

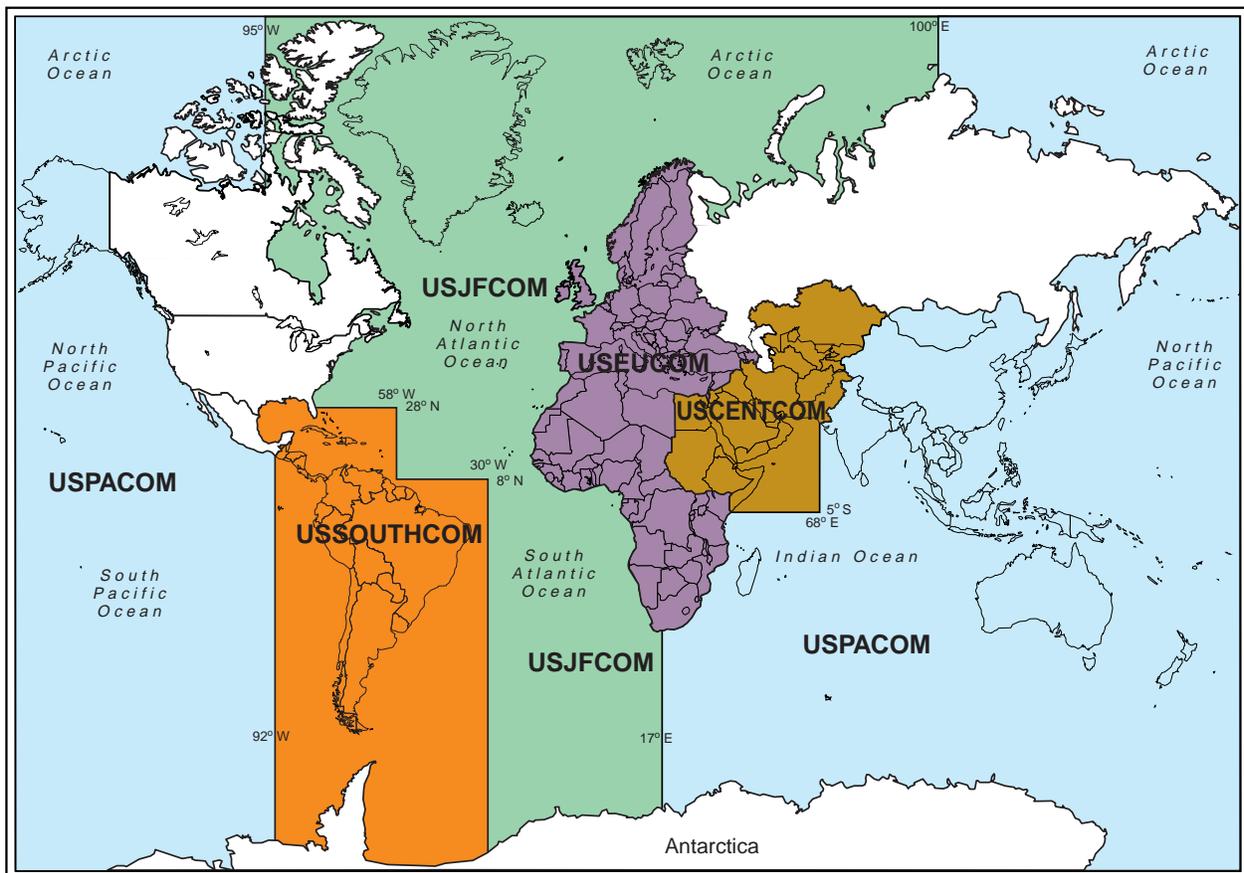
# CURRENT OPERATIONS

## SOF Around the World

U.S. SOF are conducting more missions, in more places, and under a broader range of conditions than ever before. In FY 1999, SOF units deployed to 152 countries and territories — a figure that does not include classified missions or special access programs. In any given week, 5,000 SOF operators are deployed in approximately 60 countries worldwide.

Operations conducted during FY 1999, and numerous joint/combined exercises in the

United States and overseas, continue to reinforce two key principles. First, SOF provide complementary capabilities that, when used in conjunction with conventional forces, expand the military options of a JFC. Second, SOF are most effective when they are fully integrated into a JFC's campaign plan. The theater SOCs, highlighted in this section, ensure that SOF capabilities are considered throughout the entire planning process and that SOF are fully integrated into both peace and wartime plans.



Geographic CINCs' Area of Responsibility (AOR) Map

# United States Joint Forces Command and Special Operations Command Joint Forces Command (SOCJFCOM)

On October 1, 1999, the Unified Command Plan (UCP 99) redesignated the U.S. Atlantic Command (USACOM) the U.S. Joint Force Command (USJFCOM), fully asserting its mission as the joint force provider, trainer, and integrator. UCP 99 depicts the evolution from USACOM, a geographic CINC with some functional roles, toward a functional unified command performing joint force training, integrating, and force-providing functions while retaining some geographic unified command responsibilities.



Special tactics pararescueman, inserted by AFSOC MH-53M, conducts rescue of a downed pilot during combat search and rescue training.

In concert with UCP 99, CINCUSJFCOM's strategic vision is to lead the transformation of U.S. armed forces to the capabilities envisioned in Joint Vision 2010. CINCUSJFCOM maximizes America's present and future military capabilities through joint training, total force integration, and the provision of ready CONUS-based conventional forces to support other CINCs, the Atlantic theater, and domestic requirements. Toward this end, USJFCOM has been established as the center of excellence for training, training support, and integration of U.S. forces and our allies in preparing to conduct the full spectrum of joint, multinational, and interagency operations in order to protect and defend national interests.

The change to USJFCOM has significantly changed the focus of SOCJFCOM. SOCJFCOM, a sub-unified command of USJFCOM, located in Norfolk, Virginia, further enhances USJFCOM's center of excellence by providing the capability to fully integrate SOF operations in its joint, multinational, and interagency training and integration program. SOCJFCOM also assists in CINCSOC's joint SOF training responsibilities through its JSOTF, Joint Psychological Operations Task Force (JPOTF), and Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force (JCMOTF) training charter.

In September 1999, CINCUSJFCOM approved a new SOCJFCOM mission statement to underscore this changing role.

*SOCJFCOM conducts worldwide joint SOF training and facilitates joint integration to enhance the effectiveness and interoperability of special operations forces in joint, multinational, and interagency environments.*



Rangers practice breaching a target building during training for military operations in urban terrain (MOUT).

*Additionally, as a theater SOC, SOCJFCOM will conduct special operations as directed by CINCUSJFCOM.*

From this mission statement, SOCJFCOM has derived four essential tasks:

- conduct worldwide joint SOF training to enhance SOF effectiveness within the joint, multinational, and interagency environment in support of USJFCOM's training program; focus training on CINC staffs and JTF commanders and staffs (the mission employers of SOF), and the identified training needs of the JSOTF, JPOTF, JCMOTF commanders and staffs (the doers)
- improve JTF to JSOTF and JSOTF to JTF component interoperability through participation in the USJFCOM Joint Exercise Program
- facilitate joint integration, to include concept development and experimentation, to enhance SOF effectiveness within the joint, multinational, and interagency environment

- conduct special operations in support of USJFCOM, which encompasses:
  - being prepared to form a JSOTF to conduct special operations in support of USJFCOM;
  - conducting regional surveys; and
  - being prepared to deploy a Humanitarian Assistance Survey Team within 24 hours of notification.

As USJFCOM continues to spearhead the improvement of the joint combat capability of U.S. military forces worldwide, SOCJFCOM will facilitate this evolution by its focus on joint SOF training and integration that enhances the effectiveness and interoperability of SOF in joint, multinational, and interagency operations.



Soldier from 528th Special Operations Support Battalion bounds off the wall during rappel training descent.

# United States Southern Command and Special Operations Command, South (SOCSOUTH)

The AOR of the U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) encompasses the land mass and surrounding waters of Latin America south of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico. This area contains 32 independent countries and 15 dependencies including French, British, Dutch, and U.S. territories — 12.5 million square miles or approximately one-sixth of the world's land area. Every country, except Cuba, conducts national elections and employs a representative form of government. Economically, the region is vital to our Nation's continued prosperity. Nearly 40 percent of the crude oil consumed in the United States comes from the Caribbean Basin. Brazil is the world's eighth largest economy, equal to China and larger than Canada. Argentina's gross domestic product (GDP) is approximately the same as the GDP of Australia, Russia or India. Over 400 million people of the area speak seven official languages: English, Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese, French, Quechua, and Aymara. Extreme differences in geography, topography, prosperity, stability, and ethnicity characterize the theater.

SOCSOUTH, is the Southern Command's subordinate unified command for special operations. It is responsible for all SOF in the theater, except CA and PSYOP forces. Forward based at Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, SOCSOUTH is comprised of a joint headquarters with three forward-based operational units: C Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne); Naval Special Warfare Unit FOUR; and D Company, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne). CONUS-based SOF from USSOCOM, in support of the USSOUTHCOM Theater Engagement Plan, continuously augment the command. This assistance can be expanded to the full range of SOF capabilities required for contingency response. SOCSOUTH supports the USSOUTHCOM

Strategy of Cooperative Regional Peacetime Engagement by providing SOF capabilities that assist in shaping the theater's security environment, while ensuring appropriate forces are postured to respond when U.S. interests are threatened. Toward this end, SOCSOUTH manages over 200 SOF deployments annually, averaging 42 missions in 16 countries at any given time.

SOCSOUTH contributes to the accomplishment of USCINCSOUTH theater objectives by:

- assisting U. S. agencies in training host-nation forces to target drug production and trafficking, and supporting interagency efforts to interdict the flow of drugs in the transit zone
- enhancing regional stability by assisting friendly nations in dealing with internal and external threats to their security, while fostering professionalism and respect for human rights
- building military-to-military contacts that generate mutual trust, improve collective military capabilities, and promote democratic ideals
- staying ready to conduct special operations in conflict and peace in support of U.S. interests

**Challenges.** Many of the region's democracies remain fragile, their basis undermined by widespread economic, sociological and political problems. They face security problems that are multidimensional and localized. Latin America has the most uneven distribution of income and wealth of any region, where the poorest 40 percent of the population receives only 10 percent of the income. Poverty is widespread. Rapid population growth, proliferating transnational threats, international drug trafficking, organized crime, terrorism, environmental degradation, illegal migration, the proliferation of land mines,

and extra-legal paramilitary forces challenge the well-being and moral fiber of every country in the Western Hemisphere, including the United States. Domestic crime threatens U.S. economic interests and the security of our citizens abroad — one-half of the world's abductions occur in Colombia alone. The region's porous borders, the expanding influence of insurgent organizations, and the symbiotic relationship between the illicit drug industry and insurgent forces vastly increase the complexity of the challenge.



Army, Navy, and Air Force SOF assisted in the rescue of over 900 Honduran civilians in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch.

The emphasis of the region's military forces is moving away from traditional roles. The concepts of balance of power, deterrence, and collective defense against extra-hemispheric threats are fading. Regional security considerations now include threats to the domestic order that challenge a state's ability to hold the country together and to govern. Today, many regional militaries focus on issues that garner the support of the people for the government, including response to natural disasters and their aftermath; domestic threats; and dealing with non-state actors including terrorists, organized crime, and paramilitary groups.

To assist in the U.S. effort to meet these challenges, SOCSOUTH provides a flexible means of accomplishing a wide range of missions. As the theater's only rapid response force, SOCSOUTH is commonly called upon to handle emergencies requiring immediate military assistance. When

Hurricane Georges struck the Dominican Republic, SOF helicopters and soldiers were the first U.S. forces in the country. As Hurricane Mitch was devastating Honduras, SOCSOUTH deployed forces that rescued over 900 people on the day of their arrival.

After the lifesaving efforts were complete, SOF language and communications skills were employed to coordinate the initial multinational relief efforts in Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua. In one case, SEALs and SOF helicopters recovered a fisherman with a life-threatening disorder from a ship off the coast of Costa Rica when other U.S. assets were forced to turn back due to bad weather. In another instance, SOF helicopters, SF soldiers, and special tactics team airmen employed their unique skills to recover human remains and sensitive equipment from exceptionally rugged terrain when a U.S. Army Reconnaissance Low-level aircraft crashed in the Andes Mountains of Colombia.

In December 1999, severe flooding in Venezuela resulted in the deaths of an estimated 30,000 people. Within hours of notification, a task force from SOCSOUTH deployed to the disaster area to assist in rescue efforts. The nature of operations rapidly shifted and SOCSOUTH was tasked to provide the command and control element for a Humanitarian Assistance operation that remained in place for an extended period.



SOF MH-60L, soldiers, and STT airmen in position for hoist insertion to crash site in the Andes Mountains.

Counterdrug support is a major area of focus in the Southern Command. Deployed on a continuous basis throughout the source and transit zones, SOF supports interagency and host-nation land-, riverine-, sea-, and air-interdiction efforts to disrupt the production, cultivation, and movement of illegal drugs. The presence of NSW Patrol Coastal ships plays a vital role in detection and monitoring efforts. SEALs and Special Boat Unit personnel are constantly engaged in training missions to assist participating nations in controlling their coastlines and waterways. Air Force SOF provide critical training that help host nations develop counterdrug aviation operational and logistical support infrastructures. Army SF teams are continuously training host-nation counter-narcotics forces in a wide range of relevant skills.

The Colombian Government is making substantial efforts to neutralize those organizations responsible for illicit drug activities in its country and requested U.S. assistance in training and equipping an Army Counterdrug Brigade. The outcome of this joint endeavor will be a force that is capable of day or night operations in all weather and terrain; a highly professional force that operates within the rule of law and respects universal human rights. Currently, SOCSOUTH is the USSOUTHCOM executive agent for the training. The initial Colombian Army Counterdrug Battalion attained operational capability in December 1999.

C Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) hosts the annual SOF Counterterrorism Tactics and Techniques Symposium (CTTTS). This USSOUTHCOM traditional CINC activity brings security forces from throughout the region together in friendship to exchange ideas and foster dialogue on the common issue of combating terrorism. Additionally, SOCSOUTH deployed forces on numerous occasions to improve force protection for U.S. units and enhance the safety of U.S. citizens and interests during periods of internal strife in several nations of the region.



U.S. and regional security forces participate in the Counterterrorist Olympics, part of the annual Counterterrorism Tactics and Techniques Symposium.

SOCSOUTH is dedicated to providing SOF expertise to the USSOUTHCOM exercise program. It serves as executive agent for two JCS exercises, and co-executive agent for a third. Cabanas is a joint and combined field training exercise with South American countries that focuses on peacekeeping operations skills. Tradewinds, for which SOCSOUTH is executive agent for the ground phase, is an annual opportunity for the defense and police forces of the Caribbean Regional Security System and the Caribbean Community to conduct interoperability and skills training from the individual to battalion staff level. These exercises serve to promote regional stability. Ellipse Echo is an annual contingency response event that provides superb training in warfighting and planning skills to U.S. SOF. Additionally, SOCSOUTH participates in a variety of other exercises designed to enhance U.S. joint interoperability, such as Blue Advance, Unified Endeavor, and Fuertes Defensas.

In the Southern Command, SOF truly exerts a ubiquitous presence, postured to shape, and if required, prepared to respond, at a moments notice.

# United States European Command and Special Operations Command, Europe (SOCEUR)

The U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) is the second largest geographic AOR in the unified combatant command structure. Spanning three continents and encompassing 89 countries, its geographical area encompasses 13 million square miles and is home for more than one billion people. EUCOM is a dynamic *theater in conflict*. Within this vast AOR, USEUCOM stands ready to promote peace and stability and to defeat adversaries. To accomplish these theater objectives, the commander in chief, USEUCOM, relies heavily on SOCEUR to provide him with timely unconventional military options.

As a sub-unified command for special operations, COMSOCEUR provides operational direction and control of special operations, CA, and PSYOP forces in the USEUCOM AOR. Comprised of Army, Air Force, and Navy SOF stationed in Europe, the SOC routinely receives augmentation from continental U.S.-based forces to accomplish its assigned tasks. From these varied assets, COMSOCEUR forms task forces capable of executing special operations as well as conducting assessments and response to crises throughout the



Host-nation locals watch from a hill outside the perimeter fence as an MC-130P takes off from Brazzaville Airport, Republic of Congo.

USEUCOM AOR. COMSOCEUR also functions as Director, Special Operations Directorate of the EUCOM staff to provide theater strategic input and advice to the theater commander concerning special operations.

**Promote Peace and Stability, and Defeat Adversaries.** SOCEUR's operations and activities reflect the USEUCOM strategic objectives to *Promote Peace and Stability, and Defeat Adversaries*. SOCEUR plays an important role in promoting peace and shaping the international environment in the EUCOM area of responsibility by reducing the conditions that lead to conflict. Key SOCEUR engagement activities include JCET events, the Joint Contact Team Program (JCTP), the African Crisis Response Initiative (ACRI), and humanitarian demining operations.

JCETs are training activities that fulfill SOF unit training and CINCEUR engagement needs in countries throughout the theater. This combination of training and engagement allows SOF units to perform mission-essential tasks and regionally focused training while simultaneously establishing U.S. presence and influence in priority engagement countries.

The JCTP is a USCINCEUR initiative to provide greater U.S. military interaction with former Warsaw Pact countries and Soviet client states; SOF units provide excellent models for these nations to emulate in their evolving militaries.

ACRI is a Department of State initiative to develop the capabilities of selected African countries to respond to regional crises with capable, professional, indigenous military forces. Humanitarian demining is a joint venture between the Departments of State and Defense. This program continues to save hundreds of lives each year throughout

the EUCOM AOR by training host-nation personnel in demining and in educating the public on the dangers of landmines and unexploded ordnance.

Readiness to respond to crises is SOCEUR's highest priority as reflected by its motto — *Semper Parate* (Always Prepared). SOCEUR sustains its unique warfighting capabilities to successfully respond to the full spectrum of crisis — from transnational threats, through the myriad forms of smaller-scale contingencies, to major theater war.

**The Security Environment.** SOCEUR's AOR exhibits the full range of human conditions and the strategic environment is correspondingly diverse. In many cases, U.S. presence is welcomed on a bilateral, or more often multilateral, basis. U.S. presence is minimal in many cases — particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa — due to the size of the theater. U.S. relationships in the AOR over the past 50 years have formed a foundation for U.S. leadership, participation, and collective action against threats to regional security. SOCEUR manages its engagement programs on a country-by-country basis and follows the EUCOM lead by dividing its AOR into several regions for easier manageability.

■ **Western Europe/NATO.** Western Europe will continue to be the stable anchor within the AOR. The template for stability and cooperation in the region is NATO. U.S. SOF train with NATO air, land, and sea special operations forces in all climates and terrain, from the frozen fjords of Norway to the sweltering deserts of Africa. Interoperability, combined command and control, and the exchange of methods and tactics ensure the United States and its allies are ready to conduct combined or coordinated special operations anywhere in the theater. SOCEUR has been in the forefront of integrating new member nations into the NATO alliance — assessing, training, and exercising with host-nation SOF assets. SOF can be a relatively inexpensive option to countries looking to make a viable but affordable contribution to NATO's force structure.



Soldier from the 301st PSYOP Company poses with school children after handing out copies of a monthly magazine designed to promote good relations between Bosnians and members of the Stabilization Force.

■ **Central Europe.** Central Europe is experiencing a new wave of nationalism and, to a lesser degree, ultra-nationalism. The end of communism has revealed long-suppressed internal and external security issues involving intractable ethnic/religious hatreds and old boundary disputes rooted in modern history. Political opportunists are seizing on these issues to acquire national leadership positions. The risk of political instability within the developing central European democracies — particularly the Balkan states — will remain high through the next several years.

To counter these threats, SOCEUR has joined former Warsaw Pact forces to develop SOF that meet NATO standards for interoperability. JCETs conducted in Central Europe provide unique training opportunities for each of SOCEUR's component forces. They also serve to demonstrate the strengths and capabilities of the U.S. military, as well as the benefits of a responsible and well-trained, professional NCO corps — a capability normally lacking in Soviet-modeled forces. In the recent Balkans conflict, joint SOF, under the direction of COMSOCEUR, were employed to expand the range of military options available to USCINCEUR. Most notable were two

successful combat recoveries of American pilots downed by enemy fire over Serbia. Additionally, CA and PSYOP forces provided immeasurable assistance in the ever-evolving process of modern day warfare. The Balkans have historically demanded world attention and SOF will continue to play a central role in this volatile region.

- **New Independent States.** With their emergence as sovereign nations, the New Independent States (NIS) simultaneously began the process of changing their institutions from authoritarian to democratic and from provincial to national. While some have successfully taken their place on the world stage as democracies, others have tended to revert to authoritarianism, and a few are split by severe ethnic divisions. This is an emerging region for USEUCOM and SOCEUR. Initial efforts in this area have focused on regional assessments and teaching these nations the role of the military in a democracy.

SOF play a key role in the NIS by providing the CINC with U.S. eyes and ears in a region still plagued by uncertainty and instability. In 1998, SOCEUR sponsored the first NIS SOF conference held offsite in Stuttgart, Germany. This benchmark event brought military personnel from Moldova, Georgia, and the Ukraine together to view U.S. SOF demonstrations and discuss opportunities for future JCET and JCTP events. International interest and tensions in the region are expected to dramatically increase as resident deposits of oil and minerals are developed. Accordingly, development of SOF familiarity and experience in the region is becoming a high priority.

- **Africa.** Africa is a complex and diverse region with many countries evolving into clusters of stability and instability. While some are prosperous and semi- or fully democratic, others are stagnating under non-democratic military or civilian leaders, and a few are consistently chaotic due to coups, civil wars, or lack of a



SF soldier discusses an airfield security mission with a Ghanaian paratrooper training with foreign counterparts in Cote d'Ivoire.

strong, central government. SOF represent the greatest percentage of American “boots on the ground” in this vast continent. Conduct of ACRI and humanitarian demining training under the auspices of SOCEUR has had a demonstrable stabilizing influence in this unstable part of the world. Likewise, port visits and coastal maritime engagement programs maintain a critical presence in areas where other U.S. forces either cannot or will not go. A very active JCET program permits each of the three SOF components to routinely train in an environment that has recently precipitated four responses to crises by SOCEUR forces.

**Conclusion.** The projected future strategic environment for EUCOM is one in which there will be fewer “wars,” but more conflict. Failed states, transnational threats, humanitarian crises, and rogue states that seek to leverage instability are certain to result in the increased employment of U.S. SOF in the future. SOCEUR will continue to provide the “point of the spear” for operations throughout the theater — whether to engage to prevent conflict, thwart terrorism, stem the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, or to respond to crises with precision and strength to restore peace and stability.

# United States Central Command and Special Operations Command, Central (SOCCENT)

The Central Region is one of the most dynamic and diverse areas of the world. It is an area that has been, and will continue to be, vitally important to the United States. The Central Region is the birth place of three of the world's major religions; has a population of over 428 million people; and consists of 17 different ethnic groups, six major languages, hundreds of dialects, varied forms of government, and a wide range of per capita incomes.

CENTCOM's strategy of "Shaping the Central Region for the 21st Century" seeks to integrate the efforts of U.S. Central Command with those of other U.S. government agencies, non-governmental/private volunteer organizations, and our friends in the region to obtain the shared goal of a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Central Region. Implementing this strategy involves the full spectrum of engagement, including warfighting and contingency planning, combined and bilateral exercises, United Nations (UN) sanctions enforcement and monitoring, and security assistance and demining operations. SOCCENT plays an integral part in all these activities.



SEALs fast rope to the deck of USS Enterprise during exercises as ship transits through the Gulf of Aden toward the Persian Gulf.

**Forward Presence.** SOCCENT implements the command's theater strategy through numerous initiatives and programs. SOCCENT's culturally sensitive forces provide a direct link to host-nation counterparts and work to formalize coalition operations procedures, agreements, and doctrine for coalition warfare. SOCCENT has several forward-positioned command and control (C2) elements. SOCCENT Forward exercises C2 for all SOF forces within the AOR. SOCCENT Forward is located in Bahrain. Naval Special Warfare Unit THREE (NSWU-3), also located in Bahrain, provides C2 and support for all Naval Special Warfare forces in theater. The SOC Coordination Element (SOCCE) Kuwait is primarily dedicated to providing SOF C2 for Operation Desert Spring. SOCCE Qatar provides logistic and administrative assistance in preparation for the SOCCENT headquarter's relocation into the AOR.

**Headquarters Structure.** SOCCENT headquarters is currently located at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. The command is organized similar to other joint commands with responsibilities divided among six directorates: personnel, operations, plans, intelligence, logistics, and communications. Command manning is heavily reliant upon individual mobilization augmenties (IMAs).

**Recent Operations.** SOCCENT is committed to support the CENTCOM's regional strategy through a variety of initiatives that reflect the National Security Strategy elements of shaping the international environment, responding to the full spectrum of crises, and preparing now for an uncertain future. Some recent operations and initiatives conducted by SOCCENT forces are described below.



An airman directs the crew of an EC-130 out of its parking spot towards the runway for takeoff and another mission over Southwest Asia during Operation Southern Watch.

- **Desert Fox.** In December 1998, Operation Desert Fox was executed in response to reported Iraqi non-compliance with the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM). SOCCENT deployed special operations liaison elements and a SOCCE augmentation force in anticipation of extended hostilities.
- **Maritime Interception Operations (MIO).** SOCCENT supported UN sanctions enforcement through MIO conducted in support of UN Security Council Resolution 687 that imposed international trade and economic sanctions against Iraq. NSWU-3 in Bahrain provided both assets and personnel for this effort.
- **Desert Spring.** In August 1999, all Iris Gold exercises were incorporated under Operation Desert Spring. The original purpose of the exercise remains the same: to provide combat support units to the Kuwaiti Brigades for terminal guidance of close air support liaison to Combined Task Force (CTF) Kuwait. Operation Desert Spring has expanded to include up to nine SF teams and a special operations C2 element.
- **Demining.** SOCCENT forces plan, establish, and conduct humanitarian demining operations to provide a self-sustaining, indigenous

humanitarian capability. Training is performed to locate, identify, and create databases for mine locations; eliminate the threat of land mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO); reduce the risk to life, livestock, and property; return land to productive use; and train and maintain the indigenous force in demining techniques. Demining operations have been conducted in Yemen and Jordan and are planned for Ethiopia and Eritrea. The partnership established through the demining program has become the prototype for all other demining programs throughout the world.

- **Counterdrug.** SOCCENT conducts Counterdrug operations in support of Presidential Decision Directive 44. During 1999, SOF forces provided light infantry and mountaineering training for Turkmenistan's state border service. In addition, SOF forces conducted a Warrant Officer Leadership and Development Course with 30 Turkmen participants. Additional counterdrug training operations are planned in Egypt and Kenya.
- **Integrated Survey Program (ISP).** SOCCENT forces conduct surveys of U.S. facilities, including embassies and consulates, within the AOR on a recurring basis. These surveys support State Department emergency action plans (EAP) for each post. In addition, surveys provide planning information for Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO).

In August 1998, while conducting a survey in Nairobi, Kenya, ISP personnel were inside the U.S. embassy when the terrorist bomb exploded. The team quickly formed a defensive perimeter around the embassy to prevent pedestrian interference and potential follow-on attack. In addition, several members of the team established a first aid triage center treating injured embassy personnel. Their quick decisive actions were critical in saving additional lives. Nine SF personnel and one

member of the Air Force special tactics squadron were awarded the Soldier's Medal for their actions.

■ **Central Asian States.** USCENTCOM recently assumed responsibility for all military activities for the five countries in the Central Asian Region: Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. SOCCENT's inherently small footprint and culturally sensitive forces play a critical role in nurturing CENTCOM's relationships in this region.

■ **JCS and JCET Exercises.** SOCCENT's joint and combined exercise and training programs are vital peacetime engagement tools that support the CINC's theater strategy. Two primary goals of these programs are to enhance SOF's warfighting capability through maintaining combat readiness and to maintain access and presence in the AOR. The exercises also provide the principal means by which to improve coalition warfighting capabilities while simultaneously building strong military-to-military relationships. During 1999, SOCCENT forces conducted over 15 JCET and eight JCS exercises with 15 countries.



Rangers conduct weapons training in the Egyptian desert.

# United States Pacific Command and Special Operations Command, Pacific (SOCPAC)

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*“Even with the downsizing of U.S. Armed Forces, the demand for SOF forces, to support almost every contingency, will continue to increase. . . not decrease. For that reason, our Army, Navy and Air Force special operations forces continue to be our most precious commodity. We must, as leaders, evaluate our missions and objectives to ensure that we do not overtask or mis-task our subordinate commands and staffs and thus abuse our SOF personnel. We must evaluate our tasks to ensure all actions support USCINCPAC objectives as well as his holistic ‘Strategy to Task’ campaign. There is no doubt that SOCPAC’s mature, professional, and culturally aware SOF personnel continue to stand ready, underwriting our commitment throughout the Pacific region and irrefutably supporting USCINCPAC strategy.”*

Brigadier General Jack R. Holbein  
Commander, SOCPAC

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SOCPAC, located at Camp H. M. Smith, Oahu, Hawaii, is a sub-unified command and serves as the SOF component command for the U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM). The AOR of the commander in chief, U.S. Pacific Command (USCINCPAC), represents the largest geographic area of the unified commands. It covers over half of the earth’s surface with over 105 million square miles and nearly 60 percent of the world’s population. Distance, diversity, and change characterize the PACOM AOR.

Although the Asian-Pacific Rim has recently experienced an economic slowdown, over the last decade Asia’s economic growth rate was twice that of the world as a whole. This growth has increased competition for both natural resources and markets. Thirty-six percent of U.S. merchandise trade is within the region and over three million American jobs are linked to Asian export markets. Sovereignty claims to areas such as the Spratly Islands have become important due to the resource potential of the surrounding seas.

Economic growth has fueled an expansion of military technologies and capabilities. The six largest armed forces in the world operate in the Pacific AOR. Military capabilities in the region are increasingly modern due to technical development and economic growth. This enhanced military capability has resulted in several nations possessing the capability to build and deliver weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Other regional nations also have the economic and technical sophistication to develop WMD capabilities on short notice, should they believe a threat exists.



SF medic works with Royal Thai marine during a medical capabilities exercise.

The political challenges are also changing. Asian-Pacific nations are proud of their cultures and sensitive about issues of independence and sovereignty. These nations are strikingly diverse in size, population, culture, and history. The 43 nations, 20 territories, and 10 U.S. territories represent 75 official languages and over 20 distinct religions. Security concerns and threats, such as the Korean peninsula, Indo-Pakistani border, and Indonesia, remain USCINCPAC concerns. Local insurrection, territorial disputes, religious and ethnic conflicts, and illegal drug trafficking have economic, political, and military implications for USCINCPAC and all theater service components.

USCINCPAC's strategy harmonizes employment of military resources with the other elements of national power. This strategy recognizes contributions made, both directly and indirectly, by military forces in shaping the international



SF instructors train Laotian deminers in mine injury related first aid and medical treatment.

environment through activities that promote peace and stability. The strategy focuses on continued military presence in the region — demonstrating U.S. commitment, developing trust, and deterring aggressors.

**Shaping the Environment.** SOCPAC supports USCINCPAC's shaping strategy through operations such as demining activities, counterdrug operations, bilateral/multilateral exercises, JCET program activities, Pacific Situation Awareness Teams (PSATs), and the annual Pacific Area Special Operations Conference (PASOC). Engagement seeks to: demonstrate continued American intent and capability; reassure allies and friends; promote regional stability, cooperation and trust; deter potential regional aggressors; build force inter-operability; and maintain access to host-nation support and facilities.

Landmines continue to inflict hundreds of civilian casualties per month. Additionally, the mine threat removes arable land from production and reduces the flow of commerce. Various factions laid these mines over the last 40 years. SOF, in cooperation with the host nation and U.S. government agencies, have designed and managed a training program to improve mine awareness, detection and recovery, and the treatment of casualties. SOCPAC conducted four demining operations in Laos in 1998 and again in 1999. Additionally, two initial demining assessments were conducted in Thailand in 1999, with four demining operations scheduled during 2000. Other countries plagued by landmines are looking at ways to participate in the program.

Southeast Asia remains one of the world's largest drug-producing areas. SOF assist host nations in improving their capability to deal with this significant problem. Specifically, SOF conduct training to improve planning, expertise, and small-unit tactics of host-nation military and law enforcement agencies to increase their ability to battle narco-criminals. Thailand and Malaysia were participating countries in 1999. Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, and Malaysia are scheduled participants during 2000. This training benefits both host nation

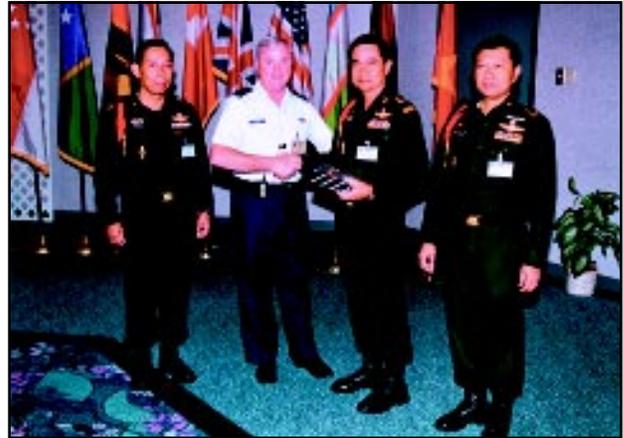
and U.S. forces as they share techniques, sharpen skills, and improve operational effectiveness.

One of the cornerstones of the shaping element is the SOCPAC-managed JCET program. This program fulfills SOF training requirements and allows the sharing of skills between SOF elements and their host-nation counterparts. These activities include airborne and air mobile patrolling, lifesaving, reconnaissance, and small-unit tactics. JCET activities improve SOF and host nation capabilities, and also demonstrate USCINCPAC's commitment to constructive engagement.

In addition, humanitarian and civic action projects, done in conjunction with JCET events, provide tangible benefits for the host-nation civilian population. During 1999, SOCPAC conducted 37 JCET events in 12 countries. Participants include in-theater and CONUS units from both active and reserve components. USCINCPAC uses this cornerstone program for initial military-to-military contact, annually demonstrated through presence in some of the smaller countries, and as part of an ongoing military program in many of the larger nations.

USCINCPAC deployed its Pacific Situation Assessment Team (PSAT), consisting of SOCPAC personnel, during 1998 and 1999. PSAT enhances coordination between USCINCPAC and the U.S. Chief of Mission's country team by providing on-site advice regarding the suitability and feasibility of the application of military forces and resources in support of U.S. government responses to crisis situations.

The annual PASOC is another forum that supports USCINCPAC's theater engagement program. This week-long conference, comprising over 200 delegates — including 26 flag officers — from 22 countries, provides USCINCPAC and COMSOCPAC with an "azimuth check" for U.S. peacetime engagement. In addition, PASOC provides a unique opportunity to develop, in a



COMSOCPAC exchanges mementos with the Thai delegation during PASOC 99 closing ceremonies.

multilateral setting, senior foreign military contacts that will facilitate the conduct of future exercises, crisis response, and other operations within the AOR.

**Responding to Crises.** SOCPAC provides USCINCPAC with a highly capable crisis response force. Crisis response is USCINCPAC's top SOF priority and is provided by USCINCPAC's rapidly deployable Joint Task Force-510 (JTF-510). With SOCPAC as the nucleus, JTF-510 is specifically structured for, and capable of, timely response to special contingencies, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, noncombatant evacuation operations (NEO), and other crises. With a secure, mission-tailored, highly mobile, reliable communications package, JTF-510 is usually the first to deploy in real-world crises and in each major exercise.

**Conclusion.** SOCPAC serves as the SOF focal point for the most expansive and diverse geographic area of the world. In an AOR that is characterized by distance, diversity and change, SOCPAC fulfills a key role in harmonizing the use of military resources in the region with other elements of national strategy. The presence of this command and its deployed service members serves to demonstrate U.S. commitment, develop trust among Pacific nations, and deter aggression throughout the region.

# United Nations Command ROK/U.S. Combined Forces Command United States Forces Korea and Special Operations Command, Korea (SOCKOR)

SOCKOR, located at Camp Kim in Yongsan, Korea, is the theater SOC responsible for special operations on the Korean peninsula and, when established, the Korean Theater of Operations (KTO). The KTO and SOCKOR exist because there has never been a peace treaty officially ending the Korean War. Military forces on the Korean Peninsula maintain a heightened state of readiness to respond to the resumption of hostilities with little or no warning. The KTO achieves unity of effort through a complex web of command relationships comprised of three military elements with different but complementary missions, all commanded by a single CINC. The KTO is unique because the CINC in Korea is not a U.S. unified commander. As the commander in chief, United Nations Command (CINCUNC), he is the international commander responsible for maintaining the armistice that has existed in Korea since 1953.



As the commander in chief, Republic of Korea (ROK)/U.S. Combined Forces Command (CINCCFC), he is a bi-national commander who supports CINCUNC by deterring North Korean aggression and, if necessary, defeating a North Korean attack. As the commander of U.S. Forces, Korea (COMUSKOREA), he is the subordinate unified commander of USPACOM responsible for providing U.S. forces to CINCUNC/CFC.

**Deterrence and Readiness.** Because of the unique command relationships in Korea, SOCKOR is the only theater SOC that is not a subordinate unified command. Established in 1988 as a functional component command of U.S. Forces, Korea (USFK), SOCKOR is the principal organization responsible for the integration of U.S. SOF in Korea. Its primary mission focus is simple: be ready to employ U.S. SOF and win, should war resume in Korea. During armistice, SOCKOR is responsible to CINCUNC/CFC and COMUSKOREA for SOF war planning, targeting, training, and participation in exercises and contingency operations on the Korean peninsula. SOCPAC supports SOCKOR in these responsibilities and routinely demonstrates its capability to reinforce SOCKOR rapidly during a crisis. During armistice, contingencies, and hostilities, SOCKOR exercises operational control of the U.S. Army Special Forces Detachment, Korea (SFD-K), which is the longest continuously serving SF unit in Asia. This organization is key to ensuring



An MC-130H aircraft prepares to make a practice airdrop, Republic of Korea.



U.S. SF and ROK soldiers conduct long-range movement at the conclusion of a JCET.

inter-operability between ROK and U.S. SOF. The SF liaison NCOs of SFD-K live, train, and work with the ROK Special Forces Brigades on a daily basis, and thus play a critical role in the shaping of ROK and U.S. SOF operations to support CINCUNC/CFC.

**Warfighting.** Should war resume in Korea, SOCKOR will combine with the Republic of Korea Army Special Warfare Command to establish the Combined Unconventional Warfare Task Force (CUWTF). As the special operations component of CFC, the CUWTF will plan and conduct joint and combined special operations throughout the KTO in support of CINCUNC/CFC, exercising operational control of all assigned and attached U.S. and ROK SOF. Additionally, SOCKOR will function as the Special Operations Command, UNC, integrating all third-country SOF committed to CINCUNC. When fully reinforced with U.S. forces, SOCKOR comprises the largest JSOTF in the world.

**Engagement.** SOF helps to shape the strategic environment by contributing directly to CINCUNC/CFC's deterrence efforts through long-term deployments of SOF, such as AC-130 gunships, during critical periods. Through the integration of ROK and U.S. SOF in combined exercises, SOCKOR assists in expanding allied SOF capabilities to respond to the spectrum of threats as well

as to ensure that there is post-reunification relevance for ROK SOF. Although not under the operational control of SOCKOR, U.S. CA and PSYOP forces have also assumed significantly greater roles in support of CINCUNC/CFC through the newly established Combined Civil Affairs Task Force (CCATF) and Combined Psychological Operations Task Force (CPOTF). The U.S. SOF elements apportioned to the CCATF and CPOTF are helping to shape the combined capabilities of CFC to execute CA and PSYOP missions across the full range of military operations.



ROK and U.S. SOF personnel exchange information on communications capabilities.

**Contingencies.** To add to the challenge posed by a return to hostilities, there are a number of “wild card scenarios” that may occur, including North Korean terrorist actions, direct military confrontations, threats of the use of WMD, missile launches, and other forms of provocation to gain political and economic concessions. Other potential crises include massive refugee flow, natural or manmade disasters, transfer of or loss of control of WMD, the outbreak of civil war within North Korea, and collapse of the North Korean state. Therefore, as U.S. SOF train for war, they must also prepare for the uncertainty and complexity of post-hostilities and a wide range of potential crises requiring swift and skilled military intervention. This is a uniquely human

endeavor and while advanced technology will have important applications in these scenarios, it is the human element which is key to success. The cultural awareness and language abilities of SOF units will play a critical role in influencing the North Korean population and assisting allied forces in the transition to a reunified Korean Peninsula.

**Conclusion.** ROK and U.S. SOF have an important role to play in supporting CINCUNC/CFC. It is highly likely that the entire range of special operations missions will be conducted in some form should hostilities resume or other crisis occur. Therefore, SOCKOR and U.S. SOF must remain focused on their ability to execute the full spectrum of special operations in Korea.