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History of the Meeting



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL BAGHDAD
FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION (FIR)
COORDINATION MEETING**

(SBFCM)

(Cairo, Egypt, 28-29 May 2008)

The views expressed in this Report should be taken as those of the Special Baghdad Flight Information Region (FIR) Coordination Meeting and not of the Organization. This Report will, however, be submitted to the MIDANPIRG and any formal action taken will be published in due course as a Supplement to the Report.

Approved by the Meeting
and published by authority of the Secretary General

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of ICAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontier or boundaries.

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PART I: HISTORY OF THE MEETING

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PART I - HISTORY OF THE MEETING

1. PLACE AND DURATION

1.1 The Special Baghdad Flight Information Region (FIR) Coordination Meeting was held at the ICAO Middle East Regional Office, Cairo, 28 – 29 May 2008.

2. OPENING

2.1 The Meeting was opened by Mr. Mohamed R. M. Khonji, ICAO Regional Director, Middle East Office. In his opening remarks, Mr. Khonji welcomed all delegates to Cairo and to the meeting itself. He expressed appreciation at the high level of attendance and the efforts taken by the States, Organizations and the delegates to participate in the meeting, and extended special thanks to States and International Organization that made contributions through working papers and other material.

2.2 In his opening remarks, Mr. Khonji recalled that there had been at least three other Baghdad FIR coordination meetings in the past. In this context, he highlighted the importance of following through with agreements achieved at the meetings and not simply holding one meeting after another without tangible results.

2.3 Mr. Khonji outlined the objective of the meeting and called for the commitment of States and Organizations on issues regarding the Baghdad FIR. He urged the delegations to seize the opportunity presented by the meeting, in particular the presence of all concerned parties, to arrive at effective solutions.

3. ATTENDANCE

3.1 The meeting was attended by a total of 46 participants, which included experts, government officials and advisors from eight (8) States and four (4) International Organizations. The list of participants is at **Attachment A**.

4. OFFICERS AND SECRETARIAT

4.1 The Rapporteur of the meeting was Mr. Mohamed Abdullah Zainal, Head of Standards, Licensing and Developments from Civil Aviation Affairs Bahrain. Mr. Seboeso Machobane, Regional Officer ATM/SAR was the Secretary of the meeting supported by Mr. Raza Gulam, Regional Officer CNS. Mr. Mohamed R. M. Khonji, ICAO Regional Director, Mr. Jehad Faqir, Deputy Regional Director and Mr. Gustavo De León, Technical Officer ATM from ICAO HQ, supported the meeting.

5. LANGUAGE

5.1 The discussions were conducted in English. Documentation was issued in English.

6. AGENDA

6.1 The following Agenda was adopted:

Agenda Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

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- Agenda Item 2: Communication Navigation and Surveillance
- Agenda Item 3: Air Traffic Management
- Agenda Item 4: Coordination with Adjacent FIRs
- Agenda Item 5: Contingency Planning
- Agenda Item 6: Search and Rescue (SAR)
- Agenda Item 7: Training of Aviation Personnel
- Agenda Item 8: Any Other Business

PART II: REPORT ON AGENDA ITEMS

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Report on Agenda Item 1

PART II: REPORT ON AGENDA ITEMS

REPORT ON AGENDA ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 The meeting reviewed the agenda of the meeting and after making a change in the order adopted it as at **Appendix A** to the report on Agenda Item 1.

1.2 Based on the nomination by Kuwait which was seconded by Iran and Saudi Arabia, the meeting unanimously elected Mr. Mohamed Abdullah Zainal, Head of Standards, Licensing and Developments, Civil Aviation Affairs Bahrain, as the Rapporteur for the meeting.

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Report on Agenda Item 2

REPORT ON AGENDA ITEM 2: COMMUNICATION NAVIGATION AND SURVEILLANCE

2.1 Under this agenda item the meeting received a presentation on the CNS part of the MID FASID and noted that Iraq had already started the implementation of the necessary facilities and services in its territory as per Article 28 of the Chicago Convention. Furthermore, Iraq updated the meeting on the communication parts indicating that VSAT stations were installed at Baghdad, Basrah, Mosul, Tallil, Rutbah, Kirkuk, Balad and Sulaymaniyah, as well as external VSAT stations in Kuwait and Iran which provide both voice and data (AFTN). The ICAA is also planning to install additional stations in adjacent centers as necessary.

2.2 As for the Navigational services, Iraq updated the meeting on the installation of three VOR/DME at Baghdad, Basrah and reporting point LOVEK and plans for installation of additional four at reporting points SOGUM, RAMPI, 50NM north of KATOT, and 50NM north of ILMAP.

2.3 Concerning the Surveillance systems Iraq updated the meeting on the installation of TMA/Approach S-band PSR radar at Baghdad International Airport with a coverage of 60NM, En-route L - band MSSR radar with a coverage of 240 NM and plans to install three PSR/MSSR radars at Erbil airport, Basrah and Rutba by which all Baghdad FIR will be covered by Radar.

2.4 The meeting noted the CNS facilities that are installed at Baghdad International Airport which are at **Appendix A**.

2.5 The meeting noted the users' needs for the CNS facilities and services that are required for the safe conduct of the flights in Baghdad FIR, and further noted the concern of adjacent States on the status of present Letters of Agreement (LOAs).

2.6 The meeting recognized the complexity of the CNS technical issues that had to be addressed and accordingly formed a small working group (CNS SWG) comprising one participant from each attending State and IATA, to discuss the technical solutions in detail. The CNS SWG was composed of: Bahrain (Ali Ahmed), Iraq (Iman Ameer, Jawdat Abdul-Sattar), Iran (Ghasem Sheikhi), Jordan (Ahmad Al Jarah), Kuwait (Saud Al-Mutairi), Saudi Arabia (Hassan Al-Ghorabi), Syria (Usama Safi), USA (Dave Boreham, Kurt Grabey) and IATA (Ahmad Qinawi).

2.7 The CNS SWG conducted a fruitful meeting which started by defining user requirement and adjacent States needs. The solutions for each problem were reviewed and analyzed and at the end of the Group agreed on an action plan as outlined at **Appendix B**. The SWG brought to the attention of Iraq delegation the importance of following-up on the Regional CNS activities and the latest technologies when planning for the future implementation of CNS components like the ADS-B and Multilateration.

2.8 The meeting agreed that States and Organizations are to provide to ICAO MID Regional Office, updated information on progress in September and December 2008, regarding action items in Appendix B of the report on Agenda Item 2, in order to facilitate further follow-up where necessary and to present the information to the MIDANPIRG/11 meeting which is scheduled to be held in the January-February period in 2009.

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Appendix 2A to the Report on Agenda Item 2

BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FACILITIES

NO.	EQUIPMENT	TYPE	COMPANY OF MANUFACTURER	FREQ.	COVERAGE
1	I.L.S33R	2100	SELEX\ USA	110.7 MH	25NM
2	I.L.S15L	2100	SELEX\ USA	110.1 MH	25NM
3	DVOR	1150	SELEX\ USA	112.9 MH	150NM
4	DME H.P	1119	SELEX\ USA	1163 MH	150NM
5	DME L.P	1118	SELEX\ USA	1062 MH	10NM
6	DME L.P	1118	SELEX\ USA	1068 MH	10NM

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Appendix 2B to the Report on Agenda Item 2

CNS SWG FOLLOW-UP ACTION PLAN

The meeting was conducted on a brain storming method and agreed to the following Action Plan

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	FOLLOW-UP ACTION	TO BE DELIVERED BY	DELIVERABLE	TARGET DATE
A and D	Iraq to send to all Draft VSAT Agreement And all to follow-up for replies Replies received	Iraq All	Agreements for VSAT	15 Jun 08 15 Jul 08
A and D	Spare for the PC/Modem connection (Solution 1) Direct connection software and hardware (solution 2) to be made available for the connection with Kuwait VSAT	Iraq	Solution Document and Materials Dual connection of AFTN with Kuwait	30 Jul 08
D	Confirmation on configuration Of the AFTN switch	Kuwait	AFTN Switch Dual configuration	30 Jun 08
D	confirmation and preparation of secured site with power and facilities for VSAT Accommodation	Jordan	- Secured site with facilities - confirmation of training location	30 Jul 08
A and, D	Supply and install the VSAT Station in Amman	Iraq	VSAT Station operational in Amman	30 Aug 08
D	Training for VSAT support to all States accommodating Iraq supplied VSAT station in Jordan	Iraq	Adequate number of engineers are trained	15 Sep 08

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	FOLLOW-UP ACTION	TO BE DELIVERED BY	DELIVERABLE	TARGET DATE
D	Approval of telecom authority and Confirmation on VSAT Supply and usage of same bandwidth	Syria	VSAT Equipment ready	30 Jun 08
D	Supply of Specification of the VSAT stations and Bandwidth used including full details	Iraq	VSAT complete documentation	15 Jun 08
A and D	Confirmation of AFTN link Establishment	Iran	Confirmation of VSAT link	29 May 08 Completed
D	Testing for the distribution of AFTN messages from Iraq	Iran Iraq All	Test report on exchange of AFTN messaging confirmation from other States	15 Jun 08
D and E	Checking which Telecom operators can provide international link between (Bahrain and Iraq)	Bahrain	List of and confirmation from (telecom operators)	15 Jun 08
D and E	Iraq to approach telecom operators to establish Land lines	Iraq	Link between ACC and Telecom operator	30 Jun 08
A and D	Request for International link to telecom provider	Iraq	Confirmation on request acceptance International links establishment	30 Jun 08 30 Aug 08
A and D	Matching request filled with agreed telecom operator	Bahrain Saudi Arabia	Confirmation on request acceptance International links establishment	30 Jun 08 30 Aug 08
D	Preparation of Voice back up proposal with Iraq	Bahrain	Voice back up proposal	30 Jul 08

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	FOLLOW-UP ACTION	TO BE DELIVERED BY	DELIVERABLE	TARGET DATE
D	Project plan for the Voice back up Implementation	Bahrain & all	Voice back up Implemented	30 Dec 08
D	Conduct of Technical Training through appropriate Organization and ICAO TCB	Iraq	Iraq Technical people trained	30 Dec 08
D	Request for Familiarization visits by Iraq	Iraq Bahrain Jordan	Familiarization visits report	30 Aug 08
A	Complete the flight check of the VOR/DME at BASRAH	Iraq IATA	Operational confirmation of the VOR/DME BASRAH	30 Jun 08
A	VOR/DME SOGUM	Iraq IATA	Operational confirmation of the VOR/DME SOGUM	30 Dec 08
A	VOR/DME RAMPI	Iraq IATA	Operational confirmation of the VOR/DME RAMPI	30 Dec 08
A	VOR/DME (2) North KATOT and ILMAP	Iraq IATA	Operational confirmation of the VOR/DME North KATOT and ILMAP	30 Dec 08
A	Completion of Installation and testing of Basrah Radar	Iraq	Operational confirmation of the BASRAH Radar	30 Sep 08
A	ERBIL Radar PROCURMENT/INSTALLATION	Iraq	Operational confirmation of the ERBIL Radar	30 Dec 08
A	RUTBA Radar PROCURMENT/INSTALLATION	Iraq	Operational confirmation of the RUTBA Radar	TBD

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Report on Agenda Item 3

REPORT ON AGENDA ITEM 3: AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

ATS Routes

3.1 The meeting noted that there were segments of ATS routes that are part of MID Basic ANP Table ATS 1, which in the Baghdad FIR or airspaces adjacent to the Baghdad FIR had either not been implemented or had been suspended for various reasons. The following table reflects the outcome of discussion regarding specific ATS routes:

ATS ROUTE	STATUS	ACTION AGREED/REMARKS	IMPLEMENTATION TARGET DATES
UL602	Suspended in the Damascus FIR	Will be open once comm. & coordination issues in Baghdad FIR are resolved	Conditional on Communication AIRAC date (25Sep 2008)
UP975	Suspended in the Damascus FIR	Will be open once comm. & coordination issues in Baghdad FIR are resolved	Conditional on Communication AIRAC date (25Sep 2008)
G202	Segment Baghdad Tehran open to limited number of airlines.	Will be opened to all airlines (action for Iran and Iraq)	Subject to LOA Not later than 25 Oct 2008
G667	Abadan – Kuwait Closed	Kuwait has objection to opening the segment. Proposes closure of segment ALSAN to Kuwait as well. Rational – Proximity of ALSAN to release points SIDAD and TASMI	TBD
B411	PAXAT – NOLDO Closed	Iraq and Iran agree to re-open	Subject to LOA Not later than 25 Oct 2008
A424	LOTAN– Baghdad (ORBI) Not implemented	Will be considered – Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Communication issues in Iraq to be resolved	TBD
L126	SIGNI – MIGMI Closed	No agreement to open – Iraq/Iran	TBD
G975	OERF (Rafha) – ORMM (Basrah) not implemented	Will be considered by Iraq and Saudi Arabia	TBD
G669	Segment Rafha – SOLAT - Kuwait not implemented	Kuwait advised not possible at this time due to military restrictions	TBD

3.2 In addition to the above ATS routes, the meeting recognized that there would be benefits if ATS route G665, which currently starts/ends at Abadan in the Tehran FIR near the FIR boundary, could be extended to Basrah in the Baghdad FIR. Iraq will consider the extension. In order to facilitate implementation, the MID Regional Office will formulate an amendment proposal to the MID Basic ANP Table ATS 1.

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Report on Agenda Item 3

3.3 The meeting agreed that States should provide ICAO MID Regional Office, update information on progress in September and December 2008, regarding action items related to each of the above ATS routes, in order to facilitate further follow-up where necessary and to present the information to the MIDANPIRG/11 meeting which is scheduled to be held in the January or February 2009.

Note: All ATS routes that are currently part of the MID Basic ANP and have not been implemented will be identified as air navigation deficiencies for the concerned States.

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Report on Agenda Item 4

REPORT ON AGENDA ITEM 4: COORDINATION WITH ADJACENT FIRS

4.1 The meeting noted that the issue of coordination had been raised as a concern in several past meetings including the previous Baghdad FIR coordination meetings that were held in 2004, and by MIDANPIRG and its contributory bodies. Also that primarily the coordination problems were related to the communication infrastructure, availability and training of air traffic controllers and uncoordinated military activities.

4.2 The meeting agreed that, in order to improve coordination, the CNS issues should be resolved as indicated in the report on Agenda Item 2 of this report.

4.3 The meeting was informed that Iraq had signed Letters of Agreement (LOA) with all FIRs with exception Tehran. However, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had been signed between Iran and Iraq. Both Iran and Iraq agreed to transform the MOU into an LOA in the near future, possibly within three months time.

4.4 IFALPA expressed concern regarding operation within the Baghdad FIR, and further offered it's assistance and willingness to send a team of representatives to Baghdad to assist.

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Report on Agenda Item 5

REPORT ON AGENDA ITEM 5: CONTINGENCY PLANNING

5.1 The meeting noted the ICAO provision regarding contingency planning, that had been communicated to States through MIDANPIRG Conclusions, and that Iraq was one of the States that had not implemented the contingency planning provisions.

5.2 Iraq updated the meeting that Iraqi authorities had taken over control of the airspace from Flight Level 290 and above, and that Iraqi aviation law was close to being promulgated. The situation however, is still difficult due to the presence of Multinational Forces.

5.3 The meeting agreed that Iraq should develop a contingency plan and that adjacent FIRs/States should cooperate with Iraq on contingency planning issues.

5.4 Iraq agreed to provide updates to the MID Regional Office regarding further progress.

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Report on Agenda Item 6

REPORT ON AGENDA ITEM 6: SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR)

6.1 The meeting recalled ICAO provisions regarding SAR, and noted the ATM/SAR/AIS SG/9 Draft Conclusion 9/9: *Search and Rescue*.

Draft Conclusion 9/9: Search and Rescue (SAR) Agreements

That, with a view to strengthen search and rescue cooperation and coordination:

- a) *States are urged to sign SAR agreements with their neighbouring States;*
- b) *States designate SAR focal point with whom other States and ICAO can communicate and coordinate development of SAR agreements, and forward contact details the focal point to ICAO MID Regional Office by 15 February 2008;*
- c) *ICAO assist States in their efforts to sign SAR agreements; and*
- d) *the model of SAR agreement available in the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual (IAMSAR Manual) as at **Appendix 8B** to the Report on Agenda Item 8 be used to guide States in the development of their own SAR agreements.*

6.2 The meeting noted that Iraq was one of the MID Region States that had not yet signed SAR letter of agreement with adjacent States. Furthermore, Iraq had not indicated, in the Iraqi AIP, the responsible authority for provision of SAR in the Baghdad Search and Rescue Region (SRR).

6.3 The Iraqi delegation informed the meeting that the indication of the responsible authority for provision of SAR services in the Baghdad Search and Rescue Region (SRR), in accordance with Annex 15 provisions, was being addressed and it was expected that this would be completed after the meeting, soon after the return of the delegation to Iraq.

6.4 Concerning SAR letters of agreement, Iraq indicated that progress could not immediately be provided. However, internal coordination would be effected, and an indication of progress would be provided to the MID Regional Office. In addition, Iraq agreed to provide ongoing periodic updates to the MID Regional Office regarding further progress.

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Report on Agenda Item 7

REPORT ON AGENDA ITEM 7: TRAINING OF AVIATION PERSONNEL

7.1 Iraq CAA provided an update regarding training. Training of civil aviation staff, in particular air traffic controllers started two years ago. Most of the training was undertaken at Queen Noor College in Jordan, Singapore and Washington Consulting Group was providing the training in the USA.

7.2 Recently Iraq CAA signed a training agreement with Egypt to train additional controllers. In the next few months they will have sufficient controllers to run Baghdad tower. Moreover, Basrah in the next few months will have sufficient air traffic controllers to provide air traffic services at Basrah Tower. Sulaymaniyah and Erbil international airports already have enough licensed air traffic controllers to provide air traffic services at both airports.

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Report on Agenda Item 8

REPORT ON AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 ICAO indicated that information regarding aerodromes in Iraq was in need of being updated and published in accordance with ICAO provisions. The meeting requested Iraq to provide updated information on the following:

- a) all aerodromes open for public use in accordance with the requirements of Annexes 14 and 15 to the Convention;
- b) all aerodromes open for international air traffic in accordance with the MID ANP / FASID AOP – 1 Tables Format; and
- c) status of certification of all aerodromes open to international operations (and ensure that it is published in the Iraqi AIP).

Note: electronic copy of themed ANP/FASID is available at the ICAOMID website.

8.2 The meeting noted that the Iraqi AIP was available in electronic format in the RAMCC website (ramcc.dtic.mil). However, that it was not up to date and not compliant with Annex 15 provisions. The meeting, urged Iraq to ensure that the Iraqi AIP is published and updated in accordance with Annex 15 provisions.

8.3 The meeting noted with concern the difficulty that the MID Regional Monitoring Agency (MID RMA) was experiencing to establish effective contact in Iraq regarding the RVSM issues. The meeting also noted that ICAO State Letters to Iraq regarding RVSM approved aircraft had not been responded to. Iraq was requested and the Iraqi delegation undertook to provide ICAO with contact details of focal points for ATM and for airworthiness issues, on return to Baghdad. Contact information provided in LOAs is also to be updated with the relevant FIRs.

8.4 The meeting recognized the importance of implementing RVSM in the Baghdad FIR. However, priority was to be given to the establishment of requisite requirements, particularly communication infrastructure and ATM capabilities.

8.5 IATA thanked States and ICAO for the meeting and for showing commitment to resolve the issues associated with the Baghdad, and expressed eagerness to seeing the issues resolved and ATS routes operational.

8.6 ICAO reiterated the importance of making progress on agreed issues, and not just adding to what was agreed in past meetings. ICAO expressed its gratitude to the States and International Organization for their expression of commitment to extend their cooperation and assistance to Iraq and to mutually address the issues. The meeting was reminded about the following forthcoming meetings:

- MIDANPIRG Steering Group (MSG) meeting to be held 1-3 July 2008 in Dubai, UAE (to be attended by members thereof).
- ATS Route Network (ARN) TF/1 meeting to be held 28-30 July 2008 in Cairo.
- MIDANPIRG/11 meeting to be held in late January or early February 2009.

8.7 The Rapporteur thanked the delegates and the Secretariat for the successful meeting and the support accorded to him, and declared meeting closed.

ATTACHMENT A

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Attachment A to the Report

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