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Ministère de l'Équipement et des Transports
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PRESENTATION OF THE MAURITANIAN SAR SYSTEM

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CONTENTS



REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

SAR STAKEHOLDERS

SAR RESOURCES

NOUAKCHOTT RCC

CHALLENGES

The national regulatory framework for aeronautical search and rescue (SAR) is defined by Law No. 2018-040 establishing the Civil Aviation Code. Articles 77 to 80 of this law provide a comprehensive legal framework for assisting aircraft in distress, managing search and rescue operations, and handling wreckage and disappearance cases.

The Code specifies that merchant-marine rules applicable to maritime assistance and wrecks also apply to aircraft in distress or found at sea.

It entrusts the competent authorities — notably the ministry responsible for civil aviation, in coordination with the Ministry of Defence — with the organization, initiation, suspension, and termination of SAR operations through the Rescue Coordination Centres (RCCs).

The Decree No. 2011-339 establishes the national framework for aeronautical search and rescue (SAR) in Mauritania.

It defines SAR policy jointly by the ministry in charge of civil aviation, in coordination with the Ministry of Defence and other relevant departments, covering the entire national territory as well as areas for which Mauritania assumes international responsibility.

The decree establishes a Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC).

The Order No. 1826 implementing Decree No. 2011-339 specifies all operational means deployable for search and rescue of aircraft in distress.

Air assets subject to alert — under the RCC or other administrations — are activated according to their capacity, equipment, and availability, and crews receive specialised training in detection, rescue, and delivery of survival equipment.

Ground resources are deployed under the authority of the territorially competent Wali, whereas maritime resources operate under the authority of the Coast Guard Commander, especially for operations at sea.

All these resources are coordinated under the National SAR Plan and may be subject to specific implementation agreements between the involved administrations.

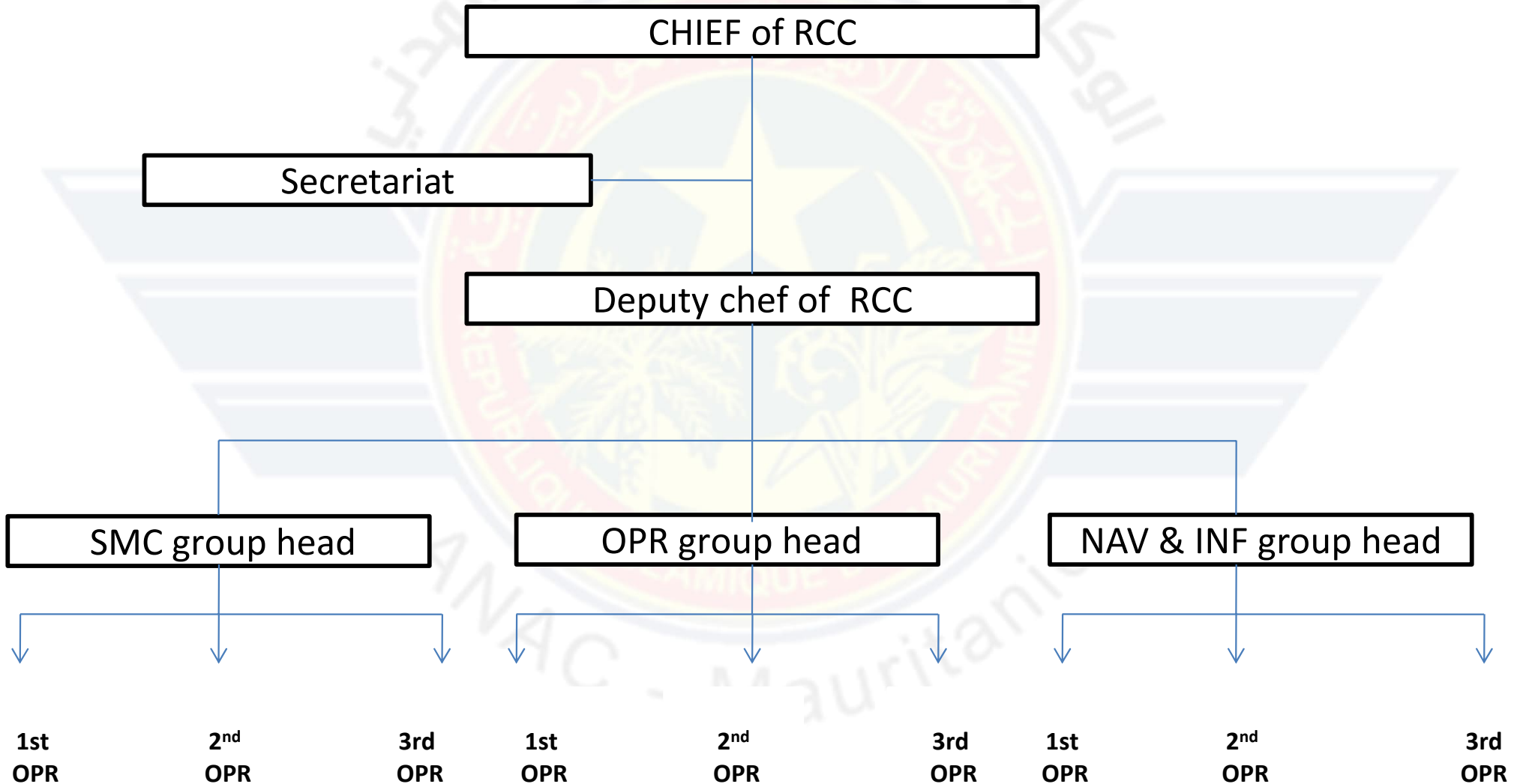
- **Ministry of Transport**
- **Ministry of Finance**
- **Ministry of National Defence**
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- **Ministry of Justice**
- **Ministry of Health**
- **Ministry of Territorial Administration**
- **General Staff of the Armed Forces**
- **Air Force General Staff**

The Nouakchott Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC), located at Nouakchott–Oumtounsy International Airport, is responsible for the organization, triggering, suspension, and termination of SAR operations, in constant liaison with air navigation services.

The RCC ensures general coordination, alert management, and determination of search areas, in accordance with applicable international conventions.



ORGANIGRAMME



HUMAN RESOURCES

Operational personnel trained and adapted to the operational environment:

16 staff members

3 officers

13 non-commissioned officers (operations agents)

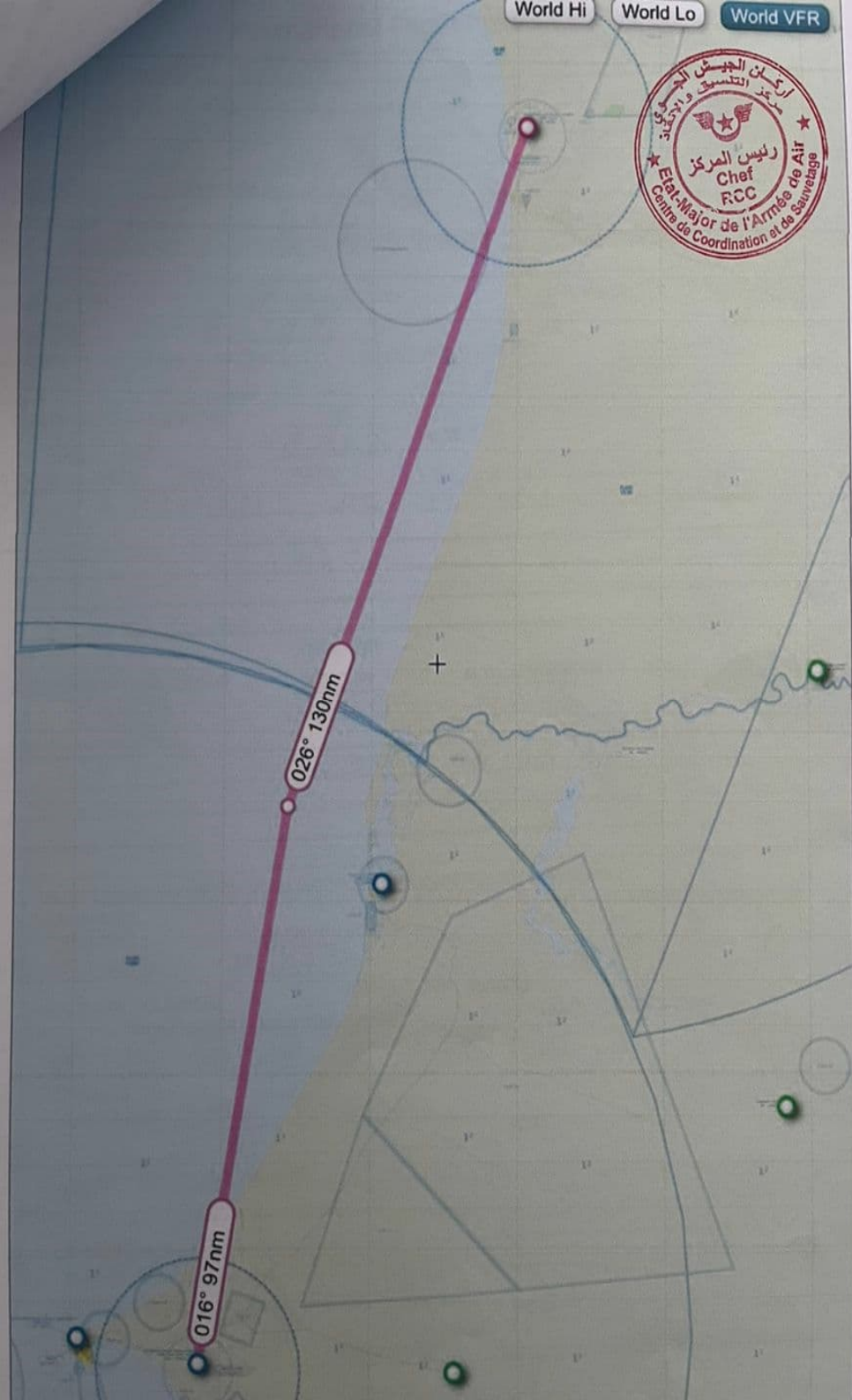
24/7 full-time operational coverage

COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

- **Telephone calls, AFTN/AMHS, FTP, fax, email, HF/VHF radio, satellite communication, military links, mail server, landline connections**
- **Integration into the COSPAS-SARSAT system with automatic distress signal reception:**
 - ✓ **PLB (Personal Locator Beacons)**
 - ✓ **ELT (Emergency Locator Transmitters)**
 - ✓ **EPIRB (Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons)**

EXERCISES

- Monthly communication exercise
- Annual coordination exercise
- Large-scale exercise every two years
- The RCC also participates annually in the **CANASAR** exercise in the Canary Islands (Spain)



LAND

Military / Gendarmerie / Police

Civil Protection / Public services and private companies

AIR

Specialized, semi-specialized and complementary air resources

SEA

Rescue boats / Support vessels

DC-3

Equipped with an MX-15 ISR camera

Capable of day and night search operations, including low-visibility conditions using infrared technology



C-208

Equipped with an MX-15 ISR camera

Capable of day and night search operations and low-visibility missions thanks to infrared sensors



AW-109

Well suited for rescue operations in remote or hard-to-reach areas



The Nouakchott RCC has signed national agreements with:

- **The Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (CCSM)**
- **The Airports of Mauritania Company (SAM)**
- **The National Transport Federation**
- **Mauritel Company (Mobile Operator)**
- **The General Directorate of Health Services of the Armed and Security Forces (DGSFAS)**

Mauritania has signed SAR bilateral agreements with:

- **The Arab Maghreb Union (Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia)**
- **The Republic of Mali**
- **The Republic of Niger**
- **Spain**

Under negotiation:

- **The Republic of Senegal**

STRATEGIC CHALLENGES OF THE SAR SYSTEM

Mauritania's national Search and Rescue system faces several major challenges influencing its operational effectiveness.

Updating the SAR regulatory framework remains a priority to align the national system with ICAO and IMO standards and recommended practices.

Another essential issue concerns the effective activation of the National SAR Coordination Committee, whose strategic role is vital for harmonizing procedures, validating orientations, and strengthening cooperation among the various civil and military institutions involved.

OPERATIONAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL CHALLENGES

At the operational level, conducting full-scale SAR exercises is a major challenge for testing team responsiveness, assessing inter-institutional coordination, and improving the performance of real-world operations.

At the international level, finalizing bilateral agreements with neighboring countries is essential for strengthened cross-border cooperation and continuity of SAR interventions in border areas.

A priority challenge concerns the construction of a permanent, dedicated RCC building — a critical requirement to ensure long-term stability, modernization, and sustainability of national SAR coordination capacity.



END

Thank you for your attention.