

**SPECIAL OPERATIONS SUPPORT TO THE CINC**

Mode: Seminar

Lesson No. 4-12-S

1. Introduction.

a. General. Although we like to believe otherwise, today's world is no less complicated, dynamic, and unpredictable than that of long ago. The only certainty facing man, whether civilian or military, is the inevitability of change. These changes may manifest themselves in many ways--some political, some social, some economic, some military, and some in combination with others. In this volatile and ambiguous climate, the military must continue to remain prepared to cope with a wide variety of challenges; some of these fall outside the scope of conventional operations. Since our military leaders selected the term conventional to define those operations normally associated with land armies, navies, and air forces, perhaps a better moniker could have been selected for the forces charged with the missions which did not exactly meet the definition and template of conventional. Perhaps they should have been referred to as Unconventional Forces, thus denoting something other than conventional, because that is how they are trained, equipped, and manned. Regardless of the label, **Special Operations Forces (SOF)** have been and continue to be an instrument of national policy and a positive force to influence the course of international events.

b. Overview of SOF. United States SOF are designed to be force multipliers in that they offer both the National Command Authorities and the regional Commanders in Chief (CINCs) a variety of swift response options to political, military, or humanitarian crises. The type of response may vary according to the political constraints, e.g., defusing, ameliorating, or resolving problems, before they escalate. These forces are highly skilled, as well as being both globally capable and regionally oriented, making them invaluable in dealing with military and civilian populations worldwide. Their inherent flexibility and versatility enable them to deploy rapidly, yet function effectively across the spectrum of military operations.

c. Lesson Purpose. To enhance your understanding of how these assets support the regional CINC, today's seminar will concentrate on organization, roles, missions, capabilities, limitations, access, command and control, command relationships, and integration with and support of conventional force operations.

## 2. Learning Objectives.

a. Comprehend the nature and fundamental purpose of special operations and SOF within the context of our National Security and National Military Strategies.

b. Comprehend the political and military genesis of modern day special operations.

c. Comprehend the political and legal genesis for the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) under Title 10 USC § 167.

d. Comprehend SOF organizations, roles and missions, capabilities, limitations, command relationships, and access procedures as they apply to support of the regional CINC and/or Joint Force Commander.

e. Synthesize and apply SOF doctrinal principles and planning considerations to fully integrate SOF with joint forces across the spectrum of military operations.

## 3. Student Requirements.

a. Tasks. Complete the required readings and be prepared to address the **Points to Consider**. For the combined seminar session, seminar SOF students will present information and lead seminar discussion focusing on the **Learning Objectives**.

### b. Required Readings.

(1) Brown, Anthony Cave. The Last Hero, "Prologue: The Birth of the OSS and the CIA." (Course 4 Selected Readings, AY02, Implementing National Military Strategy)

(2) Title 10. United States Code-Armed Forces, Chapter 6, Section 167. (Course 4 Selected Readings, AY02, Implementing National Military Strategy)

(3) Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. Joint Pub 3-05, Doctrine for Joint Special Operations, 17 April 1998. Read Chapters I thru V. (Student Issue)

(4) USSOCOM. USSOCOM Pub 1, Special Operations in Peace and War, 25 January 1996. Read pages 2-27 thru 2-31. (Student Issue)

(5) Schoomaker, Peter J. General, Commander in Chief, U.S. Special Operations Command. SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES: "The Way Ahead." (Course 4 Selected Readings, AY02, Implementing National Military Strategy)

(6) Kershner, Michael R. ARMY Magazine, "Army Special Forces Training Focuses on Unconventional Warfare". (Course 4 Selected Readings, AY02, Implementing National Military Strategy)

c. Suggested Readings.

(1) USSOCOM. Special Operations Forces Reference Manual, June 1997. Scan manual for an excellent, detailed, overview of the roles, missions, capabilities and limitations, organizations, and command and control of SOF. Implementing National Military Strategy, Course 4, CD-ROM.

(2) USSOCOM. USSOCOM Pub 1, Special Operations in Peace and War, 25 January 1996. Read pages 1-3 thru 1-6 and pages 5-1 thru 5-8 for additional background on the nature of special operations and special operations warfare. Read pages 2-1 thru 2-24 for an excellent overview of the origins of SOF. (Student Issue)

(3) Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (OASD) for Special Operations & Low Intensity Conflict (SO/LIC). United States Special Operations Forces Posture Statement, 2000. Scan for additional information on missions, capabilities, roles, organization, budget, programs and systems. (Student Issue)

4. Points To Consider.

a. The Congress' Intent in Establishing USSOCOM. What is the legal basis for USSOCOM as defined by the Congress? What are the key USCINCSOC responsibilities directed by Title 10 USC? How does USCINCSOC's responsibilities differ from those of the Services?

b. Designation & Funding of SOF. Which forces are designated as SOF and thus receive Military Force Program 11 funding support?

c. Distinguishing Characteristics. What characteristics distinguish special operations from conventional military operations?

d. Synergistic Effect. How does the use of special operations, integrated with conventional force operations, enhance joint operations?

e. Relevance of SOF. How are SOF relevant to:

(1) Meeting the range of current and anticipated threats and,

(2) Achieving key components and military objectives of the National Security and National Military Strategies?

f. Capabilities Which Support the CINC. What unique capabilities do SOF provide to both the regional CINC and the U.S. Ambassadors within the CINC's AOR?

g. Integration and Unity of Effort. At the theater level, which standing organizations are available to the CINC and/or Joint Force Commander to plan, assess, command, control, and integrate SOF operations with those of conventional forces?

5. Relationship to Professional Joint Education (PJE) Learning Areas.

- a. PJE 1.a. Readings
- b. PJE 2.a. Readings, Points to Consider
- c. PJE 2.e. Readings
- d. PJE 3.a. Objectives, Readings, Points to Consider
- e. PJE 3.c. Objectives, Readings, Points to Consider
- f. PJE 4.b. Objectives, Points to Consider
- g. PJE 4.e. Objectives, Readings
- h. PJE 4.f. Readings, Points to Consider
- i. PJE 4.g. Readings, Points to Consider
- j. PJE 5.b. Objectives, Readings, Points to Consider

6. Relationship Of USAWC Institutional Learning Objectives (ILOs), Enduring and Special Themes.

- a. ILOs: 2, 4, and 7
- b. Enduring Themes: Strategic Vision, Jointness
- c. Special Themes: Warfare in the Information Age, Civil-Military Relations, Creating a Total Army