



THIRTEENTH AIR NAVIGATION CONFERENCE

Montréal, Canada, 9 to 19 October 2018

COMMITTEE A

Agenda Item 4: Implementing the global air navigation system and the role of planning and implementation regional groups (PIRGs)

4.4: Implementing search and rescue (SAR) processes and procedures

OVERVIEW ON SAUDI ARABIAN MISSION CONTROL CENTER (SAMCC)

(Presented by Saudi Arabia)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper provides an overview on the Saudi Arabian Mission Control Centre (SAMCC) with focus on going development to enhance operational capabilities for distress alert data transmission with consideration of on-going development at regional and global levels.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Saudi Arabian Mission Control Centre (SAMCC) is located in Jeddah Area Control Centre and has been serving the Middle East (MID) Region since 2000. The SAMCC is operated under the management of Saudi Air Navigation Services (SANS).

1.2 SAMCC has fully operational capability (FOC) as MCC since October 2007 inside the South-Central Data Distribution Region (DDR). It controls two LEOLUTs with G-SARP. These two LEOLUTs are located and are known as SALUT1 (ID: 4031) and SALUT2 (ID: 4032) and provide local mode coverage of the whole MID Region. The communication interfaces used by the SAMCC are: FTP-VPN, AFTN and Fax.

1.3 The SAMCC and LEOLUTs operate 24/7 throughout the year providing alert data through the co-located rescue coordination centre (RCC). SAMCC supports eight SPOCs within MID Region.

1.4 Under constant innovation and improvements of search and rescue (SAR) services managed by SANS, a search and rescue operation enhancement tools such as search and rescue operations computing system and MEOSAR system for search and rescue have been decided with allocation of the required budget.

1.5 The MEOSAR system is a major project, which have been recently awarded to specialized contractor. The contractor has offered the provision of SAR Master which in harmony with planned enhancements and improvements.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The improvement of SAMCC capabilities and performance is not limited to internal enhancement, SAMCC is working closely with adjacent RCCs to identify better ways and means to disseminate distress alert data in timely and efficient manner. With this respect and under the implementation of new SAR Master System at Bahrain RCC, SAMCC agreed with Bahrain to establish an automated connection where the new SAR Master will receive distress alert data automatically for Bahrain FIR.

2.2 Bahrain's SAR Master is considered as an enhancement to the ATC agreement signed by Jeddah and Bahrain ACCs on SAR notification and message exchange.

2.3 The connectivity between SAMCC and Bahrain's RCC is seen as a step forward to support the Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS) concept and distress tracking of ELT (DT) positioning within the MID Region.

2.4 The new operational capabilities will be subject of future joint exercises to check the level of readiness and ensure proper coordination between Saudi and Bahrain RCCs and assess timely response to any distress situations.

2.5 The location of SAMCC within Jeddah Area Control Centre offers the privilege to SAMCC to be fully aware of traffic positioning with immediate access to the air situation picture and quick identification of aircraft in distress.

2.6 As Air Defence Notification Centre (ADNC – Military Unit in charge of Air Traffic Coordination between Ministry of Defence and SANS) is also based in Jeddah Area Control Centre, SAMCC is also sharing in real time identification and localization of aircraft in distress within Jeddah FIR.

2.7 To support the implementation of GADSS and have access to additional information made available by aircraft tracking systems, SAMCC has a plan to be part of the agreements between SANS and major aircraft operators in order to set working arrangements for immediate access to information on positions/locations available to operators for an aircraft in distress. This information will be immediately made available to SPOCs and adjacent RCCs.

2.8 The exchange of aircraft tracking data automatically between aircraft operators, air navigation services providers (ANSPs) and RCCs should be subject of detailed technical discussion and Interface Concept Document (ICD) allowing automatic acquisition of the data that can be acquired and shared by SAMCC system. The development of ICAO guidance material on interfaces and data exchange between RCC, ANSPs and aircraft operators, as part of GADSS implementation, will support the effective setting and use of technical and operational working arrangements.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The SAMCC has required capabilities to provide identification and localization of ELT activated within Jeddah Search and Rescue Region (SRR) and within SRR of associated SPOCs. The

SAMCC location in Jeddah Area Control Centre (ACC) allows an immediate access to traffic positioning and air situation picture for all aircraft flying with Jeddah SRR.

3.2 As Air Defence Notification Centre is located in the same ACC, SAMCC can provide immediate information on location of an aircraft in distress allowing effective and efficient deployment of SAR operations.

3.3 The development of ICAO guidance material on the exchange of aircraft tracking data between aircraft operators, ANSPs and RCCs will have major contribution in the effective implementation of GADSS at regional and global levels.

3.4 In light of the above, the Conference is invited to take note of SAMCC operational capabilities and readiness to support the implementation of GADSS in the MID Region.

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