PELICAN 2025 Exercise Report

ICAO EUR SAR Task Force Meeting and Joint ICAO EUR/NAT and ACAO SAR Workshop

Paris, France | 19-21 November 2025

PELICAN 2025 Exercise

26 MAY 2025

GADSS / SAR Operational Workshop

L'Airbus A350-1000

LGL2E LGL UT176 PEPON/N0488F350 UT176 TERPO UN872 ERIGA UN741 AZFIC DCT KORUL DCT RIPEL DCT GUNTI/M085F380 DCT 35N020W DCT 28N030W DCT 23N040W DCT 19N050W DCT JTHON/N0492F380 DCT UKVEN DCT UMAMU UMAMU2X

The PELICAN 2025 exercise represents a critical milestone in advancing international Search and Rescue coordination capabilities. This comprehensive operational workshop brings together SAR professionals from across the EUR/NAT regions to test and refine the implementation of ICAO's Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS) framework.

Through realistic scenario-based training, participants will enhance their understanding of distress tracking protocols, beacon technology integration, and cross-border coordination procedures essential for effective aircraft emergency response.

Operational Challenges

Complex Jurisdictional Boundaries

Overlapping FIR boundaries, maritime zones, and national territories create coordination complexity. Multiple SAR regions converge in the Caribbean, requiring clear protocols for authority transfer and resource sharing during cross-border emergencies.

Information Relay Delays

Time-critical distress information must traverse multiple coordination centers and communication channels.

Maritime-Aeronautical Interoperability

Different operational procedures, communication protocols, and technical systems between maritime and aeronautical SAR organizations create integration challenges.

Communication & Tracking Gaps

Remote oceanic areas experience reduced surveillance coverage and limited communication infrastructure.

Regional Priority: Addressing these operational challenges requires sustained investment in technology infrastructure, standardized procedures, and regular joint training exercises to maintain coordination effectiveness.

SAR Cooperation & Agreements

Effective Search and Rescue operations in the Caribbean region depend on a robust framework of bilateral agreements, regional partnerships, and coordinated training initiatives. These formal arrangements establish clear protocols for cross-border coordination and resource sharing during emergency operations.

France ⇔ Trinidad & Tobago

Bilateral SAR agreement establishing formal coordination procedures, communication protocols, and mutual assistance commitments between French and Trinidad & Tobago SAR authorities for Caribbean operations

FMCC & MRCC Fort-de-France

Strategic partnership between the French Mission Control Center and Maritime RCC Fort-de-France serving as the designated Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for French West Indies SAR coordination

MRCC & SNA-AG Partnership

Operational collaboration between Maritime RCC Fort-de-France and Air Navigation Services Agency ensuring seamless integration of maritime and aeronautical SAR capabilities across jurisdictions

Regional Collaboration

- Joint SAREX exercises conducted annually to maintain coordination proficiency
- Interagency collaboration protocols for resource sharing and mutual assistance
- Standardized communication procedures across participating nations
- Shared situational awareness tools and information systems

> "Harmonized procedures and shared operational tools represent the foundation for effective regional SAR coordination in complex multi-jurisdictional environments."

SAREX PELICAN 2025

Exercise Purpose

SAREX PELICAN 2025 serves as a comprehensive readiness assessment and capability enhancement initiative. The exercise validates coordination procedures, tests communication systems, and identifies areas requiring procedural refinement to optimize joint SAR operations across the region.

International Participation

France and Trinidad & Tobago lead the exercise with participation from regional RCCs throughout the Caribbean basin. Multi-national involvement ensures realistic testing of cross-border coordination protocols and establishes relationships critical for actual emergency response.

Exercise Focus Areas

COSPAS-SARSAT Alert Processing

Medium Earth Orbit Search and Rescue beacon detection analysis

LADR Alerts

Location-based Alerting and Distress Reporting system validation

Multi-Agency Coordination

Inter-RCC communication and resource coordination protocols

CNES Simulator Configuration

Technical Setup

The CNES beacon simulator was programmed with the operational hexadecimal beacon identification code **1C727800083FDFF** and configured to transmit two distinct sequences of realistic ELT-DT burst patterns. Each transmission sequence accounted for authentic aircraft flight trajectories and operational speeds to ensure exercise realism.

Simulator location in Toulouse (43.559°N, 001.487°E) generated GNSS position simulations, providing realistic geographic context for participating SAR authorities.

Exercise Parameters

- **Date:** 26 May 2025
- **Start Time:** 12:30:00 UTC
- **End Time:** 14:00:00 UTC
- **Duration:** Two 10-minute transmission sequences within 90-minute operational window
- **Message Type:** ELT(DT) FGB formatted messages

International Coordination

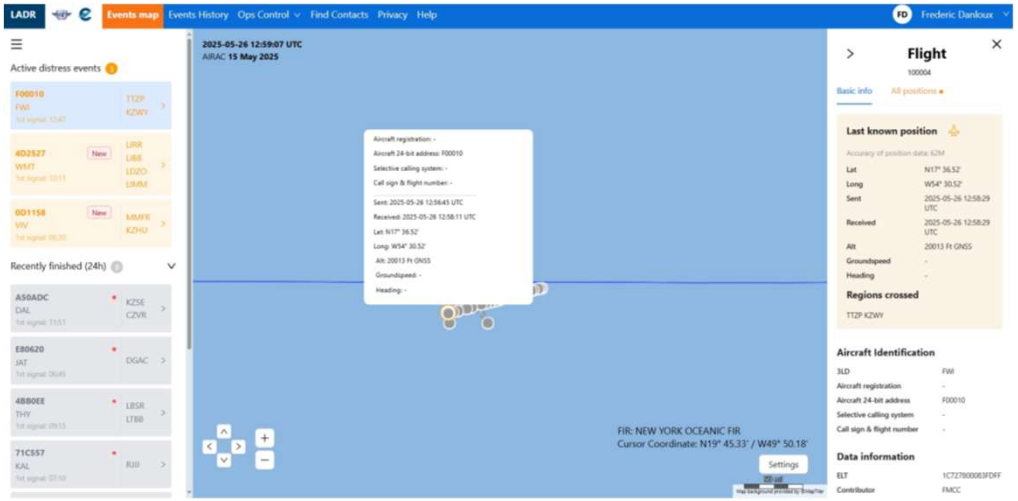
SIT605 message was distributed to all Mission Control Centers (MCCs) participating in the Cospas-Sarsat program. This ensured global awareness of the exercise and prevented confusion with actual real distress alerts.

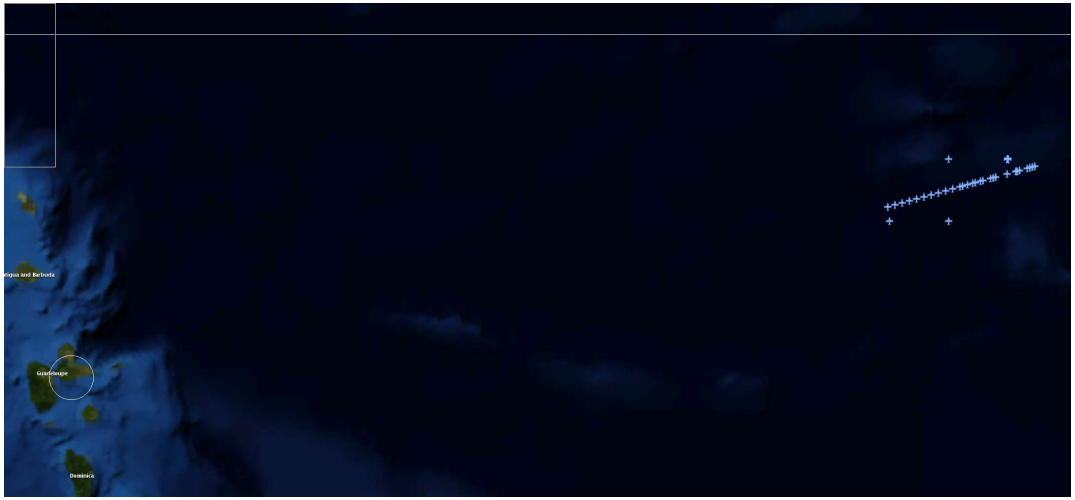
This comprehensive route structure provided realistic context for position analysis and search area calculation exercises, challenging participants to interpret beacon data within the framework of known flight planning information.

FMCC Contact Information: +33 561 254 382 | fmcc@cnes.fr

First event

FMCC Mapping and Data Visualization

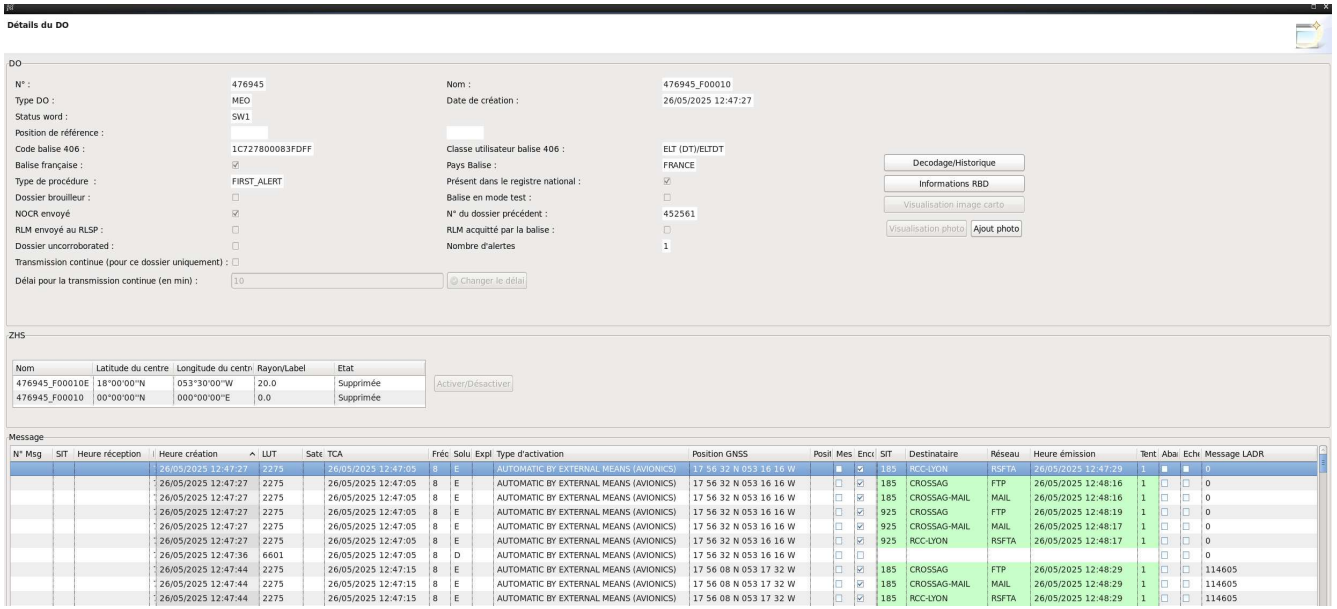




All distress signals received at the French Mission Control Center (FMCC) were processed and plotted on the operational interface, providing real-time situational awareness across multiple scenarios and geographic regions.

First event - FMCC

Operational data



SIT185 Message

Détails du message 19961326

Numéro interne : 19961326 Ancien numéro interne : 0
Réseau : FTP Sens du message : Sortant
Résultat analyse : OK Correspondant du message : CROSSAG
Status : Traité Date d'émission : 26/05/2025 12:48:16.561
Tentatives envoi : 1

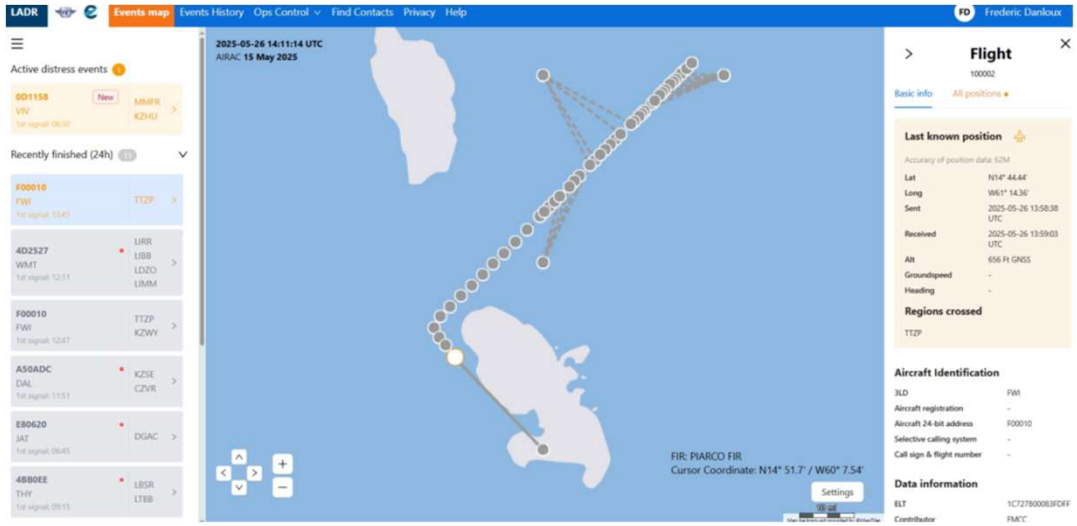
Texte :

1. DISTRESS TRACKING COSPAS-SARSAT INITIAL LOCATED ALERT
2. MSG NO 31299 FMCC REF 476945
3. BEACON MESSAGE INFORMATION
   BEACON TYPE ELT DISTRESS TRACKING
   AIRCRAFT 24-BIT ADDRESS F00010 ASSIGNED TO OACI-1
   F00010
   HEX ID 1C727800083FDFF
   COUNTRY OF BEACON REGISTRATION 227/ FRANCE
   ACTIVATION TYPE AUTOMATIC BY EXTERNAL MEANS (AVIONICS)
   GNSS POSITION PROVIDED BY UNKNOWN
4. ALERT POSITION INFORMATION
   DETECTED AT 26 MAY 25 124705 UTC BY MEOSAR
   ALERT LAST DETECTED AT 26 MAY 25 124705 UTC
   GNSS - 17 56.53 N 053 16.26 W
   UPDATE TIME WITHIN 0 - 2 SECONDS OF DETECTION TIME
   ALTITUDE OF GNSS LOCATION GREATER THAN 10000 METRES
   (32800 FEET)
5. OTHER INFORMATION
   BEACON REGISTRATION INFORMATION PROVIDED IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE
   ELT(DT) POSITION DOES NOT REFERENCE ANY PREVIOUS POSITION
   UNCORROBORATED MEOSAR ALERT
   DETECTION FREQUENCY 406.0315 MHZ
   GNSS POSITION UNCERTAINTY PLUS-MINUS 2 SECONDS
   OF LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE
6. REMARKS
   THIS DISTRESS TRACKING MESSAGE IS BEING SENT TO
   APPROPRIATE SAR AUTHORITIES.
   PROCESS THIS ALERT ACCORDING TO RELEVANT REQUIREMENTS

END OF MESSAGE

Second event

FMCC Mapping and Data Visualization



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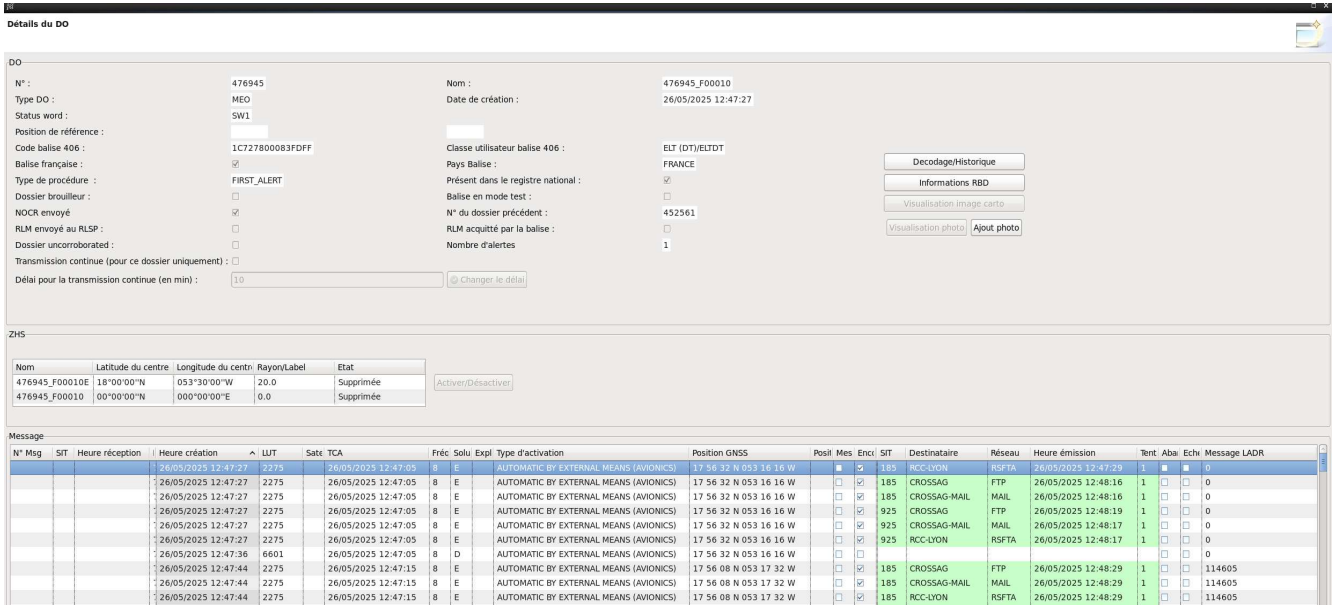
Second event

Operational data



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Recommendations & Synthesis

- Enhance cross-border SAR coordination and improve training
- Streamline Cospas-Sarsat alert distribution (MCCs & LADR)
- Update and maintain RCC contact lists and databases

FMCC Conclusions

- Verify LADR interface and procedures
- Confirm effective coordination between FMCC and EUROCONTROL