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**Ninth Meeting of the ICAO Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue
Working Group (APSAR/WG/9)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 07 – 10 May 2024

Agenda Item 4: Asia/Pacific and inter-regional SAR planning, coordination and cooperation

**2023 AERONAUTICAL SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS
WITHIN THE MANILA SRR**

(Presented by PHILIPPINES/Philippine Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Center (PARCC))

SUMMARY

This paper presents the Aeronautical Search and Rescue Operations within the Manila SRR that were handled by the Philippine Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Center (PARCC). Each accident encountered had different environmental situation.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Philippine Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Center (PARCC) primarily handles aeronautical rescue coordination within the Manila SRR. In 2023, PARCC handled six (6) aeronautical accidents, 5 of which requiring SAR operations. Cooperation between civilian and military units were instrumental to the success of each SAR operations.

1.2 Philippine is an archipelago with 7,641 islands and divided into three (3) main islands: Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. All accidents happened in Luzon Island. Northern Luzon is characterized by mountain ranges of Sierra Madre and Cordillera with thick rainforest and mostly covered with low cloud ceilings. The fastest way to reach this part is by air travel under visual flight rule (VFR). Southern Luzon, namely the Bicol region, is the home of the famous active Mayon Volcano.

2. DISCUSSION

Cessna 206, January 24, 2023

2.1 On January 24, 2023 at 0615Z, the Cessna 206 aircraft departed from Cauayan airport to Maconacon with six (6) persons on board. Emergency phases were declared by Cauayan Tower. Incident Command Team was immediately set up composed of different military and civilian groups

2.2 On January 24, 2023 at 0615Z, the Cessna 206 aircraft departed from Cauayan airport to Maconacon with six (6) persons on board. Emergency phases were declared by Cauayan Tower. Incident Command Team was immediately set up composed of different military and civilian groups.

2.3 No ELT alert nor transponder emission was received from the aircraft. Search area is a part of the Sierra Madre mountain ranges and search efforts were hampered by unfavorable weather conditions.

2.4 On March 9, 2023 the aircraft and remains of the six (6) persons on board were found on the identified search area. The SAR operations was officially terminated on March 14, 2023.

Marchetti aircraft, January 25, 2023

2.5 On January 25, 2023 at 0158Z, the SF260TP (Marchetti) military aircraft departed Sangley Airport for a local flight with 2 persons on board and an estimated enroute time of 0138. Last communication with the aircraft is at 0236Z with Manila Approach at an altitude of 6000ft over Orion, Bataan.

2.6 ELT alerts were received from the aircraft at 0238Z, 0243Z and 0255Z.

2.7 At around 0307Z, PARCC received confirmation from Manila Approach that the aircraft crash-landed in the rice fields of Orion, Bataan which was within 500 meters to the positions from the ELT alerts. Rescuers were able to reach the crash site immediately.

Cessna 340, February 18, 2023

2.8 On February 17, 2023 at 2243Z a Cessna 340 aircraft departed Bicol International Airport for Manila with 4 persons onboard. Its ETA at Manila is 2353Z. Last communication was with Legazpi Approach at 2246Z with the aircraft passing 2600ft. At 2345Z, PARCC was informed by Manila Approach that no communication was received from the aircraft.

2.9 No ELT alert was received. Manila Area Control Center Radar was replayed and the aircraft last radar blip was at 2251Z at 6100ft, 6.4Nm at Radial 334 of Legazpi VOR. The crashsite was at 6,300ft AMSL South West side slope of Mt. Mayon Volcano, which is on alert level 2.

2.10 Local Incident Management Team was immediately activated. On February 21, 2023 CAAP AAIIB positively identified the aircraft found at the wreckage on the slope of Mayon Volcano on February 21, 2023. The SRUs were able to reach the area on February 22, 2023. Due to the difficulty of the terrain, all remains of the persons-on-board were brought down on March 02, 2023. SAR Operations was terminated at 1124Z of March 2, 2023.

Aloutte 3 helicopter, March 01, 2023

2.11 On March 01, 2023 at 0100Z, an ALO3 helicopter on medevac flight from Mangsee Island to Brooke's Point, Palawan with five (5) persons onboard. PARCC received report on the missing helicopter at 0700Z.

2.12 No ELT alert was received. Search area was established based on the last GPS received by the operator from the helicopter which is at 0128Z.

2.13 Incident Command Team was established with civilian and military SRU. Coordination with KK ARCC and KL ARCC (thru Mr. Mani Vannan Ketena Samy) were made because Mangsee Island is near the boundary with Kota Kinabalu SRR. Extensive SAR operations and under water searches were made. The wreckage nor its occupants are still missing. SAR operations were suspended last 24 March 2023 until further information is received.

2.14 PARCC would like to express its deepest gratitude to the exerted effort of Kota Kinabalu Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Center, Kuala Lumpur Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Center, the Kota Kinabalu RCC Coast Guard, the Malaysian Police Air Wing Department, the Royal Malaysian Air Force, the Malaysian Police Marine and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency for their support in the search and rescue operations for the Aloutte 3 helicopter.

Cessna 152 aircraft, August 01, 2023

2.15 On August 01, 2023 at 0416Z, a Cessna 152 aircraft departed Laoag Airport for a touch and go at Cauayan Airport before proceeding for landing at Tuguegarao Airport with ETA of 0716Z. The aircraft will fly over the mountain ranges of Cordillera and Sierra Madre on Northern Luzon. The Cessna 152 failed to contact at Cauayan Airport and did not arrive at Tuguegarao Airport. Emergency phases were immediately declared by Tuguegarao Flight Service Station.

2.16 Last Communication was a pilot's position report at 0500Z. Incident Command Team immediately convened. Search area was based on the last radar transmission on Laoag Radar which coincided with the last position report of the aircraft.

2.17 The ground team reached the crashsite on August 3, 2023. The remains of the persons onboard were retrieved by August 4, 2023. SAR operations was terminated by August 5, 2023

Piper Cherokee PA32-300, November 30, 2023.

2.18 On November 30, 2023 at 0139Z, PA32-300 aircraft departed Cauayan Airport for Palanan Airport with two (2) persons onboard and ETA at 0224Z. Emergency phase was declared by Cauayan Tower at 0233Z after it failed to arrive at Palanan Airport. The same Incident Management Team from the Cessna 206 accident last January 24, 2023 convened immediately. The same weather situation was also encountered.

2.19 No ELT alert was received from the aircraft. Last pilot's report was at 0150Z. Last known position was from the FlightRadar24 Flight tracker at 0200Z with an altitude of 3,375ft.

2.20 Crash site was spotted by the Philippine Air Force helicopter on December 5, 2023. Two days later, the rescuers were able to reach the site. The remains of the pilot was found but the lone passenger was missing. A makeshift tent was found on the crashsite. On December 10, 2023 the remains of the lone passenger was found by the K9 dog tracker. The SAR operations for the PA32-300 was officially terminated at 0754Z of December 10, 2023.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
- a) Note the information contained in this paper; and
 - b) Discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.

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