International Civil Aviation Organization

**NINTH MEETING OF THE
COMMUNICATIONS/NAVIGATION/SURVEILLANCE AND
METEOROLOGY SUB-GROUP OF APANPIRG
(CNS/MET SG/9)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 11–15 July 2005

Agenda Item 9:   Exchange of OPMET information

SURVEY OF PACIFIC STATES – OPMET DATA EXCHANGE

(Presented by Rapporteur of OPMET/M TF)

SUMMARY

This paper presents information of a survey, carried out as part of the work of the OPMET/M TF, in the Pacific States, on the availability of METAR and TAF, based on FASID Table Met 1A and SADIS user Guide Annex1.

1.   INTRODUCTION

1.1   The First Meeting of the ASIA/PAC OPMET Exchange Task Force (OPMET/E TF) was advised on the outstanding APANPIRG Conclusion 10/23, stating that: "*Based on the AFTN configuration, collection areas of the ROBEX Centres be extended to include all International aerodromes listed in Table MET 1A of the ASIA/PAC Air Navigation Plan (ANP)*". The meeting was provided with a table showing the current correspondence between FASID Table MET 1A and the ROBEX regular exchange of METAR and TAF. It was noted that a large number of aerodromes listed in FASID Table Met 1A were not yet covered by the ROBEX scheme.

1.2   The meeting noted that the OPMET data shortfalls were particularly significant for the Pacific Region. The representatives of Fiji, Australia and the US were requested to survey the availability of METAR and TAF from the Pacific States and inform the group of the results. The meeting was advised that Nadi RODB had the capacity to handle the METAR information in addition to their current responsibility for TAFs from the Pacific.

1.3   At the second meeting of the OPMET/Management TF, the shortfall of OPMET data from the Pacific region was discussed further, following concerns raised by New Zealand.

1.4   At the second meeting the expert from IATA advised that SADIS User Guide (SUG) Annex 1 was considered a replacement of FASID Table MET 2, with this being adopted by EUR Region and considered the requirements of the aviation industry. The meeting sought clarification of the status of FASID Table MET 2.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1   Preliminary work was carried out to determine which bulletins were being transmitted and whether they were transmitted on AFTN or GTS. From this work it appears that Washington is generating most missing FT and SA bulletins for the GTS using the WMO Pacific Area Designators PA (Pacific Area), PS (South Pacific Area) and PQ (Western Pacific Area, but the bulletins do not appear on the AFTN as part of the ROBEX exchange.

2.2   The area grouping used in the WMO bulletins was not considered suitable by the Task Force, with Action Item 3.8 of the OPMET/M TF being *"Change of OPMET bulletin structure from multinational to national",* being the preferred ROBEX bulletin method.

2.3   Following the preliminary work a letter and accompanying survey was prepared and sent to all Pacific States in late January 2005.

2.4   Responses from Pacific States were disappointing with responses received from New Zealand, New Caledonia and Australia.

2.5   The responses have assisted with clarifying several distribution changes and also confirmed issue times for the ROBEX handbook.

2.6   The survey has further highlighted the problems in the Pacific area with regard to dissemination of ROBEX bulletins via AFTN, and it is hoped that the planned ICAO Service Improvement Program will rectify these problems.

2.7   The survey details as sent to States can be found in IP/08 of the OPMET/M TF/3 meeting on the ICAO web site.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1   The meeting is expected to:

        a)   Review the attached results of the survey replies in Attachment 1

        b)   Discuss what action can be taken to improve the OPMET bulletin exchange through AFTN in the Pacific.

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Attachment 1
RESULT OF SURVEY OF PACIFIC STATES

ROBEX Exchange of METARs and TAFs Via AFTN and GTS

Table 1 Updated AFTN/ROBEX bulletins

Name of the aerodrome [1]	Use	ICAO Loc.ind.	ROBEX SA bulletin [2]	ROBEX FT bulletin [2]	RODB	GTS SA Bulletin [2]	GTS FT Bulletin [2]
AUSTRALIA							
ADELAIDE/Adelaide	RS	YPAD	SAAU31 YBBN	FTAU31 YBBN	BRISBANE	SAAU31 AMMC	FTAU31 AMMC
ALICE SPRINGS/Alice Springs	AS	YBAS	SAAU31 YBBN	FTAU31 YBBN	BRISBANE	SAAU31 AMMC	FTAU31 AMMC
AMBERLEY		*YAMB*	*SAAU32 YBBN*	*FCAU31 YBBN*	*BRISBANE*		
AVALON		*YMAV*	*SAAU32 YBBN*	*FTAU32 YBBN*	*BRISBANE*		

Name of the aerodrome [1]	Use	ICAO Loc.ind.	ROBEX SA bulletin [2]	ROBEX FT bulletin [2]	RODB	GTS SA Bulletin [2]	GTS FT Bulletin [2]
BRISBANE/Brisbane	RS	YBBN	SAAU31 YBBN	FTAU31 YBBN	BRISBANE	SAAU31 AMMC	FTAU31 AMMC
BROOME/Broome	AS	YBRM	SAAU32 YBBN	*FCAU31 YBBN*	BRISBANE		FCAU31 AMMC
CAIRNS/Cairns	RS	YBCS	SAAU31 YBBN	FTAU31 YBBN	BRISBANE	SAAU31 AMMC	FTAU31 AMMC
CANBERRA		*YSCB*	*SAAU32 YBBN*	*FTAU32 YBBN*	*BRISBANE*		*FTAU32 AMMC*

Name of the aerodrome [1]	Use	ICAO Loc.ind.	ROBEX SA bulletin [2]	ROBEX FT bulletin [2]	RODB	GTS SA Bulletin [2]	GTS FT Bulletin [2]
CHRISTMAS I./Christmas I.	RS	YPXM	SAAU31 YBBN	FTAU31 YBBN	BRISBANE	SAAU31 AMMC	
COCOS I./Cocos I.	RS	YPCC	SAAU31 YBBN	FTAU32 YBBN	BRISBANE	SAAU31 AMMC	FTAU31 AMMC
COOLANGATTA		YBCG	SAAU32 YBBN	FTAU32 YBBN	BRISBANE	SAAU32 AMMC	FTAU31 AMMC
CURTIN-DERBY		YCIN	SAAU32 YBBN	FCAU31 YBBN	BRISBANE		
DARWIN/Darwin	RS	YPDN	SAAU31 YBBN	FTAU31 YBBN	BRISBANE	SAAU31 AMMC	FTAU31 AMMC
DUBBO/Dubbo	AS	YSDU	SAAU32 YBBN	FCAU31 YBBN	BRISBANE	SAAU32 AMMC	FCAU31 AMMC

Name of the aerodrome [1]	Use	ICAO Loc.ind.	ROBEX SA bulletin [2]	ROBEX FT bulletin [2]	RODB	GTS SA Bulletin [2]	GTS FT Bulletin [2]
FORREST		YFRT	SAAU32 YBBN	FCAU31 YBBN	BRISBANE		
GOVE		YPGV	SAAU32 YBBN	FCAU31 YBBN	BRISBANE		FCAU31 AMMC
HAMILTON I.		YBHM	SAAU32 YBBN	FCAU31 YBBN	BRISBANE	SAAU32 AMMC	FCAU31 AMMC
HOBART/Hobart	RS	YMHB	SAAU32 YBBN	FCAU31 YBBN	BRISBANE		FCAU31 AMMC

Name of the aerodrome [1]	Use	ICAO Loc.ind.	ROBEX SA bulletin [2]	ROBEX FT bulletin [2]	RODB	GTS SA Bulletin [2]	GTS FT Bulletin [2]
KALGOORLIE		*YPKG*	*SAAU32 YBBN*	*FTAU32 YBBN*	*BRISBANE*	**SAAU32 AMMC**	*TFAU32 AMMC*
KUNUNURRA		*YPKU*	*SAAU31 YBBN*	*FCAU31 YBBN*	*BRISBANE*	*SAAU31 AMMC*	*FCAU31 AMMC*
LAUNCESTON		**YMLT**	*SAAU32 YBBN*	*FCAU31 YBBN*	*BRISBANE*	*SAAU32 AMMC*	*FCAU31 AMMC*
LEARMONTH/Learmonth	AS	YPLM	SAAU31 YBBN	FTAU32 YBBN	BRISBANE	SAAU31 AMMC	FTAU31 AMMC
MELBOURNE/Melbourne Intl	RS	YMML	SAAU31 YBBN	FTAU31 YBBN	BRISBANE	SAAU31 AMMC	FTAU31 AMMC
MOUNt ISA		*YBMA*	*SAAU32 YBBN*	*FCAU31 YBBN*	*BRISBANE*		*FCAU31 AMMC*
NORFOLK I./Norfolk I.	RS	YSNF	SAAU32 YBBN	FCAU31 YBBN	BRISBANE		FCAU31 AMMC

Name of the aerodrome [1]	Use	ICAO Loc.ind.	ROBEX SA bulletin [2]	ROBEX FT bulletin [2]	RODB	GTS SA Bulletin [2]	GTS FT Bulletin [2]
PEARCE		*YPEA*	*SAAU32 YBBN*	*FTAU32 YBBN*	*BRISBANE*	***SAAU32 AMMC***	*FTAU31 AMMC*
PERTH/Perth Intl	RS	YPPH	SAAU31 YBBN	FTAU31 YBBN	BRISBANE	SAAU31 AMMC	
PORT HEDLAND/Port Hedland	RS	YPPD	SAAU32 YBBN	FTAU32 YBBN	BRISBANE	***SAAU32 AMMC***	FTAU31 AMMC
RICHMOND		*YSRI*	*SAAU32 YBBN*	*FTAU32 YBBN*	*BRISBANE*	***SAAU32 AMMC***	**FCAU31 AMMC**
ROCKHAMPTON/Rockhampton	AS	YBRK	SAAU32 YBBN	FTAU32YBBN	BRISBANE	***SAAU32 AMMC***	***FTAU32 AMMC***
SYDNEY/Kingsford Smith Intl	RS	YSSY	SAAU31 YBBN	FTAU31 YBBN	BRISBANE	SAAU31 AMMC	FTAU31 AMMC
TINDAL/Tindal	AS	YPTN	SAAU31 YBBN	FTAU31 YBBN	BRISBANE	SAAU31 AMMC	FTAU31 AMMC
TOWNSVILLE/Townsville	RS	YBTL	SAAU31 YBBN	FTAU32 YBBN	BRISBANE	SAAU31 AMMC	
WILLIAMTOWN		*YWLM*	*SAAU32 YBBN*	*FTAU32 YBBN*	*BRISBANE*	***SAAU32 AMMC***	***FTAU32 AMMC***

Name of the aerodrome [1]	Use	ICAO Loc.ind.	ROBEX SA bulletin [2]	ROBEX FT bulletin [2]	RODB	GTS SA Bulletin [2]	GTS FT Bulletin [2]
NEW CALEDONIA (France)							
NOUMEA/La Tontouta	RS	NWWW	SANC01NW WW	FTPS31 NFFN	NADI	SANC20 NWBB	FTPA32 KWBC
NEW ZEALAND							
AUCKLAND/Auckland Intl	RS	NZAA	SANZ31 NZKL	FTNZ31 NZKL	BRISBANE	*SANZ31 NZKL*	*FTNZ31 NZKL*
CHRISTCHURCH/Christchurch Intl	RS	NZCH	SANZ31 NZKL	FTNZ31 NZKL	BRISBANE	*SANZ31 NZKL*	*FTNZ31 NZKL*
WELLINGTON/Wellington Intl	RS	NZWN	SANZ31 NZKL	FTNZ31 NZKL	BRISBANE	*SANZ31 NZKL*	*FTNZ31 NZKL*

NOTE Table 1:
1. Name of Aerodrome - *BOLD ITALICS* – additional SADIS User Guide Annex 1 aerodromes not listed on AOP tables.
2. Bulletin changes – *Bold Italics* – bulletin number changes advised from survey.

Table 2. <u>Updated</u> availability of aerodrome METARs

State	Name of the Aerodrome	ICAO location indicator	METAR hours of issue	METAR frequency of issue
New Caledonia	Noumea/La Tontouta	NWWW	00 -24	Hourly
New Zealand	Auckland Int'l	NZAA	00 -24	Hourly on the hour
	Wellington Int'l	NZWN	00 -24	Hourly on the hour
	Christchurch Int'l	NZCH	00 -24	Hourly on the hour
Australia	Adelaide	YPAD	00 -24	Hourly on the hour
	Alice Springs	YBAS	00 -24	Hourly on the hour
	Amberley	YAMB	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Avalon	YMAV	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Brisbane	YBBN	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Broome	YBRM	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Cairns	YBCS	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Canberra	YSCB	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Christmas I	YPXM	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Cocos I	YPCC	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Coolangatta	YBCG	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Curtin-Derby	YCIN	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Darwin	YPDN	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Dubbo	YSDU	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Forrest	YFRT	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Gove	YPGV	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Hamilton I.	YBHM	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Hobart	YMHB	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Kalgoorlie	YPKG	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Kununurra	YPKU	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Launceston	*YMLT*	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Learmonth	YPLM	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Melbourne Int'l	YMML	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Mount Isa	YBMA	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Norfolk Island	YSNF	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Pearce	YPEA	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Perth Int'l	YPPH	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Port Hedland	YPPD	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Richmond	YSRI	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Rockhampton	YBRK	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Sydney Intl	YSSY	00 –24	Hourly on the hour

	Tindal	YPTN	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Townsville	YBTL	00 –24	Hourly on the hour
	Williamtown	YWLM	00 –24	Hourly on the hour

Explanation of Table 2

Col 1: State where aerodrome located
Col 2: Name of the aerodrome
Col 3: ICAO location indicator
Col 4: Hours of issuing METAR for aerodrome in UTC
Col 5: Frequency of issuing METAR (i.e. hourly on the hour or half hour, half hourly)

Table 3. Updated availability of aerodrome TAFs

State	Name of the Aerodrome	ICAO location indicator	TAF hours of issue	TAF Validity times UTC
New Caledonia	Noumea/La Tontouta	NWWW	22,04,10,16	0024,0606,1212,1818
New Zealand	Auckland Int'l	NZAA	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Wellington Int'l	NZWN	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Christchurch Int'l	NZCH	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
Australia	Adelaide	YPAD	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Alice Springs	YBAS	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Amberley	YAMB	01,07,13,19	0214,0820,1402,2008
	Avalon	YMAV	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Brisbane	YBBN	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Broome	YBRM	01,07,13,19	0214,0820,1402,2008
	Cairns	YBCS	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Canberra	YSCB	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Christmas I	YPXM	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Cocos I	YPCC	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Coolangatta	YBCG	01,07,13,19	0214,0820,1402,2008
	Curtin-Derby	YCIN	01,07,13,19	0214,0820,1402,2008
	Darwin	YPDN	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Dubbo	YSDU	01,07,13,19	0214,0820,1402,2008
	Forrest	YFRT	01,07,13,19	0214,0820,1402,2008
	Gove	YPGV	01,07,13,19	0214,0820,1402,2008
	Hamilton I.	YBHM	01,07,13,19	0214,0820,1402,2008
	Hobart	YMHB	01,07,13,19	0214,0820,1402,2008
	Kalgoorlie	YPKG	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Kununurra	YPKU	01,07,13,19	0214,0820,1402,2008

	Launceston	*YMLT*	01,07,13,19	0214,0820,1402,2008
	Learmonth	YPLM	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Melbourne Int'l	YMML	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Mount Isa	YBMA	01,07,13,19	0214,0820,1402,2008
	Norfolk Island	YSNF	01,07,13,19	0214,0820,1402,2008
	Pearce	YPEA	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Perth Int'l	YPPH	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Port Hedland	YPPD	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Richmond	YSRI	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Rockhampton	YBRK	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Sydney Intl	YSSY	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Tindal	YPTN	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Townsville	YBTL	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818
	Williamtown	YWLM	23,05,11,17	0024,0606,1212,1818

Explanation of Table 3

Col 1: State where aerodrome located
Col 2: Name of the aerodrome
Col 3: ICAO location indicator
Col 4: Hours of issuing TAF for aerodrome in UTC
Col 5: Taf Validity times in UTC (i.e 0024, 0606, 1212, 1818)