



U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

FACT SHEET

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INTRODUCTION

Since Sept. 11, 2001, few elements of the U.S. military have been more involved in the Global War on Terrorism than the Soldiers of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, or USASOC.

In Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and numerous other hotspots around the world, USASOC Soldiers have been among the first forces to deploy in support of U.S. and coalition force objectives.

Many of these Soldiers, some of them on their third or fourth combat rotation, remain deployed to those locations along with conventional forces and multinational partners to help ensure the success of all GWOT operations, whether in a frontline combat role or a humanitarian assistance function.

HISTORY

On Dec. 1, 1989, the Department of the Army established USASOC at Fort Bragg, N.C., as a major Army command to enhance the readiness of Army special operations forces.

In addition to reporting to the Department of the Army, USASOC also functions as the Army component of the U.S. Special Operations Command, or USSOCOM, located at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. USSOCOM is the congressionally mandated, unified combatant command responsible for all Department of Defense special operations forces within the Army, Navy and Air Force.

STRUCTURE

USASOC controls six major subordinate elements, which in turn train and maintain forces for deployment by USSOCOM to combatant command theaters worldwide.

USASOC's major subordinate commands include the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne), the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne) and the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, all located at Fort Bragg, N.C. Its major subordinate units include the 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Ga., the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Ky., and the U.S. Army Special Operations Support Command (Airborne) at Fort Bragg.

With an allocated strength of more than 25,000 Soldiers, USASOC commands both active-duty and Army Reserve special operations forces. The command also provides oversight of Army National Guard special operations forces' readiness, organization, training and employment in coordination with the National Guard Bureau and state adjutants general.

