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Seminar on Satellite-Aided Distress Tracking

Agenda Item 4 – RCCs and SPOCs

COSPAS SARSAT

MISSION CONTROL CENTRE (MCC) & SEARCH & RESCUE POINT OF CONTACT (SPOC) REQUIREMENTS

Mission Control Centre

Distribution Function

- An MCC that receives alert data for a beacon position in its own service area forwards the alert data to the appropriate SPOC or national RCC, in accordance with the applicable Cospas-Sarsat or national procedures.

Requirements

- Provide and confirm distress alert and location data from the Cospas-Sarsat System from the MCC to the SPOC; and
- Provide information concerning the System status to the SPOC.
- The Notice of Country of Registration (NOCR) service provides notification to the SPOC of a country when an alert is located outside of that country's SRR for a beacon registered to the country.

Search & Rescue Point of Contact (SPOC)

- States shall designate a SAR point of contact (SPOC) for receiving Cospas-Sarsat alert and location data for distress locations in their SAR area of responsibility and provide the address, telephone, telex or facsimile number or AFTN/AMHS address of their SPOC to MCC and the Cospas-Sarsat Secretariat.
- SPOCs will immediately notify their MCC of any changes to the provided contact details.
- SPOCs will develop a comprehensive plan for the distribution of distress alert and location data to SAR authorities within its SRR, as appropriate.
- SPOCs will maintain reliable communication links with the MCC and respond to monthly communication tests from the MCC immediately after receipt thereof (not using an automatically generated response) to verify the integrity of communications links between the MCC and SPOC.
- SPOCs will at all times endeavour to support the MCC in its efforts to fulfil its objectives and commitments under the ICSPA in accordance with the provisions of any agreement/ arrangement.

Operational

- It is essential that MCCs establish appropriate arrangements with all the countries/SPOCs in their service area on communication links to be used for the distribution of alert data.

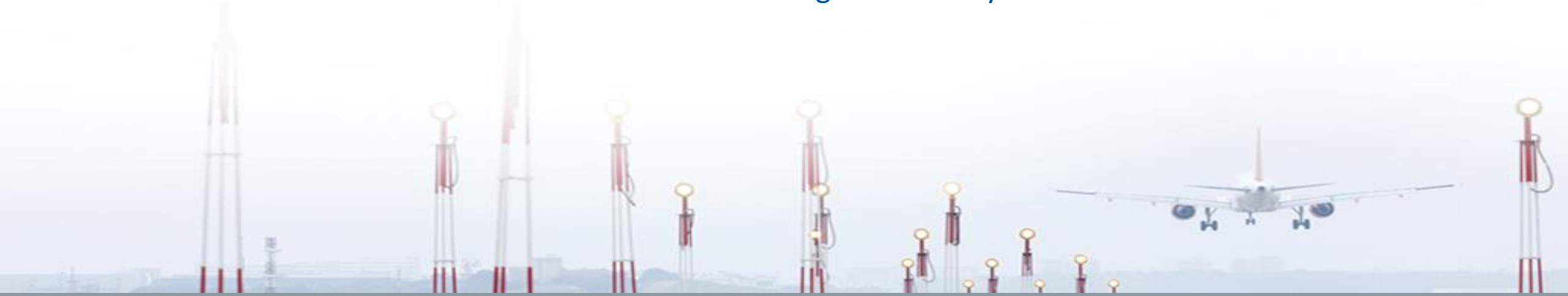
- The MCC and SPOC shall establish reliable communication links (AFTN/AMHS, FTP, fax, email) and operational procedures, which include backup routines.

- An MCC shall use an agreed format, I.E., the SIT 185 format as specified in document C/S A.002, to transmit alert messages to SPOCs of Administrations in their service area.

Maintaining Communications

- An MCC will perform a monthly communication test with each SPOC in its service area. The test will include a transmission of a test message from the MCC to the SPOC and an acknowledgement of the message by the SPOC/RCC operator (i.e. an automatic acknowledgement is not acceptable) to the MCC.

- A successful communication test requires that the manual acknowledgement from the SPOC/RCC be received within 30 minutes and the test message should clearly reflect this requirement. The test should be undertaken at various times throughout the day.



Requirements

- If SPOCs are an RCC they must comply with requirements and should follow the recommendations of ICAO Annex 12. They should also base their SAR practice/procedures on the IAMSAR Manual (noting they can derogate to any ICAO requirement as soon as the State makes available the local procedures in its national documentation)

ICAO Annex 12 — *Search and Rescue*

- 2.4.1 - Each RCC shall have means of rapid and reliable two-way communication with the Cospas-Sarsat Mission Control Centre servicing the search and rescue region.
- 3.2.5 - States shall designate a search and rescue point of contact for the receipt of Cospas-Sarsat distress data.
- According to paragraph 5.2.4, the RCC to coordinate SAR action can be determined as the RCC responsible for the region in which the distress site is located as identified by the Cospas-Sarsat System.

Model Agreement

https://cospas-sarsat.int/images/templates/SPOC_Model_new_2017-06-30.docx

Questions?

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Break – please return before 1540

Please remain connected!