



SPECIAL OPERATIONS

SPECIALIZED AIRPOWER MISSIONS





Air Force Association

...THE FORCE BEHIND THE FORCE



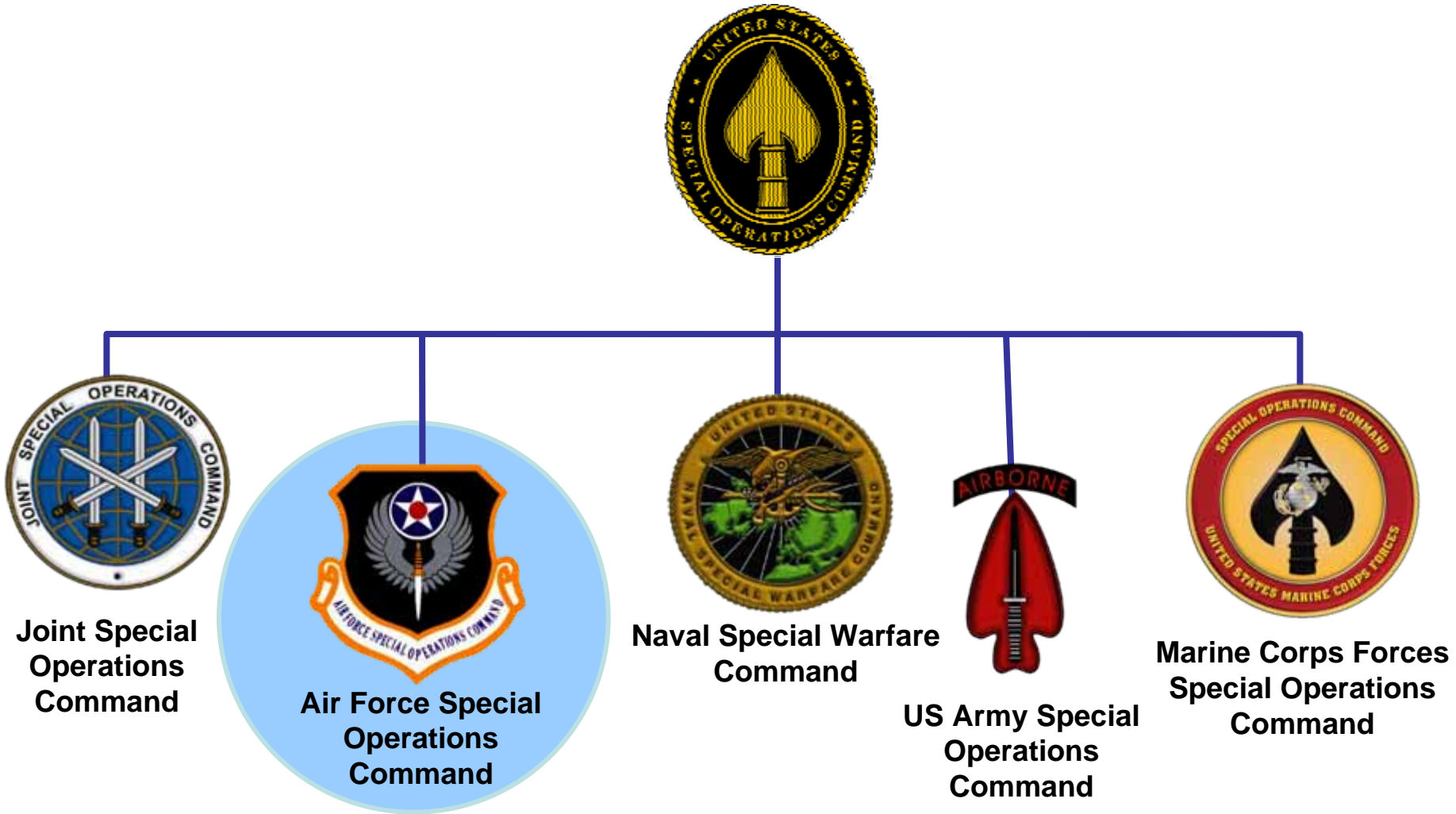
- AFSOC is the Air Force component of Special Operations.
- AFSOC is America's "Specialized Airpower."
- AFSOC operates worldwide in all theaters.



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A Component of USSOCOM





An Air Force Major Command



- In personnel, AFSOC is the smallest Command, including 11,000 active duty and 15,000 total. About 8,000 of these are based at Hurlburt Field, FL. Cannon AFB is becoming a “mirror image” in the West, utilizing Cannon’s remote location and range.



AFSOC Bases

Location: Harrisburg, PA
Weapon System: EC-130J
Unit: 193SOW

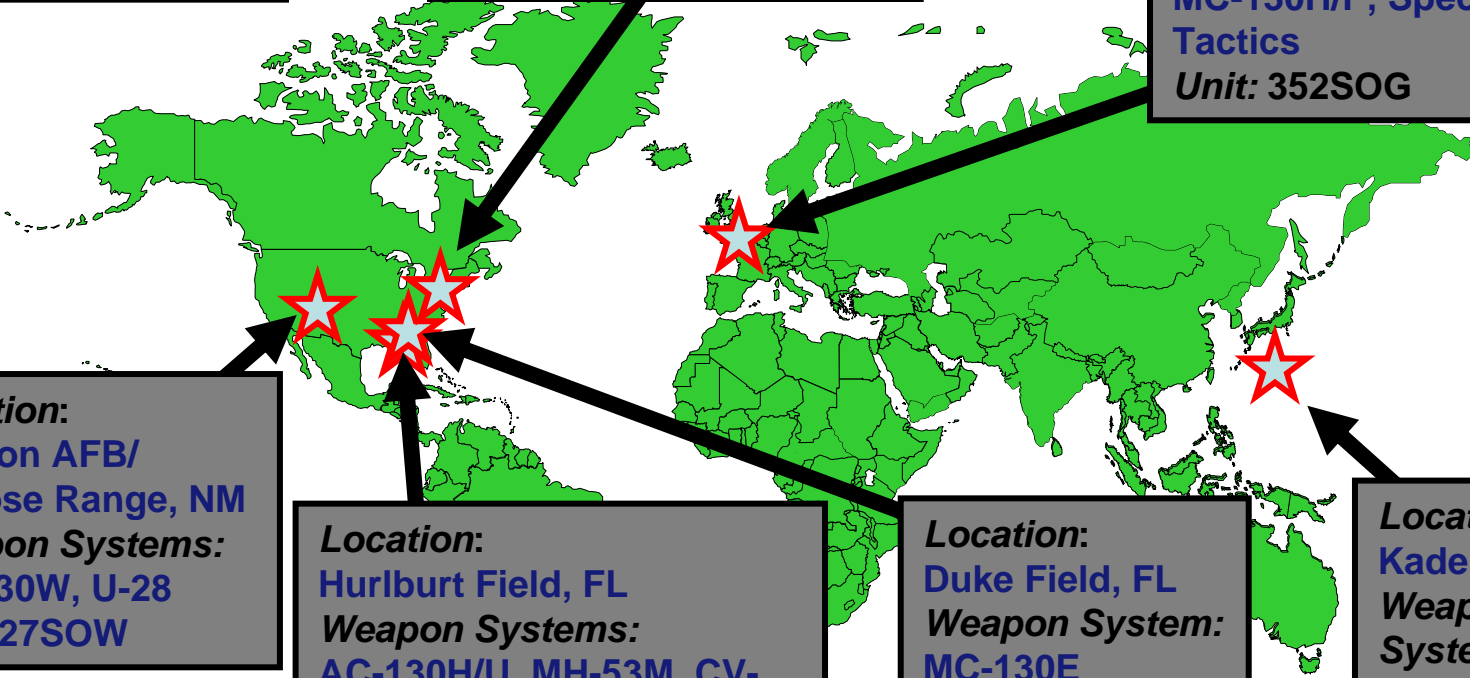
Location: RAF Mildenhall, UK
Weapon Systems: MC-130H/P, Special Tactics
Unit: 352SOG

Location: Cannon AFB/ Melrose Range, NM
Weapon Systems: MC-130W, U-28
Unit: 27SOW

Location: Hurlburt Field, FL
Weapon Systems: AC-130H/U, MH-53M, CV-22, MC-130H, U-28,
Units: USAFSOS, 23 AF, 1SOW, 720 STG

Location: Duke Field, FL
Weapon System: MC-130E
Unit: 919SOW

Location: Kadena AB, JA
Weapon Systems: MC-130H/P, Special Tactics
Unit: 353SOG





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Air Commando Heritage



World War II

- In WWII the 1st Air Commando Group was one of the first truly composite Air Force units: They flew fighters, bombers, gliders and even the Sikorsky R-4 helicopters, & performed the first helicopter combat search and rescue mission.
- In the Pacific, they parachuted into remote regions to hack airstrips out of the jungle.
- In Europe, the “Carpetbaggers” conducted nighttime clandestine infiltration in France. Using modified B-24s, they dropped leaflets as a diversion while dropping supplies and agents to help the French resistance.



Air Commando Heritage



Korea

- In Korea, Special Ops were masked under the name “Air Resupply and Communications squadrons.” They flew B-29s, SA-16 amphibians and H-19 Chickasaw helicopters. Top left, Maj. Don Nichols was 3 times a target for assassination by the North Koreans. Bottom right: a female agent was infiltrated into North Korea.



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Heritage: Air National Guard & Air Resupply



- In the mid-1950s, the unconventional warfare mission was assumed by the Air National Guard, providing continuity in Special Operations through the early 1970s.



- Four aircraft figured prominently in Special Operations then: The C-119 Flying Boxcar (below) and, left from the top, the SA-16 Albatross amphibian, the C-46 Commando and the U-10 light plane.



Air Commando Heritage: The Gunship

Vietnam



- The gunship was developed. It quickly demonstrated its capabilities, first with the AC-47, then the AC-130A.
- The gunship combined the entire kill chain into one platform: finding, engaging and assessing.
- The AC-130A flew 8 percent of the sorties against the Ho Chi Minh trail and accounted for more than 40 percent of the destroyed trucks.



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Air Commando Heritage



- In Vietnam, the Air Commandos greatly expanded with 19 squadrons operating in Southeast Asia.

- In addition to gunships and other aircraft, they flew the A-37 (right), nicknamed the “Dragonfly,” for close air support.

- The C-123 (lower left) was used for search and rescue, resupply and defoliation.

- The U-10 (upper left) could land on unpaved surfaces of less than 500 feet, & was used for covert operations, supply drops, & psychological warfare, such as leaflet drops and broadcasts.

Vietnam



Heritage: Lessons of Preparedness



Desert One

- Special Operations capability is important and will always be needed.
- No one can clearly predict when and where there will be a demand for Special Operations Forces.
- The U.S. must have a viable, prepared force ready to undertake these missions.





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AFSOC Aircraft

Inventory in black; Average age in yellow

MC-130E 10
44

MC-130W 4
20

U-28A 9
New

MC-130P 19
40

MC-130H 17
20

CV-22 4
Awaiting IOC

AC-130H 8
39

AC-130U 17
17

MQ-1 28
New

MH-53M 12
39
- Retiring FY09

E/C-130J 7
10

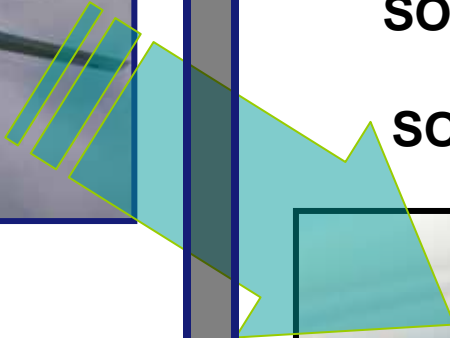
AC-XX
Conceptual

Unique Funding



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**SOF SUPPORT
HOST BASE SUPPORT
DEPOT MAINTENANCE
MIL FAM HSG**



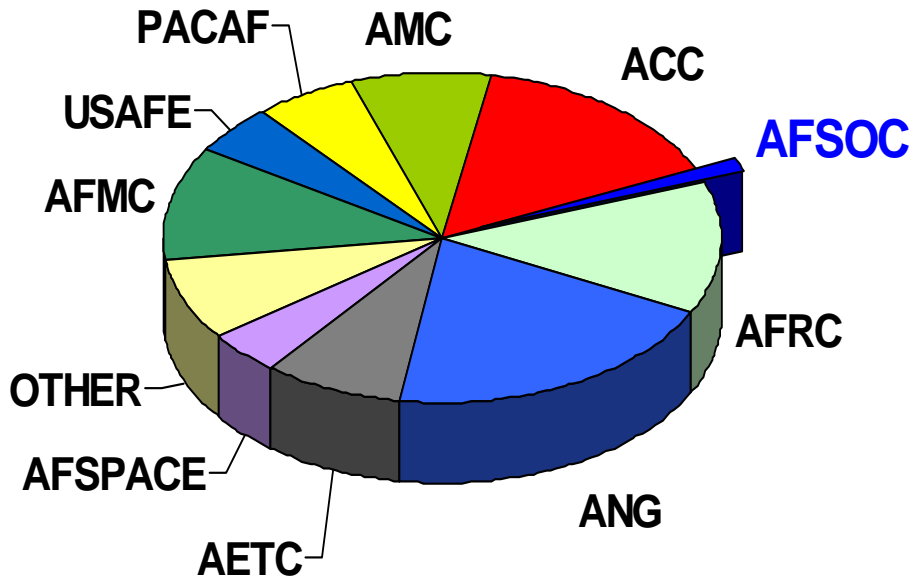
USSOCOM

**SOF MISSION
SOF FLYING HOURS
HQ AFSOC
SOF UNIQUE MODS**

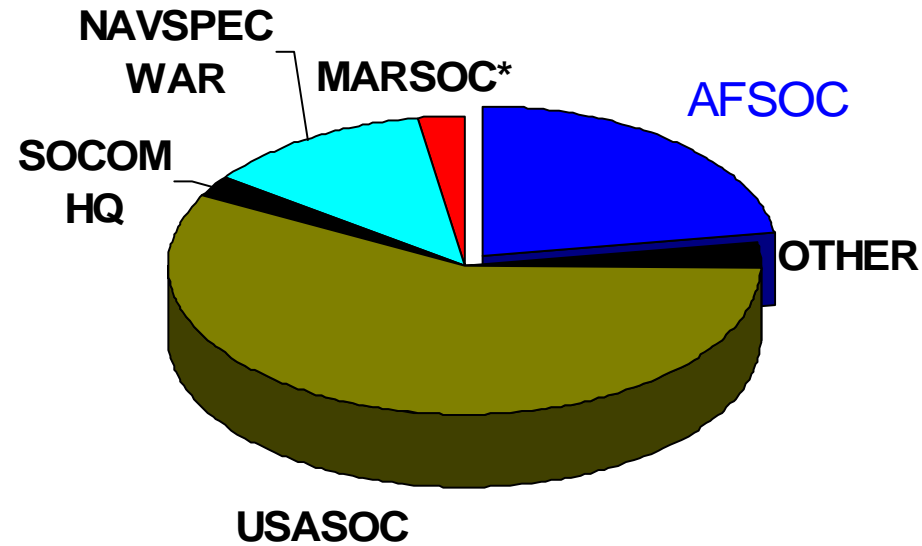


- The Air Force funds a C-130, then SOCOM funds its conversion to a “Spectre” gunship. The Special Operations capabilities and equipment costs more than the initial aircraft.

AFSOC Manpower



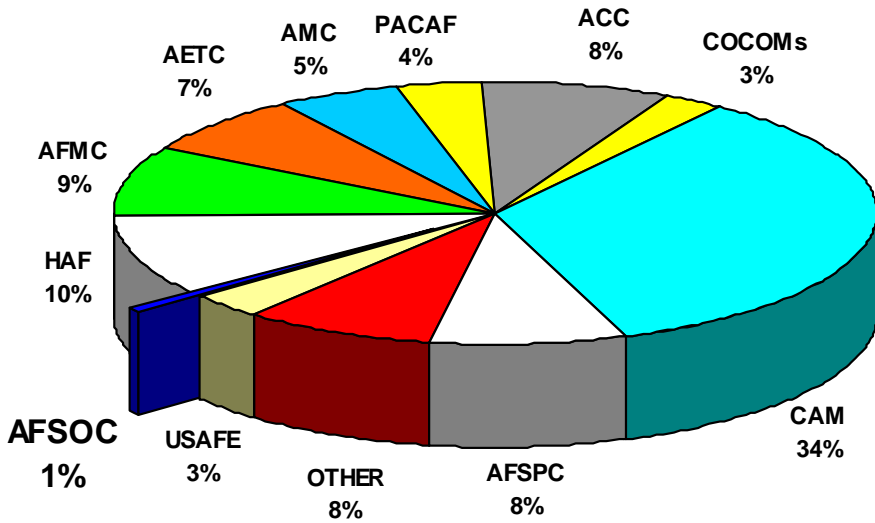
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SOCOM

- Although the smallest AF Command, AFSOC is the second-largest component force in USSOCOM.

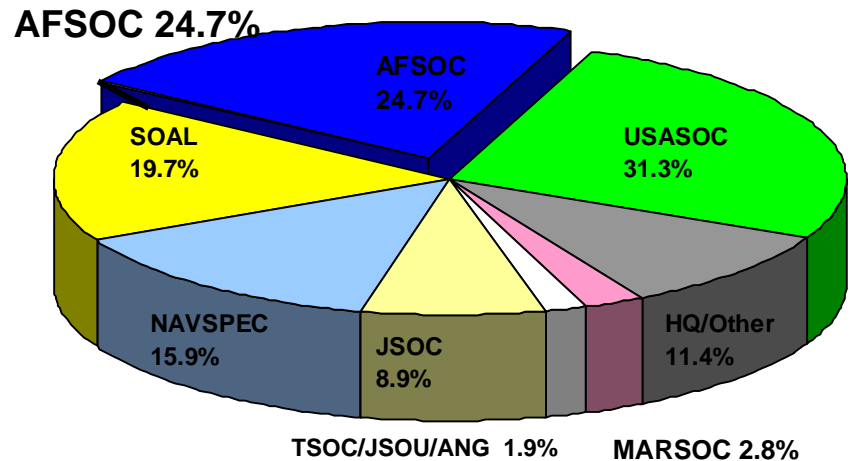
AFSOC Budgets



FY08 AF O&M TOA \$33.7B

Note: Does not Include GWOT spending

FY08 PB SOCOM O&M TOA \$3.22B



- AFSOC at just 1% of the Air Force budget, is one-quarter of the USSOCOM budget.

SOCOM Core Tasks



Counterproliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction
Counterterrorism
Special Reconnaissance
Direct Action
Unconventional Warfare
Foreign Internal Defense
Civil Affairs Operations
Information & Psychological Operations
Synchronize DoD GWOT Efforts

Global War on Terrorism



AFA Recommends



- Maintain a strong AFSOC.
- Modernize aging aircraft and manage the AFSOC fleet.
- Equip, train and man AFSOC to fulfill the mission.
- Develop and keep professionals.
- Provide necessary resources for communications technology and mobility.

