



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization

Fifth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Regional Search and Rescue Working Group (APSARWG/5)

Video Teleconference, 09 – 11 June 2020

Agenda Item 6: APSAR/WG Task List

APSAR/WG TERMS OF REFERENCE AND TASK LIST

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the APSAR/WG Task List and Terms of Reference for review.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The APSAR/WG is required to periodically review the tasks assigned to it or developed within the APSAR/WG itself, as well as the relevancy of tasks within the context of its Terms of Reference (TOR).

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The APSAR/WG TOR is appended as **Attachment A** to this paper.

2.2 A Task List template is appended as **Attachment B** to this paper to capture new tasks arising from the meeting.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to review the:

- a) Terms of Reference at **Attachment A**; and
- b) Task List at **Attachment B**.

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Terms of Reference

Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue Workgroup **(AP SAR/WG)**

Objective

1 In collaboration with affected stakeholders and in close cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the objective of the Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue Workgroup is to promote the enhancement and improvement of SAR facilities and services within the Asia/Pacific Region and adjacent regions, in accordance with:

- a) Annex 12 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation; and
- b) the International Aeronautical and Maritime SAR Manual (IAMSAR).

2 The AP SAR/WG will be expected to enhance SAR capability within the Asia/Pacific Region by:

- a) making recommendations for improvement to the Asia/Pacific SAR Plan; and
- b) providing advice and information, including recommendations for effective implementation of SAR improvements.

Tasks

3 To meet its objectives, the AP SAR/WG shall:

- a) review the current status of SAR preparedness of Asia and Pacific Region States;
- b) review State SAR Arrangements for commonality with those of neighbouring States to facilitate SAR coordination and cooperation across regional boundaries;
- c) monitor outcomes from APANPIRG, ATM/SG, other ICAO Region SAR groups, ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group (JWG) and related forums for issues that may affect the APAC Region;
- d) monitor sub-regional and/or regional SAREX as appropriate;
- e) analyse procedures in use in other ICAO Regions, and cooperate with other groups which are involved with similar work in adjacent airspaces, in order to achieve harmonized inter-regional solutions;
- f) identify areas where SAR planning and preparedness requires improvement in terms of compliance with Annex 12, the IAMSAR Manual and accepted best practice; and
- g) make recommendations for improvement and implementation of SAR systems.

Reporting

4 The AP SAR/WG reports to the ATM Sub-group of APANPIRG. A line of communication will be provided to the IMO on AP SAR/WG outcomes where necessary.

Membership

5 The membership of the AP SAR/WG is open to States and administrations that have the responsibility for the provision of SAR services and facilities within the Asia/Pacific, related international organizations, IMO and ICAO. The membership is also open to participants from outside the Asia/Pacific or organisations that can contribute to AP SAR/WG by invitation from AP SAR/WG (such as Cospas-Sarsat and military organizations that can facilitate SAR operations).

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APSAR/TF - TASK LIST

(Last amended APSAR/WG/4, May 2019)

ID	Task Description	Start Date	Expected Finish Date	Resource Names/Remarks
3/1	The meeting discussed MEOSAR's Return Link Service. APSAR/WG/3 recommended that more guidance be provided to States within the Asia/Pacific SAR Plan, to ensure MCCs were equipped to take advantage of this new capability.	APSAR/ WG/3	01 July 2019 CLOSED	Asia/Pacific SAR Plan Review SWG Work progressed to the update of the Asia/Pacific SAR Plan V3.0, 5.16.
3/2	Regarding a simpler template for SAR agreements/arrangements, Malaysia, Singapore and the USA agreed to work with the ICAO APAC Regional Office to provide more guidance related to SAR Agreements for the Asia/Pacific SAR Plan.	APSAR/ WG/3	01 July 2019 CLOSED	Asia/Pacific SAR Plan Review SWG Separate from the APSAR WG, US accepted a task on this matter under the ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group on SAR (JWG). Many potential solutions were considered but all had weaknesses. US has submitted a working paper to the October 2020 JWG meeting recommending that the task be closed, action suspended pending receipt of additional information. APSAR WG has not discussed this to my knowledge since the last meeting. US is open to suggestions but will rely upon others to present the needed information, or consider submitting a paper to the JWG. US recommendation is to close the item noting that a simpler template could not be developed.
3/6	ICAO noted that, given the unique systems used by SAR, it was optimal for SAR personnel to be specialised. However, it was also noted that it was advantageous for at least some RCC staff to have had ATC experience. ICAO recalled the resource constraints and difficulties in managing the unfamiliar task of interacting with the public and media that Malaysian personnel experienced during the MH370 tragedy. Therefore, using current air traffic controllers for SAR responses was appropriate where there were resource constraints, but it was more optimal to have specialised SAR officers.	APSAR/ WG/3	01 July 2019	Asia/Pacific SAR Plan Review SWG

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ID	Task Description	Start Date	Expected Finish Date	Resource Names/Remarks
3/7	Updates on Palau, Micronesia and the Marshall Islands SAR capability	APSAR/WG/3	01 July 2020 CLOSED	USA Updates on Palau, Micronesia and the Marshall Islands: Recommend close. Initial, basic updates have been submitted and accepted by ICAO Bangkok. More work remains but can be done with US (USCG and FAA) working more directly but not intrusively with these island States over the next few years.
4/1	States should provide feedback to Cospas-Sarsat on the status of the registration systems that were maintained by individual States.	May 2019	APSAR/WG/5	All APAC States On-going
4/2	ICAO requested that States monitor and report the effectiveness of their false alert education programmes.	May 2019	APSAR/WG/5	All APAC States On-going
4/3	States should contribute their experience and interpretations in order to develop comprehensive guidance for the performance element reporting.	May 2019	APSAR/WG/5 CLOSED	All APAC States APSAR/WG/4 paper form Australia and APSAR/WG/5/IP03 from NZ
4/4	China was requested to submit information on the BDS capability to the ICAO-IMO Joint Working Group on SAR and the Cospas-Sarsat JC.	May 2019	September 2019	China
4/5	The USA offered to provide information on the national SAR service policies on mountain flying.	May 2019	APSAR/WG/5 CLOSED	USA National SAR services policies on mountain policies: Recommend close. US has some general guidance on aeronautical searches in mountains but there is not a specific compilation of procedures, tactics or best practices. There is some guidance provided in the International Aeronautical and Maritime SAR (IAMSAR) Manual. If the countries that had strong interest (and actual SAR incidents) want to develop specific guidance then the US could attempt to consolidate the numerous documents which have some guidance into one document for their review.
4/6	China and Nepal were requested to provide more detailed analysis of the investigations into ELT non-activation problems in mountainous and high terrain areas.	May 2019	APSAR/WG/5	China and Nepal

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ID	Task Description	Start Date	Expected Finish Date	Resource Names/Remarks
4/7	States with representatives at ICAO HQ were urged to support the development of the electronic reporting portal.	May 2019	July 2019 CLOSED	Australia, China, India, Japan, Singapore, USA ICAO HQ development of the electronic reporting portal: US is not aware of any discussion on this. US is in a support mode, not a leading mode on this matter. ICAO Montreal Secretariat has an active Technical Officer assigned to SAR matters. He may not be aware of this issue, but he will be on the APSAR WG5 video teleconference; he is also aware of the ICAO focus on the future 'SWIM'.