



International Civil Aviation Organization

North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

**Eighth Meeting of Directors of Civil Aviation of the Central Caribbean
(C/CAR DCA/8)**

Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, 15 to 18 May 2006

C/CAR DCA/8-WP/09

17/04/06

Agenda Item 2: Air Navigation Issues

2.3: Other air Navigation Issues

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION AIR TRAFFIC FLOW MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

(Presented by the United States)

SUMMARY

This paper addresses the Federal Aviation Administration's air traffic flow management (ATFM) activities and its intent to work with the Caribbean Region to develop an ATFM concept and implement the corresponding initiatives.

1. Introduction

1.1 Air traffic flow management (ATFM) is a service established with the objective of contributing to a safe, orderly and expeditious flow of air traffic by ensuring that ATC capacity is utilized to the maximum extent possible and that the traffic volume is compatible with the capacities declared by the appropriate ATS and aerodrome authorities. ATFM provides benefits to airspace users and air traffic service providers, alike.

1.2 ATFM has been added to the Air Traffic Management (ATM) work programme for the Caribbean Region. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has been actively engaged in regional meetings, supporting the region as it addresses the concept and works to identify how ATFM can be used to enhance ATM within and across flight information regions (FIRs) and regional boundaries, all leading to a seamless global ATM system.

2. Discussion

2.1 The FAA has been engaged in ATFM activities for many years, domestically and internationally. The need for flow management in the U.S. domestic airspace has been driven by demand at major airports as well as by demand in the en route environment. Demand in both arenas often greatly surpasses capacity. Meteorological conditions affecting both terminal and en route operations also place strains on the system, which are most effectively dealt with through ATFM initiatives.

2.2 The FAA has worked cooperatively with Canada and our international colleagues in the Pacific and North Atlantic to manage traffic demand in oceanic airspace. These partnerships have provided the airspace users, our customers, with the most efficient routings and altitudes by taking into account forecasted weather, minimum time tracks and balancing requested routes and altitudes.

2.3 The future direction of the FAA encompasses a drive towards a seamless global air traffic system. This system will traverse State boundaries merging data, knowledge, ideas, and concepts. It will capitalize on benefits such as enhanced security, increased capacity, and improved effectiveness and hemispheric interaction. This approach is consistent with the ICAO Global Air Navigation Plan for CNS/ATM Systems.

2.4 The FAA has increased its activity in regard to ATFM in the Caribbean and South American regions. The Central Caribbean is an area of particular interest to us as the volume of traffic in and through this airspace grows. A seminar was held in Honduras from March 27 to 31, 2006 to discuss ATFM concepts for the North American and Caribbean Regions. Delegates were presented with ATFM operational concepts that included: Collaborative Decision Making, common situational awareness, airport and airspace capacity, facility staffing, ATFM training, and the FAA's Enhanced Traffic Management System.

2.5 The FAA is working closely with all our neighbors in the Caribbean Region in the development of an ATFM concept. We are actively sharing our expertise, lessons learned and other pertinent aviation information. We are also working with our colleagues in the region to share radar and flight plan data and to provide ATFM technical assistance and training if desired.

3. **Recommendations**

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information provided in this paper; and
- b) support and provide the necessary resources for the development and implementation of ATFM concepts within their States, Territories and International Organizations.