



COCESNA



**Central American
Corporation for Air
Navigation Services**



COCESNA: Origins

- ◆ In 1959 there was an initiative for establishing a Central American organization with the purpose of pooling resources for the provision of specialized regional aeronautical communication services.
- ◆ The General Directors of the Central American countries held a Diplomatic Conference on February 26, 1960 to establish the best alternative to provide these services.
- ◆ The Member States are: Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua and Belize.



COCESNA: Origins

- ◆ Central American integration organization
- ◆ Non-profit and public organization
- ◆ Legally and financially independent body
- ◆ Sole provider of air traffic services, aeronautical telecommunications, Nav-Aids and radio communications for air navigation in the Central American region.
- ◆ The Constitutive Agreement is registered in ICAO and the United Nations.

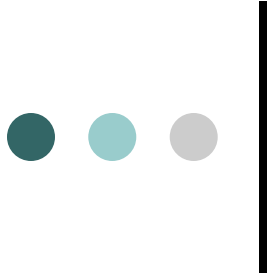


COCESNA: Origins

- ◆ Within the creation of COCESNA, the legal bases were established for the Corporation to provide services in the different areas of Safety to the Member States.

Three main areas:

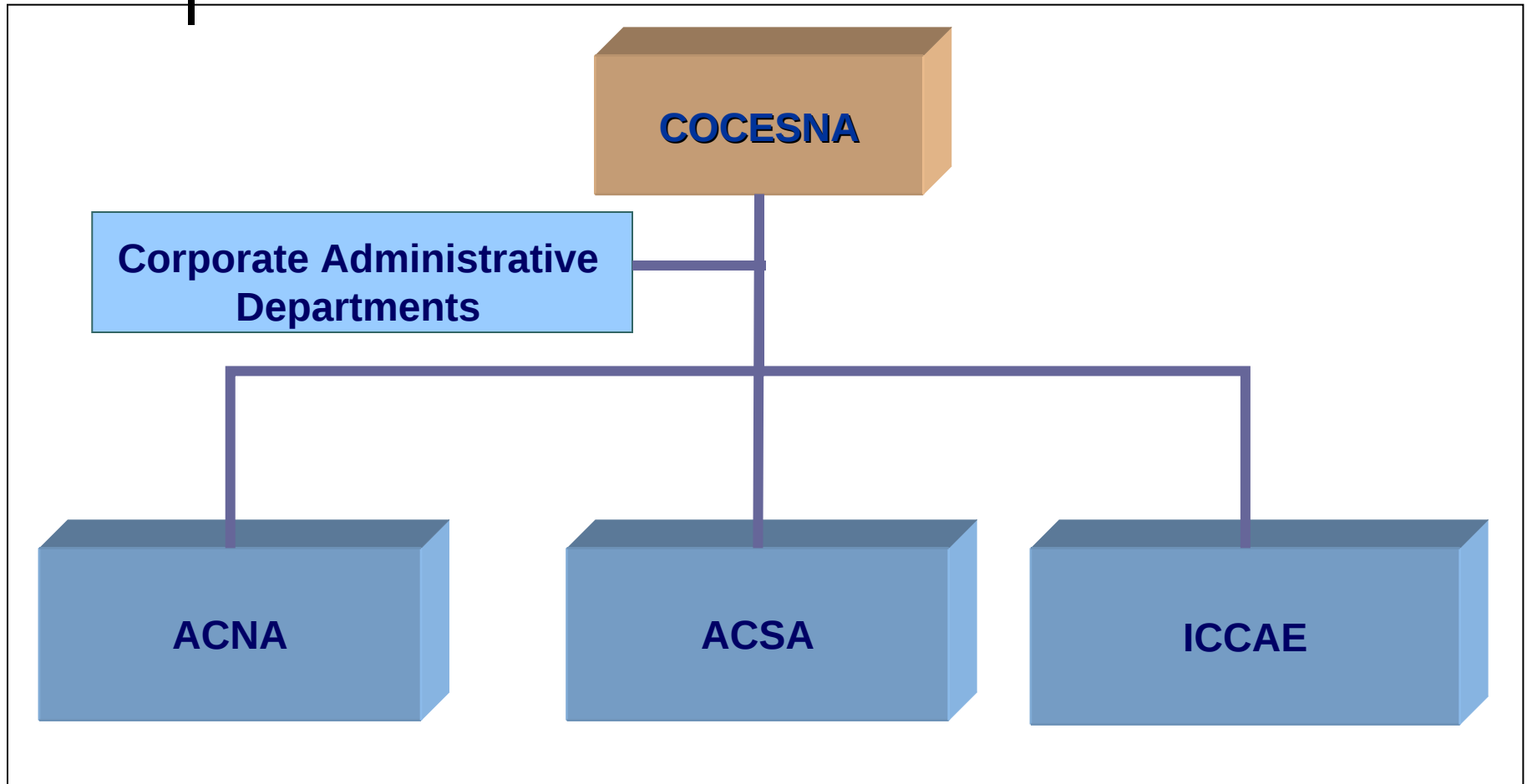
- ◆ Air Navigation
- ◆ Aeronautical Training
- ◆ Aeronautical Safety



COCESNA: Structure Technical Specialties

- ◆ In order to comply with its mandate, COCESNA has created three specialized agencies:
 - ◆ ACNA: Central American Agency for Air Navigation
 - ◆ ACSA: Central American Agency for Aeronautical Safety
 - ◆ ICCAE: Central American Institute for Aeronautical Training

COCESNA: Structure





ACSA

- ◆ This Agency was created with the objective of RECOMMENDING, ADVISING, GUIDING and FACILITATING to the Member States of COCESNA in the necessary steps to comply with the obligations as signatories and members of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).



ACSA's PRIORITIES

- ◆ Aid the Region to comply with the requirements and standards of ICAO.
- ◆ Improve the level of Safety in the Region.
- ◆ Support COCESNA members on ICAO audits and FAA evaluations and the development of action plans.



ACSA's PRIORITIES

- ◆ Establish a process of harmonization and standardization for the Region.
- ◆ An Agency capable of contributing effectively to the international safety activities through economies of scale.
- ◆ International recognition



ACSA

- ◆ Due to ACSA's priorities, since 2005, COCESNA gave this agency the task to improve ATCOs and pilots language proficiency level. Therefore, a **regional program** was developed:

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY PROGRAM



ACSA'S REGIONAL PROGRAM

- ◆ Some advantages obtained developing the program as a region were:
 - ◆ Standardized procedures for the benchmarking, training, and licensing.
 - ◆ Reduced costs considerably.
 - ◆ Acquired experience in working with six countries developing a language proficiency program.
 - ◆ Been able to transfer program capability to other nations.



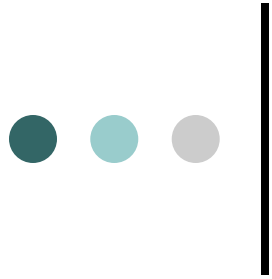
ACSA'S REGIONAL PROGRAM

The English language proficiency program was divided in three stages:

◆ BENCHMARKING

◆ TRAINING

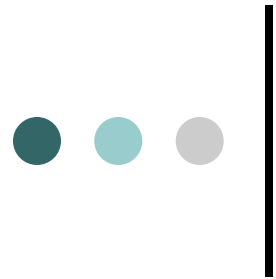
◆ LICENSING



ACSA'S REGIONAL PROGRAM

To start the program:

- ◆ A regional multitask team of instructors/ratters was selected (As ICAO requires)
 - ◆ Air traffic controllers
 - ◆ Linguists
 - ◆ English teachers
 - ◆ **Pilots**
- ◆ Technical Assistance
 - ◆ Technical Assistance Agreement FAA-COCESNA
 - ◆ Purchase of the testing material
 - ◆ Instructor's/ratter's training



ACSA'S REGIONAL PROGRAM

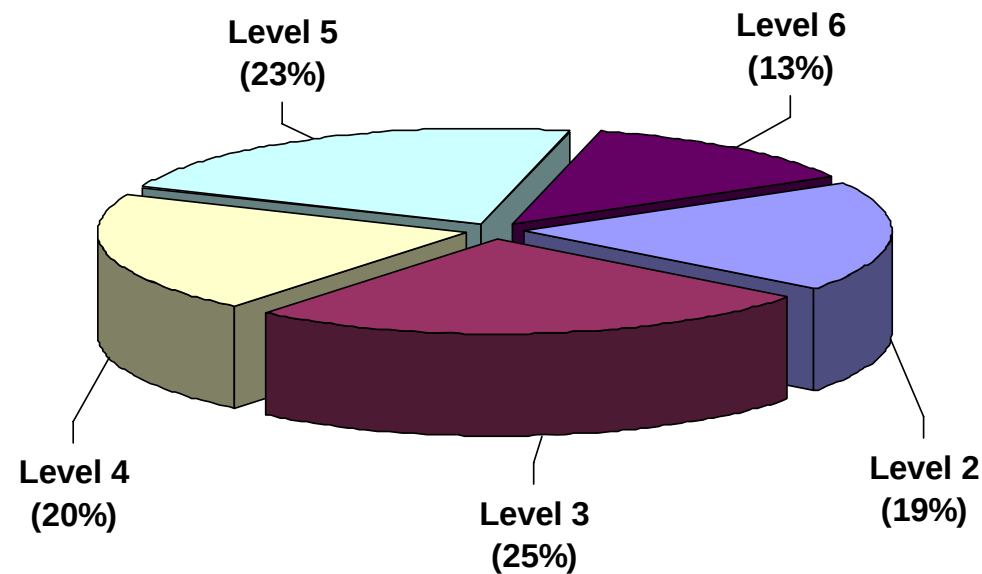
Benchmarking:

- ◆ Test complies with ICAO requirements
(Pronunciation, Fluency, Vocabulary, Structure, Comprehension, and Interaction)
- ◆ Tested 96% of air traffic controller population.
- ◆ Tested 15% of pilot population



ACSA'S REGIONAL PROGRAM

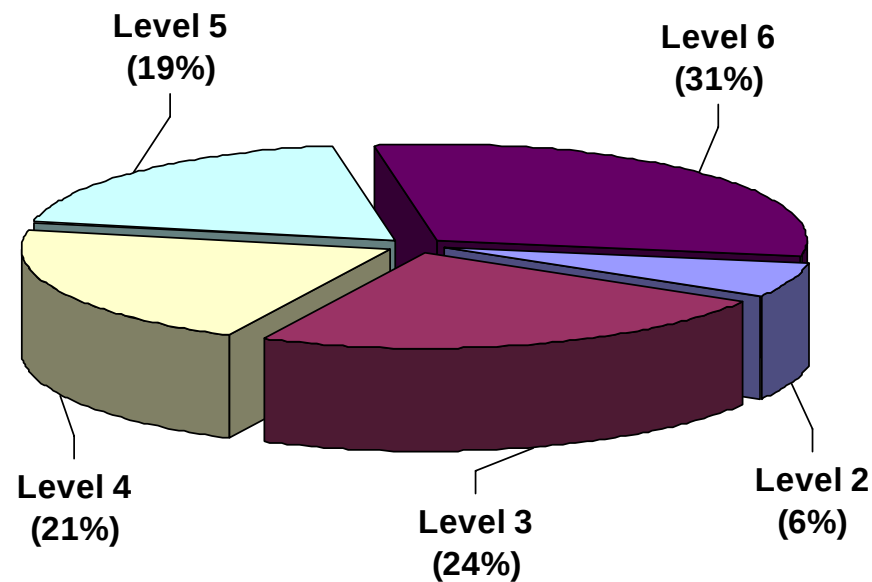
ATCO's benchmarking results:





ACSA'S REGIONAL PROGRAM

Pilot's benchmarking results:

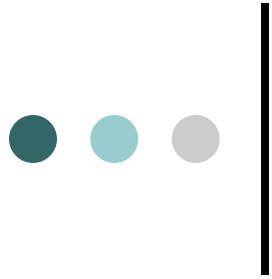




ACSA'S REGIONAL PROGRAM

Benchmarking

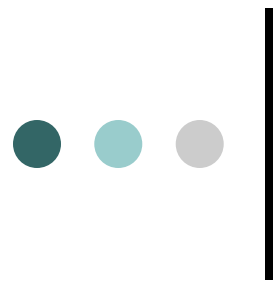
- ◆ 44% of tested ATCOs and 30% of tested pilots are below level 4
- ◆ Most people that are over 45 are below level 4 (according to ICAO scale)



ACSA'S REGIONAL PROGRAM

Training

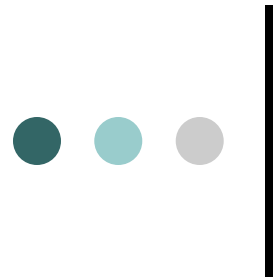
- ◆ Training is required to address the language proficiency needs identified in the benchmark tests.
- ◆ Technical Assistance Agreement FAA-COCESNA
 - ◆ Instructor's trained
 - ◆ At least one instructor for each Central American country
 - ◆ Keep improving language proficiency level on controllers and pilots after March 2008



ACSA'S REGIONAL PROGRAM

Training

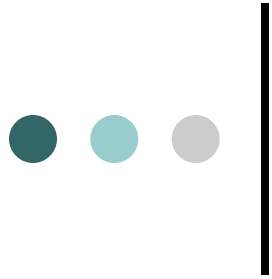
- ◆ Will start on July 2007
- ◆ According to the program, air traffic controllers will finish their training by November 2007 and in the worst case by January 2008



ACSA'S REGIONAL PROGRAM

Training

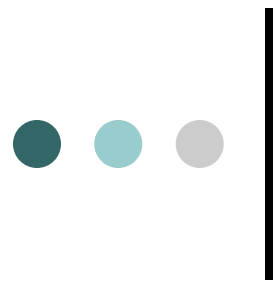
- ◆ Training will be delivered in a decentralized way
 - ◆ Time will be optimized
 - ◆ Costs will be reduced



ACSA'S REGIONAL PROGRAM

Licensing

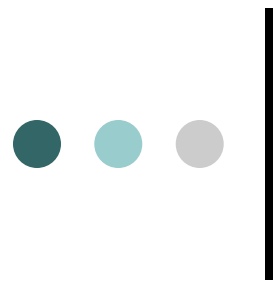
- ◆ ACSA is working on a Licensing test:
 - ◆ Will comply with ICAO requirements for licensing.
 - ◆ Will be finished by October 2007.
- ◆ According to the language proficiency program, licensing might start on January 2008 in Central America.
- ◆ The licensing test will be ready to be shared with any interested country on January 2008.



ACSA'S REGIONAL PROGRAM

Lessons learned:

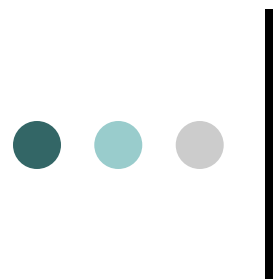
- ◆ To start a project like this one, you need the assistance of other organizations with experience in this field.
- ◆ The easiest way to overcome this challenge was pooling resources together.



ACSA'S REGIONAL PROGRAM

Lessons learned:

- ◆ In Central America, most controllers and pilots that are over 45 are below level 4 and are the ones who need more training time in order to accomplish ICAO's requirements.



ACSA'S REGIONAL PROGRAM

Lessons learned:

- ◆ The importance of SHARING with other States throughout agreements.
- ◆ Countries like Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama have asked COCESNA for assistance and we are currently working on an agreement.



ACSA'S REGIONAL PROGRAM

◆ Most important achievements obtained:

- ◆ EXPERIENCE
- ◆ KNOWLEDGE

COCESNA is willing to share this experience and knowledge acquired in the language proficiency field with any interested country.



COCESNA

QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU



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