

Keywords List Using the *JSOU Special Operations Research Topics 2017* Publication

The *Joint Special Operations University (JSOU) Special Operations Research Topics* publication prepares relevant and timely U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) research topics for researchers and students "to provide insight and recommendations on issues and challenges facing the SOF enterprise." JSOU utilized the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Commander's lines of operation to organize seventy-six SOF research topics within the publication's seven sections: A. Priority Topics; B. Ensure SOF Readiness; C. Help Our Nation Win; D. Continue to Build Relationships; E. Prepare for the Future; F. Preservation of the Force and Family; and G. USSOCOM J5 Key Strategic Issues List. You can access the *JSOU Special Operations Research Topics 2017* through this link: http://jsou.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=22254105.

At the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (USAJFKSWCS), we sorted the SOF research topics within the *JSOU Special Operations Research Topics 2017* publication into this list of keywords to assist our students in selecting research topics. The keywords are bolded and underlined as headings for the SOF research topics that relate to those keywords. In this keywords list, a specific SOF research topic (e.g., B4) may fall under different keywords quite frequently. Additionally, we included the *JSOU Special Operations Research Topics 2017* page numbers to assist our students in referencing the JSOU publication for the topic descriptions that provide further information for each SOF research topic. Good luck, and happy SOF researching!

Acquire: Acquisition

- B8. Adapting the acquisition environment: Technology advances at the speed of the commercial market, p. 15
- B9. The slippery slope of commercial off-the-shelf, p. 15
- D7. Role of USSOCOM in technology procurement for international SOF, p. 29
- G1. Weapons of mass destruction, p. 44
- G10. Weapons technology proliferation, p. 56
- G11. Disruptive and game-changing technologies, p. 57
- G14. Long-term fiscal constraints, p. 60

Afghanistan

- B4. SOF and conventional force integration: How to achieve operational and strategic effects while minimizing risk, p. 13
- C8. Targeting the terror networks after Afghanistan, p. 22
- C9. An approach to coalition planning based on the political-military agreed end-states and objectives as a critical framework for future coalition building and operations, p. 23

Africa

- C1. A study of radicalization: Preventing, countering, and disrupting foreign fighter flow, p. 17
- C6. What is the appeal of the Islamic State and its message to Muslims in South Asia and Southeast Asia? p. 21

Asia: South Asia: Southeast Asia

- C1. A study of radicalization: Preventing, countering, and disrupting foreign fighter flow, p. 17
- C6. What is the appeal of the Islamic State and its message to Muslims in South Asia and Southeast Asia? p. 21
- G17. Energy/other resources, p. 63

Authorities: Authorization: Law

- A1. Cyberterrorism: Is it real or hyperbole? p. 2
- A3. Responding early to the enemy's exploitation of the social media environment, p. 3
- A4. Strategic indicators and warnings in the gray zone, p. 4
- A5. U.S. Government configuration to address transregional threats, p. 5
- A8. Understanding USSOCOM and SOF roles in the modern interagency construct, p. 7
- B4. SOF and conventional force integration: How to achieve operational and strategic effects while minimizing risk, p. 13
- B5. USSOCOM's strategic planning process: Preparing for future conflict, p. 13
- B7. USSOCOM's expanding roles are changing how it sustains the SOF operator, p. 14
- B9. The slippery slope of commercial off-the-shelf, p. 15
- C2. Sealing the seams and defining SOF C2 in the new security environment, p. 18
- C5. How can SOF be optimally employed to shape the strategic security environment? p. 21
- C8. Targeting the terror networks after Afghanistan, p. 22
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- C10. How criminal and terrorist networks exploit free trade zones to generate funds, p. 23
- D1. Developing an effective network: How do SOF identify, assess, develop, and motivate potential partnerships for various special operations? p. 25
- D2. Define how SOF can improve transregional partner information sharing, p. 26

Authorities; Authorization; Law (cont.)

- D4. Culture and human nature in building partner capacity of SOF: Why are there different outcomes? p. 27
- D7. Role of USSOCOM in technology procurement for international SOF, p. 29
- E11. Unconventional warfare: Successes and failures from the Cold War to the present, p. 35
- F2. Preventive medicine specialist core competencies in support of SOF in complex environments, p. 38
- F6. Lessons learned from the SOF Family Pilot Program, p. 40
- G2. Information/digital age, p. 46

Aerial; Air; Aviation

- C1. A study of radicalization: Preventing, countering, and disrupting foreign fighter flow, p. 17
- C2. Sealing the seams and defining SOF C2 in the new security environment, p. 18
- C10. How criminal and terrorist networks exploit free trade zones to generate funds, p. 23
- D10. Air Force Special Operations Command combat aviation advisors growth potential, p. 30
- G14. Long-term fiscal constraints, p. 60

Borders; Boundaries; Seams

- A5. U.S. Government configuration to address transregional threats, p. 5
- B4. SOF and conventional force integration: How to achieve operational and strategic effects while minimizing risk, p. 13
- C2. Sealing the seams and defining SOF C2 in the new security environment, p. 18
- D2. Define how SOF can improve transregional partner information sharing, p. 26

Budget; Fiscal; Fund; Resources

- A2. How does USSOCOM ensure it has the right people, skills, and capabilities now and in the future? p. 2
- A5. U.S. Government configuration to address transregional threats, p. 5
- A12. Mitigating SOF suicides: Susceptibility and risk factors, p. 9
- B1. Training SOF for the future: Identifying skill gaps associated with the next fight, p. 11
- B2. SOF as a strategic instrument of war: How to employ SOF to achieve national security objectives, p. 12
- B4. SOF and conventional force integration: How to achieve operational and strategic effects while minimizing risk, p. 13
- B5. USSOCOM's strategic planning process: Preparing for future conflict, p. 13
- B6. SOF preparation of the environment: Operational design, best practices, and synchronization, p. 14
- B7. USSOCOM's expanding roles are changing how it sustains the SOF operator, p. 14
- B9. The slippery slope of commercial off-the-shelf, p. 15

Budget; Fiscal; Fund; Resources (cont.)

- C4. Transnational organized crime networks: Exploitation of wildlife and other natural resources to fund operations, and use of social media and emerging technologies, p. 19
- C5. How can SOF be optimally employed to shape the strategic security environment? p. 21
- C9. An approach to coalition planning based on the political-military agreed end-states and objectives as a critical framework for future coalition building and operations, p. 23
- C10. How criminal and terrorist networks exploit free trade zones to generate funds, p. 23
- D4. Culture and human nature in building partner capacity of SOF: Why are there different outcomes? p. 27
- D6. Educating SOF partners: Effectiveness, funding, and human rights vetting, p. 28
- D7. Role of USSOCOM in technology procurement for international SOF, p. 29
- D9. Enabling a SOF network under conditions of financial austerity, p. 29
- D10. Air Force Special Operations Command combat aviation advisors growth potential, p. 30
- E1. Preparing for future conflict and Goldwater-Nichols reform, p. 31
- E2. Implications of being strategically outpaced, p. 32
- E4. Conducting and assessing military information support operations: Are old media techniques still viable? p. 32
- E7. Hybrid warfare by state and non-state adversaries, p. 33
- F5. The Care Coalition: "We will keep the faith with you", p. 40
- F6. Lessons learned from the SOF Family Pilot Program, p. 40
- G4. Megacities, p. 48
- G8. Risk management, p. 53
- G9. Interest-based strategies, p. 55
- G12. Adaptability and agility, p. 58
- G13. Capability gaps, p. 59
- G14. Long-term fiscal constraints, p. 60
- G17. Energy/other resources, p. 63

Business; Commercial; Corporate; Industry

- A1. Cyberterrorism: Is it real or hyperbole? p. 2
- B3. Beyond stealth to maintain technical overmatch: What do SOF need from future/advanced technologies? p. 12
- B8. Adapting the acquisition environment: Technology advances at the speed of the commercial market, p. 15
- B9. The slippery slope of commercial off-the-shelf, p. 15
- C3. Digital Green Berets to conduct social media FID: Combating ISIS online, p. 19
- C4. Transnational organized crime networks: Exploitation of wildlife and other natural resources to fund operations, and use of social media and emerging technologies, p. 19
- D2. Define how SOF can improve transregional partner information sharing, p. 26
- G10. Weapons technology proliferation, p. 56

Business; Commercial; Corporate; Industry (cont.)

- G14. Long-term fiscal constraints, p. 60
- G17. Energy/other resources, p. 63

Campaign Planning

- A5. U.S. Government configuration to address transregional threats, p. 5
- C2. Sealing the seams and defining SOF C2 in the new security environment, p. 18
- C9. An approach to coalition planning based on the political-military agreed end-states and objectives as a critical framework for future coalition building and operations, p. 23
- E6. SOF challenges and opportunities in future operating environments: Where and how SOF can be decisive, p. 33

China

- A6. Modern political warfare/role of SOF in political warfare, p. 5
- E1. Preparing for future conflict and Goldwater-Nichols reform, p. 31

Command and Control

- A7. Establishing regional hubs or multinational basing as economy of force solutions to multi-tiered threats and risks, p. 6
- C2. Sealing the seams and defining SOF C2 in the new security environment, p. 18
- E1. Preparing for future conflict and Goldwater-Nichols reform, p. 31
- E10. Agile information systems that enable SOF network partner integration and SOF C2, p. 35

Communications

- A9. Comprehensive deterrence: SOF and the whole-of-government approach, p. 7
- C4. Transnational organized crime networks: Exploitation of wildlife and other natural resources to fund operations, and use of social media and emerging technologies, p. 19
- D8. Virtually expanding the SOF network: Capacity building by leveraging technology, p. 29
- E4. Conducting and assessing military information support operations: Are old media techniques still viable? p. 32
- F4. Vulnerabilities and threats to the wellbeing of SOF and their families through social media exploitation, p. 39
- G3. Shifting power distribution and diffusion, p. 47

Comprehensive Deterrence; Deterrence; Deter

- A4. Strategic indicators and warnings in the gray zone, p. 4
- A9. Comprehensive deterrence: SOF and the whole-of-government approach, p. 7
- A11. Combating homegrown and lone wolf terrorism in the U.S. by understanding and disrupting OCONUS influences, p. 8
- C1. A study of radicalization: Preventing, countering, and disrupting foreign fighter flow, p. 17

Comprehensive Deterrence; Deterrence; Deter (cont.)

- E7. Hybrid warfare by state and non-state adversaries, p. 33
- G1. Weapons of mass destruction, p. 44
- G6. Conflict prevention, p. 51
- G14. Long-term fiscal constraints, p. 60

Counterterrorism; Terrorism; Terrorist

- A1. Cyberterrorism: Is it real or hyperbole? p. 2
- A3. Responding early to the enemy's exploitation of the social media environment, p. 3
- A8. Understanding USSOCOM and SOF roles in the modern interagency construct, p. 7
- A11. Combating homegrown and lone wolf terrorism in the U.S. by understanding and disrupting OCONUS influences, p. 8
- B5. USSOCOM's strategic planning process: Preparing for future conflict, p. 13
- B7. USSOCOM's expanding roles are changing how it sustains the SOF operator, p. 14
- C2. Sealing the seams and defining SOF C2 in the new security environment, p. 18
- C4. Transnational organized crime networks: Exploitation of wildlife and other natural resources to fund operations, and use of social media and emerging technologies, p. 19
- C7. Countering enemy lessons learned to exploit vulnerabilities, block remediation efforts, and inform strategy, p. 21
- C8. Targeting the terror networks after Afghanistan, p. 22
- C10. How criminal and terrorist networks exploit free trade zones to generate funds, p. 23
- D1. Developing an effective network: How do SOF identify, assess, develop, and motivate potential partnerships for various special operations? p. 25
- D2. Define how SOF can improve transregional partner information sharing, p. 26
- E2. Implications of being strategically outpaced, p. 32
- E7. Hybrid warfare by state and non-state adversaries, p. 33
- G5. Tactical actions versus strategic results, p. 50
- G9. Interest-based strategies, p. 55

Crime; Criminal

- C4. Transnational organized crime networks: Exploitation of wildlife and other natural resources to fund operations, and use of social media and emerging technologies, p. 19
- C10. How criminal and terrorist networks exploit free trade zones to generate funds, p. 23
- E7. Hybrid warfare by state and non-state adversaries, p. 33
- G16. Demographics, p. 62

Cultural; Culture

- A5. U.S. Government configuration to address transregional threats, p. 5
- B1. Training SOF for the future: Identifying skill gaps associated with the next fight, p. 11

Cultural; Culture (cont.)

- C4. Transnational organized crime networks: Exploitation of wildlife and other natural resources to fund operations, and use of social media and emerging technologies, p. 19
- D4. Culture and human nature in building partner capacity of SOF: Why are there different outcomes? p. 27
- D5. Unraveling identity: Assessing multiple levels of personal and communal identity and the overlaps within them, p. 27
- E9. Human aspects of military operations analysis, p. 34
- F1. Show no weakness: Addressing the stigma associated with seeking medical and mental healthcare for SOF, p. 37
- F2. Preventive medicine specialist core competencies in support of SOF in complex environments, p. 38
- F3. Understanding the challenges of social reintegration for SOF, p. 39
- G2. Information/digital age, p. 46
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- G7. Human nature versus culture, p. 52
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Cyber; Cyberattack; Cyberterrorism

- A1. Cyberterrorism: Is it real or hyperbole? p. 2
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- A6. Modern political warfare/role of SOF in political warfare, p. 5
- C2. Sealing the seams and defining SOF C2 in the new security environment, p. 18
- D3. Institutionalizing partnerships: Getting beyond personalities, p. 27
- E1. Preparing for future conflict and Goldwater-Nichols reform, p. 31
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Economic; Economy

- A4. Strategic indicators and warnings in the gray zone, p. 4
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- A7. Establishing regional hubs or multinational basing as economy of force solutions to multi-tiered threats and risks, p. 6

Economic; Economy (cont.)

- C4. Transnational organized crime networks: Exploitation of wildlife and other natural resources to fund operations, and use of social media and emerging technologies, p. 19
- C9. An approach to coalition planning based on the political-military agreed end-states and objectives as a critical framework for future coalition building and operations, p. 23
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- D3. Institutionalizing partnerships: Getting beyond personalities, p. 27
- D6. Educating SOF partners: Effectiveness, funding, and human rights vetting, p. 28
- E9. Human aspects of military operations analysis, p. 34
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Energy

- G16. Demographics, p. 62
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Engage; Engagement

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- B5. USSOCOM's strategic planning process: Preparing for future conflict, p. 13
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- D5. Unraveling identity: Assessing multiple levels of personal and communal identity and the overlaps within them, p. 27
- D8. Virtually expanding the SOF network: Capacity building by leveraging technology, p. 29
- E8. SOF successes in preventing wars: Effectiveness of persistent peacetime engagement, p. 34
- E9. Human aspects of military operations analysis, p. 34
- F2. Preventive medicine specialist core competencies in support of SOF in complex environments, p. 38
- G2. Information/digital age, p. 46
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Europe

- C1. A study of radicalization: Preventing, countering, and disrupting foreign fighter flow, p. 17
- D1. Developing an effective network: How do SOF identify, assess, develop, and motivate potential partnerships for various special operations? p. 25
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Extremist; Violent Extremist; VEO

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- C1. A study of radicalization: Preventing, countering, and disrupting foreign fighter flow, p. 17
- C6. What is the appeal of the Islamic State and its message to Muslims in South Asia and Southeast Asia? p. 21
- C7. Countering enemy lessons learned to exploit vulnerabilities, block remediation efforts, and inform strategy, p. 21
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Families

- A12. Mitigating SOF suicides: Susceptibility and risk factors, p. 9
- A13. Implications and effects of adopting programs to optimize SOF human performance: Are there limits to enhanced physical and mental capabilities? p. 9
- F1. Show no weakness: Addressing the stigma associated with seeking medical and mental healthcare for SOF, p. 37
- F3. Understanding the challenges of social reintegration for SOF, p. 39
- F4. Vulnerabilities and threats to the wellbeing of SOF and their families through social media exploitation, p. 39
- F5. The Care Coalition: "We will keep the faith with you", p. 40
- F6. Lessons learned from the SOF Family Pilot Program, p. 40
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Footprint

- B3. Beyond stealth to maintain technical overmatch: What do SOF need from future/advanced technologies? p. 12
- F2. Preventive medicine specialist core competencies in support of SOF in complex environments, p. 38
- G12. Adaptability and agility, p. 58

Foreign Fighter Flow

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- E2. Implications of being strategically outpaced, p. 32

Foreign Internal Defense; Security Force Assistance

- A7. Establishing regional hubs or multinational basing as economy of force solutions to multi-tiered threats and risks, p. 6
- B1. Training SOF for the future: Identifying skill gaps associated with the next fight, p. 11
- C3. Digital Green Berets to conduct social media FID: Combating ISIS online, p. 19
- D10. Air Force Special Operations Command combat aviation advisors growth potential, p. 30
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Global SOF; Partner Nations; Partnership

- A5. U.S. Government configuration to address transregional threats, p. 5
- A7. Establishing regional hubs or multinational basing as economy of force solutions to multi-tiered threats and risks, p. 6
- B4. SOF and conventional force integration: How to achieve operational and strategic effects while minimizing risk, p. 13
- B6. SOF preparation of the environment: Operational design, best practices, and synchronization, p. 14
- B9. The slippery slope of commercial off-the-shelf, p. 15
- C2. Sealing the seams and defining SOF C2 in the new security environment, p. 18
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- D9. Enabling a SOF network under conditions of financial austerity, p. 29
- D10. Air Force Special Operations Command combat aviation advisors growth potential, p. 30
- E1. Preparing for future conflict and Goldwater-Nichols reform, p. 31
- E11. Unconventional warfare: Successes and failures from the Cold War to the present, p. 35
- F6. Lessons learned from the SOF Family Pilot Program, p. 40
- G14. Long-term fiscal constraints, p. 60

Governance; Government; Interagency

- A1. Cyberterrorism: Is it real or hyperbole? p. 2
- A2. How does USSOCOM ensure it has the right people, skills, and capabilities now and in the future? p. 2
- A4. Strategic indicators and warnings in the gray zone, p. 4

Governance; Government; Interagency (cont.)

- A5. U.S. Government configuration to address transregional threats, p. 5
- A8. Understanding USSOCOM and SOF roles in the modern interagency construct, p. 7
- A9. Comprehensive deterrence: SOF and the whole-of-government approach, p. 7
- A12. Mitigating SOF suicides: Susceptibility and risk factors, p. 9
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- D1. Developing an effective network: How do SOF identify, assess, develop, and motivate potential partnerships for various special operations? p. 25
- D4. Culture and human nature in building partner capacity of SOF: Why are there different outcomes? p. 27
- E2. Implications of being strategically outpaced, p. 32
- E3. Broadening considerations of strategic risk, p. 32
- E9. Human aspects of military operations analysis, p. 34
- E11. Unconventional warfare: Successes and failures from the Cold War to the present, p. 35
- F5. The Care Coalition: "We will keep the faith with you", p. 40
- G2. Information/digital age, p. 46
- G3. Shifting power distribution and diffusion, p. 47
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- G5. Tactical actions versus strategic results, p. 50
- G7. Human nature versus culture, p. 52
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Gray Zone

- A4. Strategic indicators and warnings in the gray zone, p. 4
- A9. Comprehensive deterrence: SOF and the whole-of-government approach, p. 7
- C2. Sealing the seams and defining SOF C2 in the new security environment, p. 18
- D2. Define how SOF can improve transregional partner information sharing, p. 26
- D5. Unraveling identity: Assessing multiple levels of personal and communal identity and the overlaps within them, p. 27

Health; Medical; Treatment

- A13. Implications and effects of adopting programs to optimize SOF human performance: Are there limits to enhanced physical and mental capabilities? p. 9
- B7. USSOCOM's expanding roles are changing how it sustains the SOF operator, p. 14

Health; Medical; Treatment (cont.)

- F1. Show no weakness: Addressing the stigma associated with seeking medical and mental healthcare for SOF, p. 37
- F2. Preventive medicine specialist core competencies in support of SOF in complex environments, p. 38
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Human

- A4. Strategic indicators and warnings in the gray zone, p. 4
- A13. Implications and effects of adopting programs to optimize SOF human performance: Are there limits to enhanced physical and mental capabilities? p. 9
- D4. Culture and human nature in building partner capacity of SOF: Why are there different outcomes? p. 27
- D6. Educating SOF partners: Effectiveness, funding, and human rights vetting, p. 28
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- E4. Conducting and assessing military information support operations: Are old media techniques still viable? p. 32
- E9. Human aspects of military operations analysis, p. 34
- G5. Tactical actions versus strategic results, p. 50
- G7. Human nature versus culture, p. 52
- G11. Disruptive and game-changing technologies, p. 57
- G17. Energy/other resources, p. 63

Hybrid Challenges; Hybrid Warfare

- A2. How does USSOCOM ensure it has the right people, skills, and capabilities now and in the future? p. 2
- A7. Establishing regional hubs or multinational basing as economy of force solutions to multi-tiered threats and risks, p. 6
- E7. Hybrid warfare by state and non-state adversaries, p. 33

Influence

- A3. Responding early to the enemy's exploitation of the social media environment, p. 3
- A4. Strategic indicators and warnings in the gray zone, p. 4
- A11. Combating homegrown and lone wolf terrorism in the U.S. by understanding and disrupting OCONUS influences, p. 8
- B9. The slippery slope of commercial off-the-shelf, p. 15
- C1. A study of radicalization: Preventing, countering, and disrupting foreign fighter flow, p. 17
- E3. Broadening considerations of strategic risk, p. 32
- E9. Human aspects of military operations analysis, p. 34
- G2. Information/digital age, p. 46
- G3. Shifting power distribution and diffusion, p. 47
- G4. Megacities, p. 48
- G9. Interest-based strategies, p. 55
- G15. Strategic constraints, p. 61

Information Sharing

- D2. Define how SOF can improve transregional partner information sharing, p. 26
- G2. Information/digital age, p. 46

Integration

- B4. SOF and conventional force integration: How to achieve operational and strategic effects while minimizing risk, p. 13
- B7. USSOCOM's expanding roles are changing how it sustains the SOF operator, p. 14
- D10. Air Force Special Operations Command combat aviation advisors growth potential, p. 30
- E10. Agile information systems that enable SOF network partner integration and SOF C2, p. 35
- G4. Megacities, p. 48
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Intelligence; Surveillance; Reconnaissance

- B1. Training SOF for the future: Identifying skill gaps associated with the next fight, p. 11
- C2. Sealing the seams and defining SOF C2 in the new security environment, p. 18
- D4. Culture and human nature in building partner capacity of SOF: Why are there different outcomes? p. 27
- E9. Human aspects of military operations analysis, p. 34
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Interdependence

- A5. U.S. Government configuration to address transregional threats, p. 5
- G14. Long-term fiscal constraints, p. 60

Interoperability

- B7. USSOCOM's expanding roles are changing how it sustains the SOF operator, p. 14
- D1. Developing an effective network: How do SOF identify, assess, develop, and motivate potential partnerships for various special operations? p. 25
- D3. Institutionalizing partnerships: Getting beyond personalities, p. 27
- D7. Role of USSOCOM in technology procurement for international SOF, p. 29

Iraq

- B4. SOF and conventional force integration: How to achieve operational and strategic effects while minimizing risk, p. 13
- C1. A study of radicalization: Preventing, countering, and disrupting foreign fighter flow, p. 17
- C7. Countering enemy lessons learned to exploit vulnerabilities, block remediation efforts, and inform strategy, p. 21
- C9. An approach to coalition planning based on the political-military agreed end-states and objectives as a critical framework for future coalition building and operations, p. 23

Iraq (cont.)

- E11. Unconventional warfare: Successes and failures from the Cold War to the present, p. 35

Irregular Warfare

- A2. How does USSOCOM ensure it has the right people, skills, and capabilities now and in the future? p. 2
- B4. SOF and conventional force integration: How to achieve operational and strategic effects while minimizing risk, p. 13
- D1. Developing an effective network: How do SOF identify, assess, develop, and motivate potential partnerships for various special operations? p. 25
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Islamic State of Iraq and Syria; ISIS

- A11. Combating homegrown and lone wolf terrorism in the U.S. by understanding and disrupting OCONUS influences, p. 8
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