



Dear Esteemed Member of Congress,

The Special Operations Association of America (SOAA) strongly urges you to oppose any cuts to the United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC). USASOC forces play a pivotal role in fortifying our national defense and aiding foreign allies. Any downsizing of USASOC will prove detrimental to national security and weaken our ability to prevent or react to the complex, uncertain geopolitical landscape. In the face of the Army's announcement to move forward with cutting approximately 3000 Special Operations Forces (SOF) positions, we once again urge Congress to block downsizing Special Operations Forces to ensure our military remains dominant.

USASOC stands as a cornerstone of our national security infrastructure, with more than 6,000 Special Operations soldiers deployed across 80 countries at any given moment. Their steadfast dedication to fostering global stability and unmatched expertise render them indispensable. Therefore, we express deep concern over the Pentagon's announcement of a 10% reduction in personnel. Such a move would severely compromise our national security and convey misguided signals to both allies and adversaries alike.

Of particular concern is the proposed targeting of key components within USASOC, including civil affairs units, psychological operations, and intelligence support. These specialized teams, forged through rigorous training, possess skills crucial for state-on-state competition. Shrinking their numbers would represent a significant loss, representing a critical non-kinetic capability in the fight against state adversaries laid out in the most recent National Defense Strategy.

USASOC wields considerable influence internationally, playing a pivotal role in training and bolstering our allies across the globe. Especially in volatile regions, USASOC serves as a bulwark in strengthening foreign partners and preventing enemy encroachments. Their adeptness in foreign languages, cultures, and interoperability enables effective collaboration in complex environments.

The current global landscape presents myriad challenges demanding our attention. Ongoing conflicts, like the war in Ukraine raise concerns for regional stability. Tensions in the Middle East, notably the recent escalation in Israel and Gaza, and subsequent violent skirmishes by Iran-backed militant groups, pose risks of broader entanglements. Across Africa, a series of coups highlight governance fragility and extremist threats. Simmering tensions in Asia, particularly surrounding Taiwan, pose the risk of broader conflicts. Given these precarious situations, now is not the time to diminish our frontline defense and intelligence capabilities. Proposed cuts to USASOC would significantly hamper our ability to respond to these threats proactively and efficiently. Frankly, we need more, not less Special Operations Forces.

We strongly urge rejection of the Army's request to reduce the number of USASOC personnel. Your discernment and action on this matter will underscore your commitment to our nation's security. We trust you will prioritize the invaluable contributions USASOC continues to deliver every day.

With deepest respect,

David Cook, Executive Director
Special Operations Association of America