



International Civil Aviation Organization

**Fourteenth Meeting of the APANPIRG ATS/AIS/SAR Sub-Group
(ATM/AIS/SAR/SG/14)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 23 – 27 June 2003

Agenda Item 3: Review and progress the tasks assigned to the ATS/AIS/SAR/SG by APANPIRG

SEARCH AND RESCUE MATTERS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This working paper considers SAR matters in the Asia/Pacific Region including the SAR Capability Matrix Table and register of SAR Agreements for review and update by the meeting, and information on Proposed Amendment No. 17 to Annex 12 in respect to emergency locator transmitter (ELT).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The APANPIRG/14 meeting addressed the following SAR matters: Analysis of SAR Capability of ICAO States in the Asia/Pac Region, Provision of SAR and SAR Agreements, SAR Exercises.

1.2 Since the last ATS/AIS/SAR/SG/13 there has been little activity in the SAR field at the Asia/Pacific Office primarily due to a lack of resources and the workload associated with the RVSM implementation.

2. DISCUSSION

SAR Capability of ICAO States in the Asia/Pac Region

2.1 The APANPIRG/14 meeting reviewed the SAR Capability Matrix Table, which provides a comprehensive listing of the SAR Capability of ICAO States in the Asia/Pacific Region. The Matrix Table updated by APANPIRG/14 is presented in **Appendix A** for review and update by the meeting.

Provision of SAR and SAR Agreements

2.2 In accordance with Article 25 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, each Contracting State is required to provide such measures of assistance to aircraft in distress in its territories and territorial waters as it may find practicable. A Contracting State having accepted the responsibility to provide SAR service over portions of the high seas or areas of undetermined sovereignty in accordance with regional air navigation agreements shall arrange for the service to be established and provided in accordance with Annex 12.

2.3 In this regard, in accordance with Annex 12, Contracting States shall co-ordinate their search and rescue organizations with those of neighbouring Contracting States. Further, Contracting States should, in so far as practicable, develop common search and rescue procedures to facilitate co-ordination of search and rescue operations with those of neighbouring States

2.4 Annex 12 also advises that subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by its own authorities, a Contracting State shall permit immediate entry into its territory of rescue units of other States for the purpose of searching for the site of aircraft accidents and rescuing survivors of such accidents. For this purpose, it is important for Contracting States enter into agreements with neighbouring States setting forth the conditions for entry of each other's rescue units into their respective territories. These agreements should also provide for expediting entry of such units with the least possible formalities.

2.5 The Asia/Pacific Office received information on SAR agreements from the following States:

- a) New Zealand on the development of SAR agreements with the Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and French Polynesia;
- b) France on the exchange of working papers with New Zealand and the United States for SAR agreements with Auckland and Hawaii;
- c) the Australian Maritime Safety Authority provided an updated SAR Agreement between Australia and Indonesia; and
- d) LAO PDR on a Letter of Agreement since 1998 with Viet Nam for provision of assistance for SAR.

2.6 A list of SAR Agreements registered at the Regional Office is provided at **Appendix B** for updating by the meeting.

SAR Seminar and Exercises

2.7 It should be noted that in accordance with previous APANPIRG conclusions, States were requested to develop formal programmes of SAR exercises and forward these to the ICAO Asia/Pacific Regional Office on an annual basis by 30 April. Such exercises should be made available for other States to participate as observers. To date no information has been received on SAR exercises being planned in the Asia/Pacific Region. The meeting is requested to provide information on such activities.

2.8 The ICAO SAREX and Seminar planned for the Bay of Bengal area as recommended by APANPIRG/12 (August 2001) was deferred to 2003, and then due to the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in the Asia Region in February 2003, was deferred to 2004. The SAREX and Seminar for the Bay of Bengal area is scheduled for November 2004 to be hosted by India. Details of the event are to be developed.

2.8 ICAO conducted a two-day SAR Seminar in conjunction with the Hong Kong, China Annual SAREX hosted by the Civil Aviation Department, Hong Kong, China on 24-25 November 2003.

Amendment 17 to Annex 12

2.9 The Council of ICAO adopted Amendment 17 to Annex 12 by on 26 March 2004 and it shall become applicable on 25 November 2004 ICAO. The amendment stemmed from a review by

the Secretariat to align Annex 12 with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Convention to the extent possible and makes provision for more cost-effective civil SAR services by more closely harmonizing them with maritime SAR services and facilitating, where practicable, their organization on a cooperative, regional basis.

40th DGCA Conference

2.10 The 40th DGCA Conference held at Ulan Bator, Mongolia on 1-5 September 2003 agreed on an Action Item 40/4 addressing SAR issues :

Recognizing the complexity and the need to place highly specialized resources at a short notice for search and rescue, the Conference urged States to cooperate fully in sharing information and resources as far as practicable and to keep ICAO Regional office informed of all agreements in this regard.

3. **ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) update the SAR Capability Table in Appendix A;
- b) provide information on SAR Agreements with neighbouring States and update the Regional Register of SAR Agreements between Asia/Pacific States or with adjacent States of the region in Appendix B;
- c) support the holding of a SAR Seminar and SAREX in 2004;
- d) note Amendment No. 17 to Annex 12 in respect to aligning Annex 12 to the IMO Convention;
- e) note the 40th DGCA Conference Action Item 40/4; and
- f) consider ways to stimulate SAR activities, in particular to facilitate SAR training and improving SAR capability in the Region.

Analysis of SAR Capability of ICAO States in the ASIA/PAC Region

	Training	Alerting	SAR committee	Legislative	Agreements	Relationships	Communications	Quality Control	Civil/Military	Resources	SAREX	Library	Computerisation	SAR programme	Supply dropping	Special equipment	SAR aircraft	Navigation	ELTs	LUT	
Australia	E	E	E	E	E	E	C	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	C	E
Bangladesh	B	C	D	A	A	C	C	A	D	A	A	C	A	A	C	C	D	A	D	C	
Bhutan																					
Brunei	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	D	D	E	E	E	A
Cambodia	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	A	B	B	A	C	A	A	A	A	A	B	A	A	A
China	E	E	E	E	E	E	D	D	E	D	D	C	B	A	E	E	E	E	E	A	
Cook Islands	A	B	B	A	A	C	C	C	B	A	B	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	A	E	A
DPR Korea	B	D	B	D	A	B	D	D	D	C	B	A	A	A	B	A	C	C	A	A	
Fiji	B	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	D	C	D	C	A	C	B	A	C	C	C	A	
French Polynesia	C	D	D	D	C	D	E	A	E	C	C	B	A	A	E	D	E	E	E	A	
Hong Kong, China	E	E	E	E	D	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E
India	D	C	C	B	B	C	C	A	C	C	C	C	C	D	D	D	C	A	B	E	
Indonesia	E	D	E	E	E	D	D	D	E	D	E	D	D	D	C	D	D	D	D	E	
Japan	E	E	E	E	D	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	D	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	
Kiribati																					
Lao PDR	B	A	B	B	B	A	B	A	B	B	A	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
Macau, China	E						E	E				E						E			
Malaysia	E	E	C	E	D	E	E	E	E	E	E	D	E	E	E	D	E	E	E	B	
Maldives	B	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	D	A	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
Marshall Islands																					
Micronesia	C	B		A	A	B	C					A		B	B						
Mongolia	A	C	C	A	B	B	B	A	B	B	B	C	B	B	A	A	A	A	B	A	
Myanmar	B	A	B	C	A	D	C	C	D	A	A	A	A	A	C	A	D	C	A	A	
Nauru																					
Nepal	D	D	C	B	A	C	C	B	D	B	A	B	A	D	D	C	D	D	D	B	
New Caledonia	C	D	D	D	C	D	E	A	E	C	C	B	A	A	E	D	E	E	E	E	
New Zealand	E	E	E	E	A	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	
Pakistan	C	C	D	D	A	D	D	C	D	C	A	A	A	A	D	A	D	D	C	E	
Palau																					
Papua New Guinea	D	E	D	C	D	D	C	C	D	C	C	D	C	C	C	A	A	A	E	A	
Philippines	D	C	E	D	D	C	D	D	E	C	C	C	C	C	C	B	C	E	C	A	
Rep. of Korea	C	C	C	C	C	D	E	E	E	E	C	A	D	E	D	E	E	E	E	E	
Samoa																					
Solomon Islands																					
Singapore	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	
Sri Lanka	D	A	C	D	B	C	C	D	E	D	B	C	A	A	D	D	C	A	C	A	
Thailand	E	E	E	E	D	E	E	E	E	E	E	D	B	B	E	E	E	E	E	B	
Tonga	C	B	A	A	B	C	C	A	D	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	A	E	A	
United States	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	
Vanuatu																					
Viet Nam	D	D	D	E	C	D	D	B	E	D	C	C	B	C	C	D	D	C	D	B	

Updated 29 June 2001

Categorisations:	
A = Not implemented	D = Meets Annex 12 requirements in most areas
B = Initial implementation	E = Fully meets Annex 12 requirements
C = Meets Annex 12 requirements in some areas	Blank = No response

STATE SAR AGREEMENTS

ID NO.	DATE	STATES	REMARKS
1	June 1982	Indonesia / Singapore	
2	August 1984	Malaysia / Singapore	
3	July 1996	Viet Nam / Singapore	
4		Singapore / Thailand	
5		Philippines / Singapore	
6	November 1990	Australia / Indonesia	Updated 5 April 2004
7	February 1999	Cambodia / Viet Nam	
8	December 2000	Malaysia / Singapore Malaysia / Philippines Malaysia / Thailand Malaysia / Indonesia Malaysia / Brunei Darussalam	
9	February 2001	Australia / Papua New Guinea	
10	September 2002	New Caledonia / New Zealand	
11	November 2002	United States / Republic of Palau	
12	1998	Lao PDR/Vietnam	LOA for provision of assistance
		New Zealand/ Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and French Polynesia	Under development
