

United States Special Operations Command



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ROLE OF USSOCOMⁱ

In the wake of the failure of Operation Eagle Claw, many representatives in various military units and in Congress saw the need for greater cohesion in the Special Operations community. It was argued by many military officers that the failure was due to a lack of command and control and it led to the death of many service members. USSOCOM was created for and is tasked with organizing, controlling, and commanding the various units within the special operations community from each branch, which are divided into subordinate commands such as: Joint Special Operations Command, United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC), United States Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC), United States Naval Special Warfare Command (NSW), and Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC). Each subordinate command has the capability of acting independently, but when the necessity to act in joint operations arises, it is the duty of USSOCOM to provide inter-service coordination.

USSOCOM has been involved in many operations since its inception: Operation Earnest Will, Operation Just Cause, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Restore Hope, Operation Gothic Serpent, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and many others. There are various roles and

tasks these SOCOM units take on in order to carry out their mission. They perform such tasks as foreign internal defense, unconventional warfare, direct action, special reconnaissance, counter-terrorism, psychological warfare, and civil affairs.

The operations that SOCOM engages in are complicated in that USSOCOM does not have a specific theatre of operations but they instead conduct action in the operations of other combatant commands. Although this is complicated there are many missions that require the specific expertise of the Special Operations community and they often act independently. Though they may act independently and engage in missions either large or small, SOCOM must often coordinate their missions with that of the combatant command in charge of the theatre in order to synchronize their actions with those of the theatre commander. Examples of this (or a lack thereof) are seen with the operations that took place when Operation Enduring Freedom commenced and during Operation Iraqi Freedom. When OEF began SOCOM acted independently and had very successful missions without much aid from conventional forces, but during OIF many of their missions were in support of the conventional forces in the CENTCOM theatre of operations.

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Figure 1: Airmen on a training exercise.ⁱⁱ

CURRENT SITUATION^{iii iv}

Since the Global War on Terror was initiated in the waning months of 2001 the Special Operations community has blossomed. Nearly all forces have grown significantly, they have proven themselves capable of highly effective unilateral action, and the funding for SOCOM has skyrocketed.

Not only does SOCOM enjoy this privileged position, even with the recent reduction in defense spending, but the various units of SOCOM enjoy the healthiest relationship that they have had with one another, and with the intelligence community, allowing for some of the greatest success and cohesion since many

of the units worked together in the Vietnam War.

SOCOM has proven its mettle and competency in myriad tasks and due to this has gained greater leeway and operational capacity. Other improvements over the last decade include improved relations with many militaries, conventional and unconventional units included. Amongst them are: British SAS, Australian SAS, New Zealand SAS, Canadian SOF, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and among others, Iraqi Security Forces.



Figure 2: Marines practicing insertion by sea.^v

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE^{vi}

While the structure, composition, tasks, and methodology of this simulated SOCOM resemble the actual workings of the Special Operations Command, significant changes to

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nomenclature, tactics, and intelligence reports will be made. The flow of this committee will be an amalgamation of normal Model UN committees and actual SOCOM proceedings. This committee will be highly reactive to crises occurring throughout conference and must work in sync with other combatant commands, intelligence agencies, and with the guidance given by superiors in the National Security Council.

Structure of debate –

USSOCOM will operate in “perpetual moderated caucus” mode; there will be no speakers list. The SOCOM Commander will call on subordinate commanders and liaisons who wish to speak; however, a majority vote of the members of SOCOM will still decide speaking time and the subject of debate. In addition to moderated caucus, subordinate commanders will be able to motion for unmoderated caucus, which will only be used for writing reports and operations orders. All other rules regarding parliamentary procedure will remain similar to traditional simulations, but may be modified at the discretion of the Commander.

Voting procedures –

The objective of USSOCOM is to create dynamic and comprehensive responses to threats that arise in US areas of interest, at the request of the President of the United States and the Secretary of Defense. This combatant command must remain unified

and present a cohesive plan and report it to superiors and subordinates alike in a manner that allows for the understanding, confidence, and guidance necessary for mission accomplishment. Special Operations Command has a unique relationship within the military due to not owning its own theatre and therefore must continue to forge good relations with partner combatant commands. All actions must respect the overall authority these commands have, while creating guidance and orders that lead to mission accomplishment for our subordinate units, whether acting independently or with adjacent conventional forces. While the different subordinate commands have varied approaches to, outlooks on, and stakes in these issues, it is necessary to negotiate through those differences so that the diverging interests of the varying commands do not undermine the legitimacy of SOCOM when we or our leaders are called to testify before Congressional committees. Keeping in mind that “what you see depends on where you sit,” significant negotiation will be needed to reach consensus amongst the diverse subordinate bodies.

Activities may be conducted by an individual commander or groups of commanders at any time without the need to find unanimity in the body, but the SOCOM Commander must be advised. While liaisons do not have the authority to unilaterally issue orders to their agency, based on new reports and developments, liaisons present may recommend to their principal

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committees that certain activities be conducted.



Figure 3: Marines practicing MEDEVAC.^{vii}



Figure 4: US Army Rangers staging for a raid.^{viii}

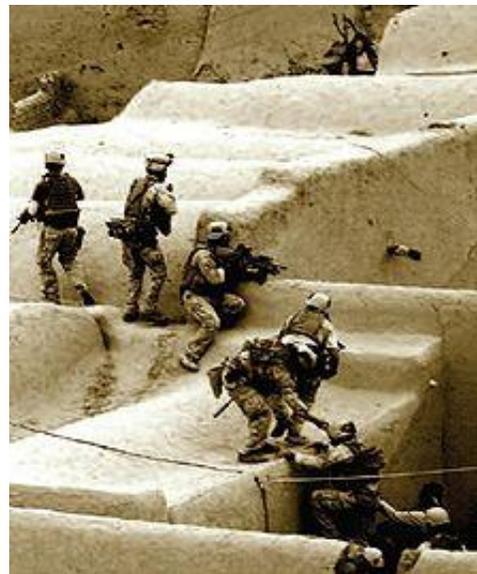


Figure 5: Marine performing room clearing via rooftop.^{ix}

List of positions –

Within SOCOM are subordinate commands and various liaison positions in order to ensure synchronization and inter-service and interagency cohesion. These commands have control of various units within the military branches and each unit has particular skill sets that make them unique. The liaisons are critical to SOCOM because they ensure that we are communicating well with other bodies whom we often interact with or conduct adjacent missions. The relevant agencies that will participate in SOCOM are:

- MSOR – Marine Special Operations Regiment: This is the commander of MSOR who will be in charge of all Marine Special Operations units responsible for foreign internal defense and deep reconnaissance.
- CIA – Central Intelligence Agency Liaison: This individual will be the man in charge of coordinating

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action between the National Clandestine Service and Special Operations as well as conducting joint intelligence sharing and this is critical to cohesive joint operations.

- USASF – United States Army Special Forces: This commander is tasked with coordinating the efforts of the Green Berets who have proven themselves the premier force in regards to unconventional warfare, counterinsurgency, and special reconnaissance.
- J-3 – The J-3 is another member of the Commander's staff and is tasked with training and operations. The training portion of his job requires that he coordinates training throughout the command to ensure that each unit is prepared for the tasks which it receives from higher. The operations portion involves drafting an operation order (OpOrd). An OpOrd is a detailed document which explains the plan that will be employed and each unit's role in fulfilling this plan. In essence, the J-3 takes the discussions and decisions that happen in the Commander's tent and turns it into a concrete document that subordinate units can use to orchestrate their actions.
- ISA – Intelligence Support Activity: The commander of JSOC's elite intelligence organization will need to ensure his command is providing thorough and frequently updated information to this committee and all necessary commands. The commander will also need to put into context the importance of said information to overall mission requirements.
- CAG – 1st Special Operations Force-Delta, (Combat Applications Group): The commander of our elite counterterrorist organization will need to ensure the unit is flexible and prepared for many dynamic and fast paced operations as well as mission ready for immediate follow on actions when targets of opportunity arise.
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Representative – The United States military often works in conjunction with its NATO allies. They provide intelligence and assets which are vitally useful in the modern fight. The primary job of the NATO representative will be to coordinate SOCOM's actions with NATO partners in the region and make sure that the SOCOM commander is fully aware of the actions of our NATO partners at all times.
- JAG – The JAG representative for CENTCOM provides legal advice to the Commander. This advice ranges from individual soldier's rights in the event of a violation of regulations to his legal scope within the command. He will serve an influential role in ensuring that the command does not exceed its legal limits.

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- NSW – Navy Special Warfare SEALs: One of the premier units skilled in naval operations will be vital in ensuring that we capitalize on any targets of opportunity and complete objectives requiring amphibious operations.
- J-5 – The J-5 is a staffer in charge of Strategy, Policy and Plans. This primarily centers on taking guidance from policy makers and creating long term strategic goals in theater that will accomplish the policy maker's goals. This includes the evolution of relationships with allies, the training of regional forces, and long term troop presence. The key difference between the J-5 and the J-3 is scale. The J-3 operates on a tactical level and is focused on accomplishing short term goals while the J-5 operates on a strategic level and is tasked with focusing those short term goals to ensure that they build to the completion of a national goal.
- Liaison to CENTCOM: This critical position requires careful attention by our liaison. Any operations that may take place in the CENTCOM Area of Operations must be coordinated with their command in order to prevent unnecessary overlap, conflicts, and possible friendly casualties. There may come a time when joint operations may be conducted in coordination with CENTCOM as well.
- State Department Representative – CENTCOM works with many different nations to coordinate its actions and avoid international incidences. The State Department Representative is tasked with spear heading this cooperation in order to ensure that the United States maintains friendly relationships with its allies. It is also tasked with fostering cooperation with our allies in the region by encouraging them to work towards the goals enumerated by the Commander.
- 24th STS – 24th Special Tactics Squadron: The Squadron commander will be in charge of one of the most vital assets to the SOCOM community. This squadron will be supplying the majority of close air support to service members conducting operations and will be called upon to provide the support necessary for small units to project large amounts of devastation and effective fire.
- CA/4th MISG – Civil Affairs/4th Military Information Support Group: CA/MISG has the task of turning the local populace from either our enemies or neutral third parties to our allies. There are many ways in which this may be done and among them are: providing medical aid, purified water, rebuilding villages, white propaganda, and other such missions. This will need to be coordinated with other operations

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to ensure feasibility of mission success.

- Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) – DTRA is tasked with reducing the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction. As a function of this goal, the DTRA representative will provide intelligence on possible WMD's within the region and expertise on the destruction or neutralization of those weapons. His primary function will be ensuring that the Commander is aware of all threats related to the use of unconventional weapons and advising him on the best policy to mitigate those threats. He has control over inspection agencies across the region but these are severely hampered if the host nation is uncooperative.
- CYBERCOM Representative CYBERCOM is tasked with centralizing all of the DoD's cyber warfare assets into one organization. As a member of this command, the CYBERCOM representative will be

tasked with advising the Commander on all options and threats involving cyber warfare. This ranges from protecting sensitive information to launching a cyber attack on a state actor. He has access to the resources of every organization within the DoD that is tasked with cyber warfare which should assist him in advising the Commander.

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Stanton, Doug. *Horse Soldiers*. Scribner, 2009. Print.

ⁱ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Special_Operations_Command

ⁱⁱ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:AFSOC_weathermen.jpg

ⁱⁱⁱ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:AFSOC_weathermen.jpg

^{iv} Smith, Michael. *Killer Elite*. St. Martin's Press, 2007. Print.

^v http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Marine_Force_Recon_-001-.jpg

^{vi} Highly inspired by the SCSY33 rules for the G20 New Haven Summit 2010.

^{vii} http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:MARSOC_Helicopter_exercise.jpeg

^{viii} http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:75th_Ranger_Regiment_conducting_operations_in_Iraq,_26_April_2007.jpg

^{ix} <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:AlphaDASR.jpg>