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SAROPS PLANNING
&
EXECUTION

SOUTH AFRICAN ARCC PERSPECTIVE

SAROPS STAGES

- Awareness Stage: An emergency situation may exist – information from alerting posts
- Initial Action Stage: Preliminary actions undertaken. Evaluation and classification of information with appropriate SAR action e.g. alerting resources etc.
- Planning Stage: Develop plans e.g. search plans and possible rescue plans. Decide on the probability area, search plan and resource allocations.
- Operations (execution) Stage: Resource deployment and SAROPS activities to commence.
- Mission Conclusion Stage: Resource extraction, de-briefings and documentation of the SAROPS mission.

Note: The stages in practice will be seamless and a pro-active approach towards planning ahead, often even directly into the e.g. initial action- and operations stages.

AERONAUTICAL ENVIRONMENT

- The aeronautical environment is such that either a lot of information is known or very little is known
- In reality the more challenging incidents invariably occur in the light aircraft categories where little could be known
- Aeronautical SAR incidents normally attract a lot of publicity and interest
- ARCC normally is activated with the Alert phase or even earlier
- Transition between stages are seamless and pro-active by working ahead of the current declared stage

PLANNING PHASE

- All previously obtained information is relevant (earlier stages)
- Take time out and understand the details and make the processes flow in your mind, retrospectively
- Consult and obtain advice
- Run processes in parallel to avoid time delays (be pro-active)
- Consider the possible extended SAR activities when starting to allocate resources – use with discretion

PLANNING PHASE cont

- Be conscious of costs and the deployment of appropriate resources
- Always consider the risks associated with SRU's as the occupants are already at risk (fine line)
- Do not underestimate the importance of common sense
- Do not take all at face value e.g. ELT operational status and satellite coverage etc.
- Consider the impact on the normal routine ongoing activities such as ATC and Airports (parking and fuel etc.)

PLANNING PHASE cont

- Consider the search conditions ahead e.g. meteorological forecasts – manage the impact
- Treat all operations as unique – no two are exactly the same
- Be careful of tradeoffs e.g. time pressures versus probability of detection calculations
- Plans should include all activities, up to and including, the operations conclusion phase – not just the next step or two

OPERATIONS (EXECUTION) PHASE

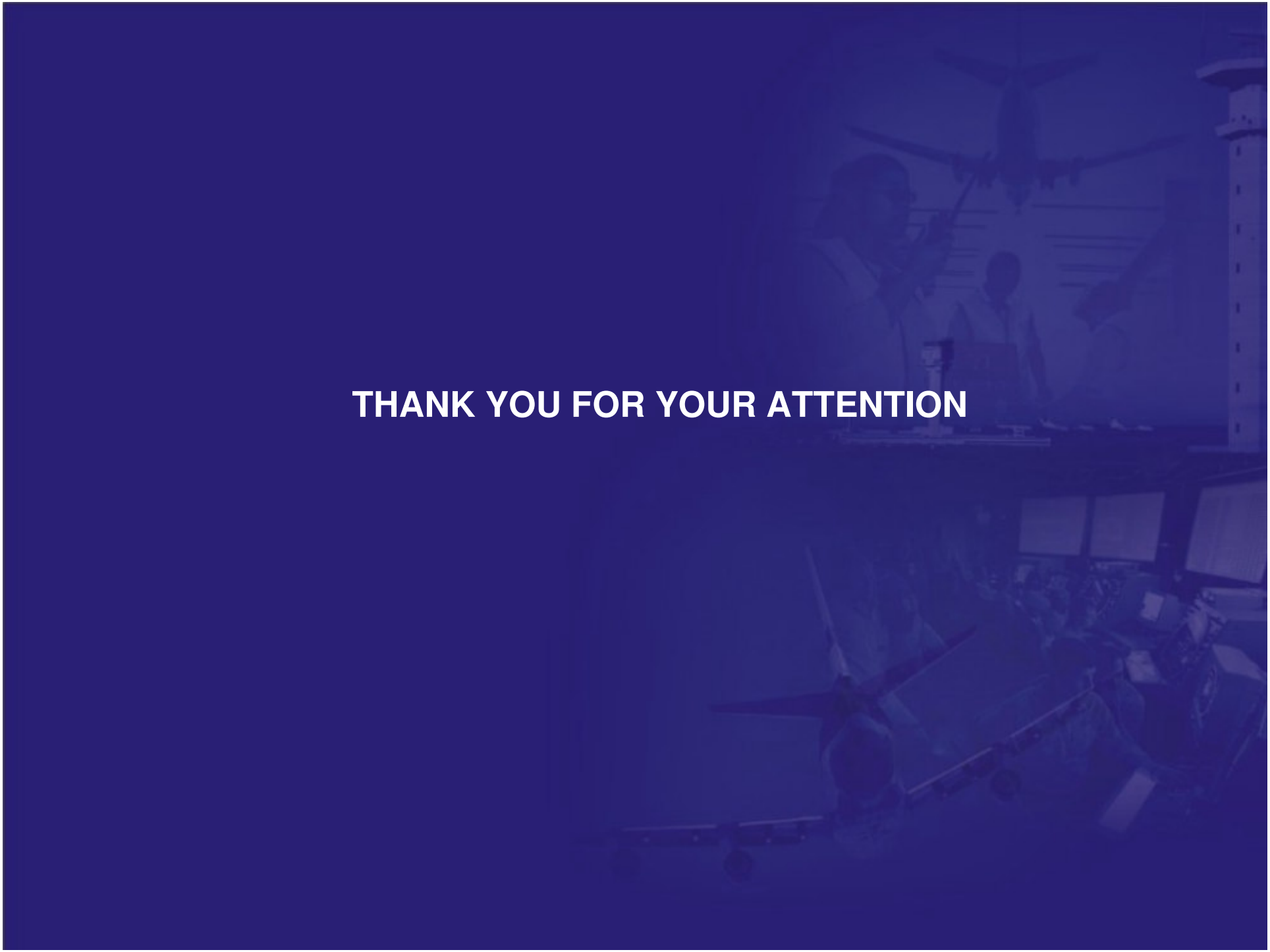
- Activities include:
  - Dispatching SRU's
  - Conducting searches
  - Rescuing survivors
  - Assisting distressed craft
  - Emergency care for survivors
  - Delivering casualties
- Do not be distracted from the original plan unless very good and verified information has become available
- Document and record all activities accurately

OPERATIONS (EXECUTION) PHASE

- Ensure good command and control processes and mechanisms
- Do not overexpose and risk SRU's even for the rescue phase when the pressure is high
- Always account for all the resources – before-, during- and until withdrawn from operations
- Keep all informed to avoid resources becoming despondent – even no news when communicated is good news

OPERATIONS (EXECUTION) PHASE

- Briefly communicate the rationale for activities to ensure buy-in and motivation and ongoing compliance with the tasking and do not invite “own” missions
- Listen and evaluate the de-briefing information – react if required
- Keep the planning going for the extension of operations, resting of resources, changing conditions and early re-deploying if required
- Use the media only with utmost discretion and keep them on your side, without losing control
- Operations are only concluded when the conclusion phase is completed


THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION