



International Civil Aviation Organization

North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

Sixth Meeting of Directors of Civil Aviation of the Central Caribbean (C/CAR DCA/6)

Nassau, Bahamas, 02-04 July 2003

C/CAR DCA/6 - WP/07

13/06/03

Agenda Item 3: Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI) and Search and Rescue (SAR) matters

SAR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CENTRAL CARIBBEAN (C/CAR)

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This Working Paper presents action proposals for continuing with the SAR Developments in the Central Caribbean keeping in mind the follow up to the work that the Central Caribbean MCI/SAR Task Force has done, as well as the results related to the GREPECAS/11, NACC/DCA/1 and C/CAR WG/3 Meetings.
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References:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS/11) (Manaus, Brazil, 3 – 7 December 2002)• Report of the First North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation Meeting (Grand Cayman , Cayman Islands, 8 – 11 October 2002)• Report of the Third Central Caribbean Working Group Meeting (Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 24 to 28 March 2003) |
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1. Introduction

1.1 The Eleventh Meeting of the CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS/11) held in Manaus, Brazil, from 3 to 7 December 2002 agreed, among other things, the following conclusions related with the development in Air Traffic Management (ATM):

- **Conclusion 11/35** – Search and Rescue National Plan
- **Conclusion 11/36** – Amendment to Table SAR 1 – Search and Rescue Facilities of the ANP, Volume II – FASID
- **Conclusion 11/37** – Transition Plan for the Mandatory use of ELT in 406 MHz
- **Conclusion 11/38** – Measures to be adopted for resolving ATM/SAR Deficiencies

1.2 The First North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation Meeting held in Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands from 8 to 11 October 2002 agreed the working guidelines for issues related with Search and Rescue Services in the CAR Region through the following conclusions:

- **Conclusion 1/26** – Search and Rescue Services (SAR) in the CAR Region
- **Conclusion 1/27** – E/CAR Regional Civil Aviation Mass Casualty Incident Response Plan

1.3 The Central Caribbean Working Group in its Third Meeting, held in Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, from 24 to 28 March 2003, noted the need to get involved in Search and Rescue issues according with the aforementioned conclusions as well as those drafted by the Third Regional Air Navigation CAR/SAM Meeting.

1.4 In order to assist aircraft in distress, Article 25 of the Chicago Convention points out:

“Each contracting State undertakes to provide such measures of assistance to aircraft in distress in its territory as it may find practicable, and to permit, subject to control by its own authorities, the owners of the aircraft or authorities of the State in which the aircraft is registered to provide such measures of assistance as may be necessitated by the circumstances. Each contracting State, when undertaking search for missing aircraft, will collaborate in coordinated measures which may be recommended from time to time pursuant to this Convention.”

1.5 For the provision and establishment of Search and Rescue services, Chapter 2 of Annex 12, in consistency with the Chicago Convention points out:

“2.1.1 Contracting States shall arrange for the establishment and provision of search and rescue services within their territories. Such services shall be provided on a 24-hour basis.

2.1.1.1 Those portions of the high seas or areas of undetermined sovereignty for which search and rescue services will be established shall be determined on the basis of regional air navigation agreements. A Contracting State having accepted the responsibility to provide search and rescue services in such areas shall thereafter arrange for the services to be established and provided in accordance with the provisions of this Annex.”

1.6 The Alert Service indicated in Annex 11, as a fundamental part of Air Traffic Services, is closely related to Search and Rescue Services, and it contemplates the different ATS Units as a central basis to gather all the information related to an emergency situation occurred to aircraft operating in the different ATS airspaces; this information is based on the Flight Plan.

1.7 In order to supply an alert service, ATS units have the mission to notify any available information of the Flight Plan, the Emergency Phase and the location of the aircraft to the coordinating rescue centre, to the operator and to other aircraft accordingly.

2. Discussion

2.1 The ICAO NACC Regional Office is aware of the efforts made in the SAR field in the Central Caribbean. However, and according with the Chicago Convention, it is convenient to increase the States' Civil Aviation Administrations efforts in order to establish Search and Rescue Plans as well as the coordination among States.

2.2 In order to recommend to the Meeting some required actions to continue with the implementation, the MCI/SAR Task Force Rapporteur is requested to inform the Meeting about the activities carried out for the development of the Search and Rescue Regional Plan in the Central Caribbean.

2.3 Considering the background mentioned in paragraphs 1.1 to 1.7 of this Working Paper, it is proposed to the Meeting to continue the development of Search and Rescue issues by recommending an appropriate action plan to develop and implement homogeneously this service in the Central Caribbean. At the same time, this plan should allow States to comply with the requirements included in the SAR 1 Table of the CAR/SAM FASID.

2.4 Furthermore, it is proposed to the Meeting to create a Search and Rescue Task Force (SAR/TF) and to eliminate SAR issues in the MCI/SAR Task Force, and to prepare and recommend an appropriate action plan for the homogeneous development and implementation of the Search and Rescue Plans in the Central Caribbean.

2.5 To this end, among other aspects, the Meeting should take into account the information presented in this Working Paper.

3. Conclusion

3.1 Taking into account the background and the information presented in the above paragraphs, the Meeting is presented with the following Draft Conclusion:

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CONCLUSION 6/XX

IMPLEMENTATION OF SEARCH AND RESCUE PLANS IN THE CENTRAL CARIBBEAN

That Central Caribbean States and Territories:

- a) support and provide with the necessary resources to continue with the development of Search and Rescue National and Regional Plans;
- b) promote the creation of a Search and Rescue Task Force (SAR/TF) that takes over SAR issues in the Central Caribbean and to report to the Central Caribbean Working Group (C/CAR WG) according to its work programme, in order to implement a Regional Search and Rescue Plan; and
- c) inform to the ICAO NACC Regional Office of the advances in the implementation of the National and Regional Search and Rescue Plans.

4. Suggested action

4.1 The Civil Aviation Directors of the Central Caribbean are invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this Working Paper;
- b) review and approve the Draft Conclusion contained in paragraph 3.1; and
- c) consider and adopt any other actions that they deem appropriate.

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