



International Civil Aviation Organization

Fourth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Regional Search and Rescue Task Force (APSAR/TF/4)

Bangkok, Thailand, 06 – 10 July 2015

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

INDIAN OCEAN SAR CAPABILITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

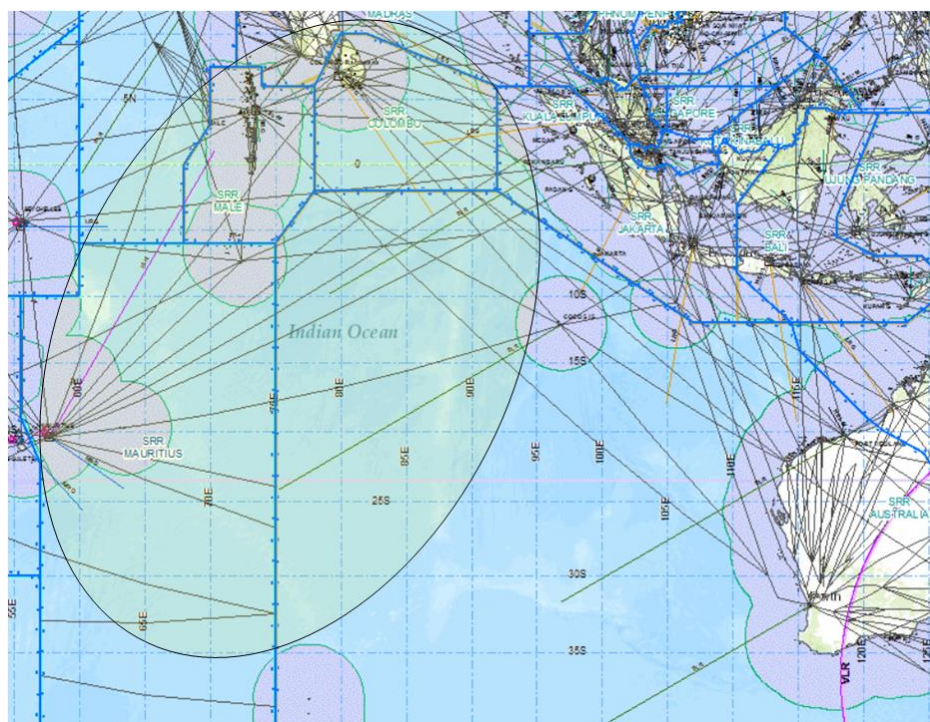
(Presented by Australia)

SUMMARY

This paper presents an update on the progress of the recently established program between Australia, the Maldives, Mauritius and Sri Lanka to improve and enhance regional SAR capability in the central Indian Ocean area.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 At the APSAR/TF/3 meeting 25-29 January 2015, Maldives, Australia presented an Information Paper (IP06) introducing a new initiative between Australia, the Maldives, Mauritius and Sri Lanka with the objective of improving regional SAR service capability in the Indian Ocean region, the Search and Rescue Capability Partnership Program (SCPP).



Focus Area of SAR Capabilty Improvement

1.2 The Program aims to assist the Maldives, Mauritius and Sri Lanka to strengthen their own national SAR services to enable more effective responses to aviation and maritime SAR incidents. The improved SAR capability of these States should also lead to an enhanced regional SAR capability in the central Indian Ocean area which presents challenges to SAR response in some very remote oceanic areas for all four partner countries.

1.3 Program activities have now commenced with SAR Capability Assessments of each partner State completed during January/February 2015 and a SCPP Familiarisation visit to Australia by representatives of the partner countries 27 June – 3 July 2015.

1.4 The Australian Government is providing approximately \$3 million Australian dollars to fund this program between January 2015 and June 2017.

2. DISCUSSION

SAR Capability Assessments

2.1 In January/February 2015 an assessment was conducted of the Maldives, Mauritius and Sri Lanka SAR systems coordinated by the Search and Rescue division of the Australia Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA). The National Self-Assessment on Search and Rescue checklist from the IAMSAR Manual, Appendix H, was used as a basis to guide these activities. Each of the three countries completed their own self-assessments using this checklist which was then used to help guide the AMSA teams who travelled to each country to conduct on-site assessments. A work program is now under development based on recommendations made from the assessments and input from the partner countries. The work program focuses on specific tasks which could realistically be achieved during the life of the program and within the available funding.

2.2 Recommendations include providing assistance with the development of different elements, or the enhancement of existing elements, in broad areas such as SAR system governance, SAR Agreements, ARCC and MRCC coordination, procedures and documentation, SAR system/information technology support, training, mobile SAR unit set-up, SAR exercises and safety education. The recommendations also include examining the merits of a JRCC model.

SCPP Familiarisation visit to Australia

2.3 Six representatives from the partner countries visited AMSA's JRCC Australia from 26 June to 3 July 2015, with one representative from each ARCC and MRCC of each country attending who are directly responsible for running a SAR incident and are involved in the planning and training for SAR system enhancements. The purpose of the visit was to:

- Obtain familiarisation on the set-up, capabilities and personnel of the Australian JRCC;
- Meet representatives from other partner countries and Australia to establish connections and develop operational relationships;
- Understand the structure and documents used to form JRCC Australia and how these have progressed;
- Appreciate the staffing arrangements, training, systems and tools in use in JRCC Australia;
- Discuss the experiences from MH370 and other large incidents and lessons learned;
- Develop a high level plan to implement the recommendations as outlined in the SAR Capability Assessment reports; and

- Make arrangements for SAREXs.

2.4 The familiarisation program included:

- Overview of the Australian National SAR System;
- COSPAS-SARSAT System overview;
- Australian 406MHz Beacon Database;
- Non COSPAS-SARSAT SAR Alerting Devices – emerging technology and impact on SAR;
- Introduction to JRCC Australia;
- JRCC Australia specific operational documents;
- Introduction to JRCC SAR Tool Kit using incident examples, including capability and data sources for consideration by partner countries, familiarisation with Australian JRCC systems and personnel, set-up and benefits of a JRCC, SAR response components, practical use of SAR arrangements;
- SAR Unit arrangements, aircraft, equipment and air observers;
- Regional SAR engagement;
- AMSA’s SAR system publicity awareness, education and prevention programs;
- SAR Officer Training including pre-requisites and background requirements;
- Discussions for proposed SAREX Workshop in each country;
- Air Search Observer introduction training;
- Flight in civilian SRU aircraft (Cessna Conquest) simulating search tasks; and
- Visit to tour dedicated SRU aircraft (Dornier 328) and base with flight to simulate maritime search.

2.5 At the end of the week’s program discussion sessions were held to assist with further refinement and delivery of the SPCP work program.

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.

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