



Agenda Item 3: Air Navigation Matters

3.2 Follow-up on the implementation of the NAM/CAR Regional Performance Based Air Navigation Plan (RPBANIP) in Eastern Caribbean:

PROGRESS REPORT OF THE AIM COMMITTEE

(Presented by AIS Committee)

SUMMARY	
This information paper reports on the activities of AIS in the ECAR region as they relate to RPOs listed in the NAM/CAR RPBANIP.	
References:	
• Report of the 23rd Meeting of Directors of Civil Aviation of the Eastern Caribbean (E/CAR/DCA/23), Christ Church, Barbados, 9 to 12 November 2010 • NAM/CAR Regional Performance-Based Air Navigation Implementation Plan (NAM/CAR RPBANIP), Ver. 2.0, May, 2011 • Report of the 1st Meeting of the Programmes and Projects Review Committee (PPRC/1) Mexico City, 25-27, April 2012	
<i>Strategic Objectives</i>	<i>This working paper is related to Strategic Objectives A and C.</i>

1. Introduction

1.1. The AIS committee of the Eastern Caribbean Working group has been working to bring to the forefront the solutions to issues of AIS as it relates to ATM in the region. Note has been taken of the new methodologies adopted by ICAO replacing the AIM sub-group with Programmes and Projects and implementing the Regional Performance-Based Air Navigation Implementation Plan RPBANIP as some of the methods to give impetus to objectives that need serious attention and that otherwise would have been overly delayed.

2. Activities

2.1. AIS in this E/CAR Region has been slowly making progress in some of the regional performance objectives and some of these are listed below:

2.2 **Transition to AIM – RPO 11 - Implement a Quality Management System in AIS - Project G3.**

- This element is in phase one according to the AIS to AIM roadmap, yet many states have not started implementing their QMS within AIS. The Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority (TTCAA) has contracted a new quality assured AIM system that requires a QMS for its data management processes so that users of the system can be assured of the accuracy and integrity of the data.
- The TTCAA has also signalled that its efforts to implement a QMS in its AIS has been revitalized and that it is now seeking to restructure its AIS Unit into a true AIM Unit.
- Since this AIM system will contain a database populated with data for the Eastern Caribbean States, it has become urgent for these states to establish AIS Quality Management Systems. If the data that goes into the system from these AIS Units are not quality assured, the data that comes out of the system, no matter how sophisticated, will not be reliable, defeating the purpose of the AIM system.
- States are therefore urged place the establishment of an AIS QMS as top priority.
- It must be noted that the AIS in Barbados has in place an ISO 9001-2008 certified quality management system.

2.3 **Implementation of the New ICAO Flight plan Form - RPO 5**

- It is expected that all Eastern Caribbean State AIS units have been familiarizing themselves with Amendment 1 to the 15th Edition of the PANS ATM. These changes will affect mainly ATM units which depend on flight processing systems. Staff of Eastern Caribbean (ECAR) AIS units responsible for transmitting flight plans via AFTN terminals which do no processing of flight plans should learn to compile flight plans in the new format manually. It is also desirable that AIS unit staff possessing flight plan processing systems that are compliant with the new format also learn to manually compile flight plans in the new format. This enhances the ability of the AIS Officer to detect non-compliance and also provides a contingency if the workstation fails. An education programme is being drafted for Trinidad and Tobago tentatively starting in August 2012. Barbados plans to include training for the New FPL format in their 2012 Air Traffic Controllers' refresher training programme commencing in July 2012.
- Barbados and Grenada have identical FPL processing systems (AtomTM) which the manufacturer is actively working to upgrade in order to accept, process and transmit new format flight plans. Plans are in place to install the new software in Barbados June 14-15. Plans are also in place to perform AtomTM FPL 2012 tests with FAA Oceanic (ATOP) and domestic (HOST/ERAM) systems 18-19 June. AtomTM FPL 2012 test system will be available to Barbados ATC and AIS personnel to train and test with adjacent facilities using the AFTN circuit from June 27, 2012. Although, exact the timelines for Grenada are unknown, they are expected to closely parallel those for Barbados.

- Trinidad and Tobago's new ATM system is flight plan 2012 compliant. In addition, the TTCAA will install flight plan 2012-compliant workstations within Eastern Caribbean States. This installation will not meet the November 2012 deadline, however, a flight plan converter will be working as an attachment to the switch to convert all flight plans to and from non-compliant Eastern Caribbean States. Again it is emphasized that whenever possible, AIS Officers should attempt to compile flight plans in the new format manually. Each individual state has the responsibility to ensure that their ATS and AIS staff are familiar with the new format. Installation of the new workstations in Eastern Caribbean states is scheduled to be completed by May 2013.

2.4 **Status of Letters of Agreement – RPO 11**

- Since 2009, AIS letters of agreement have been drafted and sent for signature. Over the years due to persistent effort the majority of LOAs have been signed. The States of these signed LOAs are to be commended. Within the new AIM environment however, new letters of agreement must be re-drafted and signed. Data will be exchanged in a different manner and the new centralized flight plan system which is coming on stream this year, will call for adjusted relationships between the Piarco AIS Unit and those of the rest Eastern Caribbean. There may also be need for some ECAR AIS Units to draft agreements among themselves. New letters will be drafted by Piarco and sent to States in January 2013. States are urged to treat these LOAs with higher priority than was experienced with previous Letters of Agreement.

2.5 **Missing and Duplicate Flight Plans (Centralized Flight Planning) –RPO 11**

- A recommendation arising out of the investigation on missing and duplicate flight plans in the Eastern Caribbean indicated that a solution might be a centralized flight planning system. The TTCAA, in harmony with the transition of its AIS to AIM, has acquired with its new AIM system, a centralized flight planning system with its main database at Piarco. The installation of this system in Piarco and connection to States would be accomplished by the second quarter of 2013. This solution should see the end of incidences of missing and duplicate flight plans in the Eastern Caribbean region, since both incoming and outgoing flight plans would be addressed to this centralized system, which in turn would distribute flight plans to its relevant addresses according to routing, departure and destination.

3. **Familiarization Visits**

3.1 Several years ago, a familiarization programme for AIS staff was offered by Trinidad and Tobago. Given the significant changes taking place as it relates to the processing of FPLs and ATS messages, and the introduction of the new centralized FPL processing system, the ECAR AIM committee recommends that some consideration be given to the re-introduction of this programme. This will become necessary in order to better understand how AIP and charting information is affected and or generated by information entering the database by individual states. This will in turn result in more efficient use of the AIS system.

4. AIM Meeting

4.1 The need to host an AIM meeting in the E/CAR for AIS/AIM specialists continues to grow in urgency. Matters such as the implementation of a standard quality assurance system, referred to earlier in this document, not to mention the evolution to AIM are still outstanding. In addition, it is necessary for the E/CAR States to develop a strategy for the coordinated implementation of the eTOD and other new AIM concepts in the Region. These are but a few of the most urgent AIS matters facing the E/CAR and the most efficient method would be a working meeting similar to this meeting, but focusing only on AIS/AIM matters.

5. AIM Seminar

5.1 ICAO NACC Regional Office is once again hosting an AIM seminar/workshop to be held in Montego Bay, Jamaica 23 – 27 July 2012. This important event will address a variety of subjects related to AIM that incorporate management, structure, delivery and control of critical and relevant information/data for the ATM operational concept and other users. States are urged to take advantage of this unique opportunity to expose their AIS specialists to experts in the field of Aeronautical Information Management.

6. Suggested action

6.1 The Meeting is invited to take note of the above ECAR AIS activities and:

- a) to urge States to register their participants for the AIM Seminar; and
- b) to determine the appropriate actions regarding the above issues