

**U.S. ARMY
SPECIAL OPERATIONS
AVIATION COMMAND
ACTIVATION CEREMONY
MARCH 25, 2011**



**MEADOWS FIELD
FORT BRAGG, N.C.**

Sequence of Events

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1500 - Heritage Auditorium
ARSOAC Informational Brief
given by Brig. Gen. Mangum

Lt. Gen. John F. Mulholland

Lt. Gen. John F. Mulholland Jr. assumed command of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Nov. 7, 2008. Prior to commanding USASOC, Mulholland was commanding general of Special Operations Command Central at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

Lt. Gen. Mulholland was born in Clovis, N.M., but grew up in Bethesda, Md. He graduated with a BA in history from Furman University, Greenville, S.C., in 1978, where he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of

Infantry. His first post was with the 193rd Infantry Brigade in the former Panama Canal Zone where he served as a rifle platoon leader, weapons platoon leader and company executive officer in both 4th Bn. (Mech), 20th Infantry (Sykes Regulars) and Co. A (ABN), 3rd Bn., 5th Infantry. He then moved to Fort Bragg, N.C., to attend the Special Forces Qualification Course. Upon graduation in September 1983, then-Captain Mulholland joined the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Project B-500.

Since joining Special Forces, Lt. Gen. Mulholland has commanded at the ODA, company, battalion/squadron and group levels within Special Forces. Additionally, he served in other special operations assignments including Special Operations Command South (Panama) as well as the operations officer at 1st SFOD-D (A). Then-Colonel Mulholland commanded Joint Special Operations Task Force-North (TF Dagger) in the opening days of Operation Enduring Freedom and Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-West (TF Dagger) in the initial campaign of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He subsequently served as the Chief, Office of Military Cooperation-Kuwait, as Commanding General, United States Special Forces Command (ABN) and as Deputy Commanding General, Joint Special Operations Command.

Lt. Gen. Mulholland earned a MMAS (History) while attending the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and a Master of Science in National Security Strategy from the National War College. His military awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal and the Legion of Merit.



Brig. Gen. Kevin W. Mangum

Brig. Gen. Kevin W. Mangum assumed command of the U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command upon its provisional activation on March 25, 2011. Prior to his arrival at Fort Bragg, he served as deputy commanding general of 1st Armor Division and United States Division-Center, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraq.

Brig. Gen. Mangum was born in Newport News, Va. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in May 1982, where he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Armor. Highlights of Brig. Gen.

Mangum's career include tours with 8th Army, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), 2nd Infantry Division and 10th Mountain Division and two joint tours. He has commanded at every level from platoon to Senior Commander of Fort Drum, N.Y. After his initial tour in the 128th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter) at Camp Page, Korea, he was selected for assignment with Task Force 160. He has since served four tours with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) with duties ranging from section leader, battalion S-3 to command at company, and regiment levels. Brig. Gen. Mangum also commanded A Company, 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment and 2nd Aviation Battalion, 2nd Aviation Regiment at Camp Stanley, Korea. Brig. Gen. Mangum's joint service includes tours at the Joint Electronic Warfare Center, Kelly Air Force Base, Texas and Joint Special Operations Command here at Fort Bragg. In May 2008, he was assigned to his first post as a general officer, serving as the senior commander of Fort Drum and division rear commander of the 10th Mountain Division.

His numerous deployments include duty in the Republic of Korea, Honduras, Persian Gulf, Turkey, Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Brig. Gen. Mangum also served as a U.S. Army War College Fellow at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University. He holds a Masters of Business Administration from Webster University.

His military awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Combat Action Badge, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge and the Master Army Aviator Badge.



Chief Warrant 5 David Cooper

CW5 Dave Cooper entered service in March 1985 and attended Basic Training at Fort Jackson, S.C. He attended the Warrant Officer Basic Course and Flight School at Fort Rucker, Ala. where he graduated in April of 1986. After completing the AH-64 Apache Aircraft Qualification Course CW5 Cooper was assigned to A Troop, 2nd Squadron, 6th Cavalry, Fort Hood, Texas. The unit participated in REFORGER 1987 and moved to Illshiem, Germany where CW5 Cooper served as a Pilot In Command and Unit Trainer. In 1991, he deployed to and flew combat missions in support of Desert Storm. Upon returning to the U.S, and following attendance of the AH-64A Apache Instructor Pilot Course and the Warrant Officer Advanced Course, CW5 Cooper was assigned to B Troop, 4th Squadron, 6th U.S. Cavalry, Fort Hood Texas where he served as a Troop Instructor Pilot and later Battalion Standardization Instructor Pilot. He was awarded the Bachelor of Science degree in Professional Aeronautics from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. In 1994, CW5 Cooper applied to and successfully assessed for service with the 160th Special Operation Aviation Regiment (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Ky. He was assigned to B Company, 1st Battalion and served as Fully Mission Qualified Pilot, Instructor Pilot, Operations Officer, and Battalion Flight Lead. He has completed the Warrant Officer Staff Course and the Warrant Officer Senior Staff Course. In September 2007, CW5 Cooper was selected to serve as the 160th's Regiment Warrant Officer. In June 2010, he was selected to serve as the Command Chief Warrant Officer of the Army Special Operations Aviation Command at Fort Bragg, N.C.



His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, 2 Bronze Stars, 4 Meritorious Service Medals, 4 Air Medals, 3 Air Medals with V device (Valor), 2 Army Commendation Medals, Army Commendation Medal with V device (Valor), 3 Army Achievement Medals, Army Good Conduct Medal, 2 National Defense Service Medals, 3 Southwest Asia Service Medals, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Award, Global War on Terrorism Service Award, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Saudi Arabia Liberation Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Combat Action Badge, and the Master Army Aviator Badge. In 2009 he was inducted into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame.

ARSOA History



Special Operations Aviation traces its modern roots to the early 1960s and the formation of Special Warfare Aviation Detachments and eventually a task organized helicopter company as Army Special Forces prepared for Vietnam. The 22nd SWAD activated in March 1962 at Fort Bragg, N.C. The unit

supported 5th Special Forces Group, 7th SF Group, US Army Special Warfare School, and the 1st and 13th Psychological Warfare Battalions. The 22nd disbanded in December of 1963. The 23rd SWAD (Surveillance) organized in July, 1962 and flew the OV-1 Mohawk. The unit deployed to the Nha Trang, Republic of Vietnam in September of 1962 to support I Corps and Special Forces with photographic intelligence.

On Oct. 7, 1965, the Department of the Army activated the 281st Assault Helicopter Company, Airmobile Light (AML) at Fort Benning, Ga. By June 9, 1966, the newly formed company set up its headquarters inside the 5th SF Group compound at Nha Trang Bay, Republic of Vietnam. Their mission was to provide air movement of troops, supplies and equipment under the direct supervision of the commanding officer, 5th SF Group. The 281st became the first organized Special Operations Helicopter unit in the U.S. Army. They were decorated for valorous and meritorious service by the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and Republic of Vietnam.

In the years that followed, the individual SF Groups had their own organic aviation detachment. These detachments usually consisted of four UH-1D helicopters and later UH-1H and UH-60, associated crewmen, and a limited maintenance capability. Then as a result of the failed Iranian hostage rescue at Desert One, the Holloway Commission mandated a re-organization of the nation's special operations capabilities, including a dedicated Special Operations Aviation force.

The Army looked to the 101st Aviation Group at Fort Campbell, Ky., and selected Charlie and Delta companies (UH-60) of the 158th Aviation Battalion, individual members of the 229th Aviation Battalion (Little Birds), and Alpha company of the 159th Aviation Battalion (CH-47). The chosen pilots immediately entered intensive training in night flying. As pilots completed training in the fall of 1980, a second hostage rescue

attempt, code named Operation Honey Badger, was planned for early 1981. It was called off when the hostages were released.

The decision was made to retain the capability offered by this new unit and officially established Task Force 160 on Oct. 16, 1981. In 1986, it was re-designated as the 160th Special Operations Aviation Group and became an airborne unit. Then in September 1989, 3rd Battalion was activated and stationed at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. This battalion replaced the separate aviation detachments at the SF groups. 3rd Bn. consists of Blackhawks and Chinooks. In May 1990, the 160 Special Operations Aviation Group (Airborne) was re-designated as 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne). In October 2007, the Army activated 4th Battalion and stationed it at Fort Lewis, Wash. This battalion also has Blackhawks and Chinooks. Eventually 2nd, 3rd, and 4th battalions will be identically organized with two Chinook companies, a Blackhawk company and a maintenance company. In July 2010, a Gray Eagle Unmanned Aircraft System element from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., was attached to the 160th SOAR (A). They were rebranded with the U. S. Army Special Operations Command patch and deployed to Afghanistan. Eventually, two Gray Eagle companies will be stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky.

The 160th SOAR (A) participated in several named operations to include: Urgent Fury, Prime Chance, Just Cause, Desert Storm, Gothic Serpent, Operation Uphold Democracy, Operation Joint Endeavour, Operation Assured Response, Operation Desert Thunder, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn. Today, the 160th SOAR (A) has nearly 3,000 soldiers and more than 200 aircraft.

During the 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review, the Army and Special Operations Command sought and received approval to activate a one-star, Special Operations Aviation Command. This command will allow the 160th Commander to focus on his war fighting mission and provide the USASOC Commanding General with an element that serves both as a command and



a staff entity to advocate aviation issues for USASOC. The Army Special Operations Aviation Command (Provisional) orchestrates the Army's Special Operations Aviation enterprise, to include organizing, manning, training, resourcing and equipping Army Special Operations Aviation forces.

