

## The Politics of Special Forces Podcast Show Notes

### **Episode 10 – SOF and Signatures**

#### Summary

For our tenth and final episode in this series, Kevin and I have a fascinating chat with two retired American Special Forces operators who now lead projects on technology, organizational culture, and decision making. Derek Jones and Dan Leaf join us to discuss the implications of a potential over-reliance upon technology within the special operations force community. They suggest that the idea of a hyper-connected operator will be challenged by the realities of peer and near-peer conflict and that we all need to become far more comfortable with operating without the comforts of constant communications. Indeed, we will see ourselves returning to a reliance upon initiative and trust. Are we ready?

#### About the Guest

Colonel (Retired) Derek Jones is the Vice President of Valens Global and a retired U.S. Army Special Forces officer who served for 26 years in numerous special operations assignments including 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), U.S. Special Operations Command Europe, U.S. Special Operations Command Central, and the interagency. He holds master's degrees from the U.S. Army War College, U.S. Army School of Advanced Military Studies, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the American Military University.

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Dan Leaf is a visiting Fellow of Vision Foresight, LLC, and served over 25 years as a U.S. Army Special Forces officer in command and staff positions in 20th, 7th, and 3rd Special Forces Groups (Airborne), the Joint Special Operations Command, an Army Special Mission Unit, and the interagency. He is a graduate of Virginia Tech.

#### Audio credits

From Storyblocks (<https://www.storyblocks.com/>) and the song is called "A Taste of Victory" by Valentina Gribanova. Produced with Apple's GarageBand by the hosts.