



International Civil Aviation Organization

**Thirteenth Meeting of the APANPIRG
ATS/AIS/SAR Sub-group (ATS/AIS/SAR/SG/13)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 23-27 June 2003

Agenda Item 4: Consider problems and make specific recommendations concerning the provision of ATS/AIS/SAR in the Asia Pacific Region

SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISES

(Presented by the United States)

SUMMARY

This information paper provides an outline of the U.S. goal to establish a search and rescue exercise program.

1. Background

1.1 There is a growing international awareness of the need to conduct search and rescue (SAR) exercises. International participation, the sharing of lessons learned, and identification of best practices can improve search and rescue services for many nations.

2. Discussion

2.1 The U.S. would like to commend Hong Kong for its well-developed annual SAR exercise program and the opportunity for other countries to participate or observe.

2.2 The U.S. does not have a formally established SAR exercise program. U.S. Coast Guard operational forces in Guam, Hawaii and Alaska conduct local, ad hoc SAR exercises. The Coast Guard is now establishing a new exercise program relevant to a variety of contingencies. A key component will be the development of a 3-year calendar of major SAR exercises. Exercises will cover mass rescue operations (MRO) and mass casualty incident (MCI) scenarios. Such exercises could be on a local, national, bilateral or regional level. Some major aeronautical and maritime SAR exercises will provide for involvement of other countries in planning, conducting, and observing the exercises. In addition to the exercise calendar, lessons learned and “best practices” determined from exercises will be available to the participants and to ICAO.

2.3 Any comments that the Meeting or its participants may wish to provide to the U.S. for consideration in this work may be addressed to Mr. Dave Edwards at +1 202 267-1552 or dedwards@comdt.uscg.mil.

3. Recommendation

3.1 The meeting is invited to note the above information.

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