

= Bryan D. Brown =

Bryan Douglas " Doug " Brown (born October 20 , 1948) was a four @-@ star United States Army general , who retired in 2007 after four decades of military service . In his final assignment , he served as the seventh commander of U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) , from September 2 , 2003 until July 9 , 2007 . As USSOCOM 's commander , he was responsible for all unified special operations forces (SOF) , both active duty and reserve .

Brown joined the United States Army in 1967 as a private in the infantry and after graduating from Special Forces Qualification Course , he became a Green Beret . Shortly afterwards he fought in the Vietnam War as part of a Special Forces " A " team . After returning from his combat tour he enrolled in Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in May 1970 . After attending Army Aviation School he returned to Vietnam as a UH @-@ 1 helicopter pilot . After the Vietnam War he was part of a task force that would go on to later found the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment in 1981 . During his stint in the 160th SOAR Brown took part in numerous contingency operations in the 1980s and early 1990s . In 1983 Brown participated in the invasion of Grenada where his unit became the first aviation unit to use night vision goggles in combat . In the late 1980s he led all U.S. forces assigned to Operation Prime Chance in the Persian Gulf amidst the Iran @-@ Iraq War . Shortly thereafter he commanded a battalion within 160th SOAR during Operation Desert Storm ; after which he was promoted to colonel and commander of the regiment . After leaving 160th SOAR Brown served at the helm of Joint Special Operations Command from 1998 ? 2000 and then U.S. Army Special Operations Command from 2000 ? 2002 .

In 2002 , Brown became the deputy commander of U.S. Special Operations Command and , holding the post until 2003 when he was selected to replace Air Force General Charles R. Holland as Commander of U.S. Special Operations Command . Shortly after becoming the head of USSOCOM , in 2004 , he was involved in the aftermath of the Pat Tillman friendly fire incident which culminated when he testified before the congressional Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in 2007 . Also during his tenure in command of USSOCOM he announced the creation of Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command in 2006 . Brown retired in 2007 after leading USSOCOM through four years of the Iraq War and War in Afghanistan .

= = Early life and family = =

Brown , a native of Fort Meade , Maryland , was born in 1948 and grew up in a military family . His father , Arnett Brown , was a member of the 89th Infantry Division during World War II , who became a Command Sergeant Major and served in the Vietnam War . His mother was Mary Lou Brown . Brown played baseball and basketball in high school , and eventually made it onto a semi @-@ pro baseball team in Fayetteville , North Carolina . In a 2009 interview with The Year in Special Operations , he commented on his short @-@ lived semi @-@ pro baseball career , saying , " I played three games with them and found that life couldn ' t be sustained on \$ 3 per game " . Losing interest in college , and with his father in Vietnam , he walked into a recruiting office and joined the Army as an infantryman . He is married to Penelope " Penny " Brown (née Whightsil) , a native of Fayetteville . Together , they have two daughters and five grandchildren .

= = Military service = =

= = = Early military career and Vietnam = = =

He entered the Army in 1966 as a private in the infantry . While attending Airborne School at Fort Bragg in North Carolina , he signed up for Army Special Forces (SF) after meeting Army SF recruiters . After Brown completed the Special Forces Qualification Course , he was assigned to the 7th Special Forces Group . Shortly thereafter , he deployed to Vietnam as part of a Special Forces " A Team " . His interest in aviation started after returning to the United States from his tour in

Vietnam . While at Mountain Ranger Camp , he became enthralled with helicopters after he was asked by a UH @-@ 1 helicopter pilot to assist him in conducting reconnaissance flight over northern Georgia . Immediately afterwards , he signed up for Officer Candidate School (OCS) and flight school . He graduated OCS in May 1970 , obtaining a field artillery officer commission as a second lieutenant . He was thereafter stationed at Camp Pelham , South Korea as part of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery , 2 / 17th Field Artillery Regiment .

Brown went on to earn his aviator badge in 1971 after attending Army Aviation School at Fort Rucker , Alabama . After aviation school , he returned to Vietnam as a UH @-@ 1 helicopter pilot in the 129th Assault Helicopter Company . He would go on to become the first member of the aviation branch to attain the rank of four @-@ star general . In June 1978 , Brown was assigned to the 158th Aviation Battalion at Fort Campbell , Kentucky flying Sikorsky UH @-@ 60 Black Hawks . While a member of the 158th Aviation Battalion Brown was a Company Commander . The 158th Aviation Battalion was originally part of the 101st Aviation Group , the air arm of the 101st Airborne Division .

= = = Operation Credible Sport = = =

In 1979 , Iranian students seized the American embassy in Tehran and held the embassy staff hostage ; the first rescue operation , code @-@ named Eagle Claw ended in failure due to equipment and coordination problems , culminating in the crash of a RH @-@ 53D Sea Stallion helicopter into a parked C @-@ 130 Hercules in the Iranian desert , killing eight servicemen . A second rescue attempt , Operation Credible Sport , was ordered , and Brown was involved in planning and preparation . The follow @-@ up rescue included U.S. Air Force , U.S. Navy and Army assets . The Army units involved were the battalions that made up the 101st Aviation Group : the 158th Aviation Battalion , the 229th Aviation Battalion and the 159th Aviation Battalion . All three battalions formed Task Force 158 . President Carter meanwhile appointed the former Chief of Naval Operations , Admiral James L. Holloway , III , to head a commission to study the deficiencies revealed by the failure of Eagle Claw . Among the presented findings was the fact that the military lacked aircraft and crews who were trained and prepared to perform these mission types .

The Task Force began night flight training using night vision goggles (NVG) to develop nighttime extraction capabilities ; however , they were doing so with AN / PVS @-@ 5 NVGs which were originally developed for ground forces . Never before had anyone in the U.S. Department of Defense flown in NVGs and the Task Force quickly adapted the NVGs for flying and by Brown 's own words " a warrant officer figured out we could cut them apart and mount them to our helmets and increase our efficiency and safety by a huge margin . So there we were , without authority , cutting up goggles and building our own NVGs . " Their nighttime training took place at Dugway Proving Ground , Utah . As a result of the night vision goggle training Brown asserted in a 2011 interview that " most of today 's NVG tactics , techniques , and procedures as well as Black Hawk and Chinook modifications came directly from that mission . " Ultimately Operation Credible Sport did not come to fruition due to a peaceful resolution to the crisis where the hostages were released as a result of long negotiations .

= = = 160th SOAR = = =

After Operation Credible Sport ended the Army leadership decided the unit was needed for future contingency operations . Thusly , on October 16 , 1981 Task Force 158 became the 160th Aviation Battalion , with Brown a founding member . The choice of the unit 's name was accepted by the U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry as a logical progression of the 101st 's 158th and 159th Battalions . The 160th Aviation Battalion was later renamed the 160th Special Operations Aviation Group in 1986 ; it was not until 1990 when it would take on its current name , 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment . In October 1983 , Brown participated in the invasion of Grenada , during which his unit became the first aviation unit to use night vision goggles in combat . In the late 1980s , Brown led all U.S. forces assigned to Operation Prime Chance , which provided escort security for American @-@ flagged Kuwaiti tankers during the Iran @-@ Iraq War . During Operation Prime Chance

Brown 's unit became the first aviation unit to engage in combat using night vision devices when they engaged an Iranian @-@ flagged ship , Iran Ajr , that was seen deploying mines in the Persian Gulf .

In 1988 , he participated in Operation Mount Hope III , during which U.S. forces recovered a crashed Soviet @-@ made Mi @-@ 24 Hind attack helicopter in Chad . Company E of the 160th deployed to N 'Djamena , Chad via C @-@ 5 Galaxy . Once in Chad the company flew two CH @-@ 47 Chinooks 490 nautical miles at night , without the use of navigational aids , to the crash site . Once at the crash site the crews harnessed the crashed Hind to a Chinook via sling @-@ load . During the returning flight both Chinooks performed an air @-@ to @-@ air refuel with a C @-@ 130 ; and later endured a sandstorm before returning with the Hind .

During the Persian Gulf War in 1991 , Brown commanded a battalion within 160th SOAR for both Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm . Their missions during the operations included inserting and extracting Special Forces teams ; resupplying SOF units ; performing reconnaissance ; and attacking pre @-@ designated targets . Brown became the third commanding officer of the Regiment after Desert Storm .

= = = General Officer = = =

Between 1994 and 1996 , Brown served as assistant division commander for maneuver , 1st Infantry Division (Mechanized) , at Fort Riley , Kansas . He later served as director of Plans , Policy and Strategic Assessments (J5 / J7) at U.S. Special Operations Command . As a lieutenant general , he commanded the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) from 1998 ? 2000 . Brown went on to lead U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) from October 2000 to 2002 .

While at the helm of USASOC , Brown sought to modernize neglected aspects of Army special operations , mainly the civil affairs and psychological operations units . By the time Brown left , he had increased USASOC 's budget by 200 percent . After leading all of the Army 's special operations forces for two years , Brown was selected to become the Deputy Commander of U.S. Special Operations Command . He held the position from 2002 until 2003 when he was nominated to take over U.S. Special Operations Command .

= = = Commander of USSOCOM = = =

On September 2 , 2003 , Brown replaced Air Force General Charles R. Holland as the Commander of U.S. Special Operations Command . During Brown 's tenure as USSOCOM commander , he was involved in the aftermath of the Pat Tillman friendly fire incident that occurred in early 2004 . He testified before the congressional Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in 2007 about receiving a memo from Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal , then @-@ commander of JSOC , informing Brown that it was " highly possible that Corporal Tillman was killed by friendly fire " . Ultimately , former commanding general of USASOC Lt. Gen. Philip Kensinger and other Army officers were held responsible for the mishandling of information surrounding Tillman 's death .

On November 23 , 2005 , Brown , together with U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld , and Marine Corps Commandant General Michael Hagee announced the creation of the Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC) . Prior to the creation of MARSOC , the Marine Corps had not been involved in special operations , which were conducted by Army , Navy and Air Force units assigned to U.S. Special Operations Command . After the September 11 attacks , the Secretary of Defense had directed the Marine Corps and Brown 's predecessor to work closer together in the Global War on Terror . This culminated in the creation of MCSOCOM Detachment One on June 19 , 2003 , shortly before Brown took command of USSOCOM . It was nearly three years later on February 24 , 2006 , when MARSOC was activated at Camp Lejeune , North Carolina .

In 2006 Brown oversaw the SOF component of the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) which is a legislatively @-@ mandated study by the Department of Defense that analyzes strategic objectives

and potential military threats . As a result of Brown 's contributions to the 2006 QDR were considered a success and a " major stride forward " in preparing U.S. special forces for future contingencies by increasing the SOF budget and manpower . As a result of the 2006 QDR the capabilities of USSOCOM were greatly expanded , including increasing active @-@ duty Special Forces battalions by one @-@ third , expansion of psychological operations and civil affairs units by 33 % , increasing the number of Navy SEALs , among other major changes .

After four years of leading USSOCOM through the Iraq War and War in Afghanistan , President George W. Bush nominated Rear Admiral Eric T. Olson to succeed Brown as the commander of U.S. Special Operations Command on May 11 , 2007 . Brown and Olson had served at the USSOCOM headquarters in Tampa together for four years , and Olson had been the deputy commander since 2003 . The change of command ceremony took place on July 9 , 2007 , at the Tampa Convention Center . It was presided over by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates . During the ceremony , Gates said , " He came to this post four years ago determined to improve the way special operators fight . He has done just that " . At the time of the change of command ceremony Brown was the longest serving commander in U.S. Special Operations Command history with 1 @,@ 406 days in office . Over the course of his military career , Brown amassed a total of 4 @,@ 400 hours of flight time in fixed and rotary @-@ winged aircraft .

= = Education = =

His military education included the Field Artillery Officer Advance Course , U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the United States Army War College . At the Army War College in 1992 , a then @-@ Lieutenant Colonel Brown co @-@ wrote a military studies program with future United States Northern Command commander , Victor E. Renuart , Jr . , in a paper titled Combat Search and Rescue : A Search for Tomorrow . In it , Brown was highly critical of the United States Air Force , saying , " The U.S. Air Force is the proponent agency for search and rescue , but chose not to deploy any forces to Desert Storm " . Brown graduated from the Harvard Executive Education Program 's National and International Security Managers Course . He received a bachelor 's degree in history from Cameron University , as well as a master 's degree in business from Webster University .

= = Post @-@ military life = =

In November 2007 , shortly after Brown retired from the Army , he joined the board of directors for Aurora Flight Sciences , which specializes in the scientific and military applications of robotic aircraft and aerospace vehicles . Brown is the president and founder of his own consultation firm , Tier 4 Consulting . He is an advisor to the Patriot Defense Group , LLC , a defense and intelligence contracting company that directly supports the training requirements of the defense and intelligence communities . He serves on the board of directors for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation , and the board of directors for The Protective Group , a company which specializes in developing composite armor for personnel , vehicles and aircraft . He is a senior advisor to the CEO of Smith & Wesson .

= = Awards and honors = =

General Brown was awarded the following military awards and decorations :

= = Other accolades = =

Shortly after his retirement , Brown was named " Patriot of the Year " for 2007 by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society , and he also received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor . The following year , he was inducted into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame . The Association of Special Operations Professionals named Brown " Man of the Year " in 2011 . In 2012 , the 160th SOAR compound at

Fort Campbell was renamed the " Gen. Bryan " Doug " Brown Compound " in his honor .

= = In film = =

= = Works by Brown = =

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Bryan D. Brown (2006) . " U.S. Special Operations Command : Meeting the Challenges of the 21st Century " 4 (40) . Joint Force Quarterly .