ARSOF – Conventional Army Integration:

An Army perspective on integration and synergies in the current and future environment

-LTG John F. Mulholland
Commanding General,
United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC)
The Army has a long history of participation in operations— from Marion’s Swamp Foxes to Merrill’s Marauders. Operations were in conjunction with operations of regular or conventional forces. Today’s events call for emphasis on another aspect of Special Warfare, that of counterinsurgency. We train local forces to fight [insurgents] and also teach them skills vital to building their nation. Great changes in the world in recent years clearly make the counterinsurgency part of Special Warfare of prime importance.

SOF- Conventional Army Integration

- General George H. Decker, Chief of Staff United States Army, Special Warfare Booklet, published by War Office, April 1962
Emergence of SOF- Conventional Army Structure

Chart was adapted from that used by Lieutenant General Barksdale Hamlett, Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations, in his statement on 26 January 1962 before the Senate Armed Services Committee
SOF- Conventional Army Emergence Pre-9/11

El Salvador, 1992
After over a decade of involvement, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) brought to the peace table due to Army Special Forces ability to train El Salvador Armed Forces (ESAF), and gain local populace support.

Colombia, Operation Willing Spirit 2003-2008
Years of collaboration with Colombian government and armed forces at all levels culminates with Colombian Rescue of 5 US Hostages held in captivity for 5 years.
SOF- Conventional Army Response to 9/11

October 16th, 2001, U.S. Army Rangers conduct a combat parachute assault to kill or capture Mullah Omar.

US ground campaign into Afghanistan begins with Army Special Forces infiltrating via 160th SOAR to begin unconventional warfare combat operations alongside Afghan resistance forces.
SOF- Conventional Army Throughout the Battlefield

2002, US Army Special Forces, supported by the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, begin their work with the Philippine Armed Forces in OEF-PI

March 2003, Army Special Forces provide “classic” special operations enabling support to Army conventional operations on the march to Baghdad
SOF- Conventional Army
Synergy in the Current Global Environment

Integration of US Infantry Battalions into SOF Formations in Iraq and Afghanistan

SOF persistent engagement is critical component to Geographic Combatant Command Theater Security Cooperation Plans (TSCP)
ARSOF – Conventional Army Integration Successes

**TTP Migration**
- Targeting Methodologies
- ISR Use and Effectiveness
- Exploitation
- Biometrics
- Operations/Intelligence Fusion
- Rotary Wing Aviation TTPs

**Operational Integration**
- Pre-Deployment Academies
- LNO Exchange
- Village Stability Operations
- Pre-Mission Training Integration
- Forcible Entry Initiatives
- Intelligence Sharing
- Fusion Cells
- CS/CSS Integration
  - Lift/Attack Aviation
  - Cultural Support Teams
  - HIMARs
  - Logistics

**Equipment Testing and Transfer**
- SUAS (Raven)
- MICH Helmet (ACH)
- MBITR (AN/PRC 148 Radio)
- AN/PVS-26 (AN/PVS-30)
- M4 SO-P MOD
- Army Combat Uniform (Multi-Cam)

Providing Strategic Options for Ambassadors and GCCs through Tactical and Operational Excellence and Collaboration
As large-scale conventional force deployments decrease, ARSOF deployments remain consistent or increase

- Economy of force SOF needed both in Phase 0 as well as post-conflict
- ARSOF objectives must nest within strategic campaigns

ARFORGEN and SOFORGEN synchronization/capability

- SOF Persistent Engagement throughout the globe critical to developing and shaping strategic options throughout the phases of conflict
- Ensure SOF and Regionally Aligned Brigade concept is complementary toward mission success

Continued efforts in technological advances

- C4I compatibility
- Understanding SOF RDT&E efforts and solutions to best equip the force at large

Greater ARSOF-Army collaboration on Army materiel solutions
Proportionality and Commitment of Forces

- Shape
- Deter
- Seize Initiative
- Dominate
- Stabilize
- Enable Civil Authority
- Shape

Level of Effort:
- Low
- High

= JTF Threshold
= SOF Commitment/Proportionality of Forces
= Conventional Commitment/Proportionality of Forces
SOF Focus Throughout Operational Phases

- **Shaping**
  - Preparing the Environment
  - Building the Network

- **Assessment**
  - Operational Environment
  - Host Nation Capacity
  - Threat

- **Active Deterrence**
  - Targeted Engagement (UW, FID, COIN, CT)
  - Right Nation, Unit, Location, Training

- **Disruption**
  - Collaborative or Unilateral Direct Action (UW/FID/COIN/CT)

- **Influence**
  - Persistent and Sustained Engagement
  - Induce/Reinforce attitudes and behaviors favorable to our objectives