

US Special Operations Command



USSOCOM Special Operations Support Teams (“SOSTs”)

8 February 2011

Briefing Unclassified



SOCOM's Special Operations Support Teams

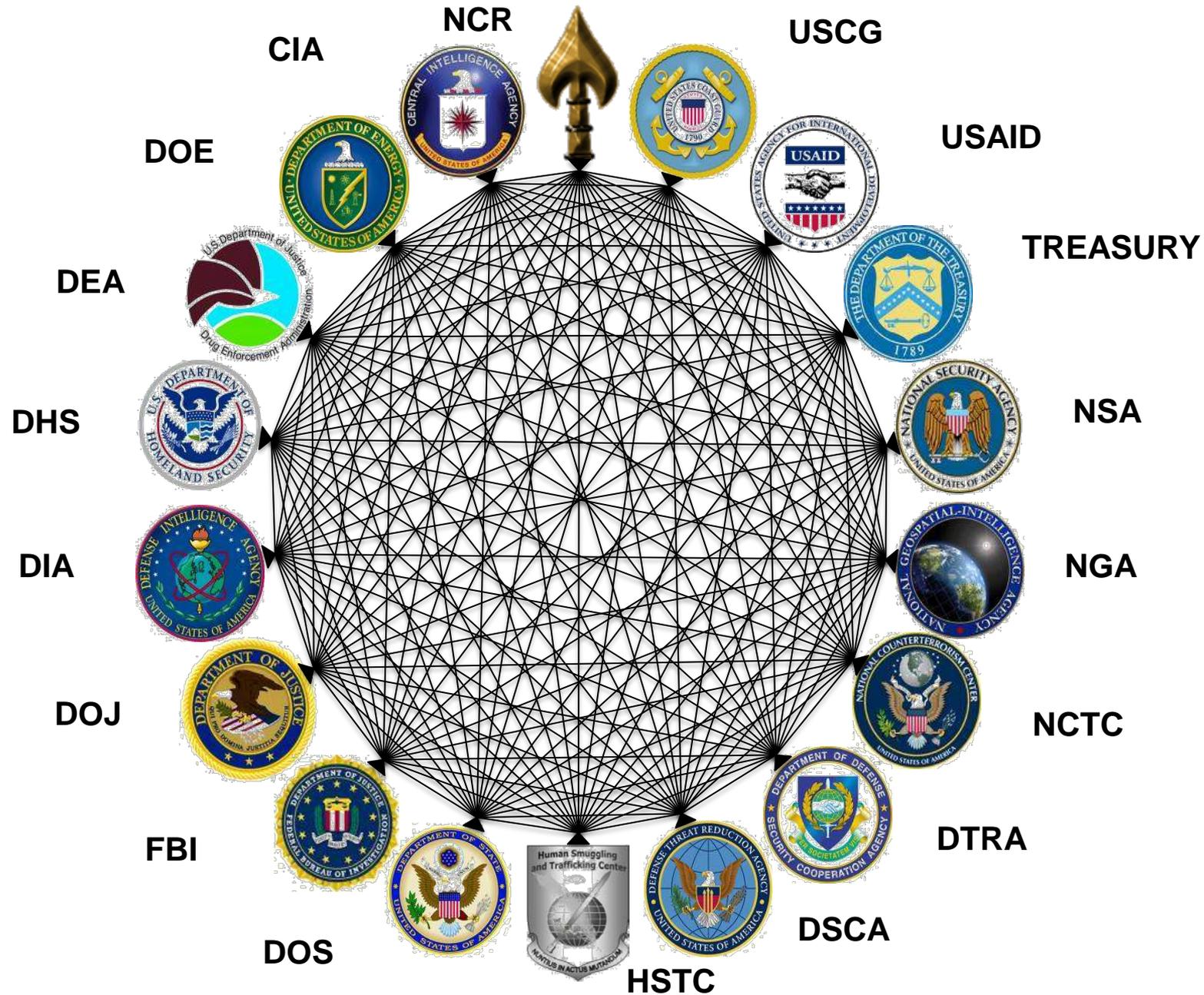
UNCLASSIFIED



What's a "SOST?"

Special Operations Support Teams are made up of USSOCOM personnel who serve at DOD and non-DOD agencies where HQ USSOCOM has an enduring requirement to synchronize DOD planning for global operations against terrorist networks.

UNCLASSIFIED





SOCOM's Inter-agency Network

- After 9/11 immediate recognition within SOCOM that non-DOD agencies would play major, if not primary, role in Global War on Terrorism
- Peak of national focus on Global War on Terrorism
- Numerous non-military action officer representatives were established within HQ SOCOM (DOS, FBI, CIA, NGA, NSA, USAID, DIA, DEA, DHS/ICE, NRO)
- In 2004 LTG Dell Daley, then Director of SOCOM Center for Special Operations, proposed to place liaison officers in key non-DOD agencies in Washington DC
- Joint Staff initially blocked SOCOM initiative – In conjunction with OSD, inter-agency liaison and coordination was a key Joint Staff responsibility



SOCOM's Inter-agency Network

UNCLASSIFIED



- **LTG Daley persisted, dropped idea of “Liaison Officers” (“LNOs”), adopted idea of Special Operations Support Teams (“SOSTs”) – “A SOST is not an LNO”**
- **UCP and DOD Directive give SOCOM authority to conduct inter-agency collaboration/coordination**
- **In 2005 an enhanced “Inter-Agency Task Force” created within HQ SOCOM in Tampa**
- **By 2006 Joint Staff was welcoming SOCOM assistance with inter-agency activities**
- **As of Feb 2011 SOCOM had 30 SOSTs at 18 “agencies” in National Capitol Region – 2 more possible**

UNCLASSIFIED

US Special Operations Command



Questions?