Special Operations Command SOUTH

SOF and the Indirect Approach to Conflict Prevention

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Western Hemisphere Threats

• Terrorist Organizations
  • Global and their Support Entities
    • Sunni Extremist Organizations
    • Expanded Malign Iranian Influence
    • Lebanese Hezbollah (LH)/Islamic Jihadist Organization
      - ‘92/’94 bombings in Argentina
  • Regional
    • Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)
    • Sendero Luminoso/Shining Path (SL)
    • Ejercito del Pueblo Paraguayo (EPP)

• Transnational Criminal Organizations / Gangs
  • Los Zetas / Sinaloa Cartel
  • MS- 13, M-18
  • Colombian Drug Cartels

Promoting Instability and Fear
“Indirect Approach Patchwork Quilt of Capability”

In the Southern Theater, SOF is the stitching that brings and holds it altogether.
Methodology for Selection

**LISTEN & LEARN**
- Country Teams/ MILGROUPS
- JCETs (Experience)
- Partner Nation Existing Networks

**MILITARY CAPACITY & POLITICAL WILL**
- FOCUS FINITE RESOURCES
  - Units that have operational capacity
  - PN leadership needs to be a part of this!!!
  - “Joint” Capabilities are the only solution

**EXECUTE**
- Reassess Constantly
- Small success leads to more experience + capability
- Retrain + Refit

**Keys:** Persistent, Innovative, Agile and a Team Builder/Player

... make people accountable for progress
SOCSOUTH’s Methods to Conflict Prevention

• Internal
  Regional Engagement Branches (Andean Ridge, So. Cone, CENTAM, CARIB)
    • Regional Initiatives
    • Interagency and PN Integration and Synchronization
    • Training
    • Information Sharing

• External
  Building Partnership Capacity
    • Persistent Presence
    • Equipping
    • Infrastructure
    • Information Operations

Perpetuating SOF Relationships
Vignette: Facilitating Global SOF Partnership Expansion

• SOCSOUTH facilitates CANSOF, CHLSOF and COLSOF to conduct assistance in Central America and the Caribbean and El Salvador in Afghanistan as part of the ISAF.

• SOCSOUTH facilitates expansion and interoperability among PN SOF through our planning liaison elements (SOPLE), SOCOM Special Operations Liaison Elements (SOLO), and joint initiatives such as creating PN Joint SOF Commands and SOF intellectual centers.
Vignette: Bringing Governance to Contested Areas

• Vast ungoverned areas are HON, GUA, PAN, PER and PRY are safe havens for narco-terrorists.

• Collaborative efforts with USAID, NGOs, Partner Nation Civil Affairs Units, and local officials led by SOCSOUTH Civil Affairs Planners contribute U.S. donated supplies, equipment, funding and provide social services training as part of our IO campaign.

• Persistence engagement strategy has led to diminished influence by terrorist groups, law enforcement presence, and trust to government by local population.
Vignette: COLOMBIA

• USSOF maintains a persistent and close relationship with the COLMIL. The Revolutionary Forces of Colombia (FARC) is the lead insurgent group fueled through illicit trafficking and is known to use child soldiers, land mines and brutal terrorist tactics.

• SOCOM and SOUTHCOM continues to invest in Colombia’s Joint Special Operations Command (CCOES), with U.S. assistance and build capacity within the Police and General Purpose Forces who are best postured to contribute in the FARC’s defeat throughout Colombia.

• SOF support intelligence and information operations (Fusion CTR/ MIST / CAT) lead our emphasis in developing FARC targets for COLMIL interdiction.
Vignette: SENAFRONT in Panama and GEIR in Guatemala

• Partner SOF units in Panama and Guatemala (CENTAM) produced tremendous results against illicit trafficking of drugs, arms and goods through the USSOF provided training, educational seminars and key leader engagements.

• U.S. address shortfalls in the PN unit’s Land, Maritime and Air domains through building partner capacity in equipping, infrastructure development and training and SOF lead interagency engagements.

• Incorporating SOUTHCOM components and SOCOM force providers to assist in providing specialized training, assessments, and maintaining of equipment that is outside of SOF specific skill sets.
Summary

SOCSOUTH has been employing finite resources in a focused manner to enhance Partner Capacity for a long time ... and will continue to strive to help our partners improve security within the region.
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“¿Preguntas?”
Results / Highlights

- Facilitating Global SOF Partnership Expansion: Canada, Chile, Brazil
- Bringing Governance and Essential Services to Contested Areas: Colombia, Paraguay, Panama and Guatemala
- Supporting Major Sporting Events: Brazil

**Overall Result** = Quicker and stronger response to assist partner nations in times of crisis.
Vignette: Supporting Brazil as Host to the World Sporting Events

• First time Brazil is hosting world sporting events: World Cup ‘14 / Olympics ‘16

• SOCSOUTH plans, coordinates, and executes events with U.S. Country Team agencies and Brazilian Security Forces (Military / Law Enforcement) to support directly and indirectly in preparation for the events.

• The great relationships with BRA Security Forces have made it easy to support and has led to the Brazilian Counter Terrorist National Force (COT) requesting SOCSOUTH as their “Partner of Choice” to help prepare their forces in a crisis response scenario (Terrorist / WMD) for the major events.
Sample Regional Engagement Branch

Astute, Informed, Responsive, Proactive
“We’re Practitioners not Visitors.”