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REPORT ON TRAINING OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

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**U.S. Special Operations Command Fiscal Year 2015 Joint Combined Exchange Training Program Annual Section 2011
Report to Congress**

In fiscal year (FY) 2015, U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) deployed U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF), which spanned the range of SOF core activities as directed by the Secretary of Defense. From working with indigenous forces and local governments to improving local security, to conducting high-risk counterterrorism operations – SOF are in vital roles performing essential duties in response to national and Geographic Combatant Commanders' (GCC) requirements. The strategic operating environment continues to be increasingly interconnected and interdependent, requiring a special operations capability that is agile and ready for a broad range of contingency missions and engagement activities. Although the drawdown in Afghanistan has resulted in a smaller SOF footprint, SOF continues to be heavily tasked and deployed globally. The Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) program is critical to developing language and cultural expertise essential to our ability to operate in complex situations to promote the security of the United States and its allies (2015 USSOCOM Posture Statement, March 18, 2015). JCET events are overseas deployments of U.S. SOF units and personnel conducted under the provisions of 10 U.S.C. § 2011 to train U.S. SOF with friendly foreign nation forces. In FY 2015, USSOCOM's JCET program increased by nine percent from last year (176 to 192 events) and resulted in increased support to GCC requirements, increased partner nation (PN) participation, and an increase in the numbers of U.S. SOF trained.

The primary purpose of JCET activities is to train U.S. SOF units in their mission-essential tasks, particularly foreign internal defense and unconventional warfare. These activities are also essential for U.S. SOF to build capability to conduct combined operations in an unfamiliar environment, develop language skills, and gain familiarity with regional and local geography and culture. Many aspects of the training available through JCET activities prepare U.S. SOF for other types of missions, including humanitarian activities, disaster relief operations, and personnel recovery. The conditions under which JCET activities are conducted are key to their effectiveness, and cannot be duplicated in a simulated training environment on a military base in the United States. JCET activities also have important incidental benefits, including: building and maintaining military-to-military contacts; gaining regional access with a minimal footprint; improving interoperability between U.S. SOF and PN forces; and enhancing PN forces' counterterrorism (CT) abilities. These incidental benefits are achieved with relatively low-risk, low-cost, and low-signature, and directly support the GCC's Campaign Plan, U.S. Embassy Country Integrated Action Plan objectives, and the National Security Strategy.

This report provides an overall summary of "Section 2011" deployments for FY 2015. Additionally, the report provides an overview of U.S. SOF activities within each Combatant Command and the relationship of these activities to the GCCs' regional strategies. Also included is a summary of the type of training conducted and detailed information for each country deployment.

**U.S. Africa Command and
Special Operations Command, Africa**

U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM), in concert with other U.S. Government agencies and international partners, conducts sustained security engagement through military-to-military programs, military-sponsored activities, and other military operations as directed to promote a stable and secure African environment in support of U.S. foreign policy. With 54 countries comprising the African region, USAFRICOM stands ready to promote stability and thwart aggression throughout its area of responsibility (AOR). To accomplish these theater strategic goals, the Commander, USAFRICOM, relies on U.S. SOF to provide the unconventional military options essential to the theater strategy of military-to-military activities and operational support to the Horn of Africa and Trans-Sahel regions.

Special Operations Command, Africa (SOCAF), located at Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany, is USAFRICOM's headquarters for special operations. SOCAF is a joint military organization, consisting of Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps SOF units either stationed in Europe or deployed from the continental United States (CONUS). SOCAF employed U.S. SOF in support of USAFRICOM's named operations in three primary areas on the African continent: Operation JUNIPER SHIELD and JUNIPER MICRON in Northwest Africa; Operation OCTAVE SHIELD in East Africa; and Operation OBSERVANT COMPASS in Central Africa. SOCAF's SOF theater engagement strategy had a slight increase in the number of countries participating while maintaining the same number of JCETs compared to FY 2014.

SOCAF executed the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) exercise FLINTLOCK 15 in Niger while providing command and control (C2) of JCETs and other events across the region including in Chad, Tunisia, and in other regional countries. These events were invaluable training platforms that allowed U.S. SOF to train and sustain in both core and specialized skills, while working hand-in-hand with host nation forces. Using these assets, SOCAF forms multiple special operations engagement teams capable of conducting special operations throughout the USAFRICOM AOR. SOCAF provides the tools to engage friends and confront adversaries, respond to crises, and prepare for the future employment in areas that require the unconventional approach that only SOF can provide.

SOCAF participated in 23 JCET events in nine countries during FY 2015.

**U.S. Central Command and
Special Operations Command, Central**

The U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) AOR includes 20 nations. USCENTCOM pursues a multi-faceted theater strategy to defeat regional aggression, promote stability, and deter conflict. To meet the distinct regional challenges of the theater, USCENTCOM's overall strategy takes into consideration the diverse cultural aspects of the region and the varying capabilities of the region's militaries. The strategy capitalizes on mutual trust and working relationships forged over the last half century. Although USCENTCOM has the capability to act unilaterally to defend U.S. regional interests, long-term U.S. goals are best achieved by working cooperatively with our friendly regional populations in partnerships and coalitions.

Special Operations Command, Central (SOCCENT), located at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, supports the regional strategy of the Commander USCENTCOM through a variety of operations, actions, and activities including C2 of all JCET training events. SOCCENT's regional strategy cultivates mature insights into the people, cultures, and issues of the USCENTCOM Theater of Operations. Increasing U.S. SOF capability through intense and focused SOF-specific training via the JCET Program significantly contributes to the overarching long-term regional influence in support of USCENTCOM objectives and provides daily support to the USCENTCOM regional strategy of working by, with, and through PN SOF Forces. The SOCCENT contributes as one of the supporting components to USCENTCOM's Engagement Strategy by utilizing theater-deployed enduring SOF and non-enduring CONUS-based SOF deployments to execute JCETs. In FY 2015, SOCCENT JCET execution increased by twelve percent from FY 2014.

SOCCENT utilized multiple JCET training events occurring across eight (8) countries throughout the region providing U.S. SOF the ability to train and sustain in both core and specialized mission-essential task list (METL) skills, while working hand-in-hand with host nation forces simultaneously accomplishing theater engagement objectives in a low-cost, low-impact manner. U.S. SOF substantially increased critical skills by training in Jordan, Egypt, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, and Kazakhstan during multiple training events that continued to sustain and promote U.S. and partner nation military-to-military relationships. Army Special Forces, Air Force Special Operations, U.S. SOF Military Information Support Teams, and Navy SEALs executed training in support of their wartime tasks while conducting combined training with these PNs allowing U.S. SOF to focus on their instructional training, coaching, and mentoring skills. These events fully supported the refinement of USSOF skill sets, language immersion, cross-cultural communications, and live training navigating the human and physical terrain unique to each country.

U.S. SOF ability to train across multiple AOR regions allows our SOF to apply the application of skills and training through reinforcement on the ground and in locations where they may be called upon to execute or support future operations. In FY 2015, SOCCENT successfully executed C2 of these JCETs and other events throughout the region with theater-wide country-based Special

Operations C2 nodes and other forward-based USSOF headquarters in theater. Completion of these 25 JCET events contributed to overall AOR regional security by leveraging USSOF training with relationships fostered with PN counterparts.

SOCENT participated in 25 JCET events in eight countries during FY 2015.

U.S. European Command and Special Operations Command, Europe

U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) defends the homeland forward and supports U.S. strategic interests by maintaining ready forces for global operations (unilateral or in concert with coalition partners), securing strategic access, enabling global freedom of action, enhancing trans-Atlantic security through support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), promoting regional stability, and countering terrorism. USEUCOM's assigned AOR encompasses 51 nations.

Special Operations Command, Europe (SOCEUR), located at Patch Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany, is USEUCOM's headquarters for special operations. SOCEUR is responsible to the Commander, USEUCOM, for U.S. SOF readiness; targeting; exercises; plans; joint and combined training; NATO and partnership activities; and execution of CT, peacetime, and contingency operations. SOCEUR successfully executed C2 of multiple JCETs and other Theater Campaign Plan (TCP) events throughout the region and, when feasible, grouped them under PN exercises and multilateral exercises, such as JCS exercises, aligning multiple SOF activities and JCET events with high-priority USEUCOM SOF partners. SOCEUR SOF executed one of the largest exercises in the Baltic region led by Lithuanian PN forces called Exercise FLAMING SWORD 15, participated in Estonia-led SPRING STORM 15, and executed exercise JACKAL STONE 15 in Georgia while providing C2 of JCETs and other events across the region, including Croatia, Moldova, Poland, and Romania.

SOCEUR has provided C2 of numerous JCETs in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Romania in support of Operation ATLANTIC RESOLVE, focusing efforts with key partners in the region. The execution of these and all theater JCET events allow for U.S. SOF to sharpen and refine their skills in instructional training, coaching and mentoring, language immersion, and cross-cultural communications. In FY 2015, JCET execution in USEUCOM increased by 25 percent from FY 2014. SOCEUR exercises operational control (OPCON) of theater Army, Navy, and Air Force Special Operations Forces.

SOCEUR participated in 40 JCET events in 19 countries during FY 2015.

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**U.S. Pacific Command,
Special Operations Command, Pacific, and
Special Operations Command, Korea**

The U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) AOR encompasses more than one-half of the earth's surface, approximately 105 million square miles. The AOR traverses 14 time zones, from the west coast of the U.S. mainland to the western border of India, and from the North Pole to Antarctica; and it includes the States of Hawaii and Alaska. The 36 countries that comprise the Asia-Pacific region are home to more than 50 percent of the world's population, three thousand different languages, several of the world's largest militaries, and five nations allied with the United States through mutual defense treaties. Two of the four largest economies in the world are located in the region, along with ten of the fourteen smallest. The AOR includes the most populous nation in the world (China), the largest democracy (India), and the largest democratic Muslim-majority nation (Indonesia).

Special Operations Command, Pacific (SOCPAC) remains poised to respond to crisis or conflict while focusing on transnational and regional terror networks within the AOR. Instability in the USPACOM AOR is an ever-present danger, from terrorism to large-scale war. SOF must be ready and capable across the spectrum. As a sub-unified command, SOCPAC exercises OPCON of all Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force SOF allocated and deployed to USPACOM.

Special Operations Command, Korea (SOCKOR) continually prepares for conducting special operations mission sets within the Korean Theater of Operations. SOCKOR successfully executed C2 of multiple JCETs and other events on the Korean peninsula and, when feasible, executed them leading up to a multilateral exercise, such as JCS exercises KEY RESOLVE and FOAL EAGLE with high-priority Republic of Korea (ROK) units. SOCKOR is a sub-unified command supporting U.S. Forces – Korea, and exercises OPCON of all CONUS-based SOF deployed to the Korean peninsula. These events have had a global impact enabling ROK forces to become an exporter of security capabilities within Asia and Africa.

SOCPAC and SOCKOR's SOF theater engagement strategy had a fifteen percent increase in U.S. SOF training compared to FY 2014 and has had a 35 percent increase from FY2013. These SOF-unique training events prepared U.S. SOF to execute assigned mission-essential tasks to respond to a crisis in support of Commander, USPACOM objectives. Strong bilateral SOF and CT relationships continue to mature with allies, partners, and host nations, setting conditions to marginalize violent extremism and ultimately to disrupt or deny violent extremist organizations' capabilities and safe havens. This was evident in the exceptional support that SOF provided in support of the Nepal earthquake. SOF teams conducting a JCET were re-missioned to provide immediate situational awareness to Commander, USPACOM. SOCPAC continued military-to-military relationships across the AOR with an increased focus on South Asia (India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Nepal). The 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment is a high-demand, low-density asset that is continuously synchronized through USSOCOM, SOCPAC, SOCKOR, and USPACOM in order to provide sufficient opportunity to support the overall USPACOM TCP through the JCET program.

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SOCAPAC and SOCKOR participated in 80 JCET events in 18 countries during FY 2015.

U.S. Southern Command and Special Operations Command, South

The U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) AOR encompasses the entire land mass of Latin America south of Mexico; the waters adjacent to Central and South America; the Caribbean Sea and its island nations; European and U.S. territories, dependencies, and protectorates; and a portion of the Atlantic Ocean (excluding the Bahamas). Thirty-one countries and ten dependencies (including territories over which the French, British, Dutch, and U.S. Governments exercise sovereignty) comprise the AOR, which encompasses one-sixth of the world's land area. More than 390 million people live in the region. Official languages spoken in the region include English, Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese, French, Quechua, and Aymara. Special Operations Command, South (SOCSOUTH) is a sub-unified command headquartered at Homestead Air Reserve Base, Florida, and is responsible for all U.S. SOF missions and activities in the USSOUTHCOM AOR.

U.S. SOF under the OPCON of SOCSOUTH support USSOUTHCOM objectives to secure the United States from threats, enhance hemispheric security, ensure cooperative PN relationships, enhance PN consequence management and disaster response, and enable effective PN exercise of sovereignty. Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) events are the primary means by which USSOUTHCOM "operationalizes" its regional security plan to address vulnerabilities presented by illicit trafficking networks and safe havens in the AOR. U.S. SOF support to TSC events forms a vital part of USSOUTHCOM strategic shaping efforts and is the primary means of building partner capacity, countering transnational threats, and ensuring domain awareness. The JCET program forms a cornerstone of SOCSOUTH's supporting engagement plan and is primarily focused on conducting combined training with CT/counter-narcoterrorist units of key PNs.

In FY 2015, U.S. SOF JCETs continued to be focused primarily on Central America - El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras in particular - and select PNs in South America, primarily Colombia, Peru, and Brazil. The U.S. and strategic PNs share common interests in promoting hemispheric security and stability. FY 2015 JCETs aided those objectives by enabling and serving as a model for key PNs to export security in the region as well as by fortifying the perception of the United States as the security partner of choice. A key highlight for FY 2015 was the enabling of Colombian forces to export security to Honduras in support of enhancing regional security in Central America. Additionally, SOF engagements focused on supporting El Salvadoran efforts to counter the increased violence as a result of gang and drug trafficking activity. Total events executed in FY 2015 represented a 37 percent decrease from the previous year's JCETs. Although the number of JCETs executed in 2015 decreased from the previous year, the overall level of SOF engagements in the USSOUTHCOM AOR increased due to other SOF training and operational support. The

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JCET program will continue to be an essential component of U.S. SOF engagements, providing invaluable opportunities to develop the environmental and cultural expertise of regionally aligned U.S. SOF while promoting hemispheric security through the professionalization of PN security forces throughout the USSOUTHCOM AOR.

SOC SOUTH participated in 23 JCET events in 10 countries during FY 2015.

U.S. Northern Command and Special Operations Command, North

The U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) AOR encompasses the United States, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the Bahamas. Special Operations Command, North (SOCNORTH) is a sub-unified command under USNORTHCOM headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado, and is responsible for all U.S. SOF missions and activities in the USNORTHCOM AOR.

U.S. SOF under the OPCON of SOCNORTH support USNORTHCOM objectives to secure the borders of the United States from threats, enhance hemispheric security, ensure cooperative PN relationships, increase PN consequence management and disaster response, and enable effective PN exercise of sovereignty. Although currently not the primary means of engagement in the USNORTHCOM AOR, the JCET program remains a valuable tool for achieving U.S. SOF training objectives and improving PN relationships.

SOCNORTH participated in one JCET event in one country during FY 2015.

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Prepared by (b)(3) (10 U.S.C. § 130b), (b)(6)

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FY 2015 JCET 2011 REPORT SUMMARY

THEATERS	US SOF PERSONNEL	NUMBER OF TRAINING EVENTS	HOST NATION PERSONNEL	U.S. SOF EXPENSES	U.S. SOF SUPPORT EXPENSES PAID BY HN:	HOST NATION INCREMENTAL EXPENSES PAID BY U.S. SOF	TOTAL EXPENSES
USAFRICOM	455	23	3,218	\$6,087,673.37	\$0.00	\$709,073.81	\$6,796,747.18
USCENTCOM	303	25	1,547	\$4,117,050.00	\$0.00	\$91,575.00	\$4,208,625.00
USEUCOM	1,239	40	1,673	\$10,726,873.24	\$0.00	\$177,582.42	\$10,904,455.66
USNORTHCOM	10	1	25	\$97,217.68	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$97,217.68
USPACOM	2,843	80	6,061	\$34,456,612.39	\$0.00	\$644,411.78	\$35,100,283.23
USSOUTHCOM	476	23	1,595	\$10,775,642.65	\$0.00	\$347,640.20	\$11,123,282.85
TOTALS	5,326	192	14,119	\$66,261,069.33	\$0.00	\$1,970,283.21	\$68,230,611.60

USAFRICOM	#	USCENTCOM	#	USEUCOM	#	USPACOM	#	USNORTHCOM	#	USSOUTHCOM	#
1. BURKINA FASO	2	1. SAUDI ARABIA	4	1. ALBANIA	1	1. AUSTRALIA	4	1. SAUDI ARABIA	1	1. BRAZIL	2
2. CAMEROON	1	2. EGYPT	4	2. BOSNIA	1	2. BANGLADESH	5	TOTAL	1	2. CHILE	1
3. CHAD	3	3. JORDAN	8	3. BULGARIA	5	3. BRUNEI	1			3. DOM REP	4
4. KENYA	3	4. KAZAKHSTAN	1	4. CROATIA	1	4. CAMBODIA	6			4. EL SALVADOR	5
5. MOROCCO	4	5. KUWAIT	3	5. CZECH REPUBLIC	2	5. INDONESIA	5			5. GUATEMALA	1
6. NIGER	3	6. OMAN	2	6. ESTONIA	4	6. JAPAN	3			6. GUYANA	2
7. SENEGAL	3	7. QATAR	2	7. FINLAND	1	7. KOREA	8			7. PANAMA	2
8. TANZANIA	1	8. SAUDI ARABIA	4	8. GEORGIA	1	8. MALAYSIA	6			8. PARAGUAY	1
9. UGANDA	3	TOTAL	25	9. GREECE	3	9. MALDIVES	4			9. PERU	3
TOTAL	23			10. HUNGARY	1	10. MONGOLIA	2			10. TRINIDAD/TOB	2
				11. LATVIA	2	11. NEPAL	3			TOTAL	23
				12. LITHUANIA	4	12. NEW ZEALAND	1				
				13. MOLDOVA	1	13. PHILIPPINES	12				
				14. NORWAY	1	14. SINGAPORE	1				
				15. POLAND	4	15. SRI LANKA	2				
				16. ROMANIA	5	16. TAIWAN	3				
				17. SLOVAKIA	1	17. THAILAND	13				
				18. SLOVENIA	1	18. VIETNAM	1				
				19. UNITED KINGDOM	1	TOTAL	80				
				TOTAL	40						

TOTAL COUNTRIES	65
TOTAL MISSIONS	192

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Pages 11 through 63 redacted for the following reasons:

(b)(3) (10 U.S.C. § 130c), (b)(3) (50 U.S.C. § 3024(i)), (b)(5)