



U.S. ARMY CIVIL AFFAIRS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS COMMAND (AIRBORNE)

FACT SHEET

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The U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne), or USACAPOC, is based at Fort Bragg, N.C. and is the headquarters of Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations units.

Of USACAPOC's approximately 10,000 Soldiers, about 96 percent are in the Army Reserve and are located in 26 states.

The command has one active duty Psychological Operations unit, the 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne), with six battalions; and one active duty Civil Affairs unit, the 96th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), with six companies. Both units are located at Fort Bragg, N.C.

USACAPOC, is one of three major subordinate commands comprising the U.S. Army Special Operations Command. USACAPOC Soldiers maintain the highest standards of training and physical readiness in order to be prepared to deploy anywhere in the world on short notice.

Although Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations activities often complement each other, each battle system operates individually in support of field commanders.

Civil Affairs Soldiers are the field commander's link to the civil authorities in his area of operations. With specialists in many areas of the government, they can assist a host government in meeting its people's needs and maintain a stable and viable civil administration.

Civil Affairs Soldiers possess unique training, skills and experience. Since the majority of the Civil Affairs forces are in the Reserve component, these Soldiers bring to the Army finely honed skills practiced daily in the civilian sector as judges, physicians, bankers, health inspectors, fire chiefs, etc.

Psychological Operations Soldiers use persuasion to influence perceptions and encourage desired behavior. The cornerstone of PSYOP is truth, credibly presented to convince a given audience to cease resistance or take actions favorable to friendly forces. During recent combat actions, the effective use of PSYOP was a combat multiplier that directly contributed to the surrender of thousands of enemy forces. Also, it is clear that its effectiveness has saved the lives of many civilians and members of U.S. and allied militaries.

Psychological Operations units also have Soldiers with unique skills. These soldiers are communicators who provide the commander with the ability to convey information to large audiences via radio, television, leaflets and loudspeakers. The PSYOP Soldiers' language skills, regional orientation and knowledge of communications media provide a means of delivering critical information to host-nation audiences.

USACAPOC units provide support to all theater and task force commanders in meeting their global commitments. USACAPOC Soldiers contributed significantly to operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and were among the first Soldiers sent to Somalia and Haiti.

CA and PSYOP specialists have been an integral part of peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Kosovo, where their mission continues.

The Global War on Terrorism has again put Civil Affairs and PSYOP Soldiers on the frontlines of the effort to rid the world of the threat of terrorism. From leaflet drops and radio broadcasts to inform the Afghan people of U.S. intentions to civil-military projects and humanitarian assistance in Iraq and the Philippines, USACAPOC Soldiers are contributing to global peace and stability.

The unique training, experience and abilities of USACAPOC's Soldiers make them an ideal asset in dealing with national priorities.