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WORKING PAPER

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Second Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Technical Group (E/CAR/CATG/2) Meeting
Miami, United States, 15 to 17 July 2015

Agenda Item 4: Air Navigation Matters

4.2 Follow-up on the implementation of the NAM/CAR Regional Performance Based Air Navigation Plan (RPBANIP) and the Port-of-Spain Declaration Air Navigation Targets in the Eastern Caribbean

REPORT OF E/CAR/CATG AIM COMMITTEE

(Presented by the AIM Committee Rapporteur)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This working paper details the activities of the AIM Committee since E/CAR/CATG/1.	
Action:	Suggested Actions are presented in Section 3.
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency• Environmental Protection
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Technical Group Meeting (E/CAR/CATG/1), Martinique, French Antilles, France, 19 to 21 June 2013

1. Introduction

1.1 This report details the activities of the E/CAR AIM Committee since E/CAR/CATG/1 Meeting, convened in Martinique, 19-21 June 2013. In the interim the AIM Committee advanced its work programme by way of email and teleconferences. The AIM Committee is comprised of Barbados, France, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States and ECCAA. This Committee successfully coordinated the hosting of an AIM Workshop 30 September to 2 October 2015.

2. Discussion

AIM Familiarization Programme

2.1 Since June 2012 at the 33rd E/CAR/WG, it had been recommended that Trinidad and Tobago host an AIM familiarization programme for AIM specialists from ECAR states. This event was convened 30 September to 2 October 2014. The response was excellent with participants from eleven (11) ECAR States, ICAO, FAA, ECCAA and several Industry Representatives. Matters discussed included the Port of Spain Declaration, the Roadmap for the Transition from AIS to AIM, Flight Planning issues, Digital NOTAM, Electronic Terrain and Obstacle Data and QMS in AIM. The full Summary of Discussions is available at <http://www.icao.int/nacc/Pages/meeting-2014-ecaraim.aspx>.

Flight Planning and Related Issues

2.2 The Eastern Caribbean is represented in the Flight Plan Ad hoc group and has participated in two exercises related to data gathering on erroneous/missing /duplicate flight plans, as outlined below:

1. First exercise 21 July to 22 August 2014

- The ANI/G FPL Ad Hoc group had made a list of recommendations to be immediately implemented. Recommendations were distributed by letter from NACC office dated 19 December 2014. Some recommendations were implemented but others were not possible due to E/CAR states limited resources of personnel;
- The Ad Hoc group members met in Mexico 24 Feb to 26 Feb 2015. Results of the first exercise were discussed among other issues.

2. Second exercise 15 March to 10 April, 2015

- Results collected showed no significant improvement to the number of erroneous FPLs. A teleconference was held on 15 May 2015. It was suggested that errors should be treated individually where the duplicated FPLs would be looked at first.

Centralized Flight Planning System (CFPS)

2.3 Following extensive investigations into the problem of missing and duplicate flight plans carried out by the ECAR AIS Committee, a centralized flight planning system was identified as a possible solution. The system has been installed in Trinidad and Tobago and is ready for regional implementation. The system was pre-tested during Feb-March 2015 and the results were submitted to the software provider for analysis.

1. The system is intended to be implemented during the third quarter of 2015. Due process of issuance of AIC would inform all of changes of procedure whereby:
 - a) A single AFTN address would be used to address all FPLs within the Piarco FIR.
 - b) The CFPS would analyse the FPL and automatically address same to the appropriate states within the Piarco FIR **only**.

Quality Management System (QMS)

2.4 Trinidad and Tobago is at an intermediate stage in the development of a QMS that meets the standards established by ICAO for a QMS in Aeronautical Information Management. The documentation phase is substantially complete (approx. 90 %) and the deployment and implementation phases (including training and assessment) are ongoing. It is estimated that the QMS will be fully implemented by August 2015 and receipt of ISO 9001:2008 Certification by March 2016.

Electronic Terrain and Obstacle Data (eTOD)

2.5 There has been little progress in this area, due largely to a lack of expertise in this field within the region. Consequently, following a mission to the ECAR in November 2012, the Regional Officer, Aeronautical Information Management from the ICAO NACC Office, suggested that this is an area where a technical assistance programme could be developed for the Eastern Caribbean. Additionally, the ICAO NACC is scheduled the hosting of a seminar on the implementation of eTOD, 23 -25 November 2015, in the Regional Office in Mexico City.

2.6 On a more positive note, the TTCAA acquired an Electronic Terrain and Obstacle Data (eTOD) suite, in 2014. The Site acceptance Test was completed in September 2014 and training of six Aeronautical Information Services Staff members took place from 2nd to 13th March 2015. It is expected that the eTOD suite will enable the following:

- 1) Satisfaction of the ICAO requirement for eTOD datasets for the State of Trinidad and Tobago in Areas 1, 2 and 3 in the AIXM format;
- 2) The ability to evaluate potential obstacles with respect to the Obstacle Limitation Surfaces, thereby, assisting the section of the TTCAA involved in assessment of existing and potential obstacles around the aerodrome;
- 3) The ability to evaluate obstacles with respect to the Annex 15 surfaces (Areas 2 to 4) for publishing in the AIP. As it relates to other States, the obstacle information must be provided in a specified format, along with Runway centre-line, threshold, clearway and stop way information, including runway dimensions. In addition, the terrain information of the state is necessary;
- 4) The global mapper application on the eTOD workstation can be used to obtain the relevant Digital Terrain Model as well as to generate the coordinate reference system needed to begin the process; and
- 5) The ability to produce accurate ICAO Type A or Type B Aerodrome Obstacle Charts for Trinidad and Tobago.

NOTAM Contingency Plan

2.7 Trinidad and Tobago and Curacao have signed a Letter of Intent to develop a NOTAM contingency plan for the Eastern Caribbean States and Curacao. The Plan will be achieved using the services of IDS North America. IDS North America has a NOTAM software package in both States called SPATIA. A technical proposal has been submitted by IDS North America and the TTCAA CNS and AIM departments are currently evaluating the proposal. The Directorate of the TTCAA is committed to achieving this goal. This project is expected to be completed by the first quarter 2016.

Implementation of AMHS in the PIARCO FIR/FAA

2.8 Testing of the AMHS in the Eastern Caribbean using the Tobago node has been successfully completed. Cutover for the ECAR states is expected to take place in the month of August 2015. A detailed listing for each state's cutover plan will be sent out in July 2015. Training will be very minimal as the Human Machine Interface (HMI) will be very much like the HMI of the AFTN. This training is intended to be accomplished remotely. Testing with the FAA is ongoing. Despite some latency issues, tests conducted thus far have been mostly successful. Testing was halted due to challenges with the MEVA/REDDIG interconnect. Testing will resume in July 2015 and cutover is expected by the end of the third quarter 2015.

3. Suggested Action

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) note the E/CAR AIS activities outlined above;
- b) consider attendance at the eTOD seminar scheduled for November in Mexico City;
- c) recommend any other action as deemed necessary.

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