

BODORÓCZKI JÁNOS őrnagy

OVERVIEW OF ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS, AND SPECIAL OPERATION LOGISTIC

A KÜLÖNLEGES ERŐK (ARMY), ÉS A KÜLÖNLEGES ERŐK LOGISZTIKÁJÁNAK ÁTTEKINTÉSE

A cikk rövid áttekintést nyújt a különleges erőről, illetve a műveleti környezetről. Az első fejezet tárgyalja a különleges erők parancsnokságának felépítését világszerte, illetve a hadszíntéren. A publikáció bemutat egy különleges műveleti alkalmi harci köteléket. A műveletek, és tevékenységek fejezet bemutatja, mely cselekvések tartoznak e témakörbe. Az utolsó fejezet bemutatja a különleges erők fenntartási rendszerét.

This article provides a short overview of the special operational environments, conduct operations. Next is a discussion of the Army Special Operation Forces, Army Special Operation Forces Command, command structure, and a theater organization. The chapter then describes the Special operation task force. Operations and activities discusses, how Special Operation Forces accomplish the core operations and activities. The last chapter describes the Army Special Operation Forces sustainment structures.

1. Overview of Special Operation

1.1 Discreet, precise operations

Discreet, precise, operations-these are special operation forces core principles. These principles are discussed in this following short paragraph. Discreet, precise, operations provide the combatant commander (and ambassadors) a flexible military power in politically sensitive and culturally complex environments. These operations represent a combination of precise lethal and nonlethal options from direct action to civil affair operation. This kind of operations may enhance the legitimacy of partners be-

cause the capability is applied in a discreet manner. Special operation missions may require unorthodox approach, but this approach do not negate the principles of war: objective, offensive, mass, economy of force, maneuver, unity of command, security, surprise, and simplicity.¹

1.2 Three additional special operation principle

Special operations always follow the principles of war, and always consider the principles of operations that add value to activities and threat focused operations. The three additional principles of special operations are restraint (to limit collateral damage), perseverance (to ensure the commitment necessary to attain the national strategic end state), and legitimacy (to develop and maintain the will necessary to attain the national strategic end state).

1.3 Nature of special operations

The nature of special operation is depending on a number of factors. These paramount factors are the following: Tempo, Dislocation, Disruption, Exploitation, Main-, and supporting efforts, Intelligence, Initiative, etc. These factors described in the following short paragraph.

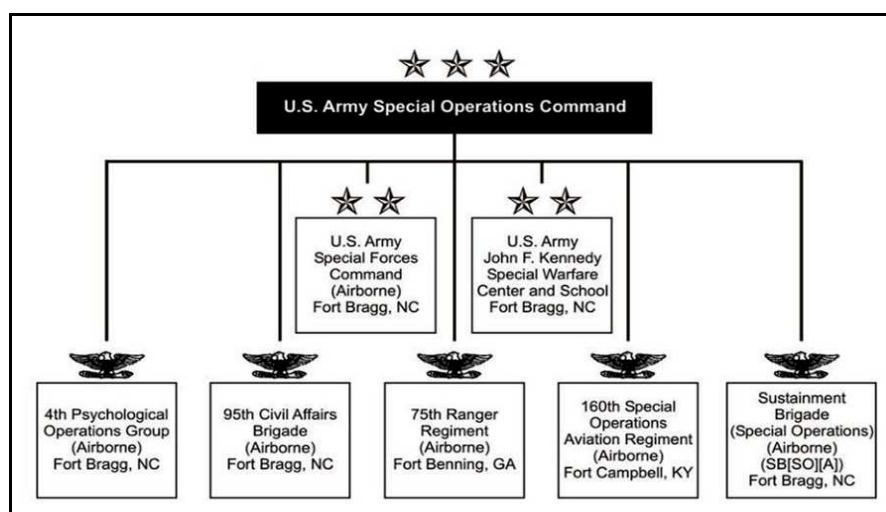
- Tempo: Tempo is critical to special operational force's ability. A rapid tempo allows special operation force to mass their combat power at the critical place and time.
- Dislocation: Special operation forces can dislocate the enemy force from chosen positions by direct actions. Direct action missions may force the enemy to reposition they combat forces away from the main battle area.
- Disruption: Special operation forces can disrupt the enemy through attacks against strategic and operational targets or centers of gravity.
- Exploitation: Special operation forces can provide the join force commander multiple means to attack the enemy's will to resist. Exploiting psychological vulnerabilities can demoralize and divide enemy troops.

¹ JP 3-0, Joint Operations

- Main-, and supporting efforts: The main effort is the activity, unit, or area. This is the most important task at the time.
- Intelligence: Special operation force requires timely, responsive, and accurate intelligence support to overcome their relative lack of size and firepower. Commanders use intelligence to find enemy weaknesses to avoid enemy strengths.[2]

1.4 Army Special Operation Forces

(USASOC) is the Army Service component command of USSOCOM. This organization provides trained and ready SF, Ranger, special operations aviation, Psychological Operations, and Civil Affairs operations personnel to geographic combatant commanders (and U.S. Ambassadors). The above showed illustration demonstrates The United States Army Special Operations Command organization.



1st. Illustration:
Army Special Operations Command
(Authority: FM 3-05 Army Special Operation Forces)

The United States Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) consists of five Active Army Special Force groups and two Army National Guard groups. The Special Forces Group (Airborne) constitutes the largest com-

bat element of Army Special Operation Forces. It consists of a headquarters and Headquarters Company, four SF battalions, and a group support battalion. SF battalions consist of a HQ detachment, two or more SF companies, and a support company (with similar structure and function as a group support battalion). SF companies consist of a company HQ and six Special Forces operational detachments a SFODA s. The SFODA, composed of 12 men, is the primary SF operational unit. [1]

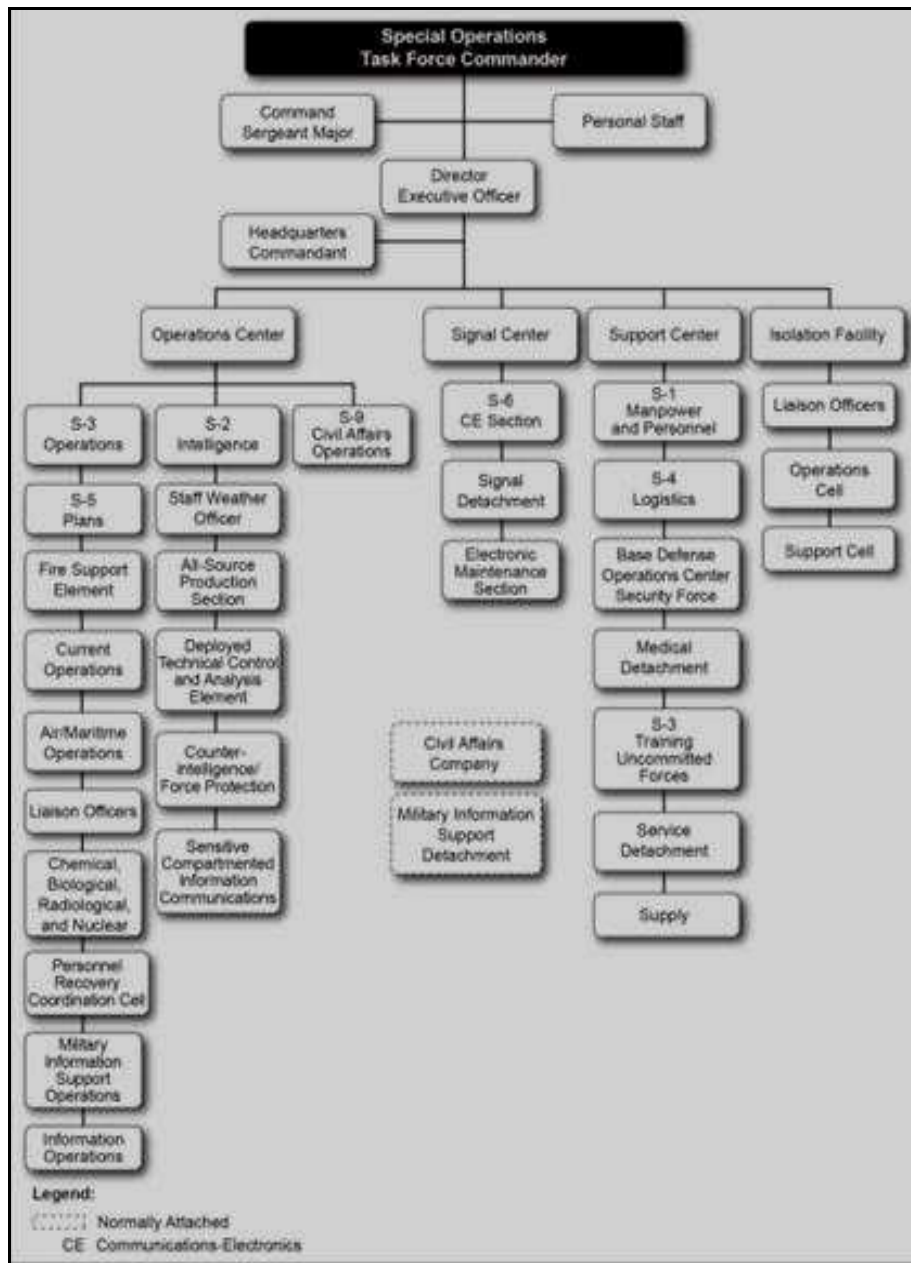
2. Command structure

Special Operation Force requires centralized command structure. This kind of command organization requires an operational headquarter (group or battalion) to interact directly with joint forces especially theater operation organization.

2.1 Theater of operation organizations

As usual, mission command of Special Operation Force is executed within the Special Operation Force chain of command. The identification of a command organizational structure for Special Operation Force is depend upon specific objectives, security requirements, and the operational environment. To provide the necessary unity of command, each geographic combatant commander (GCC) has established a theater special operations command (TSOC) as a subordinate command. There are five theater special operations commands all over the world:

- Special Operations Component, United States Central Command (SOCCENT).
- Special Operations Component, United States European Command (SOCEUR).
- Special Operations Component, United States Pacific Command (SOCPAC).
- Special Operations Component, United States Southern Command (SOCSOUTH).
- Special Operations Component, United States Africa Command (SOCAFRICA).
- Special Operations Component, Korea (SOCKOR). This component supports the Korean Peninsula.



2nd. Illustration: Special Operations Task Force Organization
 (Authority: Adrp 3-05 Special Operations.)

The theater special operations command (TSOC) commander has three paramount roles: First, as the commander of a subordinate combatant command, the theater special operations command commander is a joint force commander (JFC). Second, the TSOC commander advises the geographic combatant commander and the other component commanders on the proper employment of SOF. The commander is a special operation advisor in theater. Third the theater special operations command commander is Joint Force Special Operations Component Commander.

2.2 Special operation task force

The special operations task force is a temporary group of special operation units. This group carry out specific operations or continuing missions. The special operation task force commander designates and organizes operational and functional organizations for operational direction of forces. [2]

3. Operations and activities

Special Operation Force possess unique capabilities to support United States Special Operations Command's roles, missions, and functions. Special Operation Force plan, conduct, and support SO throughout the range of military operations. They missions are normally joint or inter-agency in nature. Special Operation Force can conduct these missions unilaterally, with allied forces, as a coalition force, or with indigenous assets.

3.1 Operations

Operations are the military missions for which SOF have unique modes of employment, tactical techniques, equipment, and training to orchestrate effects, often in concert with conventional forces. Operations are the following: Unconventional warfare, Foreign internal defense, Counterinsurgency, Counterterrorism, Combating Weapons Of Mass Destruction, Stability Operations, Support To Major Combat Operations. These operations described in the following short paragraph.

- Unconventional warfare: The goal of unconventional warfare operations is a change in political control, or perceived legitimacy of regimes. Unconventional warfare is defined as “activities conducted to enable a resistance movement or insurgency to coerce, disrupt, or overthrow a government or occupying power by operating through or with an underground, auxiliary, and guerrilla force in a denied area.”²
- Foreign internal defense: This operation is participation by civilian and military agencies of a government in any of the action programs. ³ This activity is a part of irregular warfare and involves a comprehensive approach (includes all instruments of national power—diplomatic, information, military, economic).
- Counterinsurgency: Insurgency has the potential to be a large and growing element of the security challenges in the 21st century. Counterinsurgency is a comprehensive civilian and military efforts taken to defeat an insurgency and to address any core grievances⁴
- Counterterrorism: Counterterrorism is actions taken directly against terrorist networks and indirectly to influence and render global and regional environments inhospitable to terrorist networks.⁵ Army Special Operation Forces possess the capability to conduct these operations in environments. It could be denied to conventional forces because of political or threat conditions.
- Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction includes three pillars: nonproliferation, counterproliferation, and Weapons of Mass Destruction consequence management.⁶ Special Operation Forces provide the following capabilities for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction: expertise, material, and teams to supported combatant command teams; capabilities to conduct direct action operations; building partnership capacity; for conducting CP activities; Stability Operations; etc.

² JP 3-05, Special Operations

³ JP 3-22, Foreign Internal Defense

⁴ JP 3-24, Counterinsurgency Operations

⁵ JP 3-26, Counterterrorism

⁶ JP 3-40, Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction

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- **Stability Operations:** Stability Operations contains diversified military missions, tasks, and activities. There are five primary stability tasks such as establish civil security, establish civil control, restore essential services, support to governance, and support to economic and infrastructure development.
 - **Support To Major Combat Operations:** This kind of operations in support of conventional forces as part of a geographic combatant commander operation involving major combat forces.[2]

3.2 Activities

Special Operation Forces activities are operationally significant, unique capabilities. A Special Operation activity is a stand-alone, operationally significant military capability that SOF can apply independently or in combination as part of global, geographic combatant commander or operations. The paramount Special Operation Activities are the following: Security Force Assistance, Direct Action, Special Reconnaissance, Military Information Support Operations, Civil Affairs Operations, Preparation of The Environment, Hostage Rescue and Recovery, Interdiction and Offensive Weapons of Mass Destruction Operations. These operations described in the following short paragraph.

- **Security Force Assistance:** “Security force assistance is defined as the Department of Defense activities that contribute to unified action by the U.S. Government to support the development of the capacity and capability of foreign security forces and their supporting institutions”⁷. Security force assistance includes organizing, training, equipping, rebuilding, and advising of various components of security forces.
- **Direct Action:** Direct Action is a short-duration strikes and other small-scale offensive action. Direct Action differs from conventional offensive actions because of level of physical and political risk, operational techniques, and specific objectives.
- **Special Reconnaissance:** Special Reconnaissance are reconnaissance and surveillance actions. These actions provide an additive

⁷ JP 3-22

capability for commanders and supplement other conventional reconnaissance and surveillance actions.

- **Civil Affairs Operations:** Commanders conduct Civil Affairs Operations to establish, maintain, influence, or exploit relations between military forces and civil -government and nongovernment-authorities.



3rd. Illusrtaion: Special operation and activities
(Authority: Adp 3-05 Special Operations.)

- **Over Preparation of the Environment:** Preparation of the environment is a core activity and an umbrella term. This expression for actions taken by or in support of Special Operation Forces to develop an environment for current or future operations or activities.
- **Hostage Rescue and Recovery:** “Hostage rescue and recovery operations are sensitive crisis-response missions that include offensive measures taken to prevent, deter, preempt, and respond to terrorist threats and incidents, including recapture of U.S. facilities, installations, and sensitive material.”⁸
- **Interdiction and Offensive Weapons of Mass Destruction Operations:** These military activities are closely tied to the joint targeting

⁸ ADRP 3-05

process and intend to address a failure in cooperative actions associated with nonproliferation, but in which an adversary has not employed weapons.[2]

View of Special Operation Sustainment

For the Army, “sustainment is the provision of logistics, personnel services, and health services support necessary to maintain operations until successful mission completion.”⁹

4.1 Principle of sustainment

The principles of sustainment are critical to guiding the success of generating combat power, strategic and operational reach, and endurance. These principles are the following: anticipation, responsiveness, simplicity, economy, survivability, continuity, improvisation, and integration.

4.2 Special Operations Logistics Support Execution

Logistics support organizations and procedures are usually adequate for requirements. Standard logistic procedures are in place to handle the few Special Operation peculiar requirements.

The Army Service component command provides reception, staging, onward movement (RSOM), including integration (RSOI) and follow-on support and sustainment of theater of operations Army forces, as well as Special Operation Forces.

4.2 Army Special Operations Forces Sustainment Structures

Army Special Operations Forces sustainment structures provide all sustainment functions required to support Special Operation missions. ARSOF receive comprehensive sustainment functions from the theater sustainment command, and sustainment brigade.

⁹ Army Doctrine Publication [ADP] 4-0, Sustainment

ARSOF sustainment structures are designed to perform the following paramount tasks: Deploy early and rapidly, Fill immediate and critical logistical requirements, provide the capability of operations logistics structures, provide health service support.

4.4 Theater Of Operations Logistics Considerations

Host nation and contractor support are considerations for logistics planners when determining logistics requirements in support of SO within developed and undeveloped theaters of operations.

- Developed theater of operations: In this theater of operations, the Army Service component command establishes a logistical structure within the area of responsibility that provides sustainment operations in support of Special Operation Forces.
- Undeveloped theater of operations: An undeveloped theater of operations may not have a significant U.S. theater sustainment support structure. This kind of support system may function from the continental United States, or at a third-country support base.[2]

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