

# CURRENT OPERATIONS

## SOF Around the World

U.S. special operations forces are conducting more missions, in more places, and under a broader range of conditions than ever before. In FY 1991, SOF teams were in 92 countries around the world. In FY 1997, SOF teams deployed to over 143 countries and territories — a figure that does not include classified missions or special access programs. In any given week, approximately 4,500 SOF operators are deployed in nearly 70 countries worldwide.



Special Forces soldiers give pointers on rifle marksmanship to Senegalese soldiers during training for the African Crisis Response Initiative.

The increased employment of SOF since the end of the Cold War is occurring for two primary reasons. First, SOF expand the range of options available to decision-makers confronting non-traditional crises and contingencies occurring in today's complex, ever-changing world. The second factor that accounts for greater SOF employment is that geographic CINCs and U.S. ambassadors now fully realize SOF unique capabilities and how these capabilities can support their regional and country objectives. This awareness has resulted in increased utilization of SOF resources. SOF activities during FY 1997 ranged from helping to sustain the Dayton Peace Accords in Bosnia-Herzegovina and evacuation of U.S. and foreign noncombatants in such countries as Albania, Liberia, and the Central Africa Republic to supporting counterdrug operations in 22 countries and humanitarian demining operations in 11 countries that included all geographic areas of responsibility (AORs).



Air Force special tactics combat controllers clear a tactical landing zone for inbound aircraft.

Operations conducted during FY 1997, 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 joint force commander. 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 war time plans.



SEALs provide security at the U.S. Embassy in Liberia during the evacuation of U.S. citizens and foreign nationals.

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



The U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) is assigned an area of responsibility (AOR) encompassing the land mass of Latin America south of Mexico; the waters adjacent to Central and South America; the Caribbean Sea and its 13 island nations and European and U.S. territories; the Gulf of Mexico; and a portion of the Atlantic Ocean. Thirty-three countries and 15 dependencies (including territories over which the French, British, Dutch, and United States governments exercise sovereignty) comprise the AOR, which encompasses one-sixth of the world's land area. Over 387 million people live in the region. Official languages spoken in the region include English, Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese, French, Quechua, and Aymara. Wide differences in geography, topography, prosperity, stability, and ethnic background are represented in the theater.

SOCSOUTH, under the combatant commander in chief, U.S. Southern Command (USCINCSOUTH), is a sub-unified command located at Corozal, Panama. The SOCSOUTH commander is responsible for all forward-deployed SOF in the execution of SOF missions in the USSOUTHCOM area of responsibility. In this role, the SOCSOUTH commander exercises operational control over deployed special operations units.

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*“SOF presence in the Southern Command area of responsibility demonstrates our commitment to promoting regional stability, fostering democratic ideals, combatting narcotrafficking, and improving collective military capabilities in Central and South America and the Caribbean. Key to SOF contribution on the land, air, and sea is the dedication, technical skill, maturity, judgment, and professionalism of our non-commissioned, warrant, and junior officers as trainers, mentors, and statesmen at the tactical level.”*

Brigadier General Wagner  
Commander, SOCSOUTH

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Special Forces soldiers brief senior Venezuelan army officials at Fort Sherman, Panama.

SOCSSOUTH supports USCINCSOUTH's theater objectives and regional strategies by planning, preparing, and conducting special operations missions and exercises. SOCSSOUTH assists host nations and U.S. government agencies in their efforts to reduce illegal drug production and trafficking; enhances regional stability by conducting training in foreign internal defense to help nations strengthen their internal security; conducts JCET exercises with host nation military forces to improve joint readiness and interoperability, exchange training techniques, and mutually enhance military professionalism; and conducts foreign military interaction through traditional USCINCSOUTH programs which foster trust, improve collective military capabilities, and promote democratic ideals. SOCSSOUTH also supports USCINCSOUTH's theater objectives to maintain a free and open Panama Canal, aid in implementing all provisions of the Panama Canal Treaty, maintain readiness to conduct combat and peacetime engagement operations, and protect U.S. lives and property.



Soldiers from Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay and the United States take part in the opening ceremony for Cabanas 97 peacekeeping exercise in Panama.

SOCSSOUTH and its SOF units provide USCINCSOUTH a flexible means of accomplishing a wide range of missions. As the only deployable headquarters in theater, SOCSSOUTH has rapidly supported numerous regional contingencies. A recent example includes providing force protection at ground based radar sites and interagency support to prevent, deter, and respond to terrorism. Additionally, SOF units continue to participate in international peacekeeping operations on the Ecuador/Peru border and provide humanitarian demining operational assistance in Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Deployed on a continuous basis throughout the source zone, SOF supports interagency and host nations' air, land, riverine, and sea interdiction efforts to disrupt the production and movement of illegal drugs. The cross-cultural knowledge and language skills enable SOF to achieve results far beyond what could be expected from their small numbers and low profile.



Civil affairs medical officer talks to South American children as she prepares medical supplies during a medical capabilities exercise.

# United States Atlantic Command and Special Operations Command, Atlantic (SOCACOM)



The commander in chief, U.S. Atlantic Command (CINCUSACOM) is responsible for maximizing U.S. military capability through joint training, force integration, and deployment of forces located in the continental United States to support other geographic CINCs, the Atlantic theater, and domestic requirements. SOCACOM, a sub-unified command of USACOM, is located in Norfolk, Virginia. The SOC supports CINCUSACOM's strategic goals and objectives by planning and conducting numerous exercises, as well as conducting a wide range of special operations both within and outside of the USACOM AOR. On June 1, 1997, USACOM transferred control of the Caribbean Region to the U.S. Southern Command. The change in the USACOM AOR has resulted in a significant shift in the focus of SOCACOM, which now includes the following:

- Conduct joint SOF training in support of CINCUSACOM's joint training plan.
- When directed by CINCUSACOM, establish a joint task force (JTF) or perform the duties as the joint forces special operations component command (JFSOCC)/joint special operations task force (JSOTF).
- Exercise operational control over designated SOF assigned to USACOM.

- Promote regional stability through specialized engagement and overseas presence.
- Perform regional surveys in support of CINCUSACOM.
- Provide CINCUSACOM with a rapidly deployable Disaster Assistance Team (DAST).

In addition to assisting CINCUSACOM in carrying out his joint training requirements, SOCACOM gives CINCUSACOM a unique capability in performing his domestic responsibilities and special assignments from the chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) in the area of peacetime engagement.



During Operation Uphold Democracy, psychological operations soldiers quickly won the confidence of the Haitian people.

During 1996 and 1997, SOCACOM was challenged with a demanding operational and exercise schedule. A joint staff team highlighted the successful integration of SOF with conventional forces as one of two major findings during its assessment of USACOM's category Tier Two exercise. The SOC honed this force integration process during three Unified Endeavor and six joint task force exercises (JTFEX). The Unified Endeavor series exercises are designed to train JTF commanders, staffs, and components and to evaluate joint-combined doctrine, tactics and procedures. During the JTFEX series, SOF are fully integrated into JTF operations at the tactical and operational levels of war.

Tradewinds 97 was a chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed regional field training exercise designed to enhance the lines of communications between the Caribbean and the United States. As USACOM's lead agent for this exercise, SOCACOM coordinated the participation of 16 nations from the Caribbean; Europe; and North, South, and Central America. Tradewinds 97 provided a joint-combined training environment for members of the Caribbean Community Treaty Organization and the Regional Security System to practice and reinforce the skills necessary to respond to disasters or threats to the region. Many of the relationships established during the Tradewinds exercise were further developed through SOF engagement in the form of 47 joint/combined exchange training events, military information support teams, and counterdrug (CD) deployments conducted during 1997. These deployments included extensive use of the USS Cyclone class patrol coastal ships, Air Force special tactics teams, naval special warfare forces, and Army Special Forces and PSYOP units. The SOC continues to be heavily involved in planning for disaster relief and contingency operations within the CINCUSACOM's AOR.

Singularly noteworthy during 1997 was the completion of a CINCUSACOM-directed assessment of the political, military and social conditions within Haiti. This assessment, planned and conducted by Special Forces personnel, was lauded by the Joint Staff and the U.S. ambassador to Haiti



Air Force special tactics airmen head for shore in a Zodiac after insertion from an MH-53 Pave Low III.

as a foundation for future policy concerning support to Haiti. SOCACOM also expanded the CD training initiative with the Government of Mexico by implementing CD training in the United States for over 350 Mexican army and navy personnel. Another significant program saw SOCACOM personnel deployed to Central Asia as participants in the Partnership for Peace training program, CENTRAZBAT. Utilizing their language, cultural and tactical skills in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgystan, Special Forces personnel assisted in forming and training a mutual defense Central Asia Battalion to operate using NATO procedures in combined exercises with U.S. airborne forces.

Throughout the past 24 months, SOCACOM has enhanced CINCUSACOM's ability to accomplish his mission and improved the joint combat capability of military forces located in the continental United States. SOCACOM continues to concentrate on joint SOF training and integration, peacetime engagement, deterrence, and supporting contingencies in the USACOM AOR.



SEAL sniper provides security aloft as part of visit, board, search and seizure training.

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



The United States European Command (USEUCOM) is a very large, dynamic *theater in conflict*, which spans two continents: from Spitzbergen, Norway, to the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa; and from the Azores, Portugal to the Eastern Border of Turkey. Against this vast geography, USEUCOM stands ready to promote stability and thwart aggression throughout its AOR. To accomplish these theater strategic goals, the commander-in-chief, USEUCOM, relies on SOF to provide the unconventional military options essential to the theater strategy of engagement and preparedness.

SOCEUR is USEUCOM's headquarters for unconventional military operations. It is a joint military organization, which consists of Army, Air Force, and Navy SOF units resident in Europe and deployed from the continental United States. From these assets, SOCEUR forms multiple special operations task forces capable of conducting special operations throughout the USEUCOM AOR. SOCEUR provides the tools to engage friends and adversaries, respond to crisis, and prepare for the future, in areas that require the unconventional approach that only SOF provide.

SOCEUR's engagement focuses on the SOF-unique task of organizing and training indigenous forces, in support of USEUCOM strategic

objectives. By interacting with foreign military counterparts, our forces impart a sense of military professionalism that developed in a nation with firm democratic principles and traditions, while gaining valuable training and experience from their overseas engagements. In effect, SOF become USEUCOM's friendly assets in foreign countries, preparing the way for conventional contingency task forces.



Evacuees from Monrovia, Liberia, exit the tail of an MH-53 Pave Low helicopter at the airport in Freetown, Sierra Leone, during Operation Assured Response.

Joint special operations task forces in USEUCOM display the strategic flexibility to adapt throughout this vast AOR, and the tactical precision required for operations with far-reaching political conse-

quences. This performance is possible only by having intelligent, experienced, mature, and resourceful personnel, armed with cross-cultural communications skills, to successfully interact with U.S. country teams, other government agencies, nongovernment and foreign indigenous military organizations. SOCEUR provides multiple special operations task forces, which conduct unconventional military operations and activities throughout the AOR. Key operations and major activities conducted by SOCEUR over the last 24 months, reflect the elements of the National Defense Strategy: **Shape** the international environment, **respond** to the full spectrum of crises, and **prepare now** for an uncertain future.

- **Shape:** SOCEUR typically engages on the fringes of the theater, where conditions are austere and threats are, at best, ambiguous.

SOF unit training is a significant, relatively low cost tool in the strategy of engagement. The JCET is the engagement activity that combines SOF unit training and overseas presence in countries throughout USEUCOM's AOR. SOF units exchange ideas, techniques, and experiences in unconventional military operations with foreign counterparts in approximately 40 countries. SOF units actively seek JCET opportunities to perform regionally focused training objectives and perform mission essential tasks. A by-product of JCET activities is long-term U.S. influence in the participating countries. Country teams may take advantage of the JCET program simply by identifying opportunities for SOF teams to practice and support the mission essential task of organizing and training foreign indigenous troops.

Two particularly strategic engagement activities are the African Crisis Response Initiative (ACRI) and humanitarian demining. ACRI is a Department of State initiative to mobilize African nations to respond to regional crisis with a professional, indigenous military capability.

SOF are at the core of ACRI, and have begun the organization and training of indigenous forces in the nations of Senegal, Uganda, Malawi, with future training projected for the countries of Ghana and Mali.



Mark V Special Operations Craft crewman instructs a Senegalese sailor in live-fire training during joint combined exchange training.

Humanitarian demining is a joint venture between the Departments of State and Defense. In USEUCOM, special operations task forces are now organizing and training indigenous personnel to locate and recover landmines emplaced throughout the countries of Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. These nascent activities represent SOCEUR's direct and unique contribution to USEUCOM's engagement strategy, and to USEUCOM's indirect response to crisis in Africa and the problem of landmines in the aftermath of war.

- **Respond:** SOCEUR responds to crises, directly and indirectly, particularly in distant, dangerous situations.

U.S. citizens visit, live, and work throughout the countries of the EUCOM AOR. In 1996-97, SOF were instrumental in the evacuation of U.S. and foreign noncombatants from the countries of Albania, Liberia, Central Africa Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire), and Sierra Leone. SOCEUR's timely presence helped create the conditions

necessary for successful evacuations and restoration of U.S. presence and influence in countries in crisis.

SOF personnel have played a critical role in sustaining the Dayton Peace Accords in Bosnia-Herzegovina. SOF support of the Implementation and Sustainment Forces exercises every discipline and capability of our unconventional military forces in Europe. Special Forces and naval special warfare personnel serve as joint commission observers and in liaison coordination elements. Army, Navy, and Air Force SOF stand ready with combat search and rescue capabilities. PSYOP conduct information operations, broadcasting from ground stations and aerial platforms, and are instrumental in the landmine awareness campaign among the local population. CA specialists cultivate the civil-military cooperation so essential to the peace process, bridging the cultural differences between the military and civilians, government and non-government, foreign and indigenous organizations at work in the region. Clearly, SOCEUR's multidiscipline, strategically



Civil affairs transportation officer discusses reconstruction of Bosnia highways with SFOR engineers.

flexible, and tactically precise elements fill the critical niche between political and military activities in crisis response.

- **Prepare Now:** SOCEUR prepares for the future, through continuous exploration and assessment of unconventional military options throughout EUCCOM's AOR.

Potential adversaries may be government and nongovernment entities, exercising one or more elements often associated with national power. Although none of these entities will equal USEUCOM's power in the region, skilled adversaries will apply their strength against our weakness, after mounting an intense effort to learn our strengths and weaknesses.

Against these unpredictable and asymmetric threats, SOCEUR will devise the unconventional military options and direct the unconventional military forces in Europe and Africa. However armed and equipped, future special operations units will continue to be relatively small, strategically flexible and tactically precise. Joint and combined operations will be inherent capabilities of any future special operations task force. These essential capabilities will enable USEUCOM to mobilize and integrate the capabilities of all allied and coalition partners.

Preparing for uncertainty requires that strategists first determine what is certain. One certainty is that USEUCOM will always require an unconventional military option as a part of any future strategy. SOCEUR will provide that strategic option.

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



The United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) is assigned an AOR that includes 20 nations, covering an area larger than the continental United States. The Central Region is one of the most diverse regions in the world. It is the birth place of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; has a population of more than 427 million people; and, is divided into 17 different ethnic groups, 420 tribal groupings, six major languages, and hundreds of dialects.

Nearly two-thirds of the world's oil reserves and key maritime trade routes are located within the Central Region and the security of the region has far-reaching implications for the international community. Vital interests for the United States include:

- Maintaining access to oil supplies, ensuring freedom of navigation and access to commercial markets;
- Guaranteeing the security of U.S. citizens and property abroad; and
- Promoting the security of regional friends and a comprehensive Middle East peace.

To meet these challenges, USCENTCOM pursues a multi-faceted theater strategy to promote stability, deter conflict, and defeat regional aggression. It is a flexible strategy that is particularly well suited to protecting our nation's vital interests in the Central Region. The strategy capitalizes on mutual trust and working relationships forged over the last half century and builds on the success of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. While USCENTCOM has the capability to act unilaterally to defend U.S. regional concerns, the country's long-term goals are best achieved by working cooperatively with friendly regional populations in partnerships and coalitions.



Special Forces soldiers train Kuwaiti soldiers during Exercise Iris Gold.

SOCCENT, located at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, is committed to support the commander in chief, U.S. Central Command (USCINCCENT) regional strategy through a variety of initiatives and activities that reflect the National Defense Strategy elements of **shaping** the international environment, **responding** to the full spectrum of crises, and **preparing** now for an uncertain future. SOCCENT support includes joint and combined exercises, other forward presence, and security assistance activities, as well as providing a well trained staff to execute wartime responsibilities.



Rangers conduct desert training.

- **Power Projection.** SOCCENT has prepositioned a battalion set of SOF vehicles, equipment and supplies in theater to provide rapid SOF deployment and reduce airlift requirements. Future plans include staging a MK V special operations craft detachment, ammunition, and enough equipment for a forward headquarters.

- **Forward Presence.** SOCCENT's forward presence continues with deployments of Iris Gold exercises on a nearly continuous basis. The Iris Gold company provides continuing training to various host nation personnel. The command has established Naval Special Warfare Unit THREE (NSWU-3) in Bahrain to facilitate command and control of all NSW in the Gulf region. SOCCENT has also established

two special operations command and control elements (SOCCE) in Bahrain and Kuwait. SOF continues to support embassies within the region through the SOF liaison officer (LNO) program. The LNOs assist the embassies with planning and execution of exercises and provide a forward presence.

- **Combined Exercises.** SOCCENT participated in 32 Joint Chiefs of Staff-directed exercises, 29 JCET activities and 9 medical capabilities exercises during FY 1996 and FY 1997.

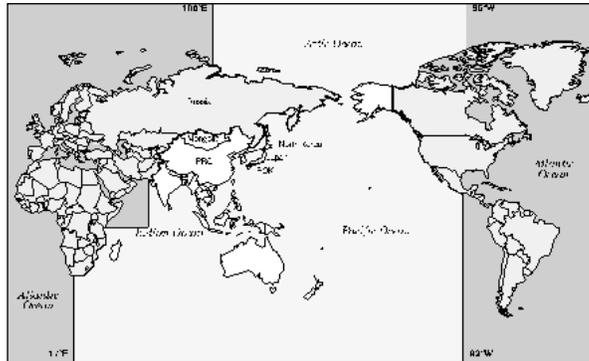
- **Security Assistance.** SOF support to security assistance activities included exercise Iris Gold training host nation forces, assisting Pakistan in planning a counter-drug effort, and humanitarian demining in Ethiopia and Eritrea. Additionally, programs such as the small unit exchange and senior officer visits also further USCINCCENT's strategy for security assistance.



Special Forces soldier helps an Eritrean fighter student set up the AN/PSS-12 mine detector.

- **Readiness to Fight.** Theater exercises combined with the CONUS-based command post exercises and field training exercises Blue Flag, Internal Look and Roving Sands, prepare the SOC for its wartime mission. Developing supporting operational and contingency plans, SOCCENT plays an integral role in USCINCCENT's ability to fight and win.

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



SOCPAC, located at Camp Smith, Oahu, Hawaii, is a sub-unified command and serves as the SOF component command for the U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM). The commander in chief, U.S. Pacific Command (USCINCPAC) AOR represents the largest geographic area of the unified commands. It covers over half of the earth's surface — over 100 million square miles — with nearly 60 percent of the world's population. The AOR is characterized by distance, diversity, and change. The Asian-Pacific Rim is experiencing explosive economic growth. 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.

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 over 40 nations represent 75 languages and over 20 distinct religions. Security concerns and threats, such as the Korean peninsula and Indo-Pakistani border 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.



Special Forces instructor assesses Sri Lankan military training during Exercise Balance Style.

USCINCPAC's strategy synchronizes 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 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.

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*The training and skills of SOF are in high demand. The fact that SOF personnel are ready, mature, professional, and culturally aware underwrites our involvement throughout the Pacific region, supporting CINC strategy.*

Brigadier General Schwartz  
Commander, SOCPAC

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**Shaping the Environment.** SOCPAC supports USCINCPAC's shaping strategy through operations such as demining activities, counterdrug operations, bilateral/multilateral exercises, and JCET program. Engagement seeks to: (a) demonstrate continued American intent and capability; (b) reassure allies and friends; (c) promote regional stability, cooperation and trust; (d) deter potential regional aggressors; (e) build force interoperability; and (f) maintain access to host nation support/facilities.

Landmines continue to inflict hundreds of civilian casualties per month. Additionally, the mine threat has removed arable land from production and reduces the flow of commerce. These mines were laid over the last 40 years by various factions. 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 three demining deployments into Cambodia in 1996 and again in 1997. Additionally, two initial demining deploy-

ments were conducted into Laos in 1996 and four in 1997. 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 Cambodia were participating countries in 1996. Malaysia was added as a participant in 1997. This training benefits both host nation and U.S. forces as they share techniques, sharpen skills, and improve operational effectiveness.



Air Force HC-130 pilot plans a low-level insertion training mission with Thai air force counterparts during exercise Cobra Gold in Korat, Thailand.

One of the cornerstones of the shaping element is the SOCPAC-managed JCET program. This program allows the sharing of training and skills between SOF elements and their host nation counterparts to include such activities as airborne and air mobile patrolling, lifesaving, reconnaissance, small unit tactics, and sniper operations. JCET activities improve host nation and SOF capabilities and also demonstrate USCINCPAC's commitment to constructive engagement. In addition, included humanitarian/civic action projects provide tangible benefits for the host

nation civilian population. During 1996, SOCPAC conducted 47 JCET events in 21 countries. New participants included Mongolia, Seychelles, Russia, and Uzbekistan. During 1997, 47 events were conducted in 22 countries. New participants were Madagascar, Kazakhstan, and Nepal. Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu are previous participants that held no events in 1997. JCET participants include in-theater and CONUS components, both active and reserve. USCINCPAC has used 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.

**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 USPACOM'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. Led by COMSOCPAC, JTF-510 responded to the Cambodian NEO crisis in July 1997 by providing an assessment of the situation and deploying SOF components to posture for evacuation of U.S. civilians in Cambodia.



Special Forces medic checks a child's ear for infection during exercises in Thailand.

# Special Operations Command, Korea (SOCKOR)



**Deterrence and Preparedness — The Korean Peninsula.** SOCKOR, located at Camp Kim in Yongsan, Korea, is the U.S. SOF component to the bi-national war fighting headquarters of the Combined Forces Command (CFC). SOCKOR is unique among the SOCs because it is a functional component command of U.S. Forces, Korea (USFK), which is itself a sub-unified command of USPACOM. This is a theater within a theater, and since there has never been a peace treaty officially ending the Korean War, SOCKOR must maintain a heightened state of readiness to respond to hostilities with little or no notice. Thus SOCKOR's mission focus is simple: be ready to employ U.S. SOF and win, should war resume in Korea. In peacetime, SOCKOR is responsible to the commander, U.S. Forces Korea (COMUSKOREA) for war planning, targeting, training, and participating in exercises and armistice contingency operations on the Korean peninsula. SOCPAC supports SOCKOR in these responsibilities and routinely demonstrates the capability to respond rapidly to a crisis on the Korean peninsula. When fully manned, U.S. Army, Air Force, and Navy SOF designated to join SOCKOR comprise the largest JSOTF in the world.

Should war resume in Korea, SOCKOR will combine with the Republic of Korea Army Special



SOF soldier conducts sniper training for a Republic of Korea special forces soldier.

Warfare Command (SWC) to form the combined unconventional warfare task force (CUWTF). This is the SOF component of CFC and will operationally control all U.S. and ROK SOF designated to join the CUWTF. Additionally, SOCKOR will function as the integrating headquarters for all third-country SOF fighting in Korea under the United Nations Command (UNC). The SOCPAC commander is the designated wartime SOCKOR commander and CUWTF deputy commander. SOCPAC personnel also augment the CUWTF staff in time of war.

