

R D

**A STUDY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF US SPECIAL
OPERATIONS FORCES**

By,

LEONG KOK WEY

AGG 99005

**THIS DISSERTATION IS SUBMITTED FOR THE PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
FOR THE MASTER OF STRATEGIC AND DEFENCE STUDIES**

**DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AND STRATEGIC STUDIES
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA**

2002

Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya



A510789294

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to all those brave men and women who lay their supreme sacrifice on the altar of freedom.

CONTENTS

	Pages
CONTENTS	I-III
ABSTRACT	IV
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	V
CHAPTER I	INTRODUCTION
1.1	Introduction 1-3
1.2	Statement of the problem 4-5
1.3	Objective of the study 5-6
1.4	Definition of concepts 6-7
1.5	Literature review 7-11
1.6	Significance of the study 11-12
1.7	Research methodology 12-13
1.8	Chapterisation 13-14
CHAPTER II	BACKGROUND OF THE UNITED STATES SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES
2.1	Introduction 15
2.2	Evolution of the United States Special Operations Forces 15-21
2.3	The nature of special operations 21-25
2.4	Contemporary Special Operations Forces in the United States 25-30
2.5	The major missions of Special Operations Forces 30-33
2.6	Conclusion 34

CHAPTER III**US SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES
INVOLVEMENT IN GRENADA**

3.1	Introduction	35
3.2	Background of the conflict	35-37
3.3	United States Special Operations Forces' involvement	37-42
3.4	The outcome of United States special operations in Grenada	43-45
3.5	Conclusion	45-46

CHAPTER IV**US SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES
INVOLVEMENT IN SOMALIA**

4.1	Introduction	47
4.2	Background of the conflict	47-49
4.3	The United Nations and the United States involvement in Somalia	50-54
4.4	The use of the United States Special Operations Forces	54-59
4.5	Outcome of special operations	59-61
4.6	Conclusion	62

CHAPTER V**ANALYSIS OF US SPECIAL
OPERATIONS FORCES**

5.1	Introduction	63
5.2	The strategic and tactical role of United States Special Operations Forces	63-68
5.3	The strategic reasons for the success of United States special operations in Grenada and in other missions	68-70
5.4	An assessment on the failure of United States special operations in Somalia and in	71-76

	other missions	
5.5	The challenges confronting United States Special Operations Forces	76-79
5.6	Technological advancement and its impact on United States Special Operations Forces missions	79-84
5.7	Trends in special operation forces outside the United States of America	85-87
5.8	Conclusion	88
CHAPTER VI	CONCLUSION	89-92
BIBLIOGRAPHY		93-109
APPENDIXES	Appendix A	110
	Appendix B	111-121

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini adalah mengenai kecekapan dan keberkesanan fungsi Pasukan Khas Amerika Syarikat (United States Special Operations Forces – US SOF). Pasukan Khas Amerika Syarikat merupakan suatu pasukan yang amat fleksibel untuk melakukan pelbagai tugas khas. Pasukan khas juga mampu digunakan untuk menambahkan keberkesanan pasukan konvensional tentera Amerika Syarikat. Kebanyakan misi dan campurtangan Amerika dalam konflik di negara-negara tertentu seringkali menampakkan penggunaan Pasukan Khasnya.

Para perajurit Pasukan Khas bukanlah sebarangan kerana mereka adalah wira terpilih yang telah dilatih dan diasah dengan keras dan lasak untuk menjadi ahli Pasukan Khas. Mereka cukup terlatih dalam kemahiran infantri, tahan lasak dari segi mental mahupun fizikal. Mereka juga mempunyai keberanian yang luar biasa serta tangkas dalam setiap tindakan.

Terdapat juga pemahaman di kalangan masyarakat umum bahawa Pasukan Khas sebagai suatu unit yang elit, luar biasa dan terlalu efektif. Kajian ini akan cuba menganalisa peranan US SOF dalam era pasca-perang dengan menggunakan dua kes khas iaitu di Somalia dan di Grenada. Dengan ini, keberkesanan sebenar Pasukan Khas dapat dianalisis.

Analisis dalam kajian ini mendedahkan bahawa bukan semua misi US SOF menampakkan keberkesanan penggunaan Pasukan Khas. Ia juga dapat mendemonstrasikan faktor-faktor strategik di sebalik sesuatu kejayaan atau kegagalan dalam sesuatu misi Pasukan Khas Amerika Syarikat. Di samping itu pengkaji berpendapat bahawa trend dalam penggunaan Pasukan Khas Amerika Syarikat akan meningkat kerana adanya ancaman-ancaman seperti keganasan antarabangsa, jenayah terancang dan lain-lain.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank my Supervisor, Mr. K.S. Balakrishnan for his guidance and support throughout the course of this research. Without his tireless efforts, this dissertation would not have existed at all.

I would also extend my most sincere gratitude to all the lecturers in the Department of International and Strategic Studies, University of Malaya; especially Professor Ranjit Singh, Associate Professor Mohamad Abu Bakar, En. Jatswan Singh, En. K.S. Balakrishnan, Pn. Ruhana Harun, Puan Wan Sharina and Lt-Kol (B) Mohd Idris Ismail.

I would like to thank Colonel Woodard, Major Doug, Keith and Tony Chumwbat of the American Embassy in Kuala Lumpur for their immense help in my research. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to the staff at the Lincoln Resource Center, the Marines at the American Embassy, the staff of Institute of Strategic and International Security, Malaysia (ISIS), Maritime Institute of Malaysia (MIMA) and the librarians and staff of University Malaya's library, and not forgetting, Colonel Sharuddin Ahmad for sharing his experience and views with me and also members of our local special forces, whose names I can't disclose.

My family has also contributed through their support and love throughout the duration of this course.

I would like to thank all my fellow colleagues in Corporate Planning Department, Mayban Finance Berhad for all their guidance, support and patience throughout the duration of this course.

Last but not least, sincere thanks are also extended to all my fellow classmates for their laughter and wisdom shared.