



**Fifth GREPECAS–RASG-PA Joint Meeting (GREPECAS-RASG-PA/5) and  
Twenty-Third Meeting of the CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group  
(GREPECAS/23)**

Virtual Phase (Asynchronous, 19 January to 17 February 2026)

In-Person Phase (Mexico City, Mexico, 4 to 6 March 2026)

**Agenda Item 8: CAR/SAM Air Navigation Implementation**

**CARRANCA: BRAZILIAN SAREX**

(Presented by Brazil)

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	
<p>This Paper presents information on the Brazilian SAREX held between October 06<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> and the invitation to international participants for the 2026 edition, aiming international cooperation and the development of Search and Rescue services in the CAR/SAM regions.</p>	
<i>Action</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite interested States to participate in Carranca 2026 as observers and to designate representatives; and</li> <li>• Provide suggestions and share best practices to improve future editions of the Brazilian SAREX.</li> </ul>
<i>Strategic Objectives 2026-2050:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every flight is safe and secure</li> <li>• Aviation is environmentally sustainable</li> <li>• Aviation delivers seamless, accessible, and reliable mobility for all</li> <li>• No country left behind</li> <li>• The International Civil Aviation Convention and Other Treaties, Laws and Regulations Address All Challenges</li> <li>• The Economic Development of Air Transport Assures the Delivery of Economic Prosperity and Societal Well-Being for All</li> </ul>
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chicago Convention</li> <li>• Annex 12 – Search and Rescue</li> <li>• IAMSAR</li> <li>• Final Report of the 4th Meeting of the GREPECAS-RASG-PA and 22th meeting of the CAR/SAM Planning and Implementation Regional Group (GREPECAS/22)</li> </ul>

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 Search and Rescue (SAR) services constitute a fundamental component of Air Navigation Services and are established in accordance with the obligations assumed by the Contracting States under the Chicago Convention.

1.2 The effective organization of SAR services plays a vital role in safeguarding the lives of individuals who rely on aviation for transportation. Moreover, the availability of SAR assets frequently enables a rapid initial response and life-saving assistance during the early phases of natural or human-induced disasters.

1.3 Training plays an essential role on the SAR efficiency. As stated in Annex 12, States shall provide for regular training of their SAR personnel and it is recommended that Contracting States make arrangements for joint training exercises involving other States and operators in order to promote search and rescue efficiency.

## **2. Background**

2.1 In alignment with the orientations contained in Annex 12 and at IAMSAR Vol 2, Brazil conducts its annual SAREX since 2009.

2.2 The Brazilian SAREX is known as “Carranca” in honour of Brazilian Air Force Major and medical officer Carlos Alberto Santos, who dedicated his life to the Brazilian SAR System.

## **3. Analysis**

3.1 The Carranca SAREX was conducted from 6 to 18 October at Florianopolis Air Base in the South of Brazil.

3.2 Carranca was conceived to strengthen integration between coordination and execution of SAR missions. Accordingly, personnel from the various Brazilian Rescue Coordination Centres (RCCs) and Search and Rescue Units (SRUs) participated in the Exercise.

3.3 The SAREX aimed to provide training and evaluation, test new doctrines and process improvement. With those objectives, a simulated Joint Rescue Sub-Centre (JRSC) was activated, staffed by personnel from different RCCs, in order to enhance the exchange of experience. The Exercise was attended by 400 participants and SRUs from different regions of Brazil, including: KC-390, P-3AM, P-95BM, SC-105, H-60, H-36 and Navy vessels.

3.4 The Search and Rescue scenarios were based on real missions and alternated between forest, mountain and maritime environments and the whole mission cycle was contemplated: the inform of a possible distress, the simulated extended search for information (EXCOM), planning, coordination, search, rescue and debriefing.

3.5 In addition to the simulated scenarios, the exercise also incorporated detections from COSPAS-SARSAT emergency beacons, specifically Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs). These detections were used to support realistic training in alert reception, distress verification, and coordination procedures, enabling SAR personnel to practice the end-to-end handling of beacon-generated alerts within the operational framework of the Brazilian Search and Rescue System.

#### **4. Conclusions**

4.1 The Brazilian Carranca SAREX demonstrated the continued commitment of Brazil to strengthening its Search and Rescue capabilities in accordance with ICAO Annex 12. Through realistic, scenario-based training, the exercise enhanced coordination among Rescue Coordination Centres and Search and Rescue Units, tested operational doctrines, and promoted the exchange of experience among SAR professionals from across the country. The integration of full mission-cycle activities, including the use of COSPAS-SARSAT PLB detections, reinforced operational readiness and interoperability. By fostering a collaborative and learning-oriented environment, the exercise contributed not only to the continuous improvement of the Brazilian Search and Rescue System but also to the broader objective of regional cooperation and capacity development within the CAR/SAM SAR framework.

4.2 Furthermore, the participation of international SAR personnel in future editions of the Carranca SAREX would represent a valuable opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation and interoperability. Joint training with neighbouring States and international organizations would facilitate the harmonization of procedures, enhance mutual understanding of coordination mechanisms, and promote the sharing of best practices within the CAR/SAM regions. Such engagement would contribute to building collective preparedness, reinforcing trust among SAR authorities, and further advancing the effectiveness and resilience of Search and Rescue services at both regional and global levels.

#### **5. Suggested actions**

5.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Invite interested States to participate in Carranca 2026 as observers and to designate representatives; and
- b) provide suggestions and share best practices to improve future editions of the Brazilian SAREX