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North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Topic A: Implementation of special
operations forces in the modern
security environment.

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Introduction to the Committee

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also known as NATO, was founded in 1949. NATO's goal is to safeguard the Allies' freedom and security by political and military means; it also maintains the United States of America with freedoms and peace. It is an alliance of 30 countries from North America and Europe, including China, the United Kingdom, Poland, Pakistan, the United States, Israel, France, and others (NATO, n.d.). The core of NATO is that if they attack one of the Allies, they attack all of them; it is a promise of collective defense that guarantees common security against threats, especially Soviet ones. It also protects against cyberattacks, global attacks, and other strikes threatening the Allies' security. Although NATO contributes to peace and security worldwide and promotes peaceful resolution of conflicts, if these diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military capacity to intervene and begin special operations alone or with other countries' help (NATO, n.d.).

Introduction

This conflict is based on the need for Special Operation Forces (SOF), which are small units of operations formed by people selected to do strategic or operational missions. These people are trained in organizing, training, equipping, and preparing to conduct operations to support government objectives. The people involved in the tasks range from direct combat and countering attack by armed individuals to hostage rescue (NATO, 2015).

NATO's special operation forces include three types of operation forces: maritime, aerial, and land forces. These are applied with the Allies through tasks like defense, crisis management, and cooperative security. The maritime

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raid force's primary purpose is to secure all those places that are near bodies of water. They are responsible for monitoring, protecting, and ensuring the seas. They use their speed and training to take enemies out of their targets, and they have to act rapidly when needed and respond to any crisis. "Air Force SOFs consist of uniquely equipped fixed and rotary-wing aircraft operated by highly trained aircrews whose missions include insertion, extraction, resupply, aerial fire support, refueling, combat search, and rescue." (IRP, n.d.). Finally, the Land Force's objective is to participate in missions outside the national territory and carry out operations to protect the territory in cooperation with the Allies. There are SOF like Navy SEALs, Army Green Berets, and others deployed in at least 33 countries, including France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Spain, the United Kingdom, and others. NATO has its primary special operations, which are: NATO Special Operations Headquarters. This operation is the primary point of development, coordination, and direction for all NATO Special Operations activities. It focuses on ensuring Allied joint operations, including the three types of operations. "Twenty-six NATO member countries and three partners (Austria, Finland, and Sweden) are represented among 200 plus headquarters staff" (NATO, 2015). Headquarters' main job is to coordinate, defend and advise SOF in NATO, including areas of intelligence, aviation, medical support, and communication. In one of the recent missions in May 2021, the U.S. Naval Special Warfare operators and Army Green Berets clashed with troops from Austria, Croatia, and Slovenia in Hungary as a training method to improve these alliances that even non-NATO countries share techniques to improve armies (Turse et al., 2021).

Today there is a challenge with international security. The terrain is not suitable for NATO fortresses. While Russia uses its military and instruments to support its national capacity elements, NATO Allies use their forces and tools to defend. NATO's special operations headquarters is working to improve its Allies and defense partners.

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Historical Background

The operations forces have been possible thanks to the transition experienced in the position of special operations of Western countries to protect themselves against a probable attack by the Soviet Union since 1949.

The development of the international situation has determined the Atlantic Alliance's continuous adaptation to the changes generated within its strategic environment. The outcome of the Cold War in 1989 led to the fading of the threat of military invasion and the establishment of innovative forms of political and military assistance to deal with regional conflicts and safeguard peace and stability. The Strategic Concept approved by the Heads of State and Government of NATO in November 1991 in Rome adapted a comprehensive new approach to security based on dialogue, cooperation, and the maintenance of a collective defense capacity. It brought together the military and political elements of the Alliance's security protocols into a coherent whole, demonstrating that cooperation with the new partner countries in Central and Eastern Europe was an integral part of its strategy. The concept envisioned less reliance on nuclear armament and significant changes in the Alliance's integrated military forces: substantial reductions in their size and alertness, improvements in their mobility, flexibility, adaptability to different contingencies, and greater use of multinational formations. Throughout the Cold War and within NATO, the U.S. has maintained a significant military presence in Europe. The Atlantic Alliance has not been free from internal tensions. The most important are those carried out by the French De Gaulle in the 60s in his search for greater European autonomy concerning the U.S. France even left the integrated military structure of NATO in 1966.

Since the end of the Cold War, more than a dozen countries from the former Eastern bloc, including three former Soviet republics, have joined the Alliance. Despite the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia still sees NATO as a threat.

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NATO members resisted Russia's demand for firm guarantees that the Alliance would not expand further amid recent tensions with the West.

Later, a new special operation force was created during World War I. It was called armored cars. They were made for transportation, ambulance, food trucks, amount others. Through time, technological advances helped improve these cars' design and purpose by mounting arms over the military cars. In 1915, a squadron was sent to France and Africa. Consequently, the Light Armored Motor Battery (LAMB) was created. This was not the unique occasion in which special operation forces were created. During World War II, Winston Churchill wanted to sabotage the enemy's line of combat and defense.

Regarding the headquarters creation, the organization's headquarters were primarily located at 13 Belgrave Square in London, but on September 15, 1950, at a meeting of the North Atlantic Council in New York. The decision was made to establish the headquarters in Paris due to its position and optimal means of communication. Thus, the Atlantic Alliance initially occupied temporary premises in the Palais de Chaillot pending the construction of a permanent building on land in Porte Dauphine offered by France in April 1954, on which the "NATO Palace" will be built between 1955 and 1957 according to plans by architect Jacques Carlu. The organization settled there in 1959 and remained until 1966, when France abandoned the integrated command. In December 1966, NATO decided to establish its new headquarters in the territory of the city (municipality) of Brussels. Projected on the Heysel plateau, it was built "provisionally" in the former municipality of Haren (merged as Laeken with the city of Brussels) in the northeastern suburb of Brussels on Boulevard Léo. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, 2018)

Among the essential civilian missions carried out by NATO, it can be highlighted when the United States found it necessary to request emergency

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aid from the European Union and NATO to deal with the humanitarian crisis caused by the passage of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. For this, NATO sent one of its officials to Washington to collaborate with the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency and stands ready to continue helping the United States recover from this natural disaster (Informe A.H. 2005).

Current Relevance

Creation of Special Operations Headquarters. The concept of "security," due to the complex international scenario of globalization, has been widely studied both in the academic environment and at the level of political leadership. However, it depends on the scope and elements that compose it, focusing the debate on its aspects: military and civilians. The Special Operations Forces are a flexible, powerful, versatile, and relatively inexpensive mechanism compared to other forces to face the multidimensional security problems that the region has.

One of the characteristics of the special operations is that it comprises highly qualified personnel who have successfully and voluntarily complied with demanding preparation processes. This generates the possibility of having very competent military organizations for a wide range of missions that operate with a small volume of people through quick and usually covert actions.

SOF operations generally fall into two categories: direct and indirect. The direct approach is characterized by technologically enabled small-unit precision lethality, focused intelligence, and interagency cooperation embedded in a digitally networked battlefield. With extreme risk, precise execution, and capability of great reward, the impacts of the direct approach are visible to society, are immediate, and have had tremendous effects on enemy networks throughout the attack. The indirect method includes empowering host nation forces, providing appropriate assistance to humanitarian agencies, and engaging key populations. These long-term efforts increase partners' abilities

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to create sufficient security and the rule of law, address local needs, and promote ideas that discredit and defeat the appeal of violent extremism.

Due to the economic difficulties in the world, there is a growing danger of overusing or misapplying SOF, but this does not mean that it should not use special operations forces. Indeed, SOF can be an essential enabler for other power elements and a builder of security conditions, minimizing the use of larger deployments of military forces.

According to the Advocacy for Human Rights in America, the most elite forces of the United States military have increased their deployments worldwide, and Latin America and the Caribbean are no exception. However, as the activities of the special forces increase, little transparency and information about their actions decreases. Special Operations Forces (SOF)—Army Green Berets, Navy SEALs, and other highly trained units—are deadly, agile, and seek to establish quasi-diplomatic relationships in other countries while keeping a low profile. They carry out missions ranging from pursuits in the Middle East to intelligence gathering in Mali to supporting raids against crews in El Salvador. Since its main tasks include civil affairs and psychological operations, its purpose is political and military.

Implementation of SOF in actual conflict. According to documents obtained by the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the number of training missions carried out by the Special Operations Forces in Latin America tripled between 2007 and 2014, a period when military aid to the region was generally declining. This fits into a global trend of solid growth in these forces. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Special Operations Forces have doubled to nearly 70,000 dollars, and their budget has tripled, now exceeding 17 billion dollars a year. In 2015, they were deployed in 135 of the world's 196 nations. This growth was to be expected. Special Operations Forces were deployed on a large scale to Iraq and Afghanistan during the height of U.S. interventions in

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those countries. Since then, the U.S. presence in both countries has been reduced, leaving thousands of military personnel available to be sent to new missions in more countries.

The United States Special Operations Forces have played an essential role in the country's fight against gangs. They were instrumental in building the Tigres, an elite, Special Weapons and Tactics team created in 2013 to combat organized crime. The U.S. Green Berets now advise and monitor their operations and train Tiger operatives in marksmanship and hand-to-hand combat.

El Salvador, which now has a Special Operations Forces liaison officer at the U.S. embassy, was a close second to Honduras, with 19 missions. Most of them took place between 2012 and 2014. According to the Advocacy for Human Rights in America, in their internal conflict against the gangs, the security forces have been accused of extrajudicial executions, the manipulation of crime scenes, and forced disappearances, among other crimes.

Special Operations Forces also work closely with Colombian security forces, now deployed worldwide, to conduct training courses, including Central America. The country hosted 19 Joint Combined Exchange Training missions between 2007 and 2014.

Wales summit 2014 (Crimean crisis). The 28 Alliance leaders agreed at the Wales Summit on Friday, September 5, 2014, to reverse the declining defense budgets and increase them over the next decade, a move that will further strengthen the transatlantic link. "In this dangerous world, we recognize that we need to invest additional effort and money, which is why today the Alliance committed to investing in defense," said NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen in 2014.

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The North Atlantic Alliance united North America and Europe in defending security, prosperity, and values among nations. It ensures the safety of its members through collective defense, strengthens security in Europe, and projects stability beyond crisis management and cooperative security with its unique set of associations. Its commitment is to defend freedom, individual freedom, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

In 2014 there was a meeting in Wales as the vision of a whole, free and peaceful Europe faces multiple challenges; severe crises arise that affect security and stability in the East and South of NATO. These include Russia's self-declared illegal annexation of Crimea and Russia's continued aggressive acts in parts of Ukraine, and the spread of violence and extremism in North Africa and the Middle East.

A Preparedness Action Plan was agreed upon in 2015, enhancing NATO's preparedness and response capabilities, including its posture. The Alliance does not represent a threat to any country; even the military capabilities needed by the Alliance are reinforced. After two decades of intensive operations, the Allies now have the most experienced, capable, and interoperable forces in NATO history. They state that they will continue to invest in modern and deployable armed forces that can operate together effectively and with a high level of readiness to fulfill NATO's tasks, in full compliance with the principles of the UN Charter and the Final Act of Helsinki.

They also agreed to reverse the trend of declining defense budgets and aim to increase defense spending in real terms as GDP grows. Moreover, they directed their defense budgets most efficiently and effectively; they stated that their goal would be to move toward NATO's existing guideline of spending 2% of GDP on defense within a decade to meet NATO's capability priorities.

Current NATO operations that involve SOF. These decisions are intended to strengthen the transatlantic link, improve the security of all allies, and ensure a

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fairer and more balanced distribution of costs and responsibilities. NATO's extensive network of associations is paramount to international shared stability and security and how worldwide values are promoted. Accordingly, NATO agreed to strengthen cooperation with partners further and keep the Alliance door open. Furthermore, it was reaffirmed that its continued and unwavering commitment to defend all Allies' peoples, territory, sovereignty, and shared values in North America and Europe would not change.

Nato Misión in Iraq (NMI). The NATO Mission in Iraq (NMI) was a non-combat mission in July 2018. It aims to strengthen Iraqi security forces and institutions so that they can prevent the return of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, fight terrorism and stabilize their country. The mission fully integrates civil, military, and special operations force personnel working closely with other international actors on the ground. NMI complements a global effort to increase the long-term stability of Iraq and the region.

To achieve this, NATO advises relevant Iraqi security and defense officials in its defense ministry, the Prime Minister's National Operations Center, and the Office of the National Security Advisor. In addition, the mission advises Iraq's professional military education institutions in Baghdad. Specific focus areas include policy and strategy, force generation and development, resource management, women, peace, and security, leadership development, and good governance in the security sector. In February 2021, NATO defense ministers decided to expand NATO's Mission, following a request from the Iraqi government. Any mission expansion will be incremental, at the Iraqi request, and could include advisory and training activities beyond the Baghdad metropolitan area. This will be based on the requirements and consent of the Iraqi authorities and conditions on the ground. In Iraq, all activities of the NATO Mission are agreed upon by the Iraqi government and are carried out with full respect for Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

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Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA). On April 19, 2013, Belgrade and Pristina reached a First Agreement on the Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations facilitated by the E.U.; an implementation plan was agreed upon on May 22, 2013. NATO played a significant role in securing the Agreement, and the Allies continued to support the Agreement strongly. Furthermore, Belgrade and Pristina, in support of the Agreement, have launched a program of high-level talks organized by the European Union. This dialogue remains key to resolving the political impasse between the two parties and has helped improve their relations. The conference has also given new impetus to the Euro-Atlantic integration of the Western Balkans.

The European Council, in June 2013, decided to open accession negotiations with Belgrade and negotiations with Pristina on a Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA). The SAA agreement was signed on October 27, 2015, and entered into force on April 1, 2016. NATO continues to offer solid political support to the Belgrade-Pristina Agreement, and The Kosovo Force stands ready to support its implementation, ensuring a climate of peace and security.

Nasal-associated lymphoid tissue. The Nasal-associated lymphoid tissue reports directly to the NATO International Military Staff. It has a team of about 45 special operations forces from 13 allied and partner countries. It provides practical assistance and advice to security organizations in Kosovo in areas such as logistics, procurement, finance, force development and planning, and leadership development. The Team is currently designed in three lines of action: strategy and plans, operations, and support. The Nasal-associated lymphoid tissue also plays a crucial role in implementing the enhanced engagement with Kosovo approved by the North Atlantic Council in December 2016. This enhanced engagement focuses on essential issues such as integrity building, cyber, public diplomacy, and science.

Operation Guardian Sea. Operation Sea Guardian (OSG) is a proactive and forward-looking 360 commitment throughout the year: maintaining the

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deterrent against terrorism and transnational illegal activities. This was the end of Operation Focused OSG 2020, from November 24 to December 9, in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. The task force consisted of the Hellenic ship Spetsai, the Bulgarian Smeli vessel, and the British Royal Navy offshore patrol ship Trent, supported by submarines from Greece and Turkey. Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) and airborne early warning units from Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, and the U.S. also contributed to the focused patrol with associated air support.

Operation Sea Guardian is a non-Article 5 NATO maritime security operation. It aims to work with Mediterranean stakeholders and special operations forces to maintain maritime situational awareness, deter and combat terrorism and enhance capacity building. This operation remains one of the essential tools for NATO to project stability throughout the Mediterranean Sea and maintain maritime situational awareness. NATO's Operation Sea Guardian-focused patrols help NATO maintain an accurate maritime picture of daily activity in the focused areas of the Mediterranean Sea and is an excellent opportunity to increase cooperation and interoperability

As part of a coordinated approach regarding the pandemic, NATO is working closely with other international organizations, including the United Nations World Food Program (WFP), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the European Union (EU), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations.

During the COVID-19 crisis, they strengthened cooperation with the European Union. In addition, NATO and E.U. staff have been exchanging information on the measures taken by both organizations to support NATO Allies and partners during COVID-19. This ensures that the efforts are coherent, complementary, and transparent. For example, following a global request from the United Nations for airlift support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in July 2020,

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coordinated flights by NATO's Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Center transported a field hospital from Europe to Accra, Ghana.

With the interruption of commercial flights and the rising cost of cargo flights, this support came at a crucial time. NATO has been helping to curb the pandemic since the beginning of the crisis; NATO Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response The Coordination Center has coordinated the United Nations requests Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and 18 NATO partner countries, obtaining in return more than 130 responses.

Logistics support provided by NATO Support and Procurement has helped allies and partners achieve economies of scale in purchasing COVID-19 relief material. The NATO Support and Procurement Agency has also helped allies procure and transport urgent relief items to countries in need through the Strategic Airlift Capability (SAC) and the Strategic Airlift International Solution (SALIS), as well as through commercial charter flights and maritime transport.

About 1,500 tons of medical supplies and equipment were transported to allied countries, including Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany, and Poland. In 2020, half a million NATO armed forces soldiers supported civilian efforts, building camps. Hospitals, assisting with tests, transporting patients, distributing medical equipment, conducting repatriations, and assisting with decontamination.

Use of SOF in the Ukraine-Russia conflict. However, in 2015, the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense (MoD) signed a Letter of Intent outlining SOCOM's plans to cooperate with NATO's Special Operations Headquarters (NSHQ), a move that included the planned certification of SOF units to work together with its international partners in the NATO Response Force. Years later, in June 2021, the Ukrainian SOF conducted a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) exercise in the Chernobyl exclusion zone, including a tactical search

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for a chemical laboratory. The training was aimed at NATO Response Force (NRF) certification, defense sources suggested to Janes.

The Ukrainian SOF has recently participated in many joint training packages with NATO and non-NATO partners. Examples include multiple training programs with U.S. Special Operations Command Europe to "expand levels of cooperation and trust to more effectively defend against Russian aggression," according to an April 2021 meeting.

The shelling of Ukrainian cities by Russian artillery, missiles, and airstrikes continues, affecting the civilian population and civilian infrastructure. The main ground movements of the Russian forces have been limited. Cities are experiencing probing attacks; there are reports that Russian SOF has entered parts of the cities and engaged in firefights. Russia has launched more than 1,110 missiles against targets in Ukraine, possibly spending around half of its inventory. The Russians took only a few population centers, the largest being Kherson in the south.

The Russians seem to have changed their strategy from capturing major cities to encircling them and forcing them to surrender with indiscriminate bombing. Russian offensive action has been limited due to command and control problems, lack of fuel, logistical difficulties, communication difficulties, and a tough Ukrainian defense. As the Russian Armed Forces continue their invasion of Ukraine, minimal information has been released about the Ukrainian Special Operations Forces (SOF) activities, which play a critical role in the conflict. In addition, the Russians have been frustrated by tough opposition from the Ukrainian military. The Ukrainian air defense has been very agile and on the move to avoid being neutralized by airstrikes and missile attacks.

In 2019, there was an abrupt increase in activity in the "Grey Zone" as a confused space where the tool of diplomacy, typical of the state of peace, is inadequate or does not fit its traditional meaning, and large-scale conventional

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military options are considered inappropriate. Despite the reduced role of the military in the global strategies used in the Grey Zone, it is interesting to delve into the possibilities for using force and identify means that adapt and are helpful.

Current models of Western military thinking do not adequately reflect the challenges posed by unconventional threats stemming from the conflict in the Grey Zone. Special operations forces are suitable for responding outside of open conflict in this environment. However, there is a risk of incorrect use of these forces if the current doctrinal frameworks are used as a reference, which do not contemplate forms of conflict apart from the conventional arm conflict and peace duality.

Today, the struggle of certain powers for their national security interests outside the usual area of kinetic conflict is an undeniable fact. It is precisely where special operations forces acquire more excellent value due to their essentially limited and discrete nature, constituting a practical military alternative to be used in an intermediate, ambiguous space with diffuse contours between peace and armed conflict states. The ability of these forces to carry out politically sensitive, covert, and secret operations and have a small logistical footprint allows them to remain with very little visibility below the armed conflict. As a result, military capabilities provide highly valid strategic options to protect and achieve national interests without compromising major combat forces.

Russia. NATO reported that Russia is deploying 30,000 combat troops to the Russia-Belarus joint military exercises, including Spetsnaz special operations forces. The special forces unit dates back to World War I, when special teams were formed in Russia. According to the Telegraph communication agency, these Spetsnaz units carry out missions in both arm conflict time and peacetime, in emergencies across the country and beyond. In 2017, Russia released a video of its elite unit simulating a drilling rig rescue operation in the

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Crimea region to deal with "current challenges and threats, first from Ukraine, including sabotage activities and attacks." (ISW,2022); revolutionary extremist groups in the region of Crimea.

The United States of America. The global presence of America's special operations forces (SOF) is growing and is in high demand. As of 2019, SOF operated in 141 countries, compared to just 60 just over a decade ago. The SOF has earned a reputation for its successes, such as killing Osama bin Laden in 2011. As the pace picks up, so do concerns about his behavior. However, the nation's reverence for its SOF may be part of the problem: For too long, the media has labeled SOF more "elite" than the rest of the military. Throughout history, SOF has evolved in countless ways, most memorably with the creation of the U.S. Army Special Forces. President John F. Kennedy officially recognized their Green Berets in 1962.

Today, all military personnel assigned to the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) are known by the generic term "special operations forces" (SOF). However, the U.S. response to the 9/11 attacks put SOF in the spotlight like never before, leading the way in global counterterrorism (C.T.) and counterinsurgency (COIN) operations and earning the label of the media as the "elite" echelon of the United States military.

México. The special forces provide an operational capacity that no army should ignore. However, in Mexico, 2017, these units are being used, in missions and activities different from their nature, affecting training and influencing directly proportional to the capacity of the Army to execute special tasks. Special forces have gained significant importance due to the emergence of hybrid threats that use unconventional techniques, tactics, and procedures, such as revolutionary attacks, drug trafficking, and illegal armed groups. The Mexican government establishes that strategies are being implemented to have modern and highly operational special forces that can neutralize the internal and external threats that are present today and in the future.

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Nevertheless, it seeks that these units be used in the missions they were created.

Germany. The diversity of the German Army is reflected in its different branches. Each of these branches has its very own set of distinct capabilities and skills, but apart from this, they are at their most successful and most vital only when they work as a team, according to the government. Specialized equipment is used to overcome a wide variety of challenges.

The Special Operations Forces Command, or, for short, SOFCOM (in German 'KSK,' for 'Kommando Spezialkräfte'), encompasses the German Army's special operations forces (SOF) and has unique capabilities at its disposal within the Bundeswehr. Spanning the entire gamut of tasks within the Bundeswehr's remit, these capabilities give the Federal Republic of Germany added options in its courses of action.

All special operations share some common limitations, the first being that special operations (and, by extension, SOF) rarely achieve decisive strategic success on their own. Special procedures and SOF alone can often only achieve decisive tactical success. Occasionally, special operations can have some strategic effect, particularly in signaling commitment and capability through discreet procedures but in the absence of other supporting elements, be they military, diplomatic, or economic.

However, despite the SOF's limitations, they are still of great help to nations and the improvement of the modern world. That is why it is crucial to continue investing in them and to find ways in which they can be efficient and effective for conflicts that arise.

International Actions

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Special forces in each country. Professionals of SOF can focus on contributing factors, such as political, economic, and social grievances, and help identify the root causes that can lead to violence. However, to successfully implement this approach, an integrated strategy is required in which SOF plays a supporting role. SOF can assist other local or regional agencies and partners by monitoring the information environment to identify early signs of potential conflict, assisting with social and economic initiatives, and working with local partners on strategic communications to promote stability and deter conflict.

The Role of International Organizations in armed conflict established that within armed conflicts, international organizations such as the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) play a variety of essential roles. Some of these include improving communication between opposing forces, facilitating humanitarian cooperation, fostering dialogue between civilians and the military, providing services to civilian populations, and encouraging all actors to uphold and apply the principles of international humanitarian law. In addition, with their regional or global perspectives, international organizations can also identify issues and trends that may indicate growing tensions or conflicts before the outbreak of hostilities, serving as an early warning mechanism or offering silent diplomacy conflict resolution services.

"Chinese special operations units are a recent creation. China's first army special forces units were set up in the 1990s," Foreign Military Studies Office said in the August issue of its O.E. Watch magazine. "Additional units have continued to be stood up, with the other services of the PLA establishing SOF [special operations forces] units with specialized skills sets throughout the 2000s." (Peck, 2021)

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In the naval commands, in 2002, the People's Liberation Army Navy created the Jiaolong (Water Dragon). In 2015, it evacuated foreign nationals from the conflict in Yemen, and in 2017, it recovered a cargo ship hijacked by Somalis in the Gulf of Aden. As a result, the Chinese Navy has gained significant naval value (Peck, 2021).

Special Operation Forces Center. "Special forces (S.F.) are elite soldiers found in militaries worldwide. These troops are "highly trained and specially equipped" with "the ability to infiltrate into the hostile territory through land, sea, or air to conduct a variety of operations, many of them classified." They often undertake such tasks in support of conventional troops and act as the sole deployment in high-value areas where the United Kingdom is not a conflict but still wishes to address instability to further its foreign policy interests. As a result of the type of tasks that special forces undertake, they often operate with some degree of secrecy. This is especially true in the U.K., where the government and Ministry of Defense refused to comment on its special forces." (Peck, 2021)

Special Operations Forces (SOF) command a significant role in U.S. military operations. They have been charged with increased responsibility for planning and conducting ways to prevent extremist groups' operations worldwide." U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) has about 70,000 Active Duty, National Guard, and reserve personnel from all four services and Department of Defense (DOD) civilians assigned to its headquarters, its four service component commands, and eight sub-unified commands." (Congressional Research Service,2022)

France's contribution to the interventions is mainly protected by two detachments of the French Air Force. In addition, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates collaborated in 2015 to associate the squadron Emirati F-166 airstrikes against ISIS.

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Army National Guard. Established in 1636, the Army National Guard is the oldest component of the U.S. Armed Forces and serves as the U.S. Army's primary combat reserve. Since the nation's birth, the Army National Guard has played a significant role in every major war and contingency in the United States. During the 20th century, the Army National Guard became an essential part of the U.S. Army, transforming into a highly lethal fighting force capable of meeting the National Military Strategy and Defense Strategy requirements.

The Army National Guard answers to the Governor and is ready to defend the homeland anytime, anywhere. For nearly four centuries, they have helped communities recover from natural disasters, pandemics, and civil unrest. Combining the skills and experiences gained by civilians with their combat training, Army National Guard Soldiers bring rich and unique capabilities to the Joint Force.

Today, with more than 336,000 service members in more than 2,400 communities in 50 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia. The Army National Guard is a fully sustainable, interoperable force that remains steadfast in its commitment to providing soldiers trained, equipped, capable, and ready to conduct full-spectrum operations to protect America at home and abroad.

Army special forces. Canada's Special Operations Forces were generated in February 2006 and commanded by Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM), a highly-ready organization ready to deploy Special Operations Forces at short notice to protect Canada and Canadians from threats to the national interest at home and abroad. CANSOFCOM can contribute to Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) operations across the spectrum of conflict, from peace to battle; therefore, CANSOFCOM provides special operations support to CAF operations abroad when required.

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The People's Liberation Army Ground Force (PLAGF) has operated officially since 1948 under the command authority of the Central Military Commission through the theatre commands (T.C.). The People's Liberation Army (PLA) theatre commands are joint operations commands with extensive control over the PLA Ground Force, Navy, Air Force, Rocket Force, and Strategic Support Force. Theatre Commands are defense-oriented tactical, political, and bureaucratic organizations operating in different geographic areas of China. They are responsible for developing strategies, tactics, and policies specific to their respective areas and are directly responsible for responding to security threats within their assigned regions. Under each theatre command, the Army theatre headquarters is responsible for tactical operations within the theatre and is capable of conducting joint operations with support from other service branches.

The Special Operations Command is the organization that coordinates the use of French special forces from all military branches (Army, Navy, and Air and Space Force). Like USSOCOM or UKSF, COS was created on June 24, 1992, after the Gulf War. Its role is to direct and coordinate missions for special forces units; these are permanently under his direct command and immediately available for action.

The United States Army is the ground service branch of the United States Armed Forces. It is one of the eight uniformed services of the United States and is designated as the United States Army in the United States Constitution. The oldest and highest-ranking branch of the U.S. military in order of precedence, the modern U.S. Army traces its roots to the Continental Army, which was formed on June 14, 1775, to fight in the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783) before the United States was established as a country. After the Revolutionary War, the Confederate Congress created the United States Army on June 3, 1784, to replace the disbanded Continental Armed forces. The United States Armed forces considers itself a continuation of the

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Continental Armed forces and therefore finds its institutional creation to be the origin of that armed force in 1775.

The United States Armed forces is a uniformed service of the United States and is part of the Department of the Army, one of the three military departments of the Department of Defense. The U.S. Armed forces are headed by a senior civilian appointee, the Secretary of the Army (SECARMY), and a chief military officer, the Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA), who is also a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It is the largest military branch, and in the fiscal year 2020, the projected final strength for the Regular Army (USA) was 480,893 soldiers; the Army National Guard (ARNG) had 336,129 soldiers, and the United States Army Reserve (USAR) had 188,703 soldiers; the U.S. Combined Component Force.

U.N. Actions

Contingent-Owned Equipment Manual. The basic principles of the Contingent-Owned Equipment Manual system created in 2015 by the United Nations are simplicity, accountability, financial, and administrative control. According to the operational support department, adherence to these principles requires reducing the administrative burden on troop/police contributors, the Secretariat, and peacekeeping missions, standardizing reimbursement rates on an equitable basis, and applying common standards to the equipment and services provided. In addition, the system ensures accountability and control based on an agreement (the Memorandum of Understanding, 2015) between the United Nations and the troops /police contributing country. Contingent Owned Equipment (COE) is equipment that United Nations Member States own and bring to peacekeeping missions. The U.N. financially reimburses member states for their COE contributions and their self-reliance services to contingents.

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To ensure complete and consistent implementation of General Assembly decisions, the COE Manual contains policies, procedures, and actions to be followed by United Nations Headquarters and peacekeeping missions. The COE Manual also provides clarifications and explanations, when necessary, on the implementation of the decisions of the General Assembly. The document is also intended to assist police-contributing countries. The COE Manual needs to be reviewed every three years through the COE Working Group, a subsidiary body of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

NATO SOF School on nearby Chièvres Air Base. The U.N., as a peacekeeper, has the responsibility to restore state authority, protect civilians and disarm, demobilize and reintegrate ex-combatants. Currently, missions to maintain peace are opening up to an environment with more significant threats from armed groups over large land territories. For peace to be fulfilled, the demands must be greater. As a result, U.N. operations and peacekeeping include military units performing challenging tasks requiring force (UNMUM, 2015).

The NATO Special Operations School, as the leader of NATO's SOF, offers world-class services and teaching classes to enhance Allied capabilities, interoperability, and effectiveness. In addition, this school seeks innovative educational strategies to withstand current and future events (NSHQ, n.d.). "In 2009, the NATO SOF Coordination Center (NSCC) added its training and education compound to Chièvres AB, supporting the Alliance SOF mission. On March 1, 2010, the NSCC was redesignated as the NATO Special Operations Headquarters (NSHQ)" (NSHQ, n.d.). NATO SOF training and education is a Key Pillar to support successful operations and is mandated by NSHQ NATO SOF Training and Education Program (NSTEP) operational commanders to shape the future by staying on target and relevant in today's dynamic environment (NSHQ, n.d.). The NATO SOF Training and Education Program (NSTEP) is a compilation of Special Operations activities designed to develop

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NATO SOF professionalism while enhancing the strategic effects NATO SOF achieves. Most courses take place on campuses located in Chièvres (Pascal, 2015).

Peacekeeping missions military special forces manual. The Peacekeeping missions military special forces manual provides commanders and their staff with guidance for planning and conducting U.N. special operations in support of U.N. peacekeeping operations (NSHQ, n.d.). Not all missions require the use of Special Forces. Special forces have various capabilities, including the use of force, to be employed in U.N. Peacekeeping Operations. Reconnaissance, military assistance, long-range patrolling, and intelligence gathering are non-lethal capabilities that go beyond using force, which in peacekeeping is always a last resort (NSHQ, n.d.).

United Nations Special Forces have capabilities that contribute to mission performance and overall efforts to prevent the expansion of armed groups and neutralize disarmament elements beyond the capacity of forces acting in a traditional role of maintaining a supply of U.N. Special Forces. Also fully integrated into the mission's overall operational plan and working in concert with the mission's conventional forces, it takes a more proactive approach to accomplishing mandated tasks while protecting civilians and supporting the establishment of professional, responsible, and sustainable security within the host State (NSHQ, n.d.).

In any decision to employ a U.N. Special Forces unit, a commander must be aware of the nature and limitations of U.N. Special Forces and use them appropriately. U.N. special operations differ from conventional operations in effects intended/delivered, degree of political risk, techniques, modes of employment, courses of action, and reliance on detailed information/relevant operational intelligence. In addition, the Special Forces of each country have their own merits, strengths, and limitations; these must be understood and estimated to take advantage of their unique capabilities (NSHQ, n.d.). The main

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characteristics of U.N. Special Forces include that they are strategic assets, integrated into their command and control, task-organized, reliant on practical enablers, small, precise, indirect applications, and discreet, autonomous operations (NSHQ, n.d.).

Combat Service Support in U.N. Special Operations. Combat Service Support (CSS) tasks are to man, arm, feed, fix, and move the force. These tasks are divided and classified into logistics support, personnel services support, and health services support. Logistics support includes supplying materials, transportation, maintenance, and field services. Personnel service support includes duties that provide Soldiers with command and contribute to their physical and moral well-being. The main functions of this support are personnel accounting, use of force, casualty reporting, replacement operations, personnel management, and carrying out enemy prisoner operations. Support for health services includes medical treatment, casualty evacuation, preventive medicine, and medical supply operations. CSS's primary mission is to sustain the battle by maintaining and supporting Soldiers and their weapons systems (Sherman & Pike, 1998).

Alliance's much-anticipated Counterterrorism Action Plan.

"The Counter-Terrorism Action Plan identifies areas of action where the E.U. and its Member States could prepare and mobilize existing instruments in a timely fashion to anticipate and address possible extremist groups risks to E.U. internal security stemming from the Taliban's takeover of power in Afghanistan" (Council of the European Union, 2021). The Counter-Terrorism Action Plan has been developed with the Commission services and relevant Agencies. It sets out 23 recommendations for action, which are divided into four areas which are security checks, preventing infiltration; strategic intelligence/foresight prevents Afghanistan from becoming a safe haven for armed groups; and monitors and counter-propaganda and mobilization, which

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tackle organized crime as a source of extremist groups financing. (Council of the European Union, 2021)

Points to discuss

1. Context

- a. U.N. Mission Support
 - i. Combat Service Support
- b. Use of special operation forces in actual conflicts
 - i. How can special forces help international security?
 - ii. How can the implementation of these forces affect the allies and non-members?
- c. Capabilities of the special operation forces
 - i. Military assistance
 - ii. Special Reconnaissance
 - iii. Direct action
- d. Evolution of special operation forces and the modern security necessities

2. Development

- a. Program implementation
 - i. Civilians in the International Staff support the Alliance's decision-making process staff
 - ii. Young Professionals Programme
- b. Implementation of new capabilities:
 - i. Investment in ecological and sustainable areas
 - ii. Implementation of security dogs
 - iii. Adaptation to a pandemic situation

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