



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

NORTH AMERICAN, CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN OFFICE

**Eighteenth Meeting of Directors of Civil Aviation of the Eastern Caribbean  
(18<sup>th</sup> E/CAR DCA)**

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 9 to 12 December 2003

18<sup>th</sup> E/CAR DCA – WP/05

07/11/03

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**Agenda Item 5: CNS/ATM and other Air Navigation Developments**

**FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF THE COM/MET SPECIAL IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CAR REGION, SECOND PHASE (2002)**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

**SUMMARY**

This working paper examines the results of the concluded Communications/Meteorology Special Implementation Project (COM/MET SIP) for the Caribbean Region. The NACC Regional Office has scheduled a follow-up meeting for 2004 to review the implementation of the recommendations formulated by the ICAO expert in his final report.

**References:**

- Report of the Ninth Meeting of the CAR/SAM Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS/9);
- Report of the Tenth Meeting of the CAR/SAM Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS/10);
- Final Report CAR COM/MET Special Implementation Project (First Phase) for the CAR Region (23 July to 17 August 2001);
- Final Report CAR COM/MET Special Implementation Project (Second Phase) for the CAR Region (23 September to 29 October 2002);
- CAR/SAM ANP Volume II, FASID Part VI-Meteorology, Doc 8733; and
- C-WP/11781, Appendix F

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The Ninth Meeting of GREPECAS (GREPECAS/9), (7 to 12 August 2000) formulated Conclusion 9/7 calling for a Communication and Meteorology Special Implementation Project (COM/MET SIP) to be carried out for the CAR Region. The project approved by the Council, had its first phase from 23 July to 17 August 2001 and covered the Central American States (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) and Mexico.

1.2 Subsequently, at its 165<sup>th</sup> Session, the Council, at the recommendation of its Standing Group on Implementation (set out in Appendix F of C-WP/11781), approved the establishment of a second phase of the COM/MET SIP covering a number of Central and Eastern Caribbean States/Territories for the CAR Region. The States/Territories involved included the following: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique (France), Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

## 2. Discussion

2.1 The objectives of the mission, undertaken from 23 September to 29 October 2002, was done as a need for States/Territories in the Caribbean Region to carry out coordinated controls of operational meteorological (OPMET) information and for the identification of solutions to the typical deficiencies related to the availability of such material. At the same time, to provide assistance for the CAR States/Territories for the correct implementation of the procedures for the development and distribution of SIGMET, especially those related to volcanic ash.

2.2 During the SIP missions to the CAR States, meetings were held with the representatives of the AIS, ATS, COM and MET units and discussions were carried out on the responsibilities of these operational units regarding the exchange of OPMET data. They focused on the need to make sure that the meteorological messages:

- a) be prepared in accordance with the established provisions of ICAO *Annex 3 – Meteorological Service for the International Air Navigation/WMO Technical Regulations [Volume II, Chapter C.3.1]* and ICAO *Annex 10 – Aeronautical Telecommunications (Volume II, Procedures of Communications)*; and
- b) be disseminated globally based on the requirements of the *CAR/SAM ANP (Volume I, Basic ANP, Part IV – Communications, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS) and Volume II, FASID, Part VI-Meteorology)*

2.3 Communication procedures used for the OPMET exchange were analyzed and their compatibility with ICAO standards and recommended practices, verified. The operational part of the national OPMET data bank as well as the operation of the aeronautical fixed telecommunication network (AFTN) included the message switching centres, the type of circuit used and their operation modality, was verified.

2.4 Likewise, operation of the STAR 4 one-way (reception) and two-way system (reception/transmission), which allows the reception at the MET office of WAFS products from the world area forecast centre (WAFS) Washington and OPMET information (METAR, SPECIs, TAFs, advisory messages on volcanic ash and tropical cyclones), was verified.

2.5 With respect to the new provisions introduced by Amendment 72 to Annex 3, applicable from 1 November 2001, related to the template for SIGMET messages of volcanic ash and tropical cyclone advisory messages, emphasis was made on the provisions on volcanic ash which should be in compliance with Annex 3, and with the correct use of the established operational procedures of the *Manual on the International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW) – Operational Procedures and list of Contact Points (Doc 9766)*.

2.6 In this regard, the following issues were addressed:

- a) the identification of difficulties related to the OPMET information exchange;
- b) the coordination amongst MET units and other operational units in the air navigation field;
- c) to provide assistance on the local and international procedures for the preparation and the dissemination of the SIGMET messages, especially those related to tropical cyclone and volcanic and; and
- d) to develop recommendations to identify problems aimed at achieving a reliable and efficient OPMET information and its exchange, as well as availability in the States/Territories requiring it, in accordance with requirements of the FASID Table MET 2A – Exchange of the operational meteorological information and the FASID Table MET 2B – Exchange of SIGMET and special AIREP messages of the FASID CAR/SAM Regional Air Navigation Plan (CAR/SAM ANP, Doc 8733).

2.7 A thorough analysis was made of the operation of each of the aforementioned aspects considering the current-status and expected degree of efficiency. Pertinent recommendations were presented to offer a solution to the problem in the referred exchange.

2.8 In order to ensure long-term success of the SIP, the NACC Regional Office has planned a follow-up meeting in the third quarter of 2004 to accomplish this task. The ICAO NACC Regional Office is currently seeking a State to host this Meeting. The objective is to review the implementation of the recommendations formulated by the ICAO expert. This meeting should count on with the participation of COM and MET specialists from the States/Territories included in the SIP.

2.9 In order to gather the necessary information for this meeting, at the beginning of 2004, a survey questionnaire on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the COM/MET SIP abovementioned, will be sent to each of the States/Territories concerned, requesting their respective administration to complete and submit this information to the ICAO NACC Regional Office.

### **3. Conclusion**

3.1 Based on the information and recommendations contained in the COM/MET SIP second phase, final report, there is a strong need to gain support from the respective Administrations to have the specialists involved attend this scheduled follow-up meeting next year. The Meeting is invited to adopt the following Draft Conclusion:

#### **DRAFT**

#### **CONCLUSION 18/X**

#### **FOLLOW-UP MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FORMULATED IN THE COM/MET SIP SECOND PHASE REPORT FOR THE CAR REGION**

That the Directors of Civil Aviation of the E/CAR ensure that the COM and MET specialists from the respective States/Territories attend the follow-up meeting on the implementation of the recommendations of the COM/MET SIP second phase scheduled for 2004.

3.2 With regard to the survey questionnaire, and based on the above information contained in paragraph 2.9, the following Draft Conclusion is proposed to be adopted by the Meeting:

**DRAFT**

**CONCLUSION 18/Y**

**SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COM/MET SIP SECOND PHASE,  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

That, the Eastern Caribbean States/Territories complete the Survey Questionnaire on the current status of implementation of the COM/MET SIP relevant recommendations and to submit it to the ICAO NACC Regional Office by **30 April 2004**.

**4. Recommended Actions**

4.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information presented in this working paper;
- b) review and adopt the Conclusion 18/X on the follow-up meeting that is presented under paragraph 3.1; and
- c) review and adopt the Conclusion 18/Y regarding the survey questionnaire on the status of implementation that is presented under paragraph 3.2.