



GSOE recently completed Modern Warfare Week 2024 at Ft. Liberty, NC with a focus on SOCOM's land warfare component command and SOF stakeholders in government and industry. A clear take-away from Ukraine, Israel and Syria, is that for ground SOF to be successful, they must have innovative, multi-domain support - iterated through trial and error and rapidly fielded to be relevant to conflict now and into the future.

Theme: Army SOF Innovation: "Every facet of Army special operations is changing, because warfare is changing,"

"Innovation is a mindset. It's a perpetual process. The innovation cycle does not belong to one entity nor solely to the military. Innovation can come from academia, coalition partners, the defense industrial base, lawmakers or policy makers - the adaptation of that idea, the employment of that idea on the battlefield, in the domain against the adversary, the lessons learned from that employment and the rapid innovation for the next phase, I argue is going to be the winner of the next war."

Lt. Gen. Jonathan Braga, Commander, USASOC

Theme: Army SOF embrace Cold War roots

"U.S. special operators put more than 200 Ukrainians through a special-forces pipeline between 2014 and 2022. A resistance-and-resiliency training effort led by NATO and influenced by U.S. special operations doctrines gave Ukraine a two-year running start on its resistance efforts."

"People are still unclear about the role special operations forces play in the National Defense Strategy. They do not understand what role SOF has in great power competition. Special operators played crucial roles in counterinsurgency during the Vietnam War, but operators were also in Europe during the Cold War, filling gaps in that great power confrontation that conventional forces couldn't fill."

*Army Command Sgt. Maj. Shane W. Shorter
Senior Enlisted Leader, U.S. SOCOM*

Theme: USASOC, 'the perfect force to lead the Army's strategic options in these turbulent times'

"The Special Operations soldiers must remember that they are not only a tactical force, but are also a strategic force. Our command has missions that reach across the entire operational spectrum. USASOC serves special operations focal point for the total Army, with active Army, USAR, and Army National Guard elements - we are not a Special Forces or Green Beret command, we are a Special Operations Command."

*General Gary Luck, Inaugural Commander, USASOC
at the December 1, 1989 activation ceremony.
(Gen. Luck passed away on August 14, 2024)*

USASOC Deep Dive

The U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) mans, trains, equips, educates, organizes, sustains, and supports forces to conduct special operations across the full range of military operations and spectrum of conflict in support of joint force commanders and interagency partners, to meet theater and national objectives.

USASOC does this through the 1st Special Forces Command (Airborne), a division-sized element with corps-like responsibilities that 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 include Special Forces, Civil Affairs, Psychological Operations, and Sustainment elements. These regiments enable Army Special Operations Forces to provide a wholistic 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.



USASOC By the Numbers:

36,000
military and civilian USASOC personnel

45%
of USSOCOM Force structure

1989
USASOC was established at Fort Bragg, North Carolina