Joint, Interagency and Multinational Integration of SOF for Defense, Diplomacy and Development

Brigadier Simon Hutchinson

NSHQ
NATO Special Operations Headquarters
“NATO is not just the world’s most successful military and political alliance, it is also the only organization of its kind. NATO is a unique and indispensable contributor to global security and it’s continued effectiveness should be a matter of urgent concern to us all.”

Madeleine K. Albright
Chair of the NATO Group of Experts
New Strategic Concept
At the November 2006 Riga Summit, the NATO SOF Transformation Initiative (NSTI) was unveiled as part of the summit communiqué:

“The adaptation of our forces must continue. We have endorsed a set of initiatives to increase the capacity of our forces to address contemporary threats and challenges. These include...The launch of a special operations forces transformation initiative aimed at increasing their ability to train and operate together, including through improving equipment capabilities.”
NSHQ Mission

NSHQ is the primary point of development, direction and coordination for all NATO Special Operations related activities in order to optimise employment of Special Operations Forces, to include providing an operational command capability when directed by SACEUR.

Tasks

Advise NATO on SOF employment
Strengthen the NATO SOF Component
Engage nations and partners
Develop a secure SOF network
Develop SOF policy, doctrine and standards

Support capability generation
Support education and training
Support force generation
Provide a deployable C2 capability
NATO Special Operations Headquarters

- 3-star HQ
- 24+ nations
- ~150 staff
- Growing to 215

UNCLASSIFIED
NSHQ - Effect

• An established SOF identity in NATO
• ISAF SOF enabled, and effective
• Enduring transformation of interoperability and capability in NATO SOF
• A secure SOF network as the basis for more to come...
NATO SOF - Realities

• National SOF versus NATO SOF
• Different approaches
• Language
• Ability to share, and the culture to do so
• Money
So What?

• Realise the Strategic Concept, especially in respect of Military Assistance
• Challenge interagency assumptions
• Enhance our capabilities to share, manage and exploit information
• Define minimum essential SOF enabling capabilities, and consider novel ways to provide them
• Promote interoperability