International Civil Aviation Organization

Thirty-Third Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG/33)

Bali, Indonesia, Hybrid Meeting, 22 to 24 November 2022

Agenda Item 4: Regional Air Navigation Deficiencies

RECTIFICATION OF APANPIRG AN DEFICIENCY AP-MET-23

(Presented by Solomon Islands)

SUMMARY

This paper presents corrective action taken by Solomon Islands and supported by partner States to rectify the APANPIRG air navigation deficiency AP-MET-23 concerning the lack of SIGMET issued for the Honiara FIR. The information provided in this paper validates that the deficiency has been rectified and supports the removal of deficiency AP-MET-23 from the APANPIRG list.

This paper relates to Strategic Objectives:

*A: **Safety** – Enhance global civil aviation safety*

B: ***Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency** — Increase the capacity and improve the efficiency of the global aviation system*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Asia/Pacific (APAC) Air Navigation Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APANPIRG) recorded an air navigation deficiency index no. AP-MET-23[1] in September 2011, concerning the lack of SIGMET issued for the Honiara FIR. The corrective action plan (CAP) to rectify the deficiency AP-MET-23 requires Solomon Islands to implement procedures for issuing SIGMET information by the designated Meteorological Watch Office (MWO) for the Honiara FIR.

1.2 Solomon Islands reported on the progress of its CAP to rectify the deficiency AP-MET-23 to the Meteorology Sub-Group (MET SG) of APANPIRG. In April 2015, Solomon Islands ended its existing bilateral arrangement with the PNG NWS[2] to provide SIGMET for the Honiara FIR on behalf of Solomon Islands. In 2018, the Honiara MWO, established and operated by the SIMS[3], started the issuance of SIGMET for Honiara FIR.

1.3 In October 2021, Solomon Islands reported to MET SG/25 the progress towards rectifying the deficiency AP-MET-23. However, Solomon Islands also informed MET SG/25 of some unresolved issues concerning the content, format and timeliness of SIGMET from the Honiara MWO. Based on its review of the information presented, MET SG/25 requested that Solomon Islands, with assistance from its partner States, conduct additional corrective action (including testing and monitoring the issuance of SIGMET) to enable the rectification of the deficiency AP-MET-23 to be validated.

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[1] For details, refer to the *Reporting Form on Air Navigation Deficiencies in the MET Field in the Asia/Pac Region* (Appendix D to the APANPIRG/32 Report on Agenda Item 4)
[2] Papua New Guinea National Weather Service
[3] Solomon Islands Meteorological Service

1.5. In August 2022, Solomon Islands reported to MET SG/26 on subsequent progress towards rectifying the deficiency AP-MET-23 (including tests, exercises, training, coordination with neighbouring MWOs, and monitoring of SIGMET issued). Furthermore, Solomon Islands informed that it planned additional actions, including improvements to the dissemination of SIGMET and further monitoring, to validate the improvements to its SIGMET service. Therefore, based on its review of the information presented and subject to the additional actions mentioned above, MET SG/26 considered Solomon Islands would soon be able to report that the deficiency AP-MET-23 has been rectified.

1.6. The discussion below covers the corrective actions implemented by Solomon Islands purposely to clear the SIGMET deficiency under Solomon Islands.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Corrective action taken by Solomon Islands to rectify the deficiency AP-MET-23 involved active participation in SIGMET tests, training, volcanic ash exercises, data collection and analysis, and collaboration with various operational units in Australia, Hong Kong, China, Fiji and New Zealand, and the World Meteorological Organization. In addition, SIMS is currently working with the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau) on the timeliness of re-routing the SIGMET transmissions.

2.2 A new dissemination method using the Bureau systems to redirect Honiara FIR SIGMETs to RODB Brisbane for dissemination over AFTN was set up in test mode in August 2022. SIGMET tests were carried out using the new dissemination method on 29 September 2022 and demonstrated the effectiveness of the new dissemination method in test mode (test AFTN addresses).

2.3 SIMS and RODB Brisbane kept a log of all SIGMETs sent during three weeks in August/September 2022. A review of SIGMETs sent by SIMS and received by RODB Brisbane highlighted that the process was working well. However, there were slight differences between the lists, including a few SIGMETs not being sent to BoM systems and RODB Brisbane appearing to receive duplicates of every SIGMET. These issues were fixed over the next week and was resolved on 20 September 2022.

2.4 The timing of products received during the three-week period by RODB Brisbane was significantly improved compared to the previous dissemination method using the Solomon Islands' Air Traffic Services (ATS) system.

2.5 The three organizations agreed to switch to the new dissemination method on 29 September at 00 UTC. Test SIGMETs were issued on that day for each SIGMET type (WS, WV and WC) to check that operational systems were all disseminating the SIGMETs correctly. In addition, SIMS updated the operational procedures and informed ATS Solomon Islands of the new dissemination method, and RODB Brisbane had a new dissemination AFTN list for Solomon Islands.

2.6 Since 29 September 2022, several operational SIGMETs have been issued, and the Bureau confirmed the appropriate and timely routing of the SIGMETs issued by SIMS.

2.7 ROC Wellington reviewed the IWXXM translation success rates which showed that 89% of products issued during October were correctly translated into IWXXM format. A few very minor issues have been passed on the Solomon Islands to resolve.

2.8 A review of products received by RODB Brisbane showed that all products are being sent out via AFTN. SIGMET sequencing is correct in the data collected by RODB Brisbane compared to the previous dissemination method using ATS Solomon Islands.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The Meeting is invited to note the information contained in this paper.

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