is a USSOCOM theater special operations command (TSOC) operationally controlled by U.S. Forces Korea as a functional component command tasked to plan and conduct special operations in the Korean Area of Operations (KAO).

### Command Vision

As the only TSOC in which the U.S. and host-nation Special Operations Forces (SOF) are institutionally organized for combined operations, SOCKOR enables integrated deterrence in support of the mutual defense of the U.S. and Republic of Korea (ROK) homelands through a ready, capable, and combined force. Driven by people who are experts in their functions and disciplines, SOCKOR maintains a campaigning mindset that enables great power competition through SOF-unique access, placement, relationships, and capabilities in the KAO and Northeast Asia region.

### Area of Focus

SOCKOR, the ROK Army's Special Warfare Command (ROKSWC), ROK Naval Special Warfare Flotilla, ROK Air Force, and U.S. conventional personnel regularly train to deter aggression, defend the mutual ROK and U.S. homelands, and remain prepared to prevail in conflict if called upon. Designated as the lead by the UNC, SOCKOR maintains relationships with the 18 UNC Member States' SOF elements as the United Nations Command Special Operations Component Command (UNCSOCC). If the armistice fails, SOCKOR and ROK SOF will combine to establish the Combined Special Operations Component Command (CSOCC) under the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command (CFC). When CSOCC is formed, the SOCKOR commander becomes both the CSOCC deputy commander and the Special Operations Joint Task Force-Korea (SOJTF-K) commander.

### Major Engagement

SOCKOR participates in biannual Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) exercises with the ROK and U.S., testing the establishment of CFC and its components in a wartime scenario. The 11-day exercises validate the combined, joint, multi-domain, and interagency requirements, as well as strengthening the relationships, institutions, and infrastructure needed to prevail.



## Special Operations Command - North

**Commander:** U.S. Army Col. Matthew A. Tucker

**Command Senior Enlisted Leader:** Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin P. Dorsh

**Established:** Nov. 5, 2013

### Mission

**SOCNORTH** conducts all-domain special operations to disrupt designated terrorist organizations and malign state actors, respond to crisis, and achieve strategic advantage throughout the USNORTHCOM AOR.

### Command Vision

SOCNORTH creates conditions along three operational priority efforts to disrupt adversary threat networks, build asymmetric advantage, and set the theater for special operations, designed to provide options to the USNORTHCOM CCDR in crisis and competition.

### Area of Focus

SOCNORTH campaigns along three lines of effort (LOE), utilizing SOF to support both USNORTHCOM and USSOCOM's objectives. These LOE utilize SOF to conduct homeland defense and are: 1) Disrupt Adversary Threat Networks; 2) Build Asymmetric Advantage; and 3) Set the Theater for Special Operations.

SOCNORTH's area of operations includes air, land and sea approaches and encompasses the continental United States, Alaska, Canada, Mexico, Greenland and the surrounding water out to approximately 500 nautical miles. It also includes the Gulf of America, the Straits of Florida, and portions of the Caribbean region, to include The Bahamas, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

### Major Engagements

SOCNORTH executes Operation **POLAR DAGGER** annually to demonstrate rapidly deployable SOF to the Arctic. As part of USNORTHCOM's annual exercise **ARCTIC EDGE**, SOCNORTH and SOF join the joint force and allies in demonstrating capability to conduct operations in the arctic. Exercise **VITAL ARCHER** demonstrates Canadian and US SOF interoperability in conducting counterterrorism in defense of both homelands. SOCNORTH also participates in multiple interagency exercises annually to rehearse SOF-specific support against threats to the homeland.



## Special Operations Command - Pacific

**Commander:** U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Jeffery A. VanAntwerp

**Command Senior Enlisted Leader:** Command Master Chief Joaquin Martinez

**Established:** Nov. 1, 1983

### Mission

**SOC PAC** is a sub-unified command of USSOCOM under the operational control U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and serves as the functional component for all special operations missions deployed throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. SOC PAC coordinates, plans, and directs all special operations in the Pacific theater supporting commander, USINDOPACOM objectives of deterring aggression, responding quickly to crisis, and defeating threats to the U.S. and its interests.

### Command Vision

SOC PAC supports the joint force and enhances deterrence through advanced theater capabilities by providing flexible response options for any contingency within the INDOPACOM Area of Responsibility. Central to our strategy is a forward-deployed posture and persistent engagement with our allies and partners, which heightens mutual interoperability and deepens our regional expertise. Our mission command philosophy is founded on trust, empowering competent SOF elements at the lowest possible level to drive creative solutions and maximize our team's diverse strengths. By leveraging our cast interagency network, we ensure our approach is always informed by the complexities of the mission and the regional environment. Our success is predicated upon a healthy, motivated force, developed through premier training and education, and fully supported by our programs and processes.

### Area of Focus

SOC PAC's Area of Responsibility is one of the most vast and diverse in the world, spanning 36 nations and covering more than half of the earth's surface. To effectively manage this immense theater, SOC PAC organizes its mission into four regions: **Northeast Asia:** China, Japan, Mongolia, North Korea, and South Korea. **Oceania:** Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

**South East Asia:** Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. **South Asia:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka.

### Major Engagement

**Balikatan** is a longstanding annual exercise conducted between the Philippines and the U.S. This exercise is designed to strengthen regional security, enhance interoperability, and conduct joint training across multiple domains.

**Talisman Sabre** is the largest bilateral military exercises between Australia and the U.S. Held across multiple regions in Australia and Papua New Guinea, this exercise is designed to enhance multinational coordination in responding to regional crises and foster peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.



## Special Operations Command - South

**Commander:** U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Mark A. Schafer

**Command Senior Enlisted Leader:** Command Master Chief Daniel Boyles

**Established:** Aug. 4, 1986

### Mission

**SOC SOUTH** conducts special operations with allies and partners in the USSOUTHCOM area of responsibility (AOR) to meet campaign objectives and respond to crisis.

### Command Vision

SOC SOUTH competes in a complex environment to challenge and counter evolving threats, respond rapidly to emerging crises, and ensure a secure AOR.

### Area of Focus

The area of responsibility for SOC SOUTH includes 31 countries, 12 dependencies and areas with special sovereignty. This region accounts for approximately one-sixth of the world's landmass assigned to regional unified commands. SOC SOUTH organizes its focus into four distinct regions: Caribbean: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. Central America: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. Andean Ridge: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela. Southern Cone: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

### Major Engagements

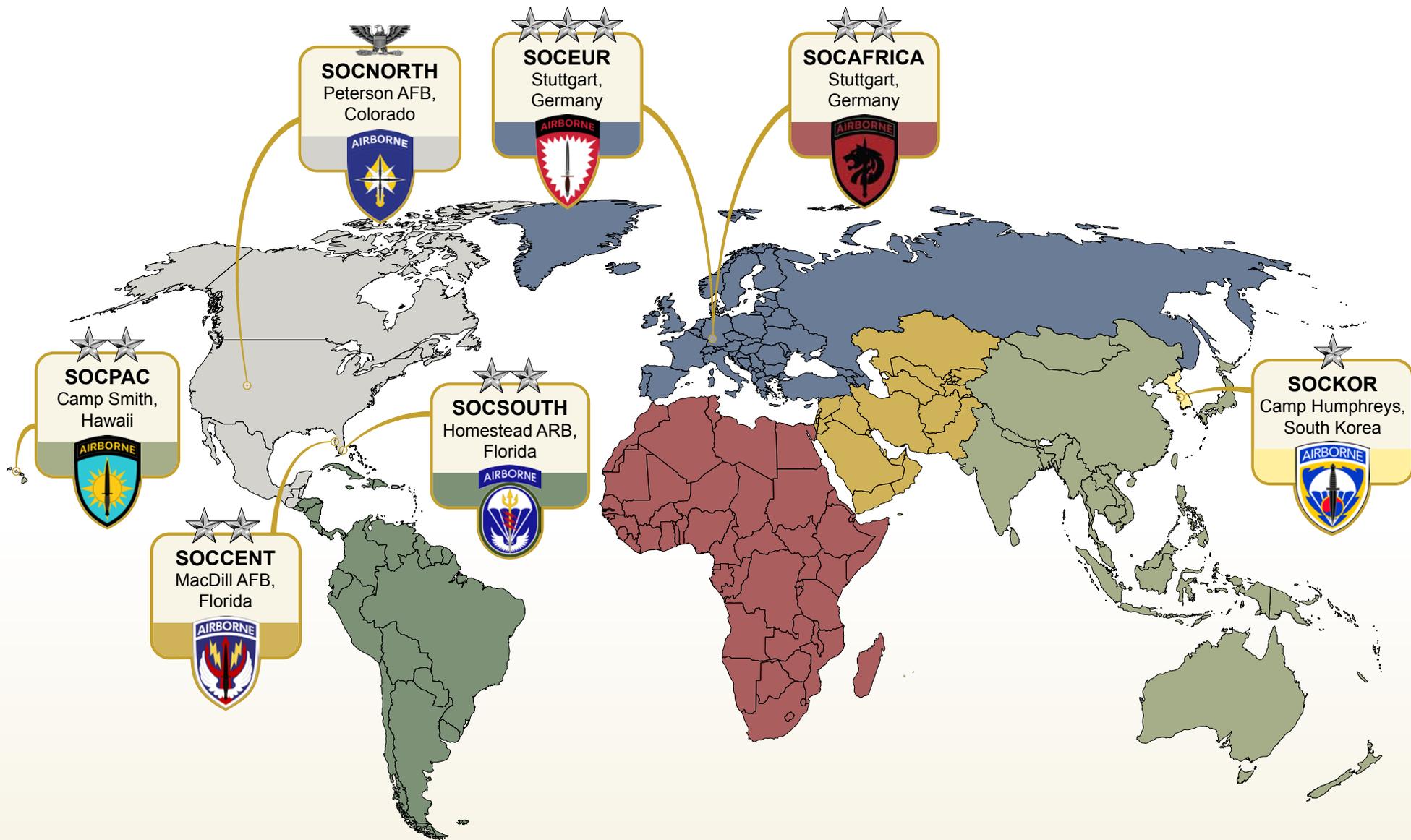
**Southern Star:** The largest multinational special operations exercise in the western hemisphere is hosted by the Chilean armed forces and focuses on joint, combined, interagency operations to develop interoperable concepts as part of a Combined Forces Special Operations Component Command.

**Panamax:** A multinational combined/joint task force exercise designed to respond to requests from the governments of Panama and Colombia, aiming to protect and guarantee the safe passage of traffic through the Panama Canal and to ensure its neutrality.

**Fused Response:** An annual exercise is designed to improve time-sensitive crisis action planning and joint integration with partner nations and government agencies.

**Fuerzas Comando:** A special operations forces skills competition and senior leader seminar to promote military-to-military relationships, interoperability, and regional security focusing on countering transnational threats in the region.

# Theater Special Operations Commands



## Aircraft - Fixed Wing



### AC-130J Ghost Rider

**Primary function:** Close air support and air interdiction with associated collateral missions.

**Dimensions:** Wingspan 132 ft. 7 in.; length 97 ft. 9 in.; height 39 ft. 2 in.

**Range:** 3,000 miles.

**Armament:** Precision Strike Package with 30mm and 105mm cannons and Standoff Precision Guided Munitions

**Crew:** 8



### C-146A Wolfhound

**Primary function:** Flexible, rapid, intra-theater mobility for special operations forces.

**Dimensions:** Wingspan 68 ft. 10 in., length 69 ft. 10 in., height 23 ft. 9 in.

**Range:** 1,500 miles

**Crew:** 3



### C-27J Spartan

**Primary function:** Parachute jump training and currency for SOF paratroopers.

**Dimensions:** Wingspan 94 ft. 2 in., length 94 ft. 2 in., height 31 ft. 8 in.

**Range:** 1,100 miles

**Crew:** 3



### CV-22B Osprey

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

**Dimensions:** Wingspan 83 ft. 10 in.; length 57 ft. 4 in.; height 22 ft. 1 in.

**Range:** 575 miles

**Armament:** One .50-caliber machine gun on ramp

**Crew:** 4

### OA-1K Skyraider II

**Primary function:** Armed overwatch.

**Empty Weight:** ~7,836 lbs

**Gross Weight:** ~16,000 lbs

**Payload:** Up to 6,000 lbs (2,721 kg) on 10 hardpoints.



### MC-130J Commando II

**Primary function:** Infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of special operations forces by airdrop or airland, air refueling of SOF helicopter/tilt rotor aircraft.

**Dimensions:** Wingspan 132 ft. 7 in.; length 97 ft. 9 in.; height 38 ft. 10 in.

**Range:** 3,000 miles

**Crew:** 5



### U-28A Draco

**Primary function:** Provides manned fixed-wing tactical airborne ISR support to humanitarian operations, search and rescue and conventional and special operation missions.

**Dimensions:** Wingspan: 53 ft. 3 in., length 47 ft. 3 in., height: 14 ft.

**Range:** 1,500 nautical miles

**Crew:** 4



## Aircraft - Rotary Wing



### AH-6M Little Bird

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



### MH-6M Little Bird

**Primary function:** Externally transport several combat troops.  
**Speed:** 143 mph.  
**Dimensions:** Length: 32.05 ft., rotor diameter: 27.5 ft., height: 8 ft. 11 in.  
**Range:** 250 miles.  
**Payload:** up to six personnel.  
**Crew:** 2



### MH-60M Black Hawk

**Primary function:** Conduct overt or clandestine infiltration, exfiltration and resupply of special operations forces.  
**Speed:** Max 222 mph, Cruise 138 mph. **Dimensions:** Length: 64 ft. 10 in.  
**Range:** 500 miles.  
**Payload:** 10 personnel with internal tanks.  
**Armament:** 2 x 7.62 miniguns.  
**Crew:** 4



### MH-60M Black Hawk

**Defensive Armed Penetrator (DAP)**  
**Primary function:** Armed escort and fire support for SOF.  
**Speed:** Max 222 mph, Cruise 138 mph.  
**Dimensions:** Length: 64 ft. 10 in.  
**Range:** 517 miles.  
**Armament:** 2 x 7.62 mm M134 minigun, M230 30mm Chaingun, 70mm Hydra rockets, AGM-114 Hellfire air-to-ground missiles.  
**Crew:** 4



### MH-47G Chinook

**Primary function:** Conduct overt and clandestine infiltration, exfiltration, heavy assault, resupply, and sling load operations.  
**Speed:** Max 195 mph, cruise 132 mph.  
**Dimensions:** Length 99 ft. rotor diameter: 60 ft. height: 18 ft. 8 in.  
**Unrefueled Range:** 604 miles.  
**Armament:** M-134 and M-240 7.62mm machine guns.  
**Crew:** 6

## Aircraft - Unmanned



### MQ-9 Reaper

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



### MTUAS

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



### EOTACS

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

# Maritime



## Combatant Craft Assault (CCA)

The CCA is a combatant craft for squad-sized maritime mobility operations in contested environments. It is the craft of choice for maritime interdiction and boarding operations because of its open deck space, maneuverability, and interoperability with an Afloat Forward Staging Base. The CCA can also perform insertion and extraction of special operations forces and coastal patrol operations. It is air transportable in C-130 aircraft and larger.



## Combatant Craft Medium (CCM)

The CCM is a semi-enclosed, multi-mission combatant craft for platoon-sized operations in the maritime environment. The CCM is SOF premier maritime mobility platform, capable of long-range, high-payload SOF mobility operations in contested environments. Primary mission sets include maritime mobility, assured access, payload delivery, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions.



## Combatant Craft Heavy (CCH)

The CCH provides platoon-sized maritime surface mobility with a fully enclosed, climate-controlled, semi-submersible craft that operates in maritime environments up to high-threat. The craft provides access to sensitive areas with the ability to rapidly deploy and recover a variety of payloads.



## Special Operations Craft-Riverine (SOC-R)

The SOC-R performs short-range, squad-sized insertion and extraction of SOF in riverine and littoral environments. The SOC-R is a high-performance craft with a robust complement of armor and firepower to ensure the security and support of ground elements ashore. Its small size and versatile design provide an expeditionary capability, able to be air transportable aboard large rotary-wing or C-130 and larger military aircraft.



## Combatant Craft Forward Looking Infrared (CCFLIR)

The CCFLIR is the only offensive/defensive sensor employed on Combatant Craft, providing crews with a multi-sensor, electro-optic system that enhances battlespace awareness. Purpose-built for the maritime environment, it enhances SOF's ability to make sense of the environment and detect, recognize, identify, range, track, and highlight objects of interest.

## SOF Combat Diving

The SOF Combat Diving program provides for the development, testing and fielding of SOF-peculiar diving equipment for SOF combat divers and interfaces this equipment for use with platforms developed and fielded by Program Executive Office-Maritime. The SOF Combat Diving program supports the fielding of new SOF-peculiar diving equipment via the Major Capability Acquisition pathway. The program has six annexes it supports: Maritime Environmental Protection, Propulsion, Navigation, Life Support Systems, Communications, and Signature Management which provides a fully outfitted diver.



## SEAL Delivery Vehicle (SDV)

The SDV MK 8 is a free-flooding wet submersible designed for providing a means of clandestine insertion and extraction that enables the joint force to project power and conduct operations in littoral and denied areas; to include direct action, hydrographic reconnaissance, and insertion/extraction of SEALs. SDVs can be inserted via Dry Deck Shelter equipped submarines, surface ships, or shore launched. The SDV MK 11 is slightly larger than the MK 8 with a longer range, higher payload capacity, more advanced computer systems, and improved navigation functionality.



## Small Uncrewed Surface Vehicle (sUSV)

sUSVs are designed to employ a variety of payloads in support of Maritime Special Operations. Two categories of sUSVs are being acquired, Short Endurance (SE) sUSVs deploying from Combatant Craft Medium and operating hours at a time; and Long Endurance (LE) sUSVs deploying from Afloat Forward Staging bases operating for weeks at a time.



## Small Uncrewed Underwater Vehicle (sUUV)

NSW's Mk18 sUUV enables access to contested and denied areas in the maritime domain, provides maritime special reconnaissance capabilities and reduces risk to personnel and manned platforms.



## Ground



### Ground Mobility Vehicle 1.1 (GMV 1.1)

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



### Non-Standard Commercial Vehicles

NSCV provides support to special operations forces during overseas missions in politically or operationally constrained permissive, semipermissive, or denied operating environments.



### Lightweight Tactical All Terrain Vehicle

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



### MRAP All Terrain Vehicle

The RG-33 allows seven passengers and increased IED survivability. The SOF M-ATV (1245) is an armored highly mobile troop carrier designed to provide off-road mobility for five Operators while protecting them from IED threats.



# SOF TRUTHS

**1. Humans are more important than hardware**



**2. Quality is better than quantity**



**3. SOF cannot be mass produced**



**4. Competent SOF cannot be created after emergencies occur**



**5. Most special operations require non-SOF support**



## Acronym Glossary

<b>AFB</b>	Air Force Base
<b>AFSOC</b>	Air Force Special Operations Command
<b>ATV</b>	All Terrain Vehicle
<b>C4</b>	Command, Control, Communications and Computers
<b>CCA</b>	Combatant Craft Assault
<b>CCT</b>	Combat Controller
<b>CSO</b>	Critical Skills Operator
<b>DoW</b>	Department of War
<b>FID</b>	Foreign Internal Defense
<b>GMV</b>	Ground Mobility Vehicle
<b>ISR</b>	Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance
<b>JCET</b>	Joint Combined Exchange Training
<b>JSOC</b>	Joint Special Operations Command
<b>JSOU</b>	Joint Special Operations University
<b>LTATV</b>	Lightweight Tactical All-Terrain Vehicle
<b>MARSOC</b>	Marine Forces Special Operations Command
<b>MISO</b>	Military Information Support Operations
<b>MRAP</b>	Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle
<b>NG</b>	National Guard
<b>NSCV</b>	Non-Standard Commercial Vehicle
<b>NSWC</b>	Naval Special Warfare Command
<b>NSWG</b>	Naval Special Warfare Group
<b>PJ</b>	Pararescue Jumpers
<b>RHIB</b>	Rigid-hull Inflatable Boat
<b>RPA</b>	Remotely Piloted Aircraft
<b>SDVT</b>	SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team
<b>SEAL</b>	Sea, Air, and Land
<b>SF</b>	Special Forces
<b>SFG(A)</b>	Special Forces Group (Airborne)
<b>SOCAFRICA</b>	Special Operations Command-Africa
<b>SOCCENT</b>	Special Operations Command-Central
<b>SOCEUR</b>	Special Operations Command-Europe
<b>SOCKOR</b>	Special Operations Command-Korea
<b>SOCNORTH</b>	Special Operations Command-North
<b>SOCAPAC</b>	Special Operations Command-Pacific
<b>SOC-R</b>	Special Operations Craft-Riverine
<b>SOC SOUTH</b>	Special Operations Command-South
<b>SOF</b>	Special Operations Forces
<b>SRSE</b>	Special Reconnaissance, Surveillance and Exploitation
<b>SWCC</b>	Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewman
<b>TSOC</b>	Theater Special Operations Command
<b>UAV</b>	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
<b>USAJFKSWCS</b>	U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center & School
<b>USASOAC</b>	U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command
<b>USASOC</b>	U.S. Army Special Operations Command
<b>USSOCOM</b>	U.S. Special Operations Command



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