



# SPANISH SEARCH AND RESCUE



## INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

**AFI PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP  
THIRTEENTH MEETING (APIRG/13)**

(Sal, Cape Verde, 25-29 June 2001)

**Agenda Item 7: Inter-regional co-ordination****7.1:- Spanish SAR report**

(Presented by Spain)

**SUMMARY**

This report deal with Spanish SAR organization, international SAR agreements and restraints on effective SAR operations

**1. INTRODUCTION**

In order to answer to some doubts about Spanish SAR organization and neighbouring relations, showed in former AFI papers, this report will try to clarify them, inviting to solve some restraints on SAR operations founded by Spanish RCC's.

**2. SAR ORGANIZATION****a. Dependencies**

In Spain both the RCC's and means depend on Spanish Air Forces

**b. Regional Organization**

Although the Spanish Air Force started to carry out SAR missions since World War II, it was in 1955 when the Spanish SAR Service was created.

Nowadays the SAR Head-quarter is located Cuatro Vientos Air Force Base (Madrid) and the Search and Rescue Service adapts itself to the Spanish Flight Information Regions (FIR's):

-Balears R.C.C., together with 801 Squadron, covers Barcelona FIR with 5 Puma helicopters and 5 CASA C-215 aeroplanes, specialized in SAR.

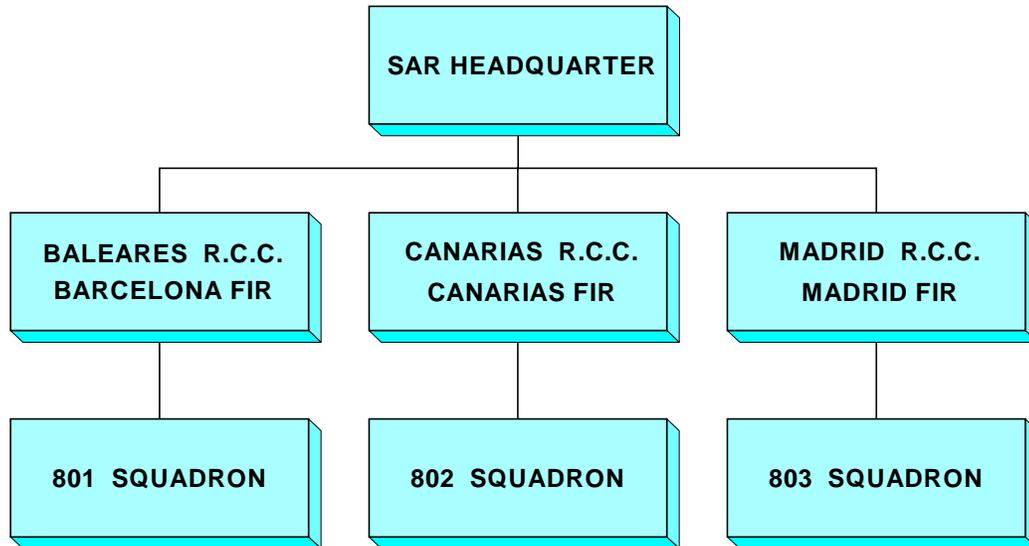
-Canarias R.C.C., together with 802 Squadron, covers Canarias FIR with 4 Superpuma helicopters and 3 Fokker-27 Maritime aeroplanes, SAR Version.

-Madrid R.C.C., together with 803 Squadron, covers Madrid FIR with 6 Superpuma helicopters and 3 CASA C-212 aeroplanes, specialized in SAR.

Other flying means maintain a secondary SAR role.

SASEMAR, a public enterprise is in charge of Maritime SAR, having the surface sea means and additional helicopters (S-61) deployed along the Spanish coast.

Police, Red Cross and Civilian Protection provide the surface patrols.



### 3. SAR AGREEMENTS WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

In 1968, Spain and Senegal signed a SAR Agreement, having bilateral contacts since then. But not until 1999, regular meetings started taking place, carrying out the planning of a joint exercise that will take place in 2001, in Dakar (Senegal), with RCC's Dakar and Canarias means. SAR representatives from neighbouring countries as Cabo Verde, Mauritania, Gambia, etc. will be invited as observers.

In 1972, a tripartite agreement for SAR co-operation in Western Mediterranean Sea was signed among France, Italy and Spain. It was called SARMED/OCC and has allowed co-ordination and co-operation in the aforesaid areas until today. Seminars and annual exercises have alternatively taken place in those 3 countries.

In the last years, the Spanish SAR Service has increased its effort in order to tighten its relation with the neighbouring countries.

In 1993, the SAREP SAR Agreement, between Portugal and Spain, was signed. As a result of this Agreement, annual exercise, called MORSA, are carried out, taking place in Lisbon and Canarias FIR's alternatively. Also, annual crew exchanges are developed.

In 2000, a SAR Agreement was signed between Spain and Morocco carrying out annual SAR manoeuvres and exchanges between both countries.

Also, in 2000, a SAR Agreement was signed with Cabo Verde, hoping that representatives from this country will take part as observers during the Dakar exercise, which will tighten the SAR relation between our countries.

Finally, a SAR Agreement is in negotiation between Spain and Mauritania, which would complement the SAR Agreement with Senegal, giving more facilities when SAR operations between Canarias and Dakar RCC's. Some delays have taken place in the agreement sign, so as, we encourage to the Mauritanian SAR Authorities to speed it up in order to solve those problems.

Spain has a COSPAS-SARSAT Mission Control Center (M.C.C.) in Maspalomas (Gran Canaria), which offers its coverage of 3000 kms. To South Europe and Western Africa countries. This M.C.C. schedules annual SPOC meetings in order to obtain a higher co-ordination with the attendant countries.

The Spanish M.C.C. works at the same time as the Spanish SPOC.

As a conclusion, the Spanish SAR Service has SAR agreements with the bordering countries, except Algeria and Mauritania, despite the efforts carried out by Spain. Those agreements include the carrying out of regular exercises and meetings, and permit an effective co-ordinated SAR operations in all areas assigned to Spain by OACI, as well as in the neighbouring areas.

#### **4. ACTIONS BY MEETING**

The meeting is invited to:

- a.** Consider the information and data presented.
- b.** Continue the SRSAT-COSPAS spreading, supporting the Spanish MCC initiatives.
- c.** Persuade to reluctant countries to sign SAR agreements with neighbouring countries.

#### **ANNEXES:**

- A. -** Spanish SAR Presentation.