



August 11, 2017

Dear Directors General:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), in cooperation with the United States Department of Transportation Safe Skies for Africa Program, in conjunction with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), is pleased to announce the Global Operational Data Link Document (GOLD) Workshop/Familiarization with Performance Based Communications Surveillance (PBCS) Data Link Monitoring Activities. This event is hosted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) – Western and Central Africa (WACAF) Office, at the ICAO-WACAF Office, Dakar, Senegal, 11-15 September, 2017.

This program will provide participants with knowledge of the continued efforts to harmonize data link use in Africa, while providing an opportunity to learn about functions provided by the FANS central reporting agency (CRA). Best practices will be demonstrated on data submission, problem reporting, investigation, and resolutions of the reported anomalies.

This workshop is open to Civil Aviation Authorities (CAA), Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSP), and others who currently use Controller-Pilot Data Link Communications (CPDLC) and Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Contract (ADS-C). In addition, attendees should be familiar with Performance-based Communications and Surveillance (PBCS).

This workshop is designed to provide a forum for open discussions among colleagues and subject matter experts. During this week, participants will become familiar with data collection and reporting and have the opportunity to compare the different tools available for analysis and discuss best practices. Practical exercises will reinforce material covered in the workshop. Course instruction and all materials will be presented in English.

Highlights of the workshop agenda include:

- 1) Review of PBCS framework
- 2) Reporting, investigation, and resolution for data link problems
 - a. Requirements of administering a central reporting agency (CRA)
 - b. Information on existing CRAs
- 3) Data collection and analysis to conduct monitoring of ADS-C surveillance data delivery times, CPDLC transaction times, and system availability



- 4) Introduction of existing tools that may be used to assist the ANSPs in the analysis and monitoring activities
- 5) Data Link case studies from the FAA Advanced Technologies and Oceanic Procedures (ATOP) program
- 6) Practical exercises throughout the workshop to reinforce materials

The workshop will commence on Monday, September 11, 2017, and conclude on Friday afternoon, September 15, 2017. Thanks to the support of the SSFA program and the generosity of ICAO-WACAF, there is no registration fee for the workshop. Participants are only responsible for their travel, accommodations, and per diem.

The nominees should be designated by the head of agency. Each country may nominate up to three qualified officials. The officials should be selected from the CAA or ANSP. Please email the names and complete contact information (title, organization, mailing address, phone, fax, and email) for your three nominees to our program coordinators, Ms. Oumou Bengeloune (oumou.bengeloune@faa.gov) and Ms. Renee Pocius (renee.pocius@faa.gov) by August 25, 2017. Confirmed individuals will receive pre-travel information directly.

We look forward to your State's participation in this Global Operational Data Link Document (GOLD) Workshop. Please contact my colleagues listed above if you have questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grady Stone".

Grady Stone
FAA Senior Representative in Africa