

**ARMY SPECIAL
OPERATIONS FORCES
COMMAND**



**MACOM
ACTIVATION**

1 DECEMBER 1989

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**ARMY SPECIAL
OPERATIONS FORCES
COMMAND**

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U.S. Army Special Operations Command

SYMBOLISM

The stylized spearhead alludes to the shoulder sleeve insignia worn by the 1st Special Service Forces and signifies the heritage and traditions that the U.S. Army Special Operations Command will perpetuate. The unsheathed black dagger symbolizes total military preparedness and has long been associated with Army special operations forces.

The insignia shall be worn and displayed with the addition of a black and red airborne tab above, indicating the airborne status of the Command.

MACOM DISTINCTIVE UNIT INSIGNIA

The stylized spearhead alludes to the shoulder sleeve insignia worn by the 1st Special Service Forces and recalls the heritage and traditions that the U.S. Army Special Operations Command will perpetuate. The unsheathed dagger symbolizes total military preparedness and has long been associated with Army special operations forces. The gold wings surrounding the spearhead and symbolizing the Command's airborne and aviation missions, are raised to denote combat readiness. Attached below the shield is a black and gold motto scroll bearing the Command's motto "SINE PARI" (Without Equal) in gold letters.

USASOC MISSION

COMMAND U.S. - BASED ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES

ORGANIZE, TRAIN, EQUIP, AND VALIDATE ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES FOR WORLDWIDE EMPLOYMENT

U.S. Army Special Operations Command (Airborne)

On December 1, 1989, the Department of the Army established the U.S. Army Special Operations Command (Airborne) (USASOC) at Fort Bragg, N.C., as the Army special operations forces.

The change streamlined the command and control of U.S. Army Reserve special operations forces. Army support to the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) located at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., also was enhanced as a result of the new command and control structure. USSOCOM is the Congressionally-mandated unified command responsible for all Department of Defense special operations forces - Army, Navy, and Air Force.

As the Army's component of USSOCOM, USASOC provides special forces, ranger, special operations aviation, psychological operations and civil affairs forces to USSOCOM for deployment if required to other combatant unified commands around the world.

As a major Army command, USASOC reports directly to Department of the Army. USASOC commands both the active Army and U.S. Army Reserve special operations forces. The MACOM also provides oversight of Army National Guard special operations force readiness, organization, training, and employment in coordination with the National Guard Bureau and state adjutants general.

The first commander of new command, headquartered at Fort Bragg, N.C., is Lt. Gen. Gary E. Luck.

A brief history of Special Operations

- 1 Dec 89 - U.S. Army Special Operations Command activated as the 16th major Army Command.*
- 10 Jun 88 - Headquarters, 5th Special Forces Group moves from Fort Bragg, N.C. to Fort Campbell, Ky.*
- 3 Jun 88 - 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment provisionally activated at Fort Campbell, Ky.*
- 9 Apr 87 - Special Forces Branch established for officers.*
- 16 Oct 86 - Task Force 160 Redesignated the 160th Special Operations Aviation Group (Airborne)*
- 26 Sep 86 - 112th Signal Battalion provisionally activated*
- 17 Sep 86 - 112th Signal Battalion formally activated at Fort Bragg, N.C.*
- 15 Aug 86 - A battalion of 5th SF Group move from Bragg to Fort Cambell, Ky.*
- 2 Jun 86 - 528th Support Battalion activated as the 13th Support Battalion at Fort Bragg.*
- 16 Jan 85 - Task Force 160 transferred from 101st Airborne Division to 1st SOCOM.*
- 19 Oct 84 - 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group activated at Torii Station Japan.*
- 3 Oct 84 - 3rd Battalion, and Headquarters & Headquarters Company 75th Ranger Regiment Activated at Fort Benning, Ga.*
- 1 Oct 84 - Special Forces established as a separate Army Career field for enlisted soldiers (CMF 18).*
- 18 Apr 84 - 1st SOCOM Augmentation Detachment activated to streamline peacetime command and control of USAR SOF units.*
- 4 Mar 84 - 2d & 3rd Battalions, 1st Special Forces Groups activated at Fort Lewis, Wash.*
- 1 Oct 83 - 1st Special Operations Command Activated.*
- 1 Oct 82 - 1st Special Operations Command provisionally activated at Fort Bragg.*
- Dec 74 - 96th Civil Affairs Battalion constituted at Fort Bragg from assets of 95th Civil Affairs Group deactivated at Fort Lee, Va..*
- 1 Oct 74 - 2 Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment activated at Fort Lewis, Wash.*
- 1 Jul 74 - 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment moves to Fort Stewart (Hunter Army Airfield), Ga.*
- 28 Jan 74 - 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment activated at Fort Benn, Ga.*
- 7 Nov 67 - Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 4th Psychological Operations Group constituted into the Regular Army.*
- 1 Dec 67 - 4th Psychological Operations Group organized in Vietnam from elements of the 6th Psyops Battalion.*
- 21 Sep 61 - 5th Special Forces Group activated at Fort Bragg, N.C.*
- 21 Sep 61 - Green Beret adopted as the official headgear of all Special Forces troops.*
- 19 Jun 52 - 10th Special Forces Group founded at Fort Bragg, N.C. by Col. Aaron Banks.*
- 26 Aug 45 - 96th Headquarters & Headquarters Detachment, Military Government Group Activated.*
- 9 Jul 42 - 1st Service Force, a joint Canadian-American venture formed at Fort William Henry Harrison, Mont.*
- 19 Jun 42 - 1st Ranger Battalion (Darby's Rangers) activated in Carrickfergus, Ireland.*

USASOC COMMANDERS

U.S. Army Special Operations Command (Airborne)

Commander - Lt. Gen. Gary E. Luck

Command Sergeant Major - Command Sgt. Maj. Ronnie Strahan

Deputy Commander - Brig. Gen. William F. Garrison

Deputy Commanding General - Army National Guard - Maj. Gen. Joseph C. Boyersmith

Deputy Chief of Staff - Col. Mercer M. Dorsey

Senior Army National Guard Advisor - Col. William E. Dampier

Senior USAR Advisor - Col. Joseph K. Dietrich

1st Special Operations Command (Airborne)

Commander - Maj. Gen. James A. Guest

Chief of Staff - Col. Charles H. Briscoe

Command Sergeant Major - Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph L. Dennison

U.S. Army Reserve Special Operations Command

Commander - To be Named

Deputy Commander - Brig. Gen. Joseph C. Hurteau

Chief of Staff - Col. Robert L. Floyd III

Command Sergeant Major - To be Named

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

Commander - Brig. Gen. David J. Barratto

Deputy Commander - Col. Harley C. Davis

Command Sergeant Major - Command Sgt. Maj. Ivan Ivanov

BIOGRAPHY

Major General Gary E. Luck
Commanding General, Joint Special Operations Command

General Luck was born in Alma, Michigan, on 5 August 1937. Upon completion of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps curriculum and the educational course of study at Kansas State University in 1960, he was designated Distinguished Military Graduate, commissioned a second lieutenant, and awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering. He also holds a Master of Business Administration (Operations Research and Systems Analysis/Computer Science Specialty) from Florida State University and a Doctorate with the same specialty from George Washington University. His military education includes completion of the Armor Basic and Advanced Officer courses, the Armed Forces Staff College, and the United States Army War College.

As a general officer, he has held a wide variety of important command and staff positions culminating in his current assignment. Other key assignments held recently include duty as Director, Force Development with the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans in Washington, D.C.; Assistant Division Commander with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault); and Commanding General, 2d Infantry Division, Korea.

General Luck also served in a variety of important assignments preparatory to his most recent duties. His first tour in Vietnam was as a Special Forces "A" Team Commander. He was also a Troop Commander with the 3/17th Cavalry (Air) in Vietnam, followed by a command tour with the 182d Aviation Company at Fort Bragg. Following graduate school and attendance at the Armed Forces Staff College, General Luck served in Washington, D.C. as an Action Officer in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel and as a Military Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs). Transferred to the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, he commanded an Air Cavalry Squadron and served as Division G-3. General Luck's next assignment was Europe, where he headed the Force Modernization Division for United States Army Europe, commanded an Infantry Brigade with the 8th Infantry Division, and served as Division Chief of Staff.

Numerous awards and decorations which General Luck has received include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Distinguished Flying Cross (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), the Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal, several Air Medals with "V" Device, and the Army Commendation Medal. Badges and tabs General Luck is authorized to wear are the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Army Staff Identification Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge, the Senior Army Aviation Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the Ranger Tab.

A Special Operations Forces Primer

Special Operations Forces or SOF consists of Special Forces, Rangers, Special Operations Aviation, Psychological Operations, Civil Affairs, as well as Signal and Support.

Special Operations are defined as operations conducted by specially trained, equipped and organized Department of Defense forces against strategic or tactical targets in pursuit of national military, political, economic or psychological objectives. These operations may be conducted during periods of peace or hostilities. They may support conventional operations, or they may be undertaken independently when the use of conventional forces is either inappropriate or infeasible.

The mission of the Special Forces Group is to plan, prepare for, and when directed, deploy to conduct foreign internal defense, unconventional warfare, special reconnaissance and direct actions in support of U.S. National Policy objectives within designated areas of responsibility.

The units continually train to conduct unconventional warfare in any of its forms--Guerrilla Warfare, Evasion & Escape, Subversion, and Sabotage. The soldiers are also schooled in direct action operations and special reconnaissance.

Approximately 1400 soldiers are assigned to each group. The 12-man "A" Team is the operating level of the SF Group.

Rangers are the masters of special light infantry operations. These include attacks to temporarily seize and secure key objectives and other light infantry operations requiring unique capabilities. Like their special forces counterparts, Rangers can infiltrate an area by land, by sea or by air.

The 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment is a unique unit. It is prepared to support Special Operations Forces on a Worldwide basis. The unit uses three types of modified helicopters.

The capabilities of the aviation units include inserting, resupplying and extracting U.S. and Allied SOF personnel. They also assist in SOF Search & Rescue and Escape & Evasion activities. In addition to general aviation support to the SOF community, these units provide forward air control and close air support.

The purpose of Psychological Operations is to demoralize the enemy by causing dissention and unrest among his ranks, while at the same time convincing the local population to support American troops. Psyop units accomplish their mission by disseminating propaganda messages in the form of leaflets, posters, broadcasts and audio-visual tapes. Each unit has its own intelligence and audio-visual specialists.

The Civil Affairs unit are designed to prevent civilian interference with tactical operations, to assist commanders in discharging their responsibilities toward the civilian population, and to provide liaison with civilian government agencies. The 96th CA Bn. is the only one of its kind on active duty.

In the mid-1980's, separate units were organized to provide signal and support to Special Operations units.

The 112th Sig. Bn. provides communications links and service between the command, joint controlling agencies or commands, and U.S. Army special operations commands in two theaters of operation. The 528th Support Battalion enhances USASOC's medical, maintenance, supply and transportation capabilities.