



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



ANNEX 3-59 WEATHER OPERATIONS

SPECIAL OPERATIONS WEATHER SUPPORT

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Air Force Special Operations Weather Support

Air Force special operations forces (SOF) [weather](#) support is provided by assigned weather flights at the base/installation level. These flights leverage operational weather squadrons and special operations weather squadron for reachback support. In instances where Army or Air Force SOF act as the senior airfield authority, Air Force SOF provides airfield services (i.e. base operating support) and mission services. In this context, mission services include aircrew briefings and integration into mission planning and execution.

Army Special Operations Weather Support

The special operations weather team (SOWT) is the primary Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) force provider for weather operations in support of Army SOF. SOWTs provide SOF commanders and their staffs with weather effects information for Army air and ground SOF capabilities. SOWTs ensure this information and knowledge is integrated within the Army's military decision-making process, fires, information collection, risk management, and other activities to enable successful execution of special operations. SOWTs reach back to AFSOC's SOWS and leverage weather products and information which they tailor in support of specific SOF missions. SOWTs also maintain the capability to train US SOF, allied forces, and indigenous personnel in taking and disseminating limited weather observations. These teams also conduct environmental special reconnaissance to include avalanche and snow pack assessments and littoral and riverine assessments. SOWTs are capable of infiltrating joint operations areas via sea, air, or land and operating both independently and with other SOF in permissive, uncertain, and hostile areas. SOWTs are the only forces in the US Special Operations Command organized, trained, and equipped to perform environmental reconnaissance operations in support of environmental requirements for the joint force commander.¹ Selected SOWTs maintain small unmanned aircraft systems, military free fall, demolition, and diver qualifications or certifications.

¹ Annex 3-05, [Special Operations](#).