

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
First Meeting of the AFI Volcanic Ash Steering Group (AFI VOLCEX SG/1)
(Virtual, 5 July 2022)
Agenda Item 4 - Planning for ICAO Volcanic Ash Exercise in the AFI Region in 2023
WP-4.1 Planning for ICAO Volcanic Ash Exercise in the AFI Region in 2023
(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY
<p>This paper provides guidance to develop a tentative planning of the core activities related to organization and the conduct of the AFI VOLCEX 23/01 in 2023,</p> <p>Action by the meeting in paragraph 3</p>
<p>REFERENCE(S):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ToR of AFI VOLCEX/SG • AFI VOLCEX OPINS • Doc 9766 Handbook on the IAVW
<p>Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A – Safety, B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. the Twenty-fourth Meeting of the AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/24), held virtually from 1 to 8 November 2021, through its Decision 24/ 28, endorsed the AFI Volcanic Ash Exercise Operational Instructions (AFI VOLCEX OPINS) and Directives to guide the conduct of the volcanic ash exercise in the AFI region.
- 1.2. According to the guidance provided in the AFI VOLCEX OPINS, the volcanic ash exercise should be planned and conducted every two in the region.
- 1.3. This paper outlines the core steps to help the Exercise Leader to develop the 2023 exercise planning.

2. DISCUSSIONS

- 2.1. AFI Volcanic Ash Exercise Operational Instructions (AFI VOLCEX OPINS) provides details on planning and conducting volcanic ash exercise.
- 2.2. In accordance with the guidelines outlined in the AFI VOLCEX OPINS and the Appendix F of Doc 9766, the framework of the AFI VOLCEX 23/01 includes:
 - a) Determination of Exercise Leader and Directing Staff;
 - b) Participating Agencies, including States, International Organizations, airlines and other bodies;

- c) Exercise aims and objectives considering recommendations from VOLCEX 21/01 debrief meeting and any requests from the Directing Staff.

2.3. The Planning Meetings are held at least 3 months prior to a planned exercise in the AFI Region and are chaired by the Exercise Leader (as determined by the AFI VOLCEX/SG). The main purpose is to:

- a) Determine the specific date(s) and time(s) of the exercise;
- b) Negotiate the aims and objectives of the exercise;
- c) Design a scenario to meet the objectives of the exercise, Exercise scenario planning, including:
 - Exercise volcano;
 - Exercise duration;
 - Role of VAACs, MWOs, ACCs, Network Manager, MATMC, EACCC, volcano observatory, IATA and airline operators, national supervisory authorities, and other players;
 - Communications ;
 - Exercise Directives;
 - Initial Exercise Reports;
 - Exercise Debrief; and
 - Final Exercise Report
- d) Identify agencies and personnel with Directing Staff responsibility; and
- e) Exchange information of interest for the exercise community.

2.4. The Planning Meeting should normally be hosted by one of the participating agencies or can be conducted online. Delegates should include key personnel able to make decisions on behalf of their own organization or specialist area.

2.5. As chair, the Exercise Leader, in co-ordination with the host agency, should prepare the Planning Meeting agenda, and provide necessary travel/accommodation and meeting facilities information. Any delegate may suggest an agenda item, which should be forwarded to the Exercise Leader at least four weeks prior to the Planning Meeting.

2.6. The delegates attending the Planning Meeting shall be prepared to:

- a) Present ideas for new exercise and develop a complete scenario for the exercise;
- b) Decide date for the next exercise;
- c) Identify Directing Staff.

2.7. The Exercise Leader may elect to prepare minutes which are to be circulated to the appropriate organizations not more than four weeks after the Planning Meeting

3. ACTIONS BY THE MEETING

3.1. The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information contained in this paper;
- b) Encourage the elected Exercise Leader State to develop the 2023 Exercise Directives and Schedule for submission to the APIRG IIM/SG5 Meeting.

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