US Special Operations Command

USSOCOM
Special Operations Support Teams ("SOSTs")

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Briefing Unclassified
What’s a “SOST?”

Special Operations Support Teams are made up of USSOCOM personnel who serve at DOD and non-DOD agencies where HQ USSOCOM has an enduring requirement to synchronize DOD planning for global operations against terrorist networks.
SOCOM’s Inter-agency Network

- After 9/11 immediate recognition within SOCOM that non-DOD agencies would play major, if not primary, role in Global War on Terrorism
- Peak of national focus on Global War on Terrorism
- Numerous non-military action officer representatives were established within HQ SOCOM (DOS, FBI, CIA, NGA, NSA, USAID, DIA, DEA, DHS/ICE, NRO)
- In 2004 LTG Dell Daley, then Director of SOCOM Center for Special Operations, proposed to place liaison officers in key non-DOD agencies in Washington DC
- Joint Staff initially blocked SOCOM initiative – In conjunction with OSD, inter-agency liaison and coordination was a key Joint Staff responsibility
LTG Daley persisted, dropped idea of “Liaison Officers” ("LNOs"), adopted idea of Special Operations Support Teams ("SOSTs") – “A SOST is not an LNO”

UCP and DOD Directive give SOCOM authority to conduct inter-agency collaboration/coordination

In 2005 an enhanced “Inter-Agency Task Force” created within HQ SOCOM in Tampa

By 2006 Joint Staff was welcoming SOCOM assistance with inter-agency activities

As of Feb 2011 SOCOM had 30 SOSTs at 18 “agencies” in National Capitol Region – 2 more possible