



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

**TWENTY NINTH MEETING OF THE ASIA/PACIFIC
AIR NAVIGATION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION
REGIONAL GROUP (APANPIRG/29)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 3 to 5 September 2018

Agenda Item 3: Performance Framework for Regional Air Navigation Planning and Implementation

3.1: AOP

FAA ASSISTANCE TO AIRPORTS IN THE MICRONESIA REGION

(Presented by the United States)

SUMMARY

This paper presents an overview of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) assistance to airports in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The United States has a long-standing relationship with the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The three countries were formerly part of the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, administered by the U.S. Following their independence, the FAA has continued to provide technical assistance to the civil aviation authorities in each country and help their airports develop Airport Capital Improvement Plans. Since 2004, FAA's authorizing legislation has allowed airports in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau to receive Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grant funding. Six commercial service airports within the three countries have received funding. This funding has been used for safety-related improvements to meet minimum standards.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 FAA has provided technical assistance and grant funding to the governments in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau to ensure that their commercial service aerodromes are operated in compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) requirements, and that investments in infrastructure are properly maintained. This includes assistance to improve aerodrome certification, inspection and surveillance programs.

2.2 AIP grant funding has totaled approximately \$325 Million since 2004 for airports in the three countries. Funding has been directed towards critical infrastructure improvements at these airports, including new Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) vehicles, ARFF buildings to contain the equipment, runway resurfacings, and taxiway and apron improvements. Airports that have received AIP grants include: Yap International Airport, Kosrae International Airport, Pohnpei International Airport, and Chuuk International Airport in the Federated States of Micronesia; Marshall Islands International Airport in the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and Roman Tmetuchl International Airport in the Republic of Palau.

2.3 FAA plans to continue providing technical assistance to the civil aviation authorities and airports in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, and will focus on items in ICAO Annex 14 and Annex 19. This will include:

- Assisting with the validation of full scale airport emergency exercises, including providing guidance on the preparation, evaluation, and critique of the exercises, and assisting with follow-up support to ensure that after action plans are produced and Aerodrome Emergency Plans are updated, reviewed, and approved;
- Ensuring that airport personnel get live firefighting and other aerodrome certification training needed at the Pacific Region ARFF Training Center located in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
- Assisting with corrective actions plans to address findings and recommendations from ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA) audits;
- Assisting with the development of safety plans and the implementation of safety management system (SMS) programs;
- Participating in, and assisting with, Aerodrome Certification Workshops that are held in the Micronesia region on an annual basis; and
- Inspecting AIP-funded projects every three years.

2.4 Over the last year, FAA airport-related assistance in the Micronesia region has included the following activities:

- 2.4.1 In May 2017, FAA representatives participated in and assisted with organizing an Aerodrome Certification Workshop held in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands.
- 2.4.2 In August 2017, FAA airport safety specialists assisted with the observation and validation of full scale emergency exercises, the assessment of ARFF facilities and equipment, and the assessment of airport inspection programs at the Marshall Islands International Airport in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and at Kosrae International Airport, Pohnpei International Airport, and Chuuk International Airport in the Federated States of Micronesia.
- 2.4.3 In April/May 2018, FAA airport safety specialists assisted with the observation and validation of full scale emergency exercises, the assessment of ARFF facilities and equipment, and the assessment of airport inspection programs at Yap International Airport in the Federated States of Micronesia and at the Roman Tmetuchl International Airport in the Republic of Palau.
- 2.4.4 In August 2018, FAA representatives will participate in and assist with organizing an Aerodrome Certification Workshop to be held in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

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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