



ICAO

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North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

(E/CAR/CATG/3) — WP/12
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Third Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Technical Group Meeting (E/CAR/CATG/3)
Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis, 19 to 21 October 2016

Agenda Item 3: Air Navigation Matters

3.2 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:

3.2.1 Progress reports of the AIM, AGA, ATM, CNS, MET and SAR Committees

SAR COMMITTEE REPORT

(Presented by SAR Committee Rapporteur/Trinidad and Tobago)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This paper is a summary of the improvements of the SAR Committee since the last E/CAR/CATG/2 and the E/CAR/DCA/26 meetings.	
Action:	The suggested action is 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">• Report of the First Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Technical Group Meeting (E/CAR/CATG/2) Miami, United States, 15 to 17 July 2015• Report of the Twenty Fifth Meeting of Directors of Civil Aviation of the Eastern Caribbean (E/CAR/DCA/26), New Orleans, United States, 1 - 3 December 2015

1. Introduction

1.1 Following the Second Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Technical Group Meeting (E/CAR/CATG/2) Miami, United States, 15 to 17 July 2015 and the Twenty Sixth Meeting of Directors of Civil Aviation of the Eastern Caribbean (E/CAR/DCA/26), New Orleans, United States, 1 - 3 December 2015, developments within the E/CAR Region continued with improvements in Search and Rescue (SAR) via civil/military collaboration and meetings.

DRAFT CONCLUSION
ECAR/CATG 2/8

HARMONIZATION OF SAR SERVICES IN THE E/CAR

That:

- a) *E/CAR States/Territories submit to the SAR Committee Rapporteur by 30 October 2015:*
 - i. *information of their Points of Contact (POCs) in the civil and military areas for coordination of the SAR services;*
 - ii. *improvements made to SAR services based on the analysis of their respective SAR capabilities; and*
 - iii. *their respective implementation Projects to be harmonised with the Regional SAR Implementation Project; and*
- b) *E/CAR States/Territories convene a high level meeting in the second quarter of 2016 with the participation of civil aviation Authorities and maritime authorities of the E/CAR States/Territories and States of adjacent FIRs, for the harmonized provision of SAR services in the E/CAR.*

CONCLUSION
E/CAR/DCA/26/08

**SAR POCs FOR SAR IMPROVEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE E/CAR
NATURAL DISASTER EMERGENCY PLAN**

That, in order to ensure the appropriate participation and involvement of the necessary parties for the implementation of SAR improvements in the E/CAR area, as well as the completion of the E/CAR Natural Disaster Emergency Plan:

- a) *ICAO, in coordination with the E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee Rapporteur, submit a letter by **15 January 2016** to the E/CAR States requesting the PoCs from the State, SAR executing bodies and any other involved entity necessary for the SAR improvements and E/CAR Natural Disaster Emergency Plan; and*
- b) *the E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee coordinate the different supports on SAR training and trial events and inform of an Action Plan for these improvements and the E/CAR Natural Disaster Emergency Plan by the E/CARDCA/27 Meeting.*

2. Discussion

2.1 In August 2015, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago attended the SAR Administrators Course at the Singapore Aviation Academy. The SAR Administrators Course provided theoretical and practical knowledge on the planning and management of search and rescue (SAR) organisations. It enhanced the knowledge and skills required to carry out SAR coordination effectively and efficiently in an integrated emergency response system.

2.2 On the 27th November 2015, an E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee on-line meeting was held. The meeting was geared towards assisting States with their Operational needs.

2.2.1 Persons in attendance were:

- Mrs. Dianne Skeete (BCAD) – Barbados
- Mrs. Cecelia Vital (DASPA) – Dominica
- Mr. Nicholas Mark (TTCAA) – Trinidad and Tobago
- Mr. Barry Phirangee (TTCAA) – Trinidad and Tobago
- Flying Officer Adams (TTAG) – Trinidad and Tobago

2.2.2 Some of the discussions included:

- Individual States update of their SAR System;
- Continued updates of SAR PoCs;
- Enhancement of States resources to support Aviation Contingency plans;
- The development of the A-SAR & AN-SEC Operations room; which will house the ARCC Piarco and AN-SEC Operations;
- The need for standardized documentation throughout the Region;
- A template for Letters of Agreements was shared and support given to States from the E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee to engage their national and regional agencies; and
- Addressing Training with a regional approach. The draft Unit Training Plan has been completed and would be used to train ATCOs at various levels, in Trinidad and Tobago. This programme could be offered to interested States.

2.3 On the 7th March 2016, Trinidad and Tobago completed its A-SAR & AN-SEC Operations Centre. The A-SAR & AN-SEC Operations Centre will be used for the coordination of Aeronautical Search and Rescue & Air Navigation Security (A-SAR & AN-SEC) operations within the Piarco FIR. The Centre has all the supporting equipment needed for global communication and operational coordination in the event of an Aeronautical Incident or Accident.

2.3.1 The A-SAR & AN-SEC Operations Centre also houses the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC) Piarco. The ARCC Piarco would be responsible for coordinating the conduct of A-SAR operations within the Piarco FIR. The ARCC will comprise of the following:

- Personnel skilled in A-SAR operations and coordination.
- Personnel with a working knowledge of the English language;
- Charts which apply to FIRs (aeronautical, nautical, topographic and hydrographic);
- Electronic and manual means of plotting SAR areas;
- Ability to receive the reports of Emergency Beacon Distress Signals within the Piarco FIR from the United States Mission Control Center;
- Communications with associated Air Traffic Services Units within and adjacent to the Piarco FIR;
- Communications with Search and Rescue Units (SRUs), adjacent RCCs, designated Meteorological Offices and Alerting Posts; and
- Other technological resources.

2.3.2 The A-SAR & AN-SEC Operations Centre has an executive briefing room to accommodate various executives in a time of crisis with the availability and use of cutting edge technological tools to make calculated and sound decisions.

2.4 During March 2016, the E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee represented by two (2) persons from Trinidad and Tobago participated in the annual Search and Rescue (SAR) Controllers conference and training Seminar on the development of the MEOSAR system hosted by the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

2.5 On the 26th April, 2016 an E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee on-line meeting was held. The meeting was geared towards assisting States with their Operational needs.

2.5.1 Persons in attendance were:

- Mrs. Cecelia Vital (DASPA) – Dominica
- Mr. Andre West (Fire Department) – Montserrat
- Mr. Nicholas Mark (TTCAA) – Trinidad and Tobago
- Mr. Barry Phirangee (TTCAA) – Trinidad and Tobago
- Mr. Sushil Maraj (TTCAA) – Trinidad and Tobago

2.5.2 Some of the discussions included:

- Individual States update of their SAR System;
- Continued updates of SAR PoCs;
- Enhancement of States resources to support Aviation Contingency plans;
- The operations of the ARCC Piarco was introduced to new participating States;
- The need for States to complete Letters of Agreements throughout the Region;
- The formalization of a Letter of Agreement between Antigua, the French West Indies, Montserrat, and St. Kitts and Nevis;
- An Update of Montserrat's SAR assets;
- An Update on work done by Trinidad and Tobago in the area of A-SAR training.

2.6 For the period 10 - 12 October, 2016, the E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee Rapporteur attended the Twelfth Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas (CDMA), held at the Hyatt Regency in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

2.6.1 The conference focused on three (3) main areas:

- Security and Defence of the Americas in a Changing International Environment;
- Environmental Protection and Resilience; and
- Hemispheric Security and Defence cooperation Policy: Beginning with Strengthening Emergency Assistance.

2.6.2 The E/CAR/CATG SAR Rapporteur participated in the working Group for Hemispheric Security and Defence cooperation Policy.

2.7 On the 14th October, 2016 an E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee on-line meeting was held. The meeting was geared towards assisting States with their Operational needs.

2.7.1 Persons in attendance were:

- Cmdr. Elroy Skerritt (ABDF) – Antigua
- Mrs. Dianne Skeete (BCAD) – Barbados
- Mr. Kendrick Mason (BCAD) – Barbados
- Mr. Nicholas Mark (TTCAA) – Trinidad and Tobago
- Mr. Sushil Maraj (TTCAA) – Trinidad and Tobago

2.7.2 Some of the discussions included:

- Individual States update of their SAR System;
- Continued updates of SAR PoCs;
- Enhancement of States resources to support Aviation Contingency plans;
- Barbados request for the resources required for SAR be brought to the attention of CARICOM through CASSOS. Some of these resources include staffing, equipment, training and the required legislation to support National and Regional SAR efforts;
- Antigua's recommendation for States throughout the Region to adopt a collaborative effort towards SAR operations in an effort to reduce cost
- The need for States to complete Letters of Agreements throughout the Region.

2.8 During October 2016, Trinidad and Tobago met with a delegation from Portugal to discuss the settlement of an Aeronautical SAR Agreement to be signed by the two (2) States.

2.9 Trinidad and Tobago completed a Draft A-SAR Unit Training Plan (UTP) and an A-SAR Quality Assurance (QA) Programme which were submitted for review in the month of September. Work is still on-going on the Aeronautical Search and Rescue Operations Manual (ASOM) and the Piarco Aviation Contingency Plan.

2.10 E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee drafted thirteen (13) Letters of Agreements to be distributed to the relevant States to be considered before settlement.

2.11 For the period 25-28 October, 2016; Trinidad and Tobago will be hosting the North American, Caribbean and South American (NAM/CAR/SAM) Search and Rescue (SAR) Implementation and Civil/Military Coordination Meeting.

2.11.1 The general topics for the meeting will include:

- Global and Regional Search and Rescue (SAR) Matters
- SAR Agreements
- Civil/Military Coordination
- Airspace Organization and Management (AOM)

3. Suggested Action

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information contained in this paper;
- b) Discuss any relevant matters as appropriate;
- c) Urge States within the Eastern Caribbean Region to collaborate to establish Letters of Agreements with neighbouring States or adjoining airspaces;
- d) Urge States to improve on their local Civil/Military coordination;
- e) Urge States to participate at regional forums to develop Regional efforts in the aid of SAR;
- f) Urge States to make every effort to participate at the upcoming NAM/CAR/SAM SAR Implementation and Civil/Military Coordination Meeting; and
- g) Provide other recommendations to improve SAR services in the E/CAR Region.

— END —