

Readiness

10-12 Special Operations Forces

The U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) provides Regional Combatant Commanders, American ambassadors, and other agencies as directed, with specially selected, well-trained, highly qualified, and well-led Soldiers, fully prepared to successfully conduct full spectrum operations - kinetic and non-kinetic, direct and indirect - including Unconventional Warfare, Foreign Internal Defense, Special Reconnaissance, Direct Action, Combating Terrorism, Counter-proliferation, and Information Operations.

On any given day, elements from three of the five active duty Special Forces groups, both of the National Guard Special Forces Groups, one or more of the Ranger battalions, some 36 special operations aircraft, 35 civil affairs teams, 35 psychological operations teams and supporting logistics units are deployed around the world.

U.S. Army Special Operations Forces elements are today working in more than 30 American Embassies, supporting country team mission planning and U.S. strategic objectives in the global war on terrorism.

Virtually all of the Army's 228 continental US-based operational detachments "A" are committed to supporting operations worldwide, either deployed or preparing for deployment.

At the same time, the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School continues pipeline training that provides more Special Forces, Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Soldiers to meet future mission requirements.

Worldwide demand for these skills continues to increase for USASOC's most precious asset: its selfless, dedicated Soldiers. Responding to that demand, the Army is methodically increasing its total Special Operations manpower from 17,000 to 31,000 Special Operations-qualified Soldiers.

To maintain the capability to execute their full range of missions, ARSOF must have a robust force structure; realistic training; light-weight equipment designed with special operations capabilities; dedicated combat service support; and long-range, high-speed infiltration and exfiltration platforms.

Investment in a well-trained and technologically enhanced ARSOF will allow the nation to continue responding quickly to a broad spectrum of conflicts and enhance global stability.

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE to urge the Administration and Congress to:

- Fund a robust Special Operations force structure of highly motivated, uniquely-trained, and well-equipped professionals supported by dedicated combat support and combat service support elements
- Fund research, development and procurement for Special Operations Forces' unique equipment: advanced weapons, munitions, long-range high-speed infiltration/exfiltration platforms and survival enhancements
- Fund full inclusion of ARSOF in information warfare programs, technologies and systems
- Fund realistic Joint and Combined exercises, to include deployments for training
- Fund the Foreign Military Financing Program

- Fund ARSOF aviation requirements with additional MH-47G and MH-60 helicopters.
- Fund U.S. Special Operations Command initiatives to ensure ARSOF are supported adequately by Air Force special operations infiltration, exfiltration, fire support, and air refueling platforms
- Fund lighter, smaller, state-of-the-art communications equipment with: low probability of intercept; low probability of detection capability; and automated command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence systems to enhance ARSOF ability to support conventional force commanders.