

WWW.SOC.MIL

ARSOF

ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES

ARSOF FACT BOOK

United States Army
Special Operations
Command Fort Bragg, N.C.



WELCOME



Lt. Gen. Jonathan P. Braga assumed command, August 13, 2021, of U.S. Army Special Operations Command. Prior to commanding USASOC, Braga held the position of deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Pacific in August of 2020. Previous to that, he served as the commander of Special Operations Command Pacific.

Braga was born in Attleboro, Massachusetts in June 1969. He attended the United States Military Academy and was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1991.

Braga served in multiple positions as an infantry officer as part of the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California. Following these assignments, he graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course and went on to serve in multiple command positions in the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico from 1995-2001. He completed numerous deployments and humanitarian relief operations throughout the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. Upon completion of this tour he returned to Fort Bragg, to serve in a United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) Special Mission Unit (SMU) and completed multiple deployments as a task force commander to Afghanistan and Iraq for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Willing Spirit in Colombia from 2002-2005. He then achieved his master's at the Naval War College at Newport, Rhode Island. Following this assignment, he served as the operations officer for the Joint Reconnaissance Task Force as part of Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) in Washington, DC and deployed to lead a Special Operations Task Force across three geographical commands from 2006-2008.

He then returned to Fort Bragg and served in several command and staff positions in the same USASOC SMU from 2008-2012. Afterwards, Lt. Gen. Braga would go on to serve as an Army War College Special Operations fellow at the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California.

Lt. Gen. Braga served as the garrison commander of the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, CA from 2013- 2015 and subsequently as the chief of staff at JSOC from 2015-2017. Braga also served as the director of operations, Combined Joint Task Force—Operation Inherent Resolve, Iraq.



CONTENTS

- Page 3: ARSOF Vision
- Page 4: USASOC - About Us
- Page 5: Our Units
- Page 6: 1st SFC (A)
- Page 7: Special Forces
- Page 8: PSYOP
- Page 9: 95th CAB (A)
- Page 10: 528th SB (SO) (A)
- Page 11: USAJFKSWCS
- Page 12: USASOAC
- Page 13: 75th Ranger Regiment
- Page 14: Black Daggers
- Page 15: Memorial Wall
- Page 16: Memorial Plaza
- Page 17: "Bronze Bruce"
- Page 18: Meadows Field

USASOC news can be found online at: www.soc.mil.

Follow USASOC!

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/usasoc.mil

Twitter:

www.twitter.com/usasocnews

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/usasocpao

Flicker:

www.flickr.com/usasoc

**Commanding General:
LTG Jonathan P. Braga**

**Command Sergeant Major:
CSM Michael R. Weimer**

**Deputy Commanding General:
MG Patrick B. Roberson**

USASOC PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

**LTC Michael Burns, Director,
Public Affairs**

**J. Elise Van Pool
Deputy Director, Public Affairs**

**SFC Joshua Joycé,
Public Affairs NCOIC**



ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS VISION

Eighteen years of precise effort and battlefield success in the counter-VEO fight serves as the foundation of our competitive advantage in today's complex security environment. Everything we learned and earned is relevant in our refocus to great power competition. Army Special Operations Forces are positioned around the world executing missions and training where we compete to win. Teamed with our Allies and Partners, our presence, capabilities, and the values we represent contribute each and every day to our Nation's credible deterrence.

Rebalancing the force to a healthier deployment-to-dwell ratio has increased training time to hone our skills and provided more predictability for our Families. As we've improved our readiness, we've restructured our modernization entities with an eye towards tomorrow. We're pairing today's battlefield experience and innovation with concepts and technology suitable for tomorrow. We will retain the hard-earned expertise from 18 years of war, while simultaneously leveraging every advantage of cutting-edge technology, firmly founded on the bedrock of Army and American values. These advantages also ensure, that when called upon, our Men and Women will prevail through the daring determination, precise lethality, and agile creativity which are the hallmarks of their service. This is what makes us truly special and will guarantee our success.

Our military and civilian professionals will focus on the following priority areas over the next year: **People, Readiness, and Modernization.**

People. Our people are our advantage — their strength, agility, and lethality are the foundation of Army Special Operations. We must invest in our Soldiers, Civilians, and Families through modern programs and policies that will attract, retain and sustain our force.

Ready. We will enable our units to train and sustain the highest state of readiness. Our Soldiers will maintain an unblinking eye on violent extremist organizations, and will compete, deter, and prepare to win against any threats worldwide. We will be brilliant at the basics, but train to the most demanding standards alongside the Army and Joint Force. We'll do our part to fight and win across the spectrum of conflict.

Modern. Our Modernization must be innovative and adaptive. We will evolve our capabilities, structure, equipment, training, and doctrine to ensure the success of our Men and Women for future crises or wars. Every piece of equipment and force design change must provide our Soldiers the right equipment, structure, and capabilities to dominate in any fight. We will divest what we no longer need in order to focus our resources on our most important requirements.

We understand America's trust in Army Special Operations is hard-earned and based on 70 plus years of answering the Nation's call. This trust is re-earned every day and must never be compromised. Our Army and American values provide the foundation by which we fight, reflects our culture, and are the key combat multiplier as we look to a challenging future.

**ARSO
PROMISE
to the
NATION**

**I PROTECT
THE NATION,
WITHOUT FEAR,
WITHOUT FAIL,
WITHOUT EQUAL.**

SINE PARI!

ABOUT US...

The U.S. Army Special Operations Command is among the most diverse organizations in the U.S. military, bringing a broad range of competencies and disciplines to support Geographic Combatant Commanders and ambassadors worldwide.



Established at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, on Dec. 1, 1989, to enhance the readiness of Army Special Operations Forces, USASOC also functions as the Army component of the U.S. Special Operations Command, which is located at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

The United States Army Special Operations Command mission is to prepare for any conflict and arm the joint force with the world's premiere Army Special Operations Forces.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, few elements of the U.S. military have been more involved in the War on Terror than 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. Some of these Soldiers are now on their 13th or 14th combat rotation. With an allocated strength of 33,000 personnel, USASOC commands active duty forces and is responsible for training and equipping Special Forces and support units in the Army National Guard.



Reshaping USASOC

In 2014, USASOC fused special warfare capabilities into one entity to optimize training and readiness. 1st Special Forces Command (A) was created by merging the Army's regionally expert forces (Special Forces, Civil Affairs, Psychological Operations) and the 528th Sustainment Brigade (A) into a single command.

The operational tempo of Army Special Operations Forces is unprecedented

On any given day, elements of three of the five active duty Special Forces groups, one Ranger battalion, more than 35 Civil Affairs teams, 35 Psychological Operations teams, numerous supporting logistics units and some 34 Special Operations aircraft, are deployed around the world. Concurrently, the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School is training more than 3,400 students a day in the three primary military occupational specialties: Civil Affairs, Psychological Operations and Special Forces from initial acquisition to language to advanced skills.



p. 6

1st Special Forces Command (Airborne)

Soldiers of 1st SFC (Airborne) are quiet professionals who possess expertise in problem solving, foreign languages, relationship building, cultural understanding, and combat advisory skills. These skills, and a culture of adaptive innovation, uniquely suit 1st SFC (A) Soldiers to operate in complex, ambiguous environments and achieve strategic effects around the globe. 1st SFC (A) units include five active duty and two National Guard Special Forces groups, two Psychological Operations groups, one Civil Affairs Brigade, and one Special Operations Sustainment Brigade.



p. 11

U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (USAJFKSWCS)

The John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, the Special Operations Center of Excellence, assesses, selects, trains and educates world-class Civil Affairs, Psychological Operations and Special Forces warriors and leaders, and develops doctrine and capabilities to support the full range of military operations and spectrum of conflict — providing our nation with a highly educated, innovative and adaptive force.



p. 12

U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command (Airborne)

USASOAC provides command and control, executive oversight, training and resourcing of Army Special Operations Aviation assets, units and personnel in support of national security objectives. USASOAC consists of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), the USASOC Flight Company, the Special Operations Aviation Training Battalion, the Technology Applications Project Office (TAPO), the Aviation Maintenance Support Office (AMSO) and the Systems Integration Management Office (SIMO).



p. 13

75th Ranger Regiment

The 75th Ranger Regiment is a lethal, agile and versatile Special Operations Force that conducts joint forcible entry operations and special operations across the entire spectrum of combat. Rangers are capable of planning and executing complex, worldwide operations in high-risk, uncertain and politically sensitive areas. They are trained on a wide variety of mobility platforms. Training and combat missions are conducted day or night, during adverse weather conditions, through rugged terrain, using specialized equipment, tactics, techniques, and procedures designed to fit the difficulty, risk and requirement for each combat mission.



1st Special Forces Command (Airborne)

1st Special Forces Command (Airborne) organizes, equips, trains, validates, and deploys forces to conduct special operations across the spectrum of conflict, in support of U.S. Special Operations Command, regional commanders, American ambassadors, and the Nation's priorities.

1st SFC (A) is a division-sized element with corps-like responsibilities, which consists of 11 subordinate brigades and more than 22,000 personnel. The command is stationed and deployed in more than 70 countries.

1st SFC (A) is comprised of four distinct regiments, which includes Special Forces, Civil Affairs, Psychological Operations, and Sustainment elements. These regiments enable Army Special Operations Forces to provide a holistic and varied approach to emerging threats.

Soldiers of 1st SFC (A) possess expertise in tactics, combat advisory, military deception, sabotage and subversion, foreign language, relationship-building skills, cultural understanding, adaptive decision-making and cognitive problem-solving skills.

These unique skill sets make 1st SFC (A) Soldiers the most adaptive and capable force in the United States military, poised to protect the Nation's interests across the globe at a moment's notice.

1st SFC (A) provides the capacity for small and local operations to create strategic global impact.

1st Special Forces Group (A)
Joint Base Lewis-McChord,
Washington

3rd Special Forces Group (A)
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

5th Special Forces Group (A)
Fort Campbell, Kentucky

7th Special Forces Group (A)
Eglin Air Force Base, Florida

10th Special Forces Group (A)
Fort Carson, Colorado

19th Special Forces Group (A)
Draper, Utah

20th Special Forces Group (A)
Birmingham, Alabama

**4th Psychological Operations
Group (A)**
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

**8th Psychological Operations
Group (Airborne)**
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

**95th Civil Affairs Brigade
(Airborne)**
Fort Bragg, North Carolina

**528th Sustainment Brigade
(Special Operations)
(Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C.**





Special Forces (Green Berets)

"De Oppresso Liber" - To Free the Oppressed

The U.S. military's premier unconventional warriors, the Green Berets, provide a viable military option for operational requirements that may be inappropriate or not feasible for large conventional forces. In the last decade, Green Berets have deployed into 135 of the 195 recognized countries in the world. Success in Afghanistan, Iraq, Trans-Sahel Africa, the Philippines, the Andean Ridge, the Caribbean and Central America have resulted in an increasing demand for SF around the globe. Every day, 15FC (A) Soldiers remain deployed around the world, living up to their motto: "De Oppresso Liber" — To Free the Oppressed.



Special Forces (Green Berets) deploy and execute nine doctrinal missions: unconventional warfare, foreign internal defense, direct action, counterinsurgency, special reconnaissance, counter terrorism, information operations, counter proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and security force assistance.

There are five active component Special Forces Groups and two U.S. Army National Guard Groups. Each SFG is regionally aligned to support one of the war-fighting geographic combatant commanders.

The cornerstone of the SFG's capability is the Operational Detachment-Alpha, a highly trained team of 12 Special Forces Soldiers. Cross-trained in weapons, communications, intelligence, medicine, and engineering, the ODA member also possesses specialized language and cultural training. The ODA is capable of conducting the full spectrum of special operations, from building indigenous security forces to identifying and targeting threats while supporting U.S. national interests.

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL FORCES GROUPS:

1st Special Forces Group (Airborne)
Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne),
Fort Bragg, N.C.

5th Special Forces Group (Airborne),
Fort Campbell, Ky.

7th Special Forces Group (Airborne),
Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

10th Special Forces Group (Airborne),
Fort Carson, Colo.

19th Special Forces Group (Airborne),
Draper, Utah

20th Special Forces Group (Airborne),
Birmingham, Ala.





Psychological Operations Group (Airborne)

Persuade, Change, Influence

"Verbum Vincet" - Words conquer



The 4th and 8th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne), provides scalable, regionally oriented, and culturally astute Special Operations Psychological Operations forces to Combatant Commanders, U.S. Ambassadors, and other agencies. Their mission is to advise, plan, develop, synchronize, deliver and assess military information support operations (MISO) and other information-related capabilities across the range of military operations.

Each group is comprised of three regionally oriented battalions. The 4th POG (A) has an additional battalion focused on media production and dissemination capability, and the 8th POG (A) has an additional tactical battalion.

They are the only two active duty Psychological Operations Groups in the Army and are the Department of Defense's premier capability specifically organized, manned, trained and networked to persuade and influence select foreign target audiences to achieve psychological effect and behavior changes in support of U.S. objectives.

Psychological Operations Soldiers work within the



Decisive Influence

human domain, analyzing potential target audiences, from mass populations down to the individuals, determining those most accessible, susceptible, and capable of acting upon a received message. They are regional and language-trained experts who understand political, cultural, ethnic and religious subtleties, with functional experts in all aspects of tactical communications.

PSYOP is a vital part of the broad range of U.S. diplomatic, military, economic and informational activities used by the U.S. government to secure national objectives. These planned operations convey selected information and indicators to foreign audiences to influence their emotions, motives, objective reasoning, and ultimately the behavior of foreign governments, organizations, groups, and individuals in a manner favorable to the U.S. policy and national objectives.

These activities are force multipliers that use nonviolent means in often-violent environments. Soldiers rely on logic, fear, desire or other mental factors to promote specific emotions, attitudes or behaviors. PSYOP supports national security objectives at the tactical, operational and strategic levels of operation.





Civil Affairs Brigade, (Airborne)

Advise, Support, Stabilize

The 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) operates through an indigenous approach in order to understand and wield influence within populations, enable precision targeting and provide governance and counter-governance capabilities. The 95th is prepared to rapidly task organize, fight and win as part of a combined special warfare team in response to crisis.

The 95th maps and analyzes the human terrain in order to understand networks of influence and the competition for control of populations. This understanding allows the 95th to detect emerging threats and identify potential partners to deter or control the escalation of crisis.

The 95th enables military commanders and U.S. Ambassadors to achieve national objectives by countering adversary control and improving a partner's control over populations in complex and dynamic environments worldwide. The brigade accomplishes this as an integral member of the special warfare team and through its special relationships with the U.S. Department of State, government and non-governmental organizations, and local populations.



The 95th Civil Affairs Brigade deploys to diverse environments, from remote and austere areas to dense urban population centers around the world. The 95th Soldiers are adept at working within foreign cultures and conversing in one of 15 foreign languages with local stakeholders.

The 95th has a rich history dating back to 1945, when the unit first activated to aid Europe and Japan in reestablishing political order and a peacetime society. Since World War II, the 95th has been involved in every major conflict to advance the Nation's strategic objectives.

Today, the 95th is comprised of a team of Special Operations Force professionals committed to providing a unique civil affairs capability globally to advance the Nation's special warfare competitive edge. The 95th supports Department of Defense, Special Operations Command task forces and the five U.S. geographic combatant commands. As of August 2017, the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) consists of more than 1,500 Soldiers, including five geographically aligned battalions (91st, 92nd, 96th, 97th and 98th Civil Affairs Battalions), and currently has more than 240 Soldiers deployed to more than 40 countries around the world.



Sustainment Brigade (Special Operations) (Airborne)

We Support To The Utmost

528th Sustainment Brigade (SO) (A) provides enduring logistics, signal support and medical care to Army Special Operations Forces and joint elements worldwide.

In October 2001, 150 Soldiers of the then-Special Operations Support Command (Airborne) were among the first deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Since that time, the unit's Soldiers, known as "Sentinels," have continuously deployed in support of overseas contingency operations embedded with other U.S. Army Special Operations Command comrades in arms around the globe.

Since 9/11, about a third of the brigade's 800 Soldiers are deployed in small teams around the world annually. The Sustainment Brigade's support to overseas contingency operations provides unique skillsets and valuable support assets to Special Operations Forces in defense of the Nation.

The brigade, based out of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, is task organized with a brigade headquarters, the 528th Special Troops Battalion (STB), and the 112th Signal Battalion and the 389th Military Intelligence Battalion. In addition, the brigade maintains a permanent presence in each

theater, with Army Special Operations Forces Liaison Elements based at each Theater Special Operations Command (TSOC) and Army Service Component Command (ASCC) headquarters, and with a Signal Support Detachment at each TSOC.

As a forward stationed element of the brigade, Soldiers from the ALE are capable of providing continuous and direct support to the TSOC through planning and coordinating with the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), the Army Special Operations Command, and the Army Service Component Command in direct support of operations and training.

The Brigade Support Operations Section has the ability to deploy the Support Operations (SPO) capability in support of Special Operations Forces worldwide. The SPO capability can co-locate with a Special Forces Group Support Battalion, an Expeditionary Sustainment Command, and Theater Sustainment and ARSOF with a centralized and integrated in-theater presence for sustainment support.



U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center & School

The U.S. Army Special Operations Center of Excellence (SOCoE)
"Veritas Et Libertas" - Truth and Freedom



The U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, located at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, is the proponent for Civil Affairs, Psychological Operations and Special Forces. As the proponent, SWCS manages and resources the professional growth of Soldiers these three ARSOF Regiments. SWCS builds the only force specifically trained and educated to shape foreign political and military environments in order to prevent war. Special Operations Soldiers do this by working with host nations, regional partners and indigenous populations in a culturally attuned manner that allows them to bridge language barriers, open lines of communication and connect with key political and military leaders in a way that is both immediate and enduring.

On any given day, approximately 3,400 students are enrolled in SWCS training programs. Courses range from entry-level training to advanced education and technical skills for seasoned officers and NCOs. In all, SWCS offers more than 65 unique courses that give Soldiers the skills they need to survive and succeed on the battlefield. The 1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) qualifies Soldiers to enter the Special Operations community. Fort Bragg-based training includes the Special Forces, Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations qualification courses, Advanced Individual Training for Army Reserve Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations specialists. The 2nd Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) teaches advanced techniques as ARSOF Soldiers progress through their careers. The 2nd SWTG (A) also maintains satellite training facilities, including the Special Forces Underwater Operations School in Key West, Florida, the Military Freefall School in Yuma, Arizona, as well as satellite sites in Washington State and West Virginia. The Joint Special Operations Medical Training Center, operating under the auspices of the Special Warfare Medical Group (Airborne), is the central training facility for Department of Defense Special Operations combat medics. The JSOMTC creates well educated and professionally trained SOF combat medics with a solid understanding of the



knowledge and skills required by the force to provide standard-of-care medical treatment, regardless of the conditions.

SOF Medics also receive training in urban emergency rooms across the United States. The 2nd SWTG is also responsible for producing agile, adaptive-thinking Soldiers while acting as a hub of emerging thought and creative ideas in regional studies, foreign language, culture, adaptive thinking and leadership, behavioral science and education. Its Foreign Language Initial Acquisition Program, second only to the Defense Language Institute in its throughput, trains more than 1,500 Soldiers annually in the program's 17 core languages.

Additionally, SWCS leads efforts to professionalize the Army's entire Special Operations Forces through the Special Forces Warrant Officer Institute and the David K. Thuma Noncommissioned Officer Academy. SWCS classes and field exercises are led by more than 400 military instructors, each of whom has operated in the same environments, for the same units as their students will. Their real-world experience enhances instruction and fosters camaraderie built on a shared sense of duty and commitment. Annually, one third of the uniformed instructors rotate back to the operational force from which they came, to maintain operational relevancy. As military personnel rotate between assignments, more than 200 expert civilian instructors and staff members support training, doctrine development and publishing initiatives.



U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command (Airborne)

"Volare Optimos" - To Fly the Best



The Army Special Operations Aviation Command (Airborne) organizes, mans, trains, resources and equips ARSOA units to provide responsive Special Operations Aviation support to Special Operations Forces. USASOAC (A) serves as the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Aviation staff proponent.

Headquartered at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, USASOAC (A) manages three subordinate commands: the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) located at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, and Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia; the USASOC Flight Company at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and the Special Operations Aviation Training Battalion at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Special Operations Aviation traces its modern roots back to the early 1960s and the formation of Special Warfare Aviation Detachments as Army Special Forces prepared for Vietnam. The 22nd SWAD activated in March 1962 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and supported Army Special Operations Forces.

In October 1965, the 281st Assault Helicopter Company was activated at Fort Benning, Georgia, becoming the first organized special operations

helicopter unit in the U.S. Army.

As a result of the Desert One failed hostage rescue in April 1980, the Holloway Commission mandated a dedicated Special Operations Aviation force. The Army combined elements of the 101st Aviation Group (Air Assault), Charlie and Delta companies of the 158th Aviation Battalion (Blackhawks), members of the 229th Aviation Battalion (Little Birds), and Alpha company of the 159th Aviation Battalion (Chinooks) to form Task Force 160. Recognized as the Army's premiere night fighting aviation force, the modern-day 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) was officially activated in June 1990.

In July 2010, a Gray Eagle Unmanned Aircraft System element was assigned to Special Operations, branded with the USASOC patch, and deployed with SOF. Following a decade of persistent conflict, USASOC transformed the original directorate of Special Operations Aviation into the USASOC Aviation staff proponent and command headquarters to separate the combat role of ARSOA from resourcing responsibilities. After a provisional activation in March 2011, the Table of Distribution and Allowances (TDA) for the USASOAC (A) was approved in March 2012 as a one-star command located at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.





75th Ranger Regiment

Rangers Lead the Way



The Army's Premier Raid Force

The 75th Ranger Regiment is a unique Special Operations Force comprised of specially selected and well-trained Soldiers constantly tested to continue service with the Regiment. Rangers are a four-time volunteer force that provides the Nation a range of capabilities not found in any other special operations or conventional force. They are capable of conducting large-scale, joint forcible entry operations while simultaneously executing precision targeting operations raids across the globe. Additional capabilities include air assault and direct action raids seizing key terrain such as airfields, destroying strategic facilities, and capturing or killing the enemies of the Nation. The Regiment is an innovative organization that remains true to Abrams' Charter by developing the equipment and technologies that enables the U.S. Army to win the Nation's wars. The Regiment leads the way for advancements in training and readiness that bridge the gap between special operations and conventional forces.

Today, the Regiment continues to deploy in support of overseas contingency operations while training for any mission they may be called upon to execute next.



Junior enlisted Rangers are intelligent, disciplined, physically fit and well-trained Soldiers. Regardless of military occupational specialty, they possess enhanced combat skills and exceptional proficiency in infantry and special



operations tactics, techniques and procedures. Junior enlisted Rangers are the future of the Regiment. Everyone is a Ranger first. Ranger NCOs are among the most experienced in the Army. They have multiple combat deployments and intense training experience. Their expertise and leadership are critical in planning and executing combat operations. NCOs also prepare junior enlisted Rangers for combat by emphasizing discipline and training. They have extensive schooling with a broad background of conventional to special operations experience. NCOs ensure continued mission success and offer expertise for assignments in other Army units. The Regiment's officers bring exceptional leadership and operation expertise to the unit. They possess a variety of experience in conventional and special operations units and have extensive special skills training. Ranger officers are second-time platoon leaders, company commanders and battalion commanders. They take valuable lessons learned in combat and tactics, techniques and procedures with them to their next assignment.

U.S. Army Special Operations Command "Black Daggers" (Recruiting Support Detachment)

The Black Daggers are comprised entirely of Army volunteers who provide community outreach. They have diverse backgrounds and possess various military specialties. The team represents the professionalism and dedication of Special Operations Forces and performs demonstrations in support of U.S. Army Special Operations Command community outreach and recruiting efforts.



The Black Daggers use the military variant of the ram-air parachute, which allows a free-fall parachutist the ability to jump with more than 100 pounds of additional equipment attached. In addition to the extra weight, the jumper must also withstand high winds, frigid temperatures and low oxygen levels; all of which require the jumper to be highly skilled.



The Black Daggers control a two-mile drop using their hands, arms, legs and shoulders. At a few thousand feet, they deploy their parachutes and land with pinpoint precision, whether it's on the infield of a football stadium or on their training grounds near Fort Bragg, North Carolina.



The principle technique demonstrated by the Black Daggers is the HALO, or High-Altitude, Low-Opening jump. This form of stealth insertion is used to land troops and equipment behind enemy lines.

To request the Black Daggers email: blackdaggers@socom.mil, Phone: 910-907-2370 or 910-364-1439, Fax: 910-907-2368.

USASOC Memorial Wall

IN MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN SPECIAL OPERATIONS SOLDIERS



The formation of the Psychological Warfare School in April 1952 became the starting point for honoring the memory of fallen Special Operations Soldiers. In 1995, the U.S. Army Special Operations Command dedicated its Memorial Plaza and Memorial Wall as a tribute to Army Special Operations Soldiers killed in conflicts from the Korean War through the present.

In 2009, USASOC began a project that included refacing the wall, recasting the bronze name plates, and installing an eagle sculpture. Once completed, the redesigned ARSOF Memorial Wall was unveiled at the 2010 Memorial Day ceremony.

Today, the granite Memorial Wall is topped with a bronze eagle designed by Oregon artist Lorenzo Ghiglieri and displays the names of those Army Special Operations Soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Representing more than 60 years of loyalty, commitment and service to our country, the wall has become the place to pay homage to the bravery, loyalty and honor of the Soldiers whose names appear there and the families who supported them.

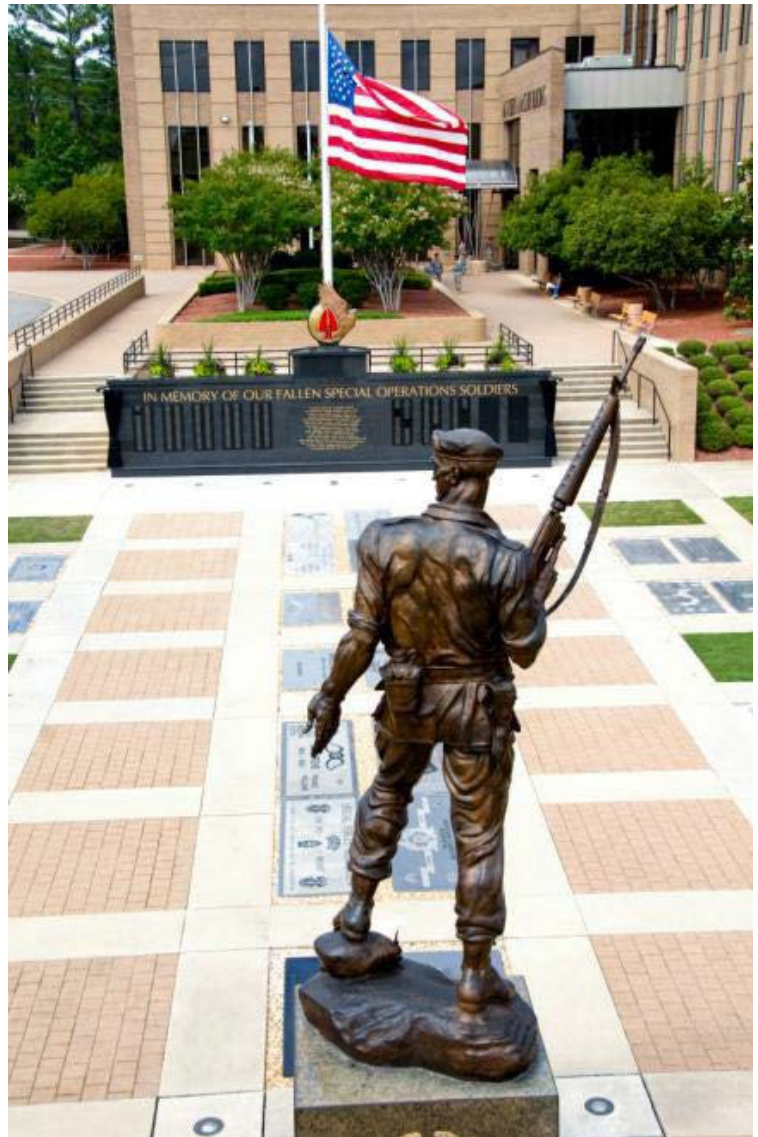
This is a 'living' memorial that allows new names to be added to recognize the Soldiers lost during the previous year. As of Memorial Day 2019, when 13 names were added, there are 1,231 names on the wall. This includes 11 posthumous Medal of Honor awardees.

Army Special Operations Forces Memorial Plaza

The U.S. Army Special Operations Forces Memorial Plaza at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, was moved in 1994 from the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School to the newly built U.S. Army Special Operations Command headquarters building.

The plaza features the Special Forces Soldier statue, a parade field, a statue of legendary special operations Soldier Major Richard J. "Dick" Meadows, a field of memorial stones and a memorial wall.

The original plaza, first dedicated at USAJFKSWCS, November 1969, was built as a tribute to the more than 550 Special Forces Soldiers who had died up to that time in the Vietnam War. It was the first war memorial dedicated to Vietnam veterans in the United States.

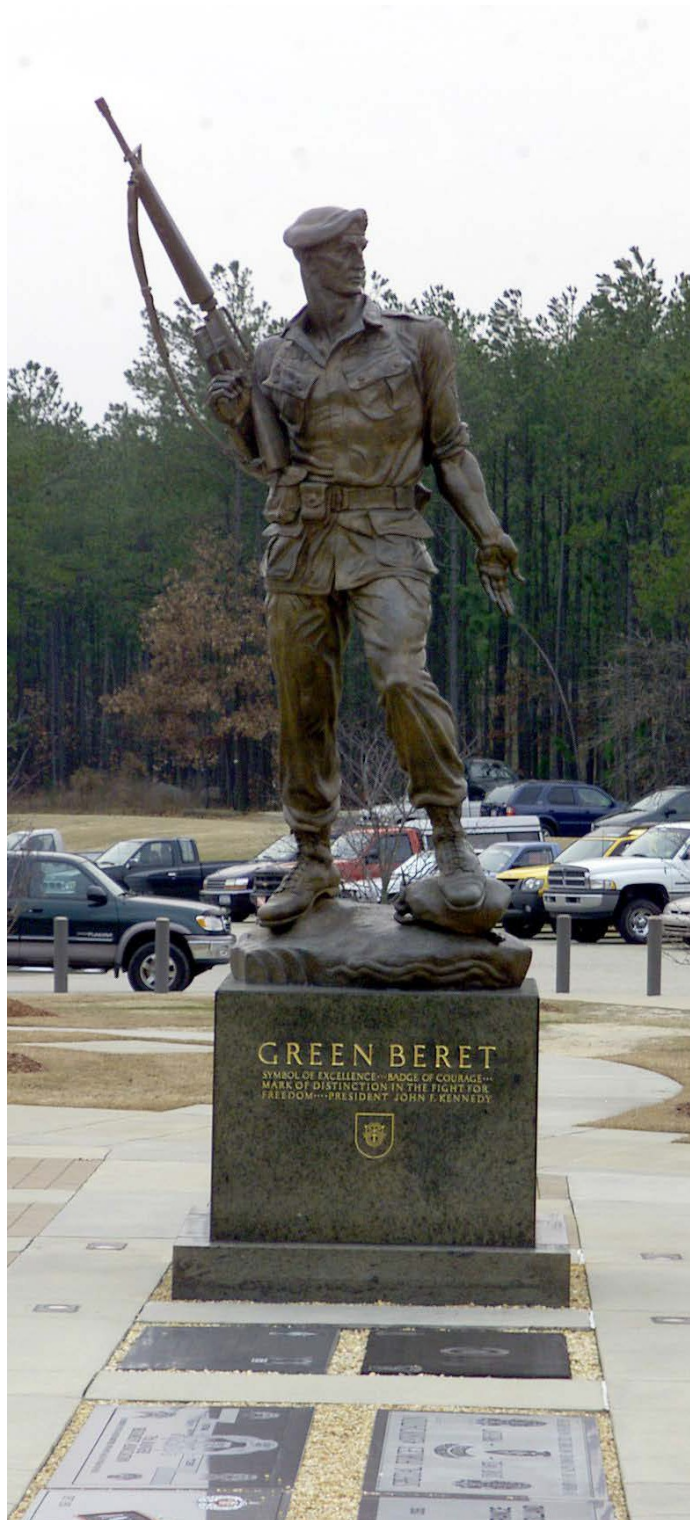


MEMORIAL STONES

The memorial stones in the plaza represent many of the units and associations in Army Special Operations history. It is a 'living' memorial that allows new stones to be added. Initially started with only 11 stones, the number has since grown to its present 34.

The memorial stones include: Guerrilla Command; the Special Operations Association; the "Mike Force"; 1st Special Forces Group; MARS Task Force; 3rd Special Forces Group; 5th Special Forces Group; GHQ Raiders/1st Raider Company Korea; Task Force DAGGER; Task Force VIKING; OSS Detachment 101; First Special Service Force; the OSS Operational Groups; Alamo Scouts; World War II Ranger Battalions; U.S. Army Civil Affairs; Merrill's Marauders; 75th Ranger Regiment; Jedburghs; Ranger Infantry Companies (A); Special Forces Association; 75th Ranger Regiment Association; 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment; Psychological Operations; OSS Maritime Unit; Son Tay Raider Association; Special Forces Panama; 10th Special Forces Group; Civil Affairs Companies; Detachment A. Berlin Brigade; B-52 Project Delta; U.S. Army Special Operations Support Command; 281st Assault Helicopter Company; and 410th Special Forces Detachment.

Special Warfare Memorial Statue



"Bronze Bruce"

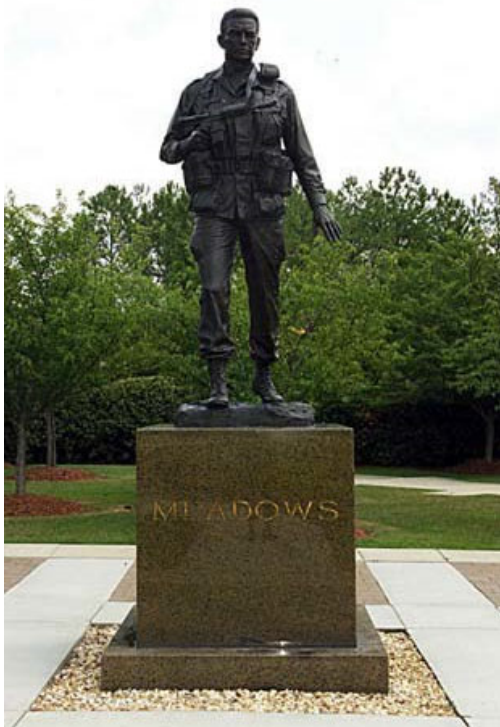
The Special Warfare Memorial statue, also known as "Bronze Bruce," was the first Vietnam memorial in the United States and was dedicated in 1969. Since then, the statue has become the centerpiece of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command's Memorial Plaza at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and is symbolic of all the command's Soldiers. A Special Forces Soldier was chosen as the model for the statue since nearly all Army special operations Soldiers killed in Vietnam were Green Berets.

The 12-foot statue stands upon a rare green granite pedestal that brings the total height of the statue to 22 feet tall. It is representative of a Special Forces noncommissioned officer, wearing the rank of a sergeant first class, and is a powerful image of what U.S. Army Special Forces Soldiers stand for. The Soldier is dressed in the jungle fatigues worn in Vietnam by U.S. troops. He carries the M-16 rifle, a tool of his profession, in his right hand. His finger is not placed on the

trigger of his weapon, but is "at the ready" in preparation for any threat.

His stance upon a rocky ledge with one foot crushing the snake is symbolic of tyranny in the world and the threats and dangers that will instantly bring him to action. While possessing power and extraordinary capabilities, he offers a gentle hand of friendship to the unseen oppressed of the world. He is fully able to exercise his training when it is needed, and he is also fully willing to help those in need. He is the perfect warrior from the past, a healer, a teacher and an opponent of evil. He serves all over the world today and willingly faces any mission. His is the standard to which all Army Special Operations Soldiers aspire. Inside the base of the statue is a time capsule containing an SF uniform, a green beret, a bust of John F. Kennedy, and Kennedy's speech presenting the Green Beret to Special Forces Soldiers.

MAJOR RICHARD "DICK" MEADOWS



Meadows Field

The Meadows statue stands in honor of legendary special operations Soldier Maj. Richard "Dick" Meadows at the leading edge of the Meadows Memorial Parade Field, just outside the U.S. Army Special Operations Command headquarters at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The lifelike bronze statue was sculpted by Mr. Larry Ludtke in Texas and donated to USASOC in 1997 by Mr. H. Ross Perot.

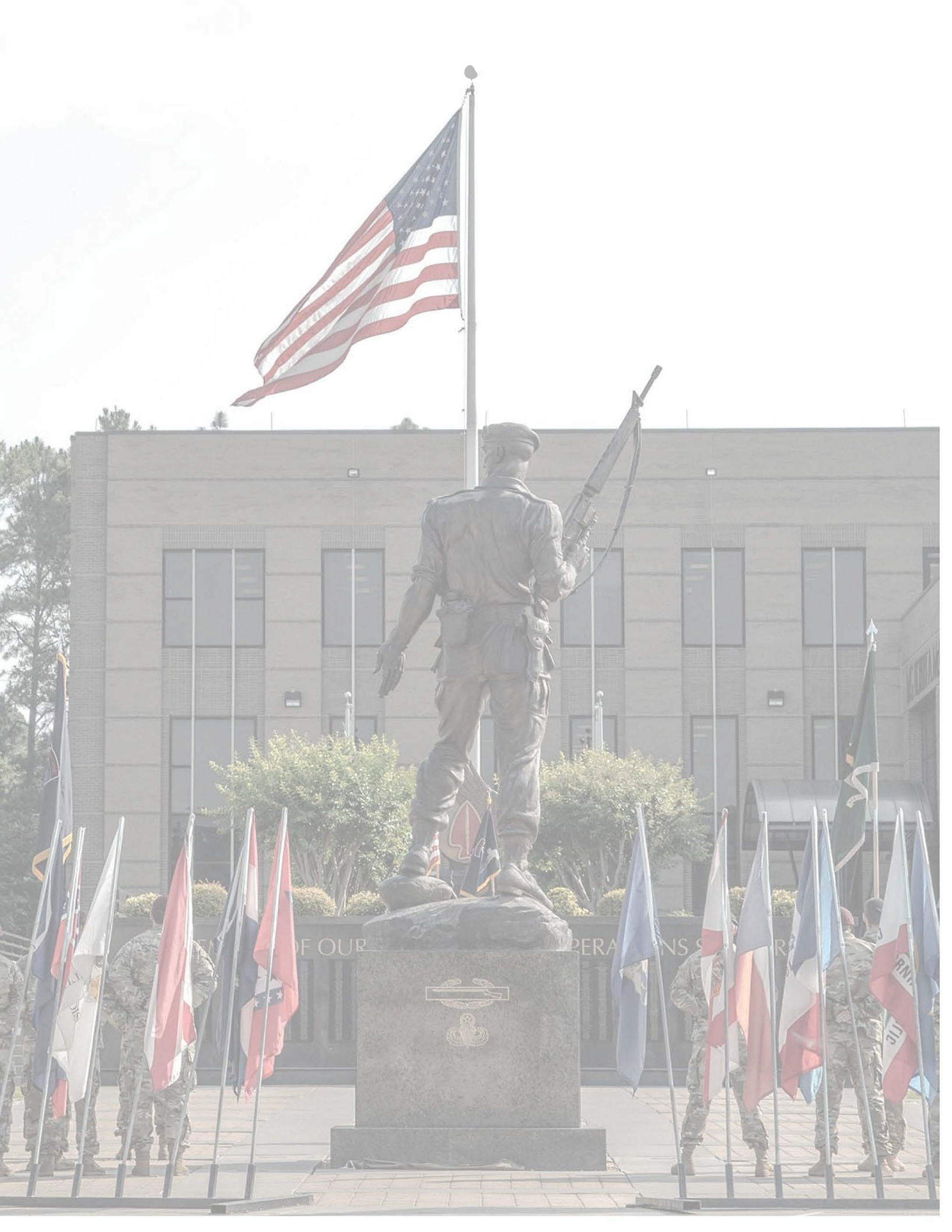
The statue depicts Meadows in a classic pose — advancing as if into a clearing, somewhere behind enemy lines, with his CAR-15 carbine at the ready and his left hand pushing backwards as if to say silently to his patrol members behind him, "Stay where you are...I'll check it out." Replicas of the statue are presented each year to an outstanding special operations Soldier as the Dick Meadows Award.

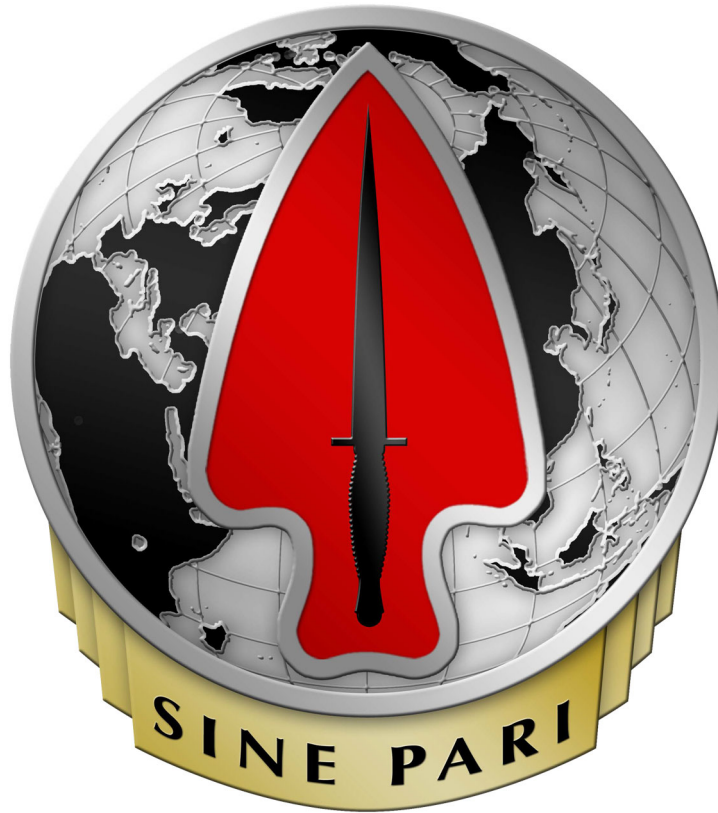
Dick Meadows grew up in poverty and joined the Army in 1947 at the age of 16. By the time he was 20, he was a Master Sergeant assigned to the 187th Regimental Combat Team (Airborne) and volunteered for service in the Korean War.

Meadows joined the U.S. Army Special Forces in 1953. He trained with the British Special Air Service and was the first foreigners to be awarded SAS Wings. He went on to serve as a highly respected team leader of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam-Studies and Observation Group commando teams operating behind enemy lines in Laos and Cambodia during the Vietnam War.

He received a direct appointment to the rank of Captain in 1967. In 1970, he was a key planner of the Son Tay Raid, an attempt to rescue American prisoners of war held in a camp within 65 miles of Hanoi. He was the assault team leader. His team crashed into the center of the camp in an HH-3 Air Force helicopter in order to achieve total surprise, only to discover that the camp no longer held U.S. prisoners.

Meadows retired from the military in 1977, but remained a valued Special Operations advisor and leader for the rest of his life, most notably as a clandestine operative in Tehran, Iran, during the Iran Hostage rescue attempt in 1980. In addition, he helped organize special mission units and was a consultant in efforts to thwart criminal drug trafficking. For his selfless service as a private citizen, he was awarded the Presidential Citizen's Medal for Distinguished Service. His military awards include the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars Medals and a Bronze Star Medal with Valor device. He died in 1995.





USASOC news can be found
online at: www.soc.mil.



Follow USASOC!

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/usasoc.mil



Twitter:
www.twitter.com/usasocnews



YouTube:
www.youtube.com/usasocpao



Flicker:
www.flickr.com/usasoc

