

## CHAPTER 10

# RELIGIOUS SUPPORT OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Army Special Operations Forces (ARSOF) provide a versatile military capability to defend our national interests. ARSOF gives the National Command Authority (NCA) additional military options. These options provide a strategic response capability across the full range of military operations to stabilize international situations with minimum risk to US interests. The theater Special Operations Forces (SOF) commander executes special operations (SO) as part of the theater commander's joint special operations effort.

### US ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

US Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) was activated in December 1989 as a Major Army Command (MACOM) and the Army component of the US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). USASOC commands all CONUS-based active and reserve ARSOF units. This command is comprised of five types of units: Special Forces (SF), Rangers, Army Special Operations Aviation (ARSOA), Psychological Operations (PSYOP), and Civil Affairs (CA).

The command is responsible for readiness and training oversight for all Army National Guard SOF and all OCONUS forward based (deployed) active Army SOF. When directed, USASOC provides mission-ready ARSOF, through United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), to the regional CINCs for employment under their command authority.

### SOF Under Unified Command

The mission, duration and scope of operations, security considerations, signal capabilities, and the desired degree of control determine SOF command relationships. SOF units above group or regimental level are joint. Joint force commanders include unified, subordinate unified, joint task force, functional component, and commanders of specific operational forces.

A unified command normally consists of the four service-specific conventional forces and a Special Operations Command (SOC). The CINC or the SOC may establish a Joint Special Operations Task Force (JSOTF) commanded by the Joint Force Special Operations Component Commander (JFSOCC). SOF units from the three services are normally under the operational control (OPCON) of the JFSOCC.

### **UMT Personnel Qualifications**

ARSOF missions are often highly classified and sensitive. To provide counseling, debriefing, and other religious support to ARSOF units, the chaplain must have a Top Secret clearance. Chaplain assistants should have a clearance equal to mission classification. The USASOC UMT recommends all ARSOF UMT assignments.

### **Religious Support**

Normally, the JSOTF chaplain is a member of the service having the majority of forces. (See JP 1-05, Chapter 2.) If the Army supplies the majority of forces, an ARSOF chaplain is designated as the JTSOTF chaplain.

The JSOTF chaplain coordinates with the senior chaplain of the next higher headquarters to ensure complete religious support for SOF units. The JSOTF chaplain, in turn, supervises SOF religious support throughout the theater. The chaplain coordinates for additional religious support when other SOF chaplains are unable to provide religious support. SOF chaplains may provide limited area support for conventional forces when it does not conflict with SOF mission requirements.

## **SPECIAL FORCES**

Special Forces (SF) combine, at the lowest tactical level, the functions performed by conventional branches of the Army. SF has five primary missions and related additional capabilities.

### **Primary Missions**

The five primary missions are

Unconventional Warfare (UW), Foreign Internal Defense (FID), Special Reconnaissance (SR), Direct Action (DA), and Counter Terrorism (CT). An SF unit can have elements deployed to several different areas within its assigned region. These elements range in size from the individual soldier to units of 12 to 150 soldiers. SF missions are directly influenced by politico-military considerations. A change in national security policy or strategy may change SF missions.

### **Additional Capabilities**

SF units are trained to conduct OOTW missions. Language capabilities, area orientation, small unit, and multi-agency experience are invaluable in OOTW missions. Additional capabilities include noncombatant evacuation operations (NEO), arms control, support to domestic authorities, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, security assistance, nation assistance, counterdrug operations, combating terrorism, peacekeeping and peace enforcement, show of force, support to insurgencies and counterinsurgencies, personnel recovery, and special activities.

### **Organization**

The US Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) (USASFC(A)) exercises command over all CONUS Active Army Special Forces Groups and their attached elements. The command is also responsible for readiness and training oversight for all Reserve Component and OCONUS active Army Special Forces.

The National Command Authority (NCA) has established five regional unified commanders with broad strategic responsibility for US unified military operations in an AOR. The regional CINC exercises combatant command (COCOM) over assigned SOF. Each

regional CINC has established a subordinate unified SOC to exercise operational control (OPCON) of his theater-level joint SOF. In wartime, this SOC may develop into a combined organization.

Special Forces soldiers are trained to serve as quiet professionals. The Special Forces branch or related MOS is the only non-accessioning branch or MOS. A soldier selected for the Special Forces branch or MOS has successfully completed service in an accession branch or MOS and graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course.

### UMT Personnel Qualifications

Ministry in the Special Forces community requires unique qualifications. The most critical is the ability to provide sustained, independent religious support. Others include:

- Security clearance equal to the mission classification.
- Airborne qualification.
- Extensive orientation in special operations, or graduation from the Special Forces Qualification Course, or Special Forces Staff Course (SFSC), or an “S” enlisted MOS identifier.
- Training in the religious background of the region of deployment.
- Language skills necessary to provide religious support to soldiers of the host nation.
- Deployability.
- Yearly recertification.

### Religious Support

The unconventional nature of special operations, the high operational tempo (OPTEMPO), and the multiple mission deployments create stress on units, soldiers, and families. These pressures place special demands for religious support on SF UMTs.

The USASFC(A) chaplain gives staff supervision to the USASFC(A) religious program. Group chaplains supervise religious support operations and provide technical guidance to subordinate UMTs. SF chaplains frequently deploy to Advanced Operational Bases (AOB). If a Special Forces Operational Base (SFOB) is deployed, a Catholic chaplain, when available, is attached to perform ministry at the SFOB as well as at the AOB and down to the Operational Detachment Alpha (ODA).

#### Planning Considerations:

- Will the UMT deploy with the unit?
- What access will the UMT have to the unit?
- If the UMT does not deploy with the unit, will it be able to visit the element?
- Do the UMT members require passports and country clearances?
- If the UMT deploys with the unit, where will it establish its base of operations: the SFOB, FOB, AOB or separate isolation facility (ISOFAC)?
- Will the UMT be able to provide religious support to casualties down to the detachment level? Where and when will it be needed?
- When SF UMTs operate with SF units that are COCOM to unified commands, additional religious support is requested through the unified command chaplain.

SF Primary Missions	Before	During	After
Unconventional Warfare (UW)	Advise command on culture and customs as impacted by religion; conduct family briefings; conduct spiritual fitness training.	Accompany unit into operations area; conduct religious support operations in theater.	Provide ministry of presence and individual prayer after extraction; conduct memorial and funeral services; provide individual and group counseling for battlefield stress, casualties, and decompression; spiritually refit the unit, families, and UMT as required.
Foreign Internal Defense (FID)	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above
Special Reconnaissance (SR)	Provide religious support from or at FOB or AOB.	UMT usually does not accompany unit on SR missions.	Same as above.
Direct Action (DA)	Same as above.	UMT may accompany unit to provide religious support to casualties.	Same as above.
Counter Terrorism (CT)	Same as above.	UMT may accompany unit on hostage rescue to provide religious support to casualties.	Same as above.

Figure 10-1

SF Additional Capabilities	Before	During	After
Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO), Arms control, Support to domestic authorities, Humanitarian Assistance (HA) and Disaster relief, Security Assistance (SA), Nation assistance, Peacekeeping and Peace enforcement, Show of force.	Provide religious support from or at garrison, FOB or AOB; coordinate with CA and medics; survey religions in operations area to brief teams.	May accompany the SFOD on mission; coordinate with local religions and agencies; provide religious support to casualties.	Provide ministry to forward elements; perform small group services, individual counseling and prayer; conduct memorial and funeral services; address personnel replacement issues; spiritually refit the unit, families, and UMT as required.
Counter-Drug, Support to insurgencies and counterinsurgencies, Combating terrorism.	Provide isolation/ compartmented ministry.	Provide ministry as far forward as possible.	Same as above.
Personnel recovery, and Special activities.	Provide religious support from the AOB; may be the only resource cleared for ministry to personnel in highly compartmented activities.	Same as above.	Same as above.

Figure 10-2

## RANGERS

Army Rangers are specially trained, equipped, and organized light infantry. They are employed against strategic or tactical targets in pursuit of national military, political, economic, or psychological objectives. Their primary mission is direct action (DA). DA operations may support or be supported by other SOF. They may also be conducted independently or in conjunction with conventional military operations. Rangers can operate as conventional light infantry when properly augmented with other elements of combined arms.

### Organization

Once in combat, the Ranger Regiment maneuvers like other light infantry units. What makes Ranger forces unique is the possible employment with other SOF. Therefore Rangers are held to more rigorous standards of performance than soldiers in other light infantry units.

### UMT Personnel Qualifications

Ministry to Army Rangers is physically, emotionally and spiritually demanding. Unique qualifications include:

- Security clearance equal to mission classification.
- Airborne qualification.
- Ranger qualification.
- Deployability.



**Communion in the field.**

### Religious Support

All Ranger forces, from the single platoon to the entire Ranger Regiment, can conduct missions deep behind enemy lines. Some religious support requirements include:

- The UMT integrates its deployment religious support with the unit's N-Hour sequence.
- The UMT deploys as far forward as possible to provide religious support to units operating in isolation.
- The UMT trains Ranger personnel in peer ministry.
- The UMT provides extensive family support programs to Ranger personnel like those provided to SF units and families.

Note: The USASOC chaplain provides staff supervision over Ranger religious support.

<b>Mission Type</b>	<b>Before</b>	<b>During</b>	<b>After</b>
Strike Operations	Coordinate and perform religious services; prepare for Ranger to Ranger and LEM resupply; conduct ministry of presence; conduct spiritual fitness training.	Locate at Casualty Collection Point (CCP), medical aircraft, or REMAB; perform ministry of presence, rites to dying, pastoral care to wounded.	Perform ministry of presence and individual prayer after extraction; conduct memorials and funerals; provide individual and group counseling for battlefield stress, casualties, and decompression.
Rapid Deployment Operations	Perform/provide religious services during deployment sequence; conduct ministry of presence; prepare for Ranger to Ranger and LEM resupply	Jump in with unit if possible, land with follow-on, or be on medical extraction aircraft if mission is short; perform ministry of presence, rites to dying, pastoral care to the wounded.	Perform ministry to forward elements; provide small group services, individual counseling and prayer; conduct memorials and funeral services; address personnel replacement issues; spiritually refit the unit, families, and UMT as required.
Deliberate Operations and Supporting Conventional Operations (long term)	Hand over home station responsibilities; perform/provide family/unit ministry to prepare for separations and combat; prepare for Ranger to Ranger, and LEM resupply; conduct ministry of presence.	Locate at CCP; perform ministry of presence, rites to dying, and care to the wounded; perform ministry to units not engaged during lulls IAW METT-T.	Same as above.

Figure 10-3.

### **ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS AVIATION**

Army Special Operations Aviation (ARSOA) provides combat aviation support to Army and other SOF units in all operational environments. Its primary mission is clandestine penetration into denied airspace.

Regiment does not operate as a single unit. Instead, it tailors SOA battalion task forces and company teams to perform specific missions. These SOA assets may operate under the OPCON of the SOC, AFSOC, or ARSOTF commander. They normally locate with the supported ARSOF unit or an AFSOF detachment.

#### **Organization**

Because of contingency requirements, the Army Special Operations Aviation (ARSOA)

#### **UMT Personnel Qualifications**

ARSOA is a high-stress environment. Unique qualifications include:

- Security clearance equal to the mission classification.
- Airborne qualification.
- Swimmer qualification.
- Psychological examination qualification.
- Deployability.

### **Religious Support**

Deployment of ARSOA assets on an incremental basis and support of SOF missions over extended ranges make some religious support requirements unique.

- The ARSOA UMT locates with the majority of the force and may have infrequent contact with other deployed assets.
- The ARSOA chaplain, or the JSOTF chaplain when designated, coordinates religious support for all ARSOA personnel.

## **PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS**

Psychological Operations (PSYOP) convey selected information to foreign audiences to influence the behavior of foreign governments, organizations, groups, and individuals. To influence a target audience's thinking and behavior, the PSYOP unit must be extremely well-versed in the language, culture, thought patterns, and belief systems of the people in the AO.

### **Organization**

PSYOP personnel often deploy for extended periods as individuals and small teams

to support SOF and conventional forces. Deployed personnel are required to work with high-level leaders of other armed forces, and with government officials from the US and other nations.

### **UMT Personnel Qualifications**

Requirements for members of UMTs in PSYOPS units include:

- Security clearance equal to the mission classification.
- Airborne qualification.
- Attendance at PSYOP Officers Course (POOC) is desirable.
- Deployability.

### **Religious Support**

Tailored PSYOP units in support of SOF and conventional forces require flexible religious support. UMTs deploy with a battalion-size or larger PSYOP Task Force (POTF) or PSYOP Task Group (POTG). When POTF or POTGs do not deploy, the religious support is restricted to before and after the deployment.

- PSYOP UMTs frequently coordinate religious support with joint or combined forces.
- When a PSYOP UMT does not deploy, the supported unit provides religious support to PSYOP personnel.
- PSYOP UMTs participate extensively in family support programs during all stages of deployment.

### CIVIL AFFAIRS

Civil Affairs (CA) units support the commander’s relationship with civil authorities and the populace, promote mission legitimacy, and enhance military effectiveness. CA units support all ARSOF missions with regional orientation briefings and information on political, social, cultural, religious, and economic aspects of the Joint Special Operations Area (JSOA).

#### Organization

CA units are task organized to support ARSOF mission requirements. Some CA units are organized as battalions with FID and UW support missions. Other units are organized into special teams, such as Cultural Affairs teams. All CA units are assigned to USACAPOC.

### UMT Personnel Qualifications

The assignment of a chaplain as the Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer requires unique qualifications, to include:

- Extensive knowledge of religious and cultural issues and their effect on operations.
- Security clearance equal to the mission classification.

#### Religious Support

Civil Affairs units do not have an assigned UMT for religious support. Chaplains assigned to CA units serve as Assistant Cultural Affairs Officers and do not provide religious support. Supported units provide religious support to CA personnel.

Mission Type	Before	During	After
Troop infiltration, Fire support.	Survey religions in area; advise command of impact of culture and religions on mission.	Provide ministry as far forward as possible.	Perform ministry to forward elements; provide small group services, individual counseling and prayer; conduct memorials and funeral services, address personnel replacement issues; spiritually refit the unit, families, and UMT as required.
Troop extraction.	Same as above.	Same as above.	Perform ministry of presence and individual prayer after extraction; conduct memorials and funerals; provide individual and group counseling for battlefield stress, casualties, and re-integration.

Figure 10-4