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SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES ACQUISITION, TECHNOLOGY, & LOGISTICS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DEEP DIVE

HOWARD STRAHAN

DIRECTOR (ACTING), SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



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SOF AT&L-ST VISION

Innovate for Future Threats

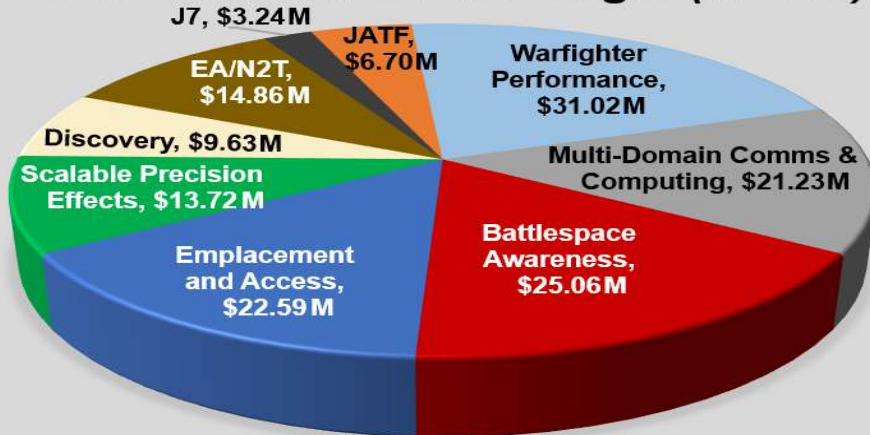
**Relentlessly Discover, Develop, Adapt
Special Operations-Peculiar Advances in
Technologies that Create Asymmetric
Advantages for SOF Integrated Deterrence
Across the Full Spectrum of Conflict**

Modernization of SOF – Prepare Today to Win Tomorrow



Science & Technology Directorate

SOF AT&L-ST FY26 Budget (\$153M)*



* HSVTOL, Congressional Adds, Taxes not depicted

Warfighter Performance FY26 Budget – \$31M

- Human Performance
- Brain Health
- Biomedical

Multi-Domain Comms & Computing FY26 Budget – \$21M

- Contested Comms
- Edge Computing
- Defensive Cyber

Emplacement and Access FY26 Budget – \$23M

- Platform Signature Management
- Personnel Signature Management
- Advanced Materials
- Active Electronically Scanned Array Radar

Scalable Precision Effects FY26 Budget – \$14M

- Offensive Cyber
- Electromagnetic Warfare
- Kinetic Attack
- Non-Kinetic Attack

Battlespace Awareness FY26 Budget – \$25M

- UxS & Placed Sensors
- Tactical Sensor Fusion & Analysis
- Deep Look Sensors
- Theater Analysis & Mission Planning

Cross-cutting Tech FY26 Budget – \$48M (within Capability Areas)

- Artificial Intelligence
- Collaborative Autonomy
- Contested Communications
- Contested Logistics

Process

- GUIDANCE**
- Command Strategic Programming Guidance (SPG)
 - Command Modernization Strategy
 - Key Operational Problems (KOPs)
 - Enterprise Gaps

- ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY**
- Annual prioritization based on TSOC/Component/PEO needs leading to AE approval
- INPUTS**
- S&T Council (TSOC/Component/Directorate needs)
 - AT&L PEO Technology Roadmaps
 - Discovery Events
 - Solicitation (Vulcan/eSOF, Broad Agency Announcements) PEOs/Component/TSOC Reps assess and prioritize

Engagements

- DESIGN SYSTEMS ENGINEERING FROM CONCEPTS TO PROTOTYPES**
- 1-2 Cycles per year
- TECHNICAL EXPERIMENTATION (Test & Demonstration)**
- 3 Events per year
- S&T ENTERPRISE PORTFOLIO REVIEW (STEPR)**
- 1 Sync per year with stakeholders ensuring continuous alignment

Partnerships

- TECH DEV PARTNERSHIPS**
- SOFWERX
 - DoW, FFRDCs, FEDERAL LABS
 - UARCs, ACADEMIA
 - FVEY + NOR/SWE GOV LABS
- TRANSITION PARTNERSHIPS**
- USSOCOM Program Executive Offices
 - Defense Health Agency (DHA) and Other Government Agencies (OGA)
 - Service Programs of Record
 - Commercial Entities

USSOCOM Science and Technology Funding

PE 1160401BB (BA2 – Applied Research) – TRL 2-4
 PE 1160402BB (BA3 – Advanced Technology Development) – TRL 5-7
 PE 1160279BB (BA7 – Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer)

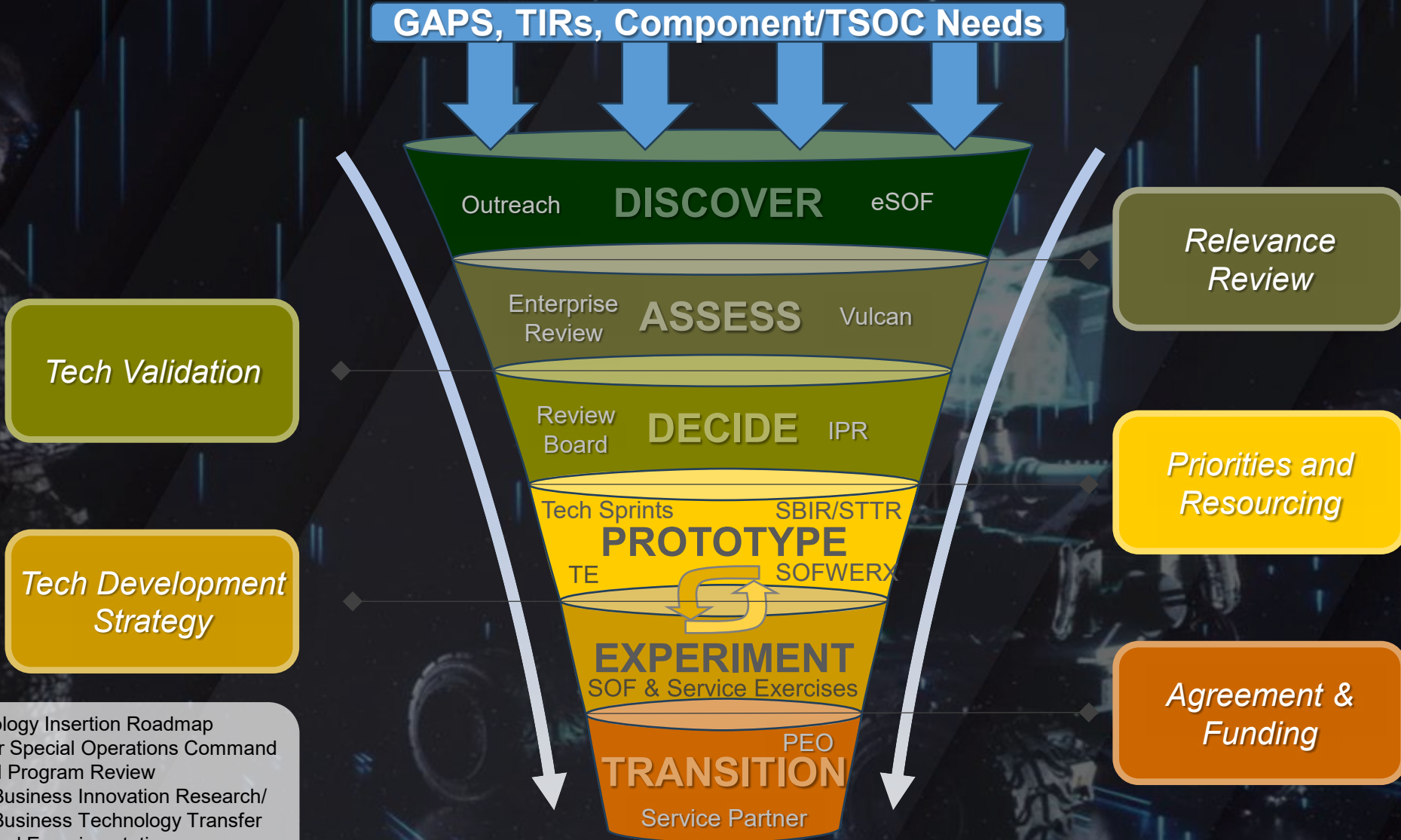
RDT&E	FY26 ♦ (Requested)	FY26 ♦ (Enacted)	FY27 ♦ (Requested)	FY27 ♦ (PB)	FY28 (PB)	FY29 (PB)	FY30 (PB)	FY31 (PB)	FY27-31 (PB)
BA2 Budget \$M	50.427	50.026	52.856	50.856	51.840	52.847	53.943	55.062	264.548
BA3 Budget \$M ♦	156.429	152.282	139.079	126.085	108.494	110.274	112.075	114.275	571.203
BA7 Budget \$M	-	TBD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

♦ BA3 Budget includes FY26-FY27 HSVTOL funding

• 1% of USSOCOM's Overall Budget, 1% of DoW Applied Research & Advanced Tech Development Funds
• Pathfinder for SOF and greater DoW

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY OVERVIEW

GAPS, TIRs, Component/TSOC Needs



TIR: Technology Insertion Roadmap
TSOC: Theater Special Operations Command
IPR: Internal Program Review
SBIR/STTR: Small Business Innovation Research/ Small Business Technology Transfer
TE: Technical Experimentation
PEO: Program Executive Office

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DISCOVERY

Integrates the Functions of TE, Strategic Engagement, Foundry and Rapid Prototyping Cycle
Open the Aperture to Drive Capability Development

SCOUTING



Government Collaboration, Academic Outreach, Cooperative Development, and Industrial Tech Transfer

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION & VALIDATION



Leverage Non-Traditional Engineers, Forward Leaning Designers, Trusted Academics and SOF Operators to spark Design Thinking

TECHNICAL EXPERIMENTATION (TE)

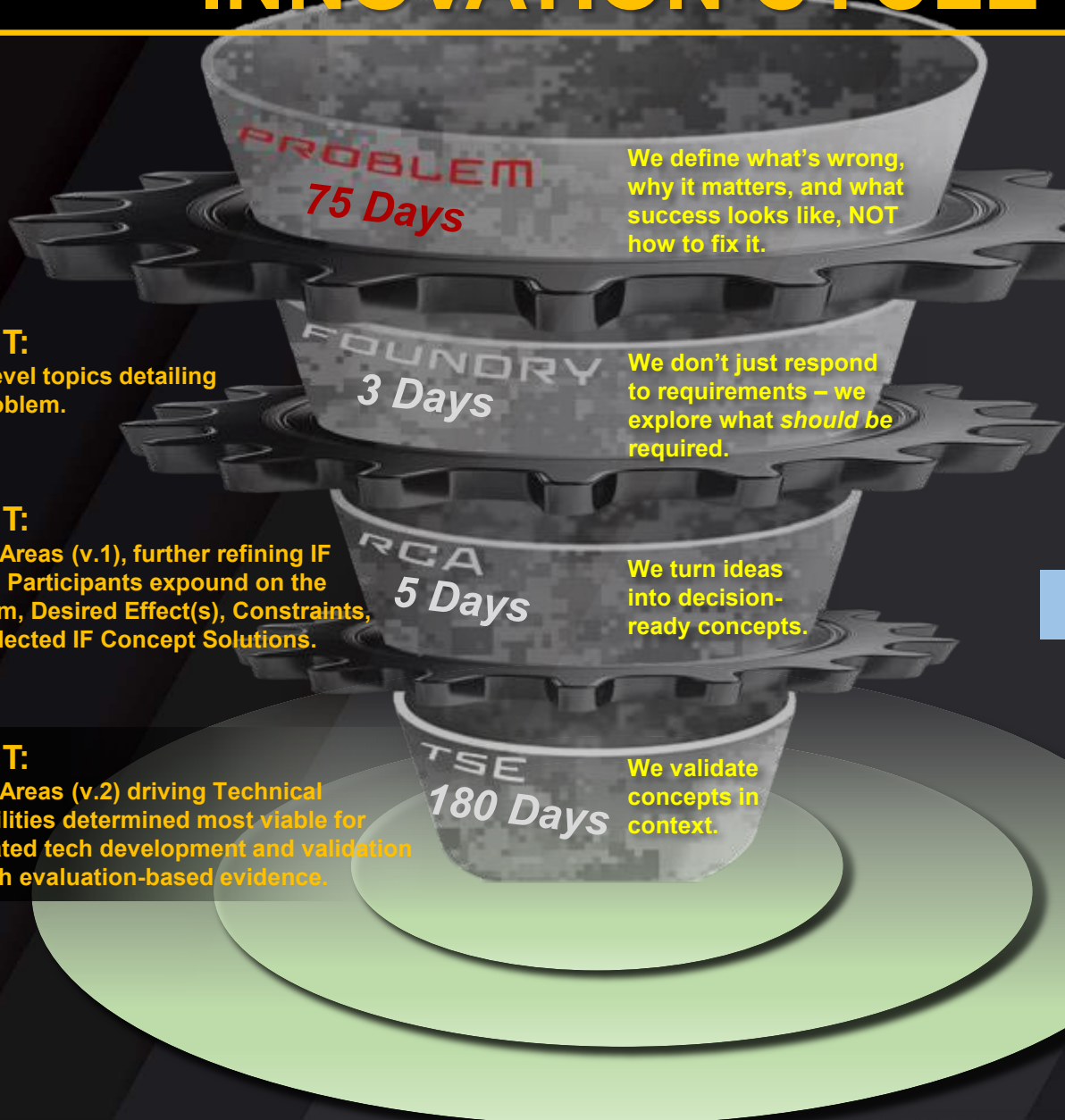


Identify & Assess the Latest Technologies of Interest Through Benchtop Demonstrations and Experiments

• Integration with SOF Enterprise Capability Development Process:

- Expanding Technical Experimentation via performing assessments that generate a body of knowledge that will inform gap analysis, requirements generation and investment decisions
- OUSD engagement to include Rapid Defense Experimental Reserve (RDER), Defense Innovation Acceleration (DIA), and Accelerate the Procurement and Fielding of Innovative Technologies (APFIT)
- Integrated across the Center to deconflict/identify redundancies and potential partners

INNOVATION CYCLE LOGICAL DIAGRAM



INPUT:
High-level topics detailing the Problem.

INPUT:
Focus Areas (v.1), further refining IF topics; Participants expound on the Problem, Desired Effect(s), Constraints, and selected IF Concept Solutions.

INPUT:
Focus Areas (v.2) driving Technical Capabilities determined most viable for integrated tech development and validation through evaluation-based evidence.

Problem Statement

Clearly Defined? **No** / **Yes**

Foundry (IF)

Validated Concept Solutions? **No** / **Yes**

Rapid Capability Assessment (RCA)

Viable Technical Capabilities? **No** / **Yes**

Tech Sprints & Evaluation (TSE)

Validated Proofs of Concept

Key Areas of Emerging Technology
Key Areas not addressed by Requirements
Undefined Hard Problems in Capability Areas

Validated Proofs of concept inform...

- Future Cycle Activity
- SOF operators & Industry partners
- Future requirements and policy
- Acquisition Actions
- Shape investment decisions
- Tech transitions to S&T, PEOs, and/or partnering stakeholders

USSOCOM/SOFWERX

USSOCOM's Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) operates as SOFWERX under 15 USC 3715

CAPABILITIES

- SOF Focused Ecosystem
- Collider/Disrupter Events
- Ideation Sessions & Collaboration
- Prize Challenges, Prototyping, Experimentation, Combat Evals
- Fast & Flexible Agent
- Commercial Non-FAR Sub-Awards
- Off-Base Access
- Honest Broker



VALUE

- Making New Tech & Capabilities Available
- Competitive Acquisition Process
- Pacing Commercial Tech Gains & Threats
- High Iterative Cycles, Low Cost
- Better Informed & Quality Decision Making
- Low Barriers to Entry for Industry
- Accelerate Entry Into Acquisition Cycles
- Building Relationships

Join the SOFWERX Ecosystem: www.sofwerx.org

TECH SCOUTING THE SOF WAY

“Engage SOF (eSOF) on Vulcan is USSOCOM’s **digital front door**, connecting industry with SOF feedback to inform the **rapid delivery of warfighter-relevant capabilities**. This streamlined approach redirects time and manpower savings into more **robust assessments**, enabling greater access and understanding of **SOE-relevant capabilities**.” – *Melissa Johnson, USSOCOM Acquisition Executive*



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VULCAN ECOSYSTEM

Engage SOF (eSOF) on VULCAN:

VULCAN is a digital platform connecting SOF to industry used to scout, vet, and adopt new technology

eSOF on VULCAN

- Single point, digital front door for industry
- Connected across SOF community and government; 1,500+ US government organizations, 15,000 government users
- Expanded network of SOF, interagency, and FVEY partners can review and collaborate on tech submissions
- Automation speeds up workflows; AI/ML integrated to support decisions while protecting sensitive data



S&T DISCOVERY EVENTS

- **TE 26-3, 17-21 August 2026, Idaho**
 - Focus: Maritime Multi-Domain Operations
 - <https://sam.gov/opp/6ecbdf072572404195139a1e67cc0283/view>
(submissions due 26 May 25)
- **TE 26-4, 14-18 September 2026, North Carolina**
 - Focus: Signature Management
- **TE 27-1 (Tentative), Date and Location TBD**
 - Focus: To be determined by end of FY26

Public Link: <https://www.socom.mil/SOF-ATL/Pages/technical-experimentation.aspx>

- **RAPID EXPERIMENTATION 26, September 2026, Gulf of America**
 - Focus: Large Scale Multi-Domain Integrated Counter Uncrewed Systems (C-UxS)

S&T BROAD AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT (BAA) PROCESS

STEP 1

- 5 Year BAA, Expires Dec 2030
- Amendments updated in 3rd QTR for following FY source selections through tasking to Components and USSOCOM Program Executive Offices (PEOs)
- Amendments uploaded by Contracting Officer to Sam.gov
- Submissions are closed on 5 January each year

STEP 2

- S&T Capability Area Leads notified upon vendor quad submission
- S&T Capability Area Leads determine if disruptive or incremental

STEP 3

- Disruptive quads sent to components for evaluation and prioritization Incremental quads sent to PEOs for evaluation against Technology Insertion Roadmaps

STEP 4

- White Papers requested for selected submissions
- White papers evaluated
- Submission prioritized to meet SOF needs

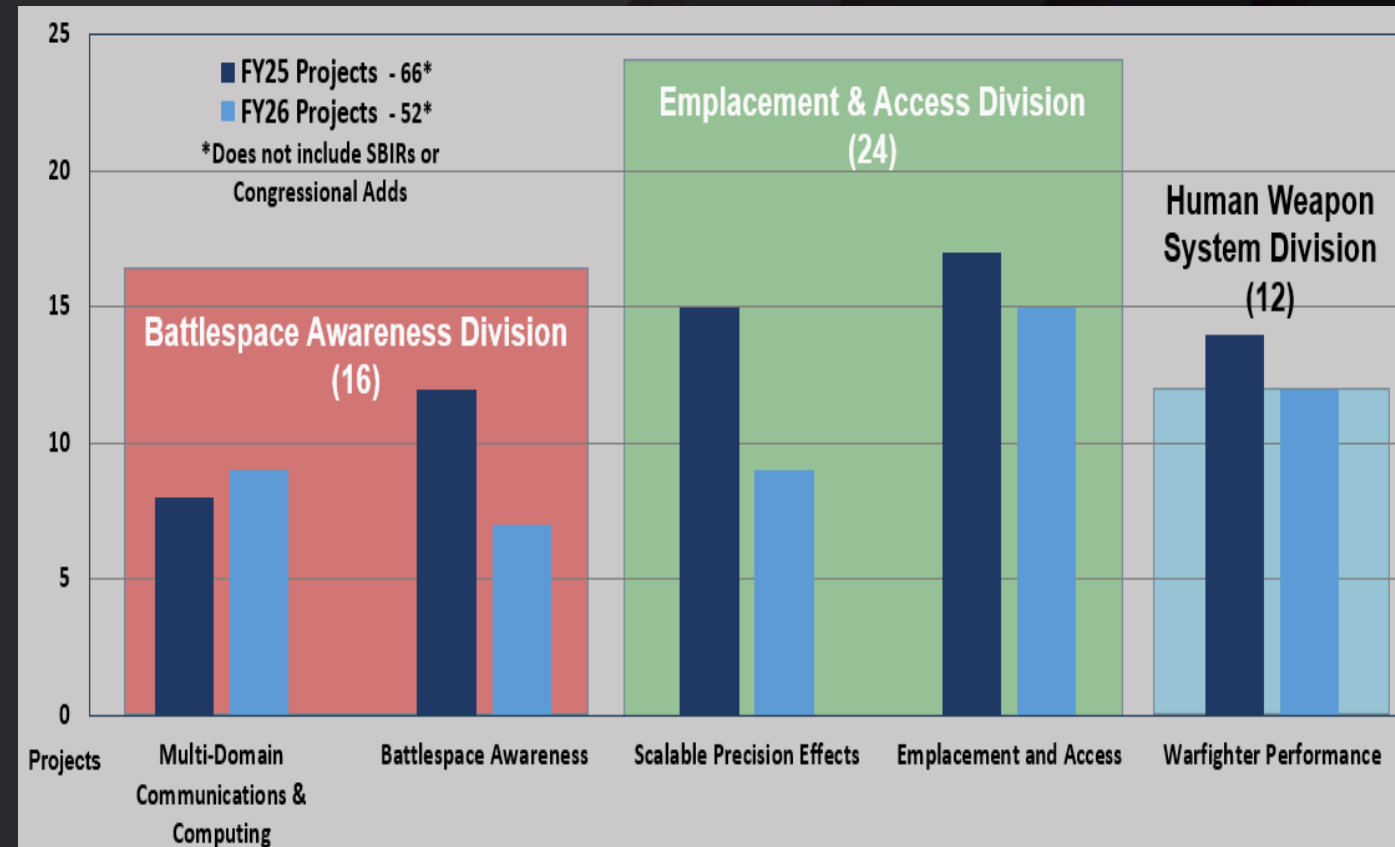
REVIEWS PROCESS AND SOURCE SELECTION

- There are two reviews conducted during the BAA process
 - Initial review Quad Charts
 - Final Review White Papers
 - Both review periods cover 30 days and White Paper reviews go through same steps (1-4)
- For both review periods a down select of submissions are prioritized with Enterprise stakeholders.
- For the final review, those selected submissions will be source selected.
- For submitters not chosen through either review process, an email is sent notifying and providing them guidance for other avenues to do business with USSOCOM and enable them to update submissions for next BAA cycle.

S&T REALIGNMENT

Consolidation of Multi-Domain Communications & Computing, Battlespace Awareness, Scalable Precision Effects and Emplacement and Access Capability Areas into two Divisions

- Mitigates recent and upcoming personnel losses
 - Reorganized to manage combined portfolios while maintaining PEO engagement
- Reduces compartmentalization and promotes collaboration
 - Offensive and Defensive Cyber; Sensors, Communications, and Analysis



HUMAN WEAPON SYSTEM DIVISION



FOCUS: Biomedical and Human Performance technology development efforts that support the Global SOF Medical Enterprise, Preservation of The Force & Family (POTFF) program, and SOF AT&L to optimize the lethality, performance and survivability of SOF Operators.

TECHNOLOGY AREAS OF INTEREST: Technologies, knowledge products, and solutions that improve survivability in an austere operating environment, and increase both physical, cognitive, and sensory capabilities of SOF Operators to mitigate the effects of stressors that degrade performance and health.

TRANSITION: PEO-SOF Warrior, USSOCOM Components, Theater Special Operations Commands (TSOC), Defense Health Agency (DHA), commercial partners

REQUIREMENT(S): USSOCOM Component/TSOC Gap Inputs, Commander's Priorities, research areas of interest

FINANCIAL: Executes RDT&E funding (approx. \$20M annually) to provide the Operator increased survivability, competitive advantage, and optimize the human weapon system

FOCUS AREAS

Brain Health	Improved Sleep
Damage Control Resuscitation	Performance Nutrition
Prolonged Field Care	Cognitive Performance
Environmental Medicine	Physical Performance

ENHANCING OPERATOR LETHALITY, SURVIVABILITY, AND PERFORMANCE

KEY EVENTS:

- Technical Experimentation
- Special Operations Medical Association Scientific Assembly
- Military Health System Research Symposium

KEY PARTNERSHIPS:

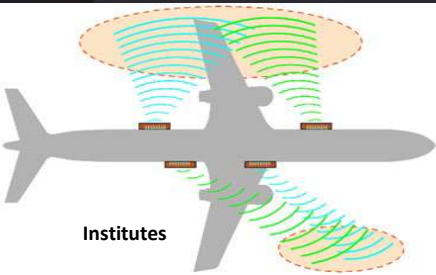
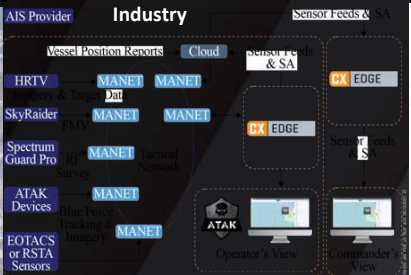
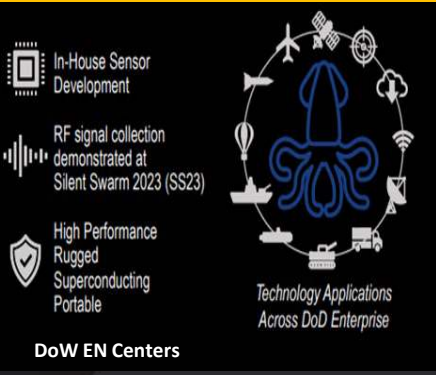
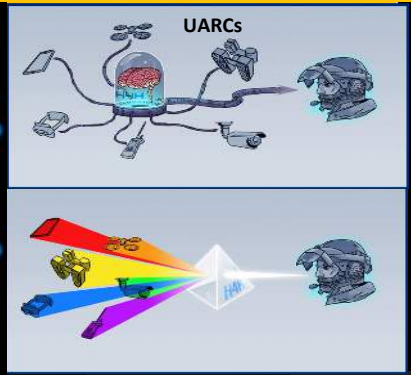
- USSOCOM Components/TSOCs
- DoE & DOW Labs (AFRL, DEVCOM)
- FFRDCs
- Universities/UARCs
- Industry/Commercial Partners
- SOFWERX

KEY USSOCOM WORKING GROUPS:

- Biomedical RDT&E Advisory Group (BRAG) / Board of Command Surgeons (BOCS)
- Human Performance RDT&E Advisory Group (HPRAG) / POTFF Roundtable
- Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) Program of Record Integrated Product Team
- USSOCOM S&T Council Meetings
- USSOCOM Force and Family Council

FFRDC: Federally Funded Research and Development Center
UARC: University Affiliated Research Center

BATTLESPACE AWARENESS DIVISION



FOCUS: SOF multi-domain dominance effects through autonomous sensor placement and Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML)-enhanced sensor fusion, enabling tactical and theater data processing & analysis to support mission planning and execution. Battlespace Awareness focuses on collaborative autonomy systems to increase and enhance SOF's ability to anticipate and act on threats in contested environments, deliver an on-the-move ability to learn, and communicate knowledge for advanced awareness in peer/near-peer environments

TECHNOLOGY AREAS OF INTEREST: Autonomously delivered and placed sensors providing persistent LPI/LPD reporting of battlespace awareness for AI/ML-enhanced evaluation, analysis, prediction mission planning, and battle damage assessment

TRANSITION: PEO-Tactical Information Systems, PEO-SOF Warrior, PEO-SOF Digital Applications, PEO-Maritime, PEO-Fixed Wing, USSOCOM Components, Services

REQUIREMENT(S): SOF AT&L PEOs, USSOCOM Directorate/Component/TSOC Gap Inputs, Integrated Priority Lists (IPLs), Commander's Priorities

FINANCIAL(S): Executes RDT&E funding (approx. \$26M annually)

FOCUS AREAS

Collaborative Autonomy	Unmanned ISR Systems
Collection, Processing, Exploitation, Dissemination	Tactical Sensor Fusion and Analysis
Theater Analysis and Mission Planning	Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning

SEA, AIR, LAND, CYBER AND SPACE

KEY EVENTS:

- Technical Experimentation
- Industry Conference (SOF WEEK)
- Foundry & Rapid Prototyping Cycle
- Other Government Experimentations
- SOF AT&L PEO Engagements
- FFRDC Cooperative Visits

KEY PARTNERSHIPS:

- SOF AT&L PEOs
- USSOCOM Components/TSOCs
- DOW & DoE Labs (DEVCOM)
- Universities, UARCs, FFRDCs
- Industry/Commercial Partners
- SOFWERX

KEY USSOCOM WORKING GROUPS:

- USSOCOM ISR Council Meetings
- USSOCOM S&T Council Meetings
- Project Review Boards

ISR: Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance
PEO: Program Executive Office
FFRDC: Federally Funded Research and Development Center
TSOC: Theater Special Operations Command
UARC: University Affiliated Research Center
LPI/LPD: Low Probability of Intercept/Low Probability of Detection

EMPLACEMENT AND ACCESS DIVISION



FOCUS: Reduced signature technologies are the primary emphasis with additional focus on Disruptive Technologies aimed at improving capabilities against Near Peer Adversaries in denied environments. Supports Air, Ground, Maritime Surface/Subsurface Technologies, Directed Energy, and Digital/Cyber

TECHNOLOGY AREAS OF INTEREST: Visual, Infrared, Radar and Acoustic Signature Reduction Technologies, Digital/Cyber Signature Management, SOF-Unique Manned/Unmanned Mobility Platforms, Autonomy Solutions, Materials/Coatings

TRANSITION: PEO-Tactical Information Systems, PEO-SOF Warrior, PEO-SOF Digital Applications, PEO-Maritime, PEO-Fixed Wing, USSOCOM Components, Services

REQUIREMENT(S): SOF AT&L PEOs, USSOCOM Directorate/Component/TSOC Gap Inputs, Integrated Priority Lists (IPLs), Commander's Priorities

FINANCIAL(S): Executes RDT&E funding (approx. \$30M annually)

FOCUS AREAS

Signature Management

Mobility Platforms

Advanced Materials

Kinetic Attack

Non-Kinetic Attack

Resilient Logistics

Emplacement and Access for SOF Dominance on the Battlefield

KEY EVENTS:

- Technical Experimentation
- Industry Conference (SOF WEEK)
- Discovery Cycle
- Rapid Experimentation

KEY PARTNERSHIPS:

- SOF AT&L PEOs
- USSOCOM Components/TSOCs
- DOW & DoE Labs (AFRL, DEVCOM)
- Universities/UARCs
- Industry/Commercial Partners
- SOFWERX, DEFENSEWERX
- International Partners

KEY USSOCOM WORKING GROUPS:

- USSOCOM S&T Council Meetings
- Gap Analysis Working Group
- Personnel Signature Management IPT
- DoW Service Partner Working Groups

PEO: Program Executive Office
TSOC: Theater Special Operations Command
UARC: University Affiliated Research Center
IPT: Integrated Product Team

QUESTIONS?

Please visit S&T for more information!

S&T Main - Room 116-117 in PEO Row

SBIR/STTR - Room 112 in PEO Row

TE Room - 112 in PEO Row

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SOFWERX - Booth 2402 TCC 3rd Floor Mezzanine

eSOF/Vulcan - Booth 2406 TCC 3rd Floor Mezzanine



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DOING BUSINESS WITH SOCOM

Office of Small Business Programs (Will engage with companies of any size!)

First stop for questions, concerns, or assistance

POCs: Ashley Farrier and Paul Ward

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Engage SOF (eSOF) on Vulcan

Pathway to present SOF relevant capabilities to USSOCOM

POC: Kimberly Carberry

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eSOF@socom.mil

<https://www.engageSOF.com>

<https://www.Vulcan-SOF.com>

SOFWERX

Unclass, open forum partnering with industry to solve Warfighter problems

<https://www.sofwerx.org>

TECHNICAL EXPERIMENTATION

<https://www.socom.mil/SOF-ATL/Pages/technical-experimentation.aspx>

