



October 11, 2023

Dear Esteemed Member of Congress,

The Special Operations Association of America (SOAA) respectfully appeals to your sense of duty and foresight to oppose any cuts to the United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC). Given the pivotal role USASOC plays in fortifying our national defense and aiding our foreign allies, we must not cut our preeminent forces in the face of such uncertain times. The SOAA asks that Congress block any requests to reduce the size of USASOC.

USASOC is an essential element of our national security architecture, comprising a significant portion of the 6,000 total operators deployed in 80 countries at any given time. Their unwavering commitment to global stability and unparalleled expertise make them indispensable. We are deeply concerned that the Pentagon is contemplating a 10% personnel reduction, equivalent to approximately 3,000 troops from the 36,000 in USASOC's ranks. This will gravely compromise our national security and send the wrong signals to both our foreign allies and adversaries.

The proposed cuts take aim at our civil affairs units, psychological operations, and intelligence enablers — the very core of USASOC's success. These elite squads, honed through rigorous training, possess skills vital for neutralizing imminent threats. Diminishing their ranks equates to a critical loss of proficiency, knowledge, and strategic memory; putting our national defense at risk.

USASOC has profound influence abroad, playing a pivotal role in training and fortifying our allies worldwide. Particularly in the most volatile regions, USASOC has acted as a bulwark, preventing governmental collapses and full-scale enemy occupations. Their unique blend of linguistic, cultural, and diplomatic acumen empowers them to collaborate efficiently in ambiguous environments.

Today's global landscape presents an array of challenges that demand our attention. The ongoing conflict in Ukraine continues to elicit concern for regional stability. Conflict in the Middle East, particularly the recent escalation of war in Israel, remains a catalyst with the potential to involve various global powers. In Africa, a slew of coups underscores the fragility of governance and the risk of extremist elements seizing power. Tension continues to simmer in Asia, notably around Taiwan, which could erupt into a full-scale conflict, pulling in major global players. Given these volatile situations, now is not the time to diminish our frontline defense and intelligence capabilities. The proposed cuts to USASOC would significantly diminish our ability to respond proactively and efficiently to these threats.

We earnestly urge you to reject any proposal from the DoD aiming to cut USASOC personnel. Your action will be a testament to your commitment to our nation's safety. We trust you will prioritize USASOC's irreplaceable contribution and afford them the resources needed to maintain operational efficiency.

With deepest respect,

David Cook, Executive Director
Special Operations Association of America