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How to mitigate the shortage of Special Operation Aviation

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How to mitigate the shortage of Special Operation Aviation



Naval Postgraduate School

Why does the shortage exist within European nations?

- Decrease in air mobility within the conventional forces
→ fewer aircraft
- Within SOA the main focus is on getting more elite rather than special
→ More capable SOA does not address the quantitative shortage



Consequences

“During 2008 and 2009 in Afghanistan, NATO SOF missions were often unable to be executed due to a lack of aviation support. Simply a lack of airframes made it impossible to action targets.”

- Steven Ayre and Jeremy Hough, Naval Postgraduate School

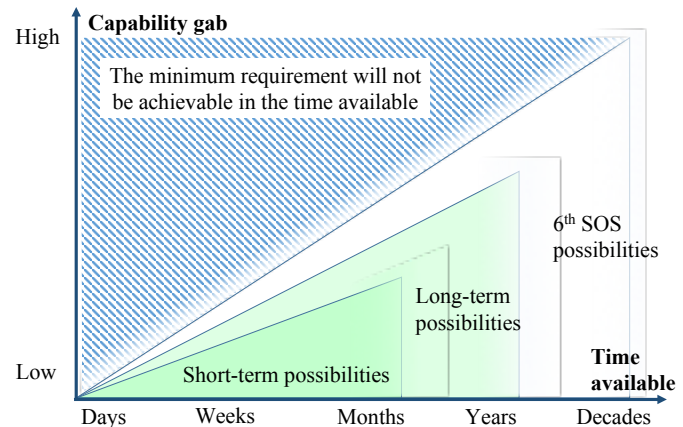
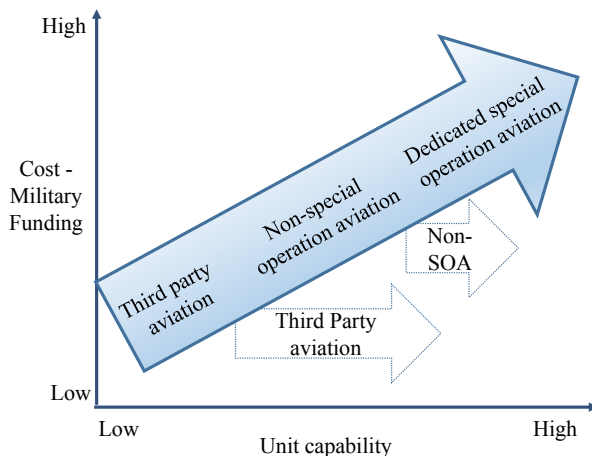
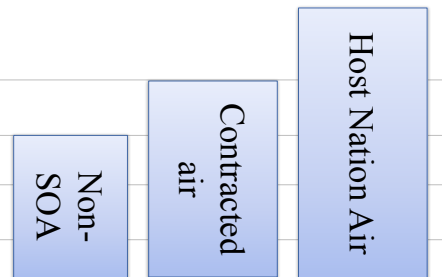
Possible solutions

Afghan Special Mission Wing
US use of Combat Aviation Advisors

Lord’s resistance army
US SF use of contracted air

Combat Aviation Advisors can mitigate the shortage

- Get the aircraft airborne by improving basic skills and address specific needs
- Add temporary sensors/weapons/comms
- Improving air/ground liaison
- Understanding of Special operations
- Habitual relationship with the ground forces



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