



International Civil Aviation Organization

MID ATS Messaging Management Centre Steering Group

Fourth Meeting (MIDAMC STG/4)
(Cairo, Egypt, 18 – 19 March 2019)

Agenda Item 3: AFS Issues

INTER-REGIONAL CONNECTIONS AND MISSING MESSAGES

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the issue of missing messages and actions have been taken to resolve this problem and highlight the role of inter-regional connections to ensure smooth message communication between ICAO Regions.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

REFERENCES

- CRV OG/5 Report
- MSG/6 Report

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Fifth meeting of the CRV Operation Group held in Hong-Kong, from 23 to 25 2019. The CRV OG/5 addressed the performance of the Inter-regional connections and missing messages.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The meeting may recall that MIDANPIRG/15 through Conclusion 15/30 urged States to migrate to AMHS:

CONCLUSION 15/30: AFTN/CIDIN AFS CONNECTIVITY AND AMHS IMPLEMENTATION

That, States be urged to:

- a) *refrain from establishing new AFTN and CIDIN connections at the International level;*
- b) *gradually phase out the current connections based on AFTN or CIDIN standards; and*
- c) *expedite their AMHS implementation.*

2.2 The meeting may wish to note that all CIDIN connections have been removed within the MID Region and there is only one connection remaining. The other CIDIN connections are the inter-regional ones, which depend on the AMHS implementation by Athens and Nicosia”

2.3 According to the MID Air Navigation Plan (MID ANP) VOL II, the entry/exit points with adjacent Regions as follow:

- 1) Bahrain, Iran, and Oman are the entry/exit points with ASIA/PAC Region
- 2) Egypt and Saudi Arabia are the entry/exit points with AFI Region
- 3) Egypt, Kuwait and Lebanon are the entry/exit points with EUR Region

2.4 In this regard, Sudan requested to consider Khartoum COM Centre as a Main COM Centre and third gateway with the AFI Region, which could offer more channel for the inter-regional communications. MSG/6 meeting agreed to the following Draft Conclusion:

DRAFT CONCLUSION 6/2: KHARTOUM COM CENTRE

That, in order to establish a third Gateway to the AFI Region, Khartoum COM Centre be changed to a main Centre.

2.5 The meeting may wish to note that Airspace users have complained about missing messages several times. Therefore, the following actions have been taken by the MID Office to resolve missing messages problem:

- a) requested the ICAO EUR/NAT Office to consider the establishment of new European Gateway (Rome) with the MID Region;
- b) invited Egypt and Lebanon to establish AMHS inter-regional connection with the current European gateways (Athens and Cyprus);
- c) coordinated with ICAO ESAF Office to establish new inter-regional AMHS connection between Cairo and South Africa;
- d) invited Bahrain – UAE to migrate their bilateral CIDIN connection to AMHS;
- e) requested all States in the MID Region to migrate to AMHS; and
- f) initiate communication with adjacent ICAO regions (APAC and AFI) to review the performance of the inter-regional connections.

2.6 During the APAC CRV OG/5 meeting, the entry/exit points between the two Regions presented the serviceability reports of the performance of Inter-regional communication circuits (. India, Pakistan, Singapore and Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait). The issue of missing flight plans was also highlighted. Moreover, the performance of the four interregional circuits between two regions were analysed. Among reported cases, one reason was due to a communication failure, unavailability of alternative routes, and delay in AFTN failure detection.

2.7 The CRV OG/5 meeting discussed the issues, and suggested to provide more detailed information, such as destination address of the missing FPLs, to initiate further action including alternative communication link, to encourage entry/exit points at the APAC and MID Region to join the CRV project and to migrate the Inter-Regional connection to AMHS, to enhance the connection reliability and availability.

2.8 India provided the CRV OG/5 meeting with information on non-receipt of ATS and NOTAM messages from Kuwait Com Centre (OKBK) and Kuwait NOF (OKNO) at Mumbai Com Centre (VABB). Operational AFTN Messages (ATS messages, NOTAMs etc.) from Kuwait Com Centre are not received by Mumbai Com Centre since February 2018, while the AMHS connectivity between Karachi and Kuwait had been operational normally while Karachi Com Centre was able to

receive all operational messages from Kuwait Com Centre. In this context, appropriate changes to existing routing directory at Kuwait and Karachi Com Centres has been done, after conducting an investigation for the missing messages.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) review the MID ANP VOL II and propose necessary changes, as appropriate;
- b) discuss means to solve the issue of missing messages;
- c) urge States to review and improve the procedure of routing diversion in case of the line outage, to improve the performance of communications; and
- d) urge state to expedite the migration to AMHS, which can provide timely failure detection;
