



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**Second Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Regional Search and Rescue Task Force (APSAR/2)**

Singapore, 27 – 30 January 2014

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**Agenda Item 4:** Asia/Pacific and inter-regional SAR planning, coordination and cooperation

**ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ASIA/PACIFIC SAR LIBRARY**

(Presented by the United States of America)

**SUMMARY**

Based on discussion in the report of the first meeting of the APSAR Task Force, the United States will develop a SAR library on a web site that will be available to other national SAR authorities. Input is requested from the APSAR Task Force members to resolve some implementation details, particularly regarding documents specific to the Asia/Pacific region and the structure of the web site.

**Strategic Objectives:**

A: *Safety*

**Global Plan Initiatives:**

GPI-9 Situational awareness

GPI-16 Decision support systems and alerting systems

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The report of APSAR 1 noted in several places the need for a SAR library and the value of it being hosted on a web site. The U. S. Coast Guard will develop a web site to serve as a national, regional, and global SAR library for maritime and aeronautical SAR documents. The goal is to provide a site from which any national SAR authority can either download required SAR documents and publications or that the web site itself could serve as verification that the RCC/RSC or SAR Point of Contact (SPOC) has access to them.

1.2 The SAR library is in its early stage of development. The U.S. Coast Guard created a web site and is committed to maintaining the site with current versions of all documents. However, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has expressed a strong interest in serving as the host of the SAR library web site. The two U.S. agencies will compare ideas on which agency can provide the best service to international users, such as ease of access and quickness in uploading new documents, and have the site available by the summer of 2014.

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## 2. DISCUSSION

2.1 As the U.S. develops the web site, input from the APSAR Task Force is requested regarding the documents to be posted and the structure and folders on the site. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has already developed a list of IMO documents and publications which should be held by a maritime RCC, and this document will be available for viewing at the APSAR Task Force meeting. ICAO has not yet developed a comparable list of SAR documents required for aeronautical RCCs. However, the September 2014 session of the ICAO/IMO Joint Working Group on SAR will have a working paper submitted by the aeronautical member from Canada on a recommended list of SAR documents to be held by a maritime, an aeronautical and a joint RCC.

2.2 Documents on the web site would not include those publications which are purchased. Those posted would be what IMO refers to as “unpublished documents” – those which are non-copyright and thus are available for free. However, consideration will be given to posting extracts of certain IMO and/or ICAO documents, such as large ICAO annexes with only small sections applicable to SAR. Current setup of the SAR library web site and pending questions/decisions include:

- a) Only non-copyright documents will be fully posted.
- b) The IMO list of documents, as appropriate, will be posted.
- c) A subfolder will be established for recommended aeronautical documents.
- d) Proposed list of recommended aeronautical documents would include limited extracts of Annex 6 - *Operation of Aircraft*, Annex 10 – *Aeronautical Communications*, and Annex 14 – *Aerodromes* (Aerodrome Emergency Plan). The entire Annex 12 – *Search and Rescue* should be obtained by the SAR authority and a copy held by the RCC/SPOC.
- e) Decide who would provide updates and current versions of aeronautical documents to the U.S. Coast Guard for posting on the web site.
- f) The ICAO Regional Office could post appropriate regional documents, such as the Asia/Pac Air Navigation Plan and extracts of relevant documents, or provide a link to where it is maintained (and note which sections have SAR content).
- g) National and regional subfolders can be established or links provided.
- h) Decide on method to show how current the document is. For example, documents could have a ‘date of upload’ in the format of DD MMM YYYY.
- i) The ICAO/IMO JWG web site might provide a good model.
- j) Other issues to consider to enable an Asia/Pacific SAR authority to meet the intent of the SAR Matrix requirement for a SAR library.

2.3 The web site may not solve all of the problems for a State. For some of the documents that are purchased, ICAO and IMO provide a limited number of copies free to all States, such as *Annex 12* to the Convention as well as the *International Aeronautical and Maritime SAR (IAMSAR) Manual*. However, the national SAR authority may need to check within its own administration to ensure that a copy of these documents is available for the SAR service to use. Also, if a State has difficulty in having web access then it could arrange periodic distribution of copies by other means from another State.

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**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to discuss the information provided in paragraph 2.2 above and provide its views as to the documents to post on the web site and the structure of the web site.

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