



"De Oppresso Liber"

# SPECIAL FORCES

"A Special Breed of Man"

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Billy M Smith  
Memorial Chapter

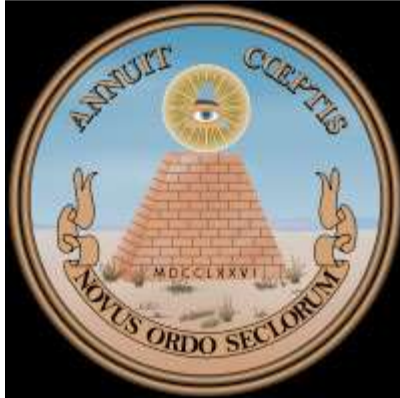


## Seal Of the United States



According to the **State Department**, which has been the official trustee of the seal since 1789, both the obverse (front) and reverse (back) of the seal are rich with symbolism.

The obverse picturing the eagle is a bit easier to explain. **The bird holds 13 arrows to show the nation's strength in war, but it also grasps an olive branch with 13 leaves and 13 olives that symbolize the importance of peace.** (The recurring number 13, which also appears in the stripes on the eagle's shield and the constellation of stars over its head, is a nod to the original 13 states.) The shield floats unsupported over the eagle as a reminder that Americans should rely on their own virtue and strength.



The symbolism of the pyramid on the seal's reverse is trickier. The pyramid has 13 steps – the designers apparently never got tired of the 13 motif – and the Roman numeral for 1776 is emblazoned across the bottom. The all-seeing Eye of

**Providence** at the top of the pyramid symbolizes the divine help the early Americans needed in establishing the new country. The pyramid itself symbolizes strength and durability.

The divine overtones don't stop with the unblinking eye, though.

The Latin motto *Annuat Coeptis* appears over the pyramid; it translates into “**He [God] has favored our undertaking.**”

The scroll underneath the pyramid reads *Novus Ordo Seclorum*, or “**A new order of the ages,**” which was meant to signify the dawn of the new American era.

# PRESENT MILITARY

## Special Forces Realignment

3rd Special Forces Group to focus on Afghanistan , Pakistan By Henry Cuning- ham Military editor <http://fayobserver.com/Articles/2009/08/27/928351> Fort Bragg ' s 3rd Special Forces Group will be responsible for Afghanistan and Pakistan under a realignment of where the Army ' s Special Forces groups operate.

In recent years, Fort Bragg ' s 3rd and 7th Special Forces groups have been swapping rotations of six to nine months to Afghanistan . The 7th Group is currently deployed to Afghanistan and will relocate to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla. , in 2011. Under the new plan, one of the 3rd Group ' s four operational battalions will deploy on every rotation to Afghanistan .

"Third Group will provide smaller elements on a more consistent basis," said Ken McGraw, a spokesman for U.S. Special Operations Command at Tampa , Fla.

The 7th Group, McGraw said, will no longer deploy to Afghanistan as a head- quarters. Individuals, he said, may deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan for a year to serve on staffs. The U.S. Army Special Forces Command, he said, may send 7th Group battalions to Iraq or Afghanistan .

The realignment is effective immediately for planning purposes and will be fully in place by Feb. 1, 2010, according to a statement from U.S. Special Operations Command.

The changes are intended to spread deployments more evenly, said a state- ment from U.S. Special Operations. The 3rd Group ' s new area of orienta- tion will include the eastern and northern Middle East, which includes Tajiki- stan , Turkmenistan , Uzbekistan , Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan .

The 5th Group of Fort Campbell , KY , was formerly the designated group for U.S. Central Command and the Middle East . The group will now be ori- ented to the region ' s western and southern half. Its countries will include Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Qatar,

## Forces Realignment

Oman, Yemen, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt.

Special Forces groups are traditionally oriented to a specific region of the world, and their soldiers are trained in the languages and cultures of the regions in which they operate. Twelve-man Special Forces

A-teams are prepared to conduct training missions or combat operations in austere or hostile areas, usually away from support available to conventional Army units.



Merle Eckles at A-333 6 Apr 67

The 3rd Group was reactivated in 1990 at Fort Bragg to focus on Africa and the Caribbean . The group added a fourth operational battalion this month. The key languages for its soldiers were in French and Arabic.

Fort Bragg ' s 7th Group concentrated on the U.S. Southern Command, which oversees Latin America south of Mexico . Soldiers of the 7th Group are trained in Spanish and have deployed to places such as Colombia and El Salvador . Under the realignment, the 7th Group will continue its orientation to Latin America . Under the realignment, 7th Group will support U.S. Northern Command for matters related to Mexico .

Northern Command was established Oct. 1, 2002, in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, to be in charge of military and homeland defense activities in support of civil authorities.

The 10th Special Forces Group of Fort Carson , Colo. , historically has been aligned to U.S. European Command. Under the realignment, the 10th Group will serve Europe as well as U.S. Africa Command. The 10th will support Northern Command in matters related to Canada .

The 1st Special Forces Group of Fort Lewis , Wash. , will maintain its current orientation to the Pacific.

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## Major Changes

### **SOCOM directive announces major changes**

By Sean D. Naylor - Staff Writer Army Times

Posted : Thursday Aug 27, 2009 17:27:27 EDT

U.S. Special Operations Command is changing the structure and organization of its task forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, while realigning the traditional regional orientation of most Special Forces groups.

The changes will mean longer deployments for Special Forces and some other special ops personnel, but overall should lead to more dwell time between deployments, SOCOM deputy commander Army Lt. Gen. Frank Kearney said in a Wednesday interview with Army Times. The new plan, announced in an Aug. 21 SOCOM directive, is aimed at delivering continuity of leadership for the combined joint special operations task forces in Iraq and Afghanistan while developing depth in experience, culture and understanding of the mission, the country, and relationships with host nation leaders and people, Kearney said.

The plan, which SOCOM intends to fully implement by Feb. 1, divides the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, which previously had been the sole preserve of 5th Special Forces Group, between 5th and 3rd Groups. Under the plan, 5th Group will focus on the western and southern half of the CentCom region, including Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Yemen, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt. The eastern and northern parts of the CentCom region, including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, will become 3rd Group's responsibility.

With regard to Afghanistan and Iraq, the plan formalizes the reality that has developed on the ground since the 2003 invasion of Iraq. In both Iraq and Afghanistan, the leadership of the combined joint special operations task force, or CJSOTF (pronounced see-juh-so-tiff), in that country has swapped back and forth between two Special Forces groups on seven-month rotations.

In Iraq, 5th Group has shared responsibility for commanding Joint Special Operations Task Force – Arabian Peninsula with 10th Group, a unit traditionally focused on Europe. Fifth Group's Iraq focus has meant 3rd Group, traditionally oriented on Africa, has been heavily committed to the fight in Afghanistan, where it has shared responsibility for running CJSOTF -Afghanistan with 7th Group, whose area of responsibility is Latin America.

Under the new plan, the 3rd and 7th Group headquarters will no longer have a role in running the two CJSOTFs, although they will continue to provide battalion-level special operations task forces to the CJSOTFs.

In Afghanistan, 3rd Group will become the "framework group" for CJSOTF-A, with 5th Group playing the same role in Iraq, according to an Aug. 25 SOCOM news release.

As "framework groups," 3rd and 5th Groups will each provide about 40 percent of the staff to their respective CJSOTF. The other 60 percent of the staffs "will be manned by personnel from across the joint special operations community," according to the news release.

As part of the plan, 10th Group will assume responsibility for Africa from 3rd Group, while also retaining responsibility for Europe. Asked whether U.S. Army Special Operations Com-

## Changes

mand might move some 3rd Group personnel with deep experience and language skills tied to Africa to 10th Group in order to make the transition as smooth as possible, Kearney said he was not aware of any USASOC proposal to do so, but that it was “a suggestion with merit that Lt. Gen. Mulholland should consider.”

The new plan also directs 7th Group to support U.S. Northern Command “as required for matters related to Mexico while retaining [the group’s] regional orientation with U.S. Southern Command,” the SOCom news release said. Of the five active-duty SF groups, only 1st Group’s regional orientation — the U.S. Pacific Command area of responsibility — remains unchanged.

While the tours for the CJSOTF staff will lengthen from seven months to 12 months, the tours for the battalion-level task forces will increase from seven months to nine months. The new rotation cycle should ease the operational tempo for Special Forces personnel, some of whom only spend three or four months at home between deployments. Lengthening the “dwell time” between rotations was a factor behind the new plan, Kearney said. When combined with the ongoing addition of a fourth battalion to each active SF group by 2013 (5th and 3rd Groups have already stood their fourth battalions up), Kearney said he expects the new plan to result in all SF troops spending longer periods between deployments.

Tours for the CJSOTF leaders and staff will lengthen from seven months to roughly 12 months. However, while the colonels who command 3rd and 5th Groups will likely spend one year of their two-year command tours at the head of a CJSOTF, it appears that the new plan will for the first time leave the door open for other special operations officers, not necessarily from Special Forces, to also command CJSOTFs.

SOCom still has to decide exactly how commanders will be selected for the CJSOTF, Kearney said. “Clearly the [SF] group commanders are perfectly positioned and command selected to command a CJSOTF, but as we are a joint command with components capable of O6-level joint command of a CJSOTF, we believe we need to keep this door open to select the right commander to lead these headquarters,” he said in an e-mail to Army Times.

The potential for non-Special Forces officers to command the CJSOTFs has spread ripples of unease among some SF soldiers. But Kearney dismissed as “conspiracy theories” speculation in the SF community that SOCom commander Adm. Eric Olson, a Navy SEAL, had set the system up to enable Navy SEALs to command CJSOTFs.

“I don’t think we’ve said that we’re going to put a SEAL in command,” Kearney said, but he added that limiting the field to just SF officers would amount to “narrowing” the options unnecessarily. “Ideally, don’t we want to find the best guy?” he said.

Up until now the CJSOTFs in Afghanistan and Iraq have always been led by SF group commanders, who are products of the Army’s command selection process. Kearney acknowledged that appointing non-SF group commanders to head up the CJSOTFs would require SOCom to establish “a command screening” system that would be viewed as fair across all the service special operations components.

While the “framework groups” will provide about 40 percent of the personnel for their respective CJSOTFs, no decisions have been made as to whether these personnel will be organized as a “cohort” and deployed together, or whether troops will be identified and deployed individually from the group headquarters. U.S. Army Special Operations Command head Lt.

## Major Changes

Gen. John Mulholland “will work this out with his staff and commanders and brief SOCom on their plan,” Kearney said.

The SOCom plan does not include any attempt to grow the size of the SF group headquarters, but SOCom is studying whether to change the structure and composition of the CJSOTF, he said. Each CJSOTF will command at least three battalion-level special operations task forces, including one from the “framework group” and one from another SF group. (There are five active-duty and two reserve SF groups.)

The third battalion will be provided by Marine special operations forces in Afghanistan and the Navy SEALs in Iraq.

The new plan will allow Marine Corps Forces – Special Operations Command (MarSOC) to focus its training on Afghanistan, Kearney said. “The key was to focus them,” he added, explaining that MarSOC and its commander Maj. Gen. Mastin Robeson have been working with SOCom “to determine areas to focus their language and cultural depth.”

The MarSOC deployment to Afghanistan next year will be the first battalion-level deployment to a combat theater for the Marines’ fledgling special operations component.

There have been complaints within the Special Forces community that SF units are being forced to give up communications gear and training slots in order to help the Marines reach full readiness. Kearney’s response to this criticism was matter-of-fact.

“I assume everyone understands that when SOCom decides to send forces, in this case a MarSOC SOTF, into harm’s way, we are going to equip them to be successful and since they are a unit still reaching full operational capability, it was a requirement to outfit them for success,” he said. “This is not unusual, we have done this with any unit preparing to deploy. What commander would not do this?”



Martin Brady, Jerry Jochum, Sam Wylie,  
Merle Eckles, Georgene Moon,  
Curtis Thompson, Bill Adair, Tillman Cooper, Mike Edwards,  
Heidrun Berry, Linda Weston, Dennis Sheridan  
Vet to Vet

# PAST MILITARY

## First Special Service Force

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### World War II Special Operations Unit Celebrates 63rd Reunion

By Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Kosterman

HALIFAX, Canada (USASOC News Service, Aug. 28, 2009) - A little more than six decades ago, Vernon J. Doucette was a sergeant in the First Special Service Force fighting his way north on the Italian peninsula during World War II.

Doucette, who served in 4th Company, 3rd Regiment of the Force, remembers the campaign in detail.

"We worked in small units, and we stayed together," explained Doucette. "We had a quite a few casualties, guys coming in and going out."

It is memories of such working conditions that have kept the veterans - men from the United States and Canada - of the special operations unit together for so many years.

The First Special Service Force, also known as the Devil's Brigade, was a joint Canadian-American unit formed in 1942 near Helena, Mont. During the war, the 1,800-man unit accounted for 12,000 German casualties, captured 7,000 prisoners and sustained an attrition rate of more than 600 percent, according to Force's association Web site. It was the only unit made up of men from two nations.

The members of the FSSF, along with families and friends, gathered Aug. 19 - 22 in Halifax, Nova Scotia on Canada's east coast for their 63rd annual reunion.

While many of the original members of the force may not be around to partake in the reunion the descendents of the Force.

One of those descendents is Mary Bhagan, the organizer of the reunion.

Bhagan is a cousin of Frank Harvey, who was , the tradition continues for

the descendents of the Force. One of those descendents is Mary Bhagan, the organizer of the reunion. Bhagan is a cousin of Frank Harvey, who was

One of those descendents is Mary Bhagan, the organizer of the reunion.

Bhagan is a cousin of Frank Harvey, who was killed in action in Italy in 1944.

The itinerary put together by Bhagan included a tour of one of



Members of First Special Service Force retire the flags of Canada and the United States and the FSSF color during a ceremony held to honor the First Special Service Force Aug. 22 in Halifax, Canada during the Force's 63rd annual reunion. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Kosterman)



Colonel William H. Shaw (left), deputy commander of the U.S. Army's 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and Command Sgt. Maj. Charles M. Conway thank a veteran of the First Special Service Force during a ceremony held to honor the First Special Service Force Aug. 22 in Halifax, Canada during the Force's 63rd annual reunion.



## First Special Service Force

Halifax's most notable landmarks - Pier 21.

"Several of the Force men, even when they were in the units before they joined the force, if they were replacements, a lot of them left through Pier 21," Bhagan said. "A lot of the original Force members came home through the Pier (when the war ended)."

After the tour, reunion attendees witnessed the unveiling of a new plaque to be posted in the pier-turned-museum in their honor.

It was the first of a few dedications during the reunion. Another plaque was unveiled during a luncheon at Canadian Forces Base Stadacona, by retired Canadian army Colonel Bruce Gilchrist. Gilchrist currently serves as the director of the Army Museum Halifax Citadel.



The First Special Service Force conducts airborne training near Helena, Mont. In 1942.

The FSSF was a World War II combined special operations force which U.S. Army Special Forces units today trace a portion of their lineage from. (Courtesy photo)

Gilchrist said the plaque will be placed in the museum by May 2010.

Following the lunch, veterans of the Force returned to their hotel where they were presented with cancellation stamps from Canada's postal service. The collector's item took about a year to create and develop. Only 200 were available.

Official recognition of the Force happened on the final day of the reunion at the Grand Parade in downtown Halifax.

Members of the Canadian government, U.S. and Canadian armies, Canadian veterans associations and the public gathered to remember the sacrifice of the Force and those who did not return.

"I am humbled because of the standards they set and the legacy we uphold today in both the Canadian and United States Special Operations Forces," said speaker Maj. Gen. Thomas Csrnko, commander of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School. "Gentlemen you set those standards and we work hard every day to make sure you remain proud of us because we are you."

Csrnko lauded the Force for the standards set in coalition warfare.

Following Csrnko and the other speakers' remarks, Force veteran Bill Story read the names of the 24 FSSF members who died since last year's reunion in St. Paul, Minn. A Canadian air force F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet conducted a low speed fly over in tribute.

Force members and guests laid wreaths for the FSSF's fallen members.

The reunion closed with a banquet at the city's World Trade and Convention Center.

Sgt. 1st Class James L. Cannon from 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) was presented the 2009 First Special Service Force Frederick Award at the banquet for his exceptional service and leadership during his last deployment to Afghanistan.

# FROM THE CHAPTER CHAPLAIN

## Iraq, Israel and 2009

The following was sent to me by a friend. Some of you may have seen this already but I think it would be wise for us to take a look at some very interesting Biblical facts regarding Iraq. They certainly opened my eyes and drew my attention even more so towards watching what is happening in that part of the world.

You probably know that Israel is the nation most often mentioned in the Bible. But, do you know which nation is second? It is Iraq! However, that is not the name that is used in the Bible. The names used in the Bible are Babylon, Land of Shinar, and Mesopotamia. The word Mesopotamia means between the two rivers, more exactly between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. The name Iraq, means country with deep roots. Indeed, Iraq is a country with deep roots and is a very significant country in the Bible.

Here's why:

- \* Eden was in Iraq -- *Genesis 2:10-14*
- \* Adam and Eve were created in Iraq -- *Genesis 2:7-8*
- \* Satan made his first recorded appearance in Iraq -- *Genesis 3:1-6*
- \* Nimrod established Babylon and the Tower of Babel was built in Iraq--  
*Genesis 10: 8-9 7 and 11:1-4*
- \* The confusion of the languages took place in Iraq -- *Genesis 11:5-11*
- \* Abraham came from a city in Iraq -- *Genesis 11:31 and Acts 7:2-4*
- \* Isaac's bride came from Iraq -- *Genesis 24:3-4, 10*
- \* Jacob Spent 20 years in Iraq -- *Genesis 27:42-45 and 31:38*
- \* The first world Empire was in Iraq -- *Daniel 1:1-2 and 2:36-38*
- \* The greatest revival in history was in a city in Iraq -- *Jonah 3*
- \* The events of the book of Esther took place in Iraq -- *Esther*
- \* The book of Nahum was a prophecy against a city in Iraq -- *Nahum*
- \* The book of Revelation has prophecies against Babylon, which was the old name for the nation of Iraq -- *Revelation 17 and 18*
- \* No other nation, except Israel, has more history and prophecy associated with it than Iraq.

You will probably agree with me now that it would be a good idea to keep our eyes and ears open in regards to world affairs in Iraq and how they might relate to Israel. Make no mistake, God knows what He is doing in allowing the uprisings in the Middle East . . .it is part of **HIS** plan for the End Days. With that in mind, it would be wise that you and I not waste any time in making sure our lives are right with our Lord . . .are you ready to see Him face to face.

Chaplain Mike Edwards

## Chapter Calendar

Vet-to-Vet is at VA Spinal Injury Ward 1800 on September 30th  
 November 11th is the annual fundraiser at Dick's Last Resort 6:30 pm—???  
 November 11th Is Veteran's Day Parade . Details later



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Another month has managed to slip by and we find ourselves rapidly approaching Veterans Day 2009. The chapter plans to participate in the Annual parade in the city of Dallas, and I would like to ask as many of you that can, please start making plans to spend the day with us (November 11th). It happens that we have planned our annual fund raiser to coincide with the Veterans day parade. We need folks to help out with ticket sales, You can let me know, if you are willing to help out.

We are getting some folks returning to the chapter and once again I ask, if you know of someone that is a "chapter dropout", lets try and get those folks back in the fold..For those that continue to be active, I thank you for your support. That's about it for this month...

De Oppresso Liber  
Ron

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