

Royal Netherlands Airforce SOFAIR Program

“Creating Special Operations –Air ...
Ready to fight tonight,
Pathfinding for tomorrow”

Providing worldwide special RW aviation
and C2 capability in the maritime, land and
national domains

Program Manager
Lt. Col. Edwin Hoogsteder





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Military Career

- 2004: Start military career
- 2006: Deployed at 300 SQN
- 2010: Weapons Instructor
- 2011: Dep Flight Cdr
- 2012: Flight Cdr & Mission Lead
- 2017: Staff Officer NLD Airforce
- 2018: Staff Officer Plans MoD
- 2022: Advanced Staff Course
- 2023: Program Manager SOFAIR

Operational Deployments

- 2007-2010: ISAF (Afgh, Kandahar)
- 2007: Greece Firefighting
- 2012: Operation Ocean Shield (NATO)
- 2013: Operation Atalanta (EUNAVFOR)
- 2020: Chief Of Staff (COS) of NRF/ATG Special Operations Air Task Group (NLD/DEN/BEL)
- 2021: STBY for NEO Kabul





SOF Air in context

“Special operations are those activities which deliver **strategic- or operational-level results** or are executed where significant **political risk** exists. Special operations are conducted by mature, **highly-trained** and educated operators due to the heightened risk of negative consequences of mission exposure or failure.” (NATO SOFCOM)

Political risks



High readiness



Special equipped



Self supporting



Special training, selection and appointed

SOF's Relevance is its People

INTEGRITY	COMPETENCE	COURAGE	CREATIVITY

SOF TRUTHS

- Humans are more important than hardware
- Quality is better than quantity
- Special Operations Forces cannot be mass produced
- Competent SOF cannot be created after emergencies occur
- Most SOF operations require Services' support



300

SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON



Koninklijke Luchtmacht



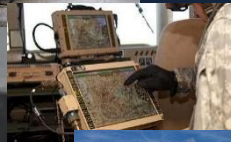
Starting to build the new unit



300 SOS
Initial Mission Capable



1x SOATU
MCWL
1x SOATG
Core



SOF Air Support in place

Caracal Helicopters



2x SOATU
Full MC
1x SOATG
Core

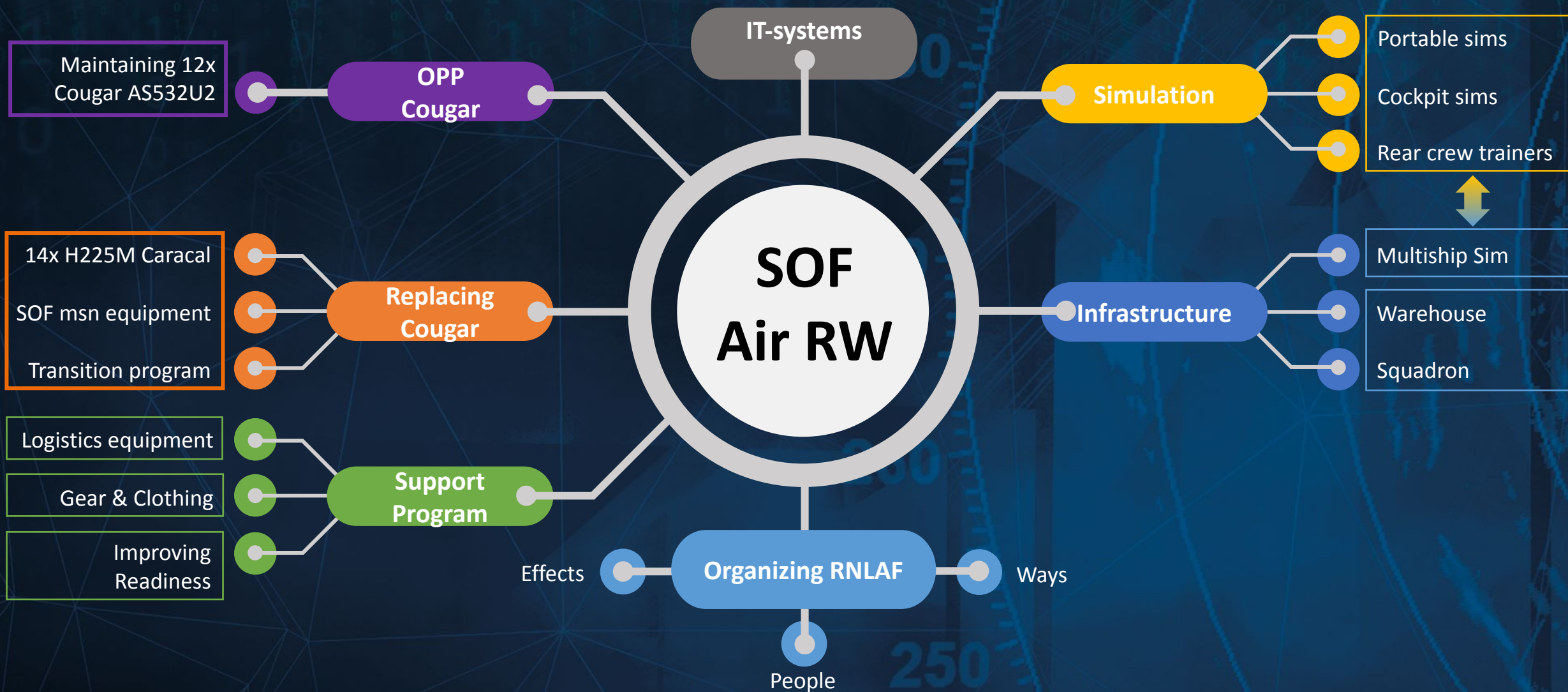


300 SOS
Full Mission Capable





Program overview (projects)





Program overview (business change)





RNLAF Approach

“Parallel project planning and execution”

“Decide early while learning”

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- LoE: Concept development
 - LoE: Cultural / Mindset
 - LoE: Aquisition
 - LoE: Procedures



Challenges



Complexity



Speed of
movement



Enough people



Creating the
right Mindset

Program SOF AIR



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