



International Civil Aviation Organization

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

Singapore, 27 – 30 January 2014

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

**REPORT OF THE FIFTH PACIFIC REGIONAL MARITIME
SEARCH AND RESCUE WORKSHOP**

(Presented by French New Caledonia)

SUMMARY

This paper presents a brief report of the Fifth Pacific Regional Maritime Search and Rescue Workshop (3-7 June 2013) discussions, dealing with aviation

Strategic Objectives:

A: *Safety – Enhance global civil aviation safety*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This information paper aims to present a feedback of the Fifth Pacific Regional Maritime Search and Rescue Workshop, held in Suva, Fiji, from 3 to 7 June 2013 by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

2. DISCUSSION

Presentations

• **ICAO Asia-Pacific regional SAR task force presentation by Scott Constable:**

Scott Constable (AMSA), Chair, ICAO APSAR/TF presented on the ICAO Asia-Pacific regional SAR task force. Mr Constable noted that the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation, which established the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), contains 96 Articles. Article 54 recommends the adoption of international standards and recommended practices and designating them as annexes to the convention. Annex 12 of the convention addresses SAR, and is applicable to the establishment, maintenance and operation of SAR services in the territories of Contracting States and over the high seas, and to the coordination of such services between States.

This annex adopts the IAMSAR Manual as an annex.

Delegates noted that although the Chicago Convention is only applicable to signatory States; the ICAO taskforce is striving to engage with other interested organisations and any other relevant body in regards to SAR services.

• **Aviation – JRCC functions**

John Seward, RCCNZ spoke on the functions and advantages of a Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) and the experiences that MNZ had in establishing one. He noted that unifying RCC functions provided cost savings in infrastructure and personnel, improvement to response times, and training efficiencies. RCCNZ supports NZ police on Category 1 SAR responses and coordinates Category II SAR responses for sea/air/land incidents in NZ Search and Rescue Region (NZSRR).

- **Aviation SAR incidents – lessons learnt**
Richard Roberts, Deputy Chief, Incident Management Branch Commander, USCG JRCC Honolulu, presented on Aviation SAR incidents – lessons learnt. The presentation highlighted the need for 4 specialised knowledge and time sensitivity requirements, above and beyond those required for a maritime incident, when responding to an aviation SAR incident. These additional requirements must be available during all five SAR stages: awareness, initial action, planning, operations and mission conclusion for a successful outcome.
- **Fiji aviation SAR responsibility & the role of the Nadi RCC**
Theresa Levestam, Air Traffic Management Inspector/Search and Rescue of the Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji (CAAF) and Ilimeleki Navula, Controller Standards and Search and Rescue of Airports Fiji Limited (AFL) presented on the role of Nadi RCC. The presentation covered the following:
 - SAR obligation
 - SAR structure (current)
 - Laws and standards
 - Area of responsibility
 - SAR services and facilities
 - SAR agreements
 - Constraints and way forward

Outcomes of the meeting

- **Inter-agency cooperation**
(vi) Recognising limitations in financial and human resources, workshop encouraged PICTs (Pacific Island countries and territories) to improve communication and planning between the bodies responsible for aviation, maritime and land SAR. Workshop further encouraged national SAR authorities/agencies to examine the benefits of establishing a joint rescue coordination centre (JRCC), if considered necessary to be in the best interest of the country.
- **Aviation and maritime synergies**
(vii) Recognising the synergies between maritime and aviation SAR operations, workshop encouraged national SAR authorities/agencies to promote harmonisation of aeronautical and maritime SAR services.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper; and
- b) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate.