



SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) ORGANIZATION IN CAMEROON



OUTLINES



- **SAR OPERATING ENTITIES**
- **SAR AUDIT FINDINGS**
- **NATIONAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**
- **RESCUE SUB CENTER**
- **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**
- **CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES**



GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION

The cameroonian territory is divided between the search and rescue region (SRR) of N'Djamena (whose boundaries coincide with the flight information region (FIR) of N'Djamena), and the SRR of Brazzaville (whose limits coincide with the Brazzaville FIR).



SAR OPERATING ENTITIES



Each of these SRRs has a Rescue Coordination Center (RCC).

The Rescue Sub Center (RSC) of Douala was subordinated to these two RCCs, according to the regional air navigation plan (RANP) : ICAO DOC 7474.

In January 2011, the RSC has been relocated from Douala to Yaounde, to bring it near the decision centers.

By delegation of Ndjamenas and Brazzaville RCCs, the RSC of Yaounde is the principal operating SAR entity in Cameroon.



SAR AUDIT FINDINGS



Cameroon received two audits in SAR domain :

- ❖ ICAO/AFCAC SAR evaluation mission in November 2003 ;
- ❖ ICAO-USOAP safety audit in September 2006.

MAIN SAR FINDINGS IDENTIFIED IN CAMEROON

- 1 – Absence of a SAR entity that provides, 24 hours a day, SAR services within the territory ;
- 2 – Lack of coordination among the SAR services of Cameroon and those of neighboring States ;
- 3 – Lack of trained and qualified personnel, able to conduct SAR operations ;
- 4 – Absence of SAR exercises.



Law N° 2013/010 of 24 July 2013 **« on the civil aviation regime in Cameroon »**

Article 74

(1) The assistance to aircraft in distress, the search of missing aircraft, and rescue of victims of accidents occurring to aircraft are under the responsibility of the State.

(2) The organization and operation of search and rescue services are set by regulation.



LAW

(Law N° 2013/010 of 24 July 2013 on the civil aviation regime in Cameroon)



1 DECREE

(Decree N° 68/DF/211 of 30 May 1968 on the organization of search and rescue of aircraft in distress in peace time)



Decree N° 68/DF/211 of 30 May 1968 on the organization of search and rescue of aircraft in distress in peace time

Title I : Organization of search and rescue of aircraft in distress in peace time

SAR organization depends on the Minister in charge of Civil Aviation, who acts in coordination with the Minister in charge of Defence.



Decree N° 68/DF/211 of 30 May 1968 on the organization of search and rescue of aircraft in distress in peace time

Title II : Search and rescue organizations

- National SAR Committee chaired by the Minister in charge of Civil Aviation ;
- SAR studies and coordination Section under the authority of the Minister in charge of Civil Aviation ;
- SAR execution Section under the authority of the Minister in charge of Defence, responsible for SAR operations.

Title III : Search and Rescue Coordination Center (RCC)

It is responsible for the preparation and execution of SAR operations.



LAW

(Law N° 2013/010 of 24 July 2013 on the civil aviation regime in Cameroon)



1 DECREE

(Decree N° 68/DF/211 of 30 May 1968 on the organization of search and rescue of aircraft in distress in peace time)



MINISTERIAL TEXTS

Decision N° 00040/D/MINT/MINDEF of 22 March 2012 on the organization and operation of the Rescue Sub Centre of Yaounde

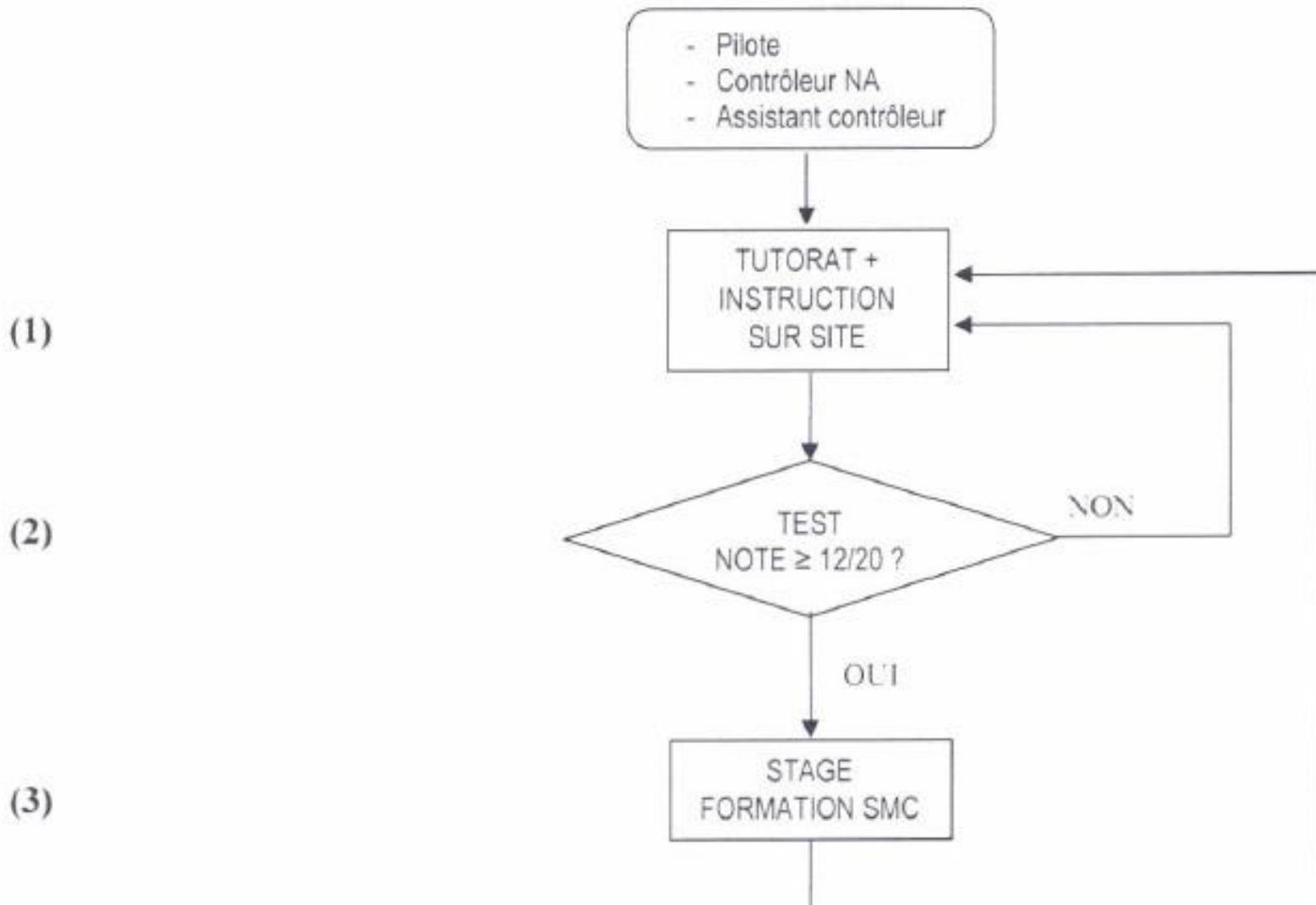


GUIDANCE MATERIAL (PROCEDURES)

- *RSC Operations Manual ;*
- *Protocol for coordination between the RSC and ASECNA ;*
- *Qualification procedure for RSC staff ;*



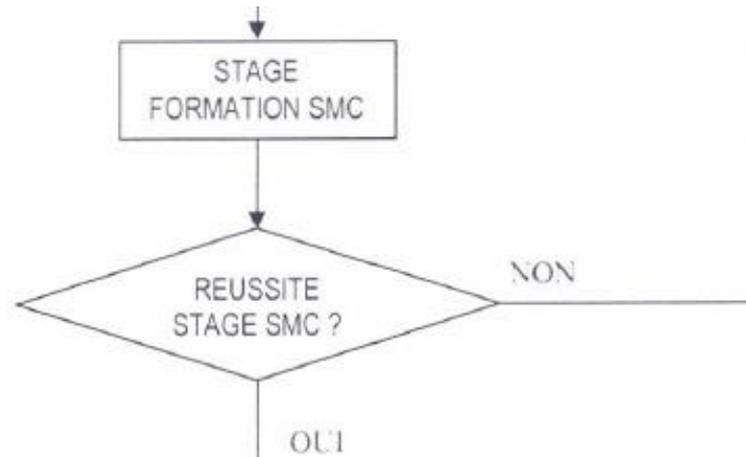
QUALIFICATION PROCEDURE FOR RSC STAFF



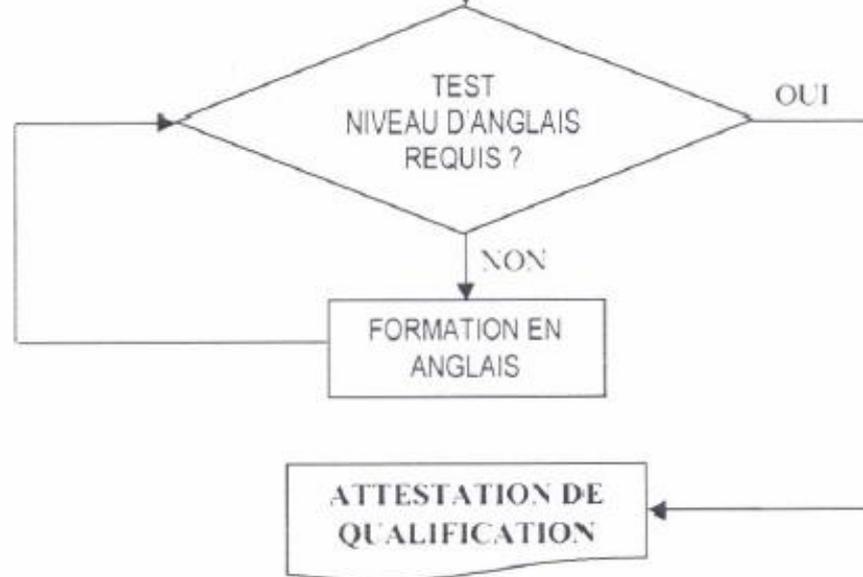


QUALIFICATION PROCEDURE FOR RSC STAFF

(3)



(4)





RESCUE SUB CENTER



- Located at the Air Force Base in Yaounde ;
- Operational since June 2012 ;
- H24 operation.



SAR Point of Contact (SPOC) of COSPAS SARSAT system



CIVIL/MILITARY COORDINATION

The RSC is both a civil and military organization.

It depends on the Minister in charge of Civil Aviation (Civil Aviation Authority) for the general organization of its international mission.

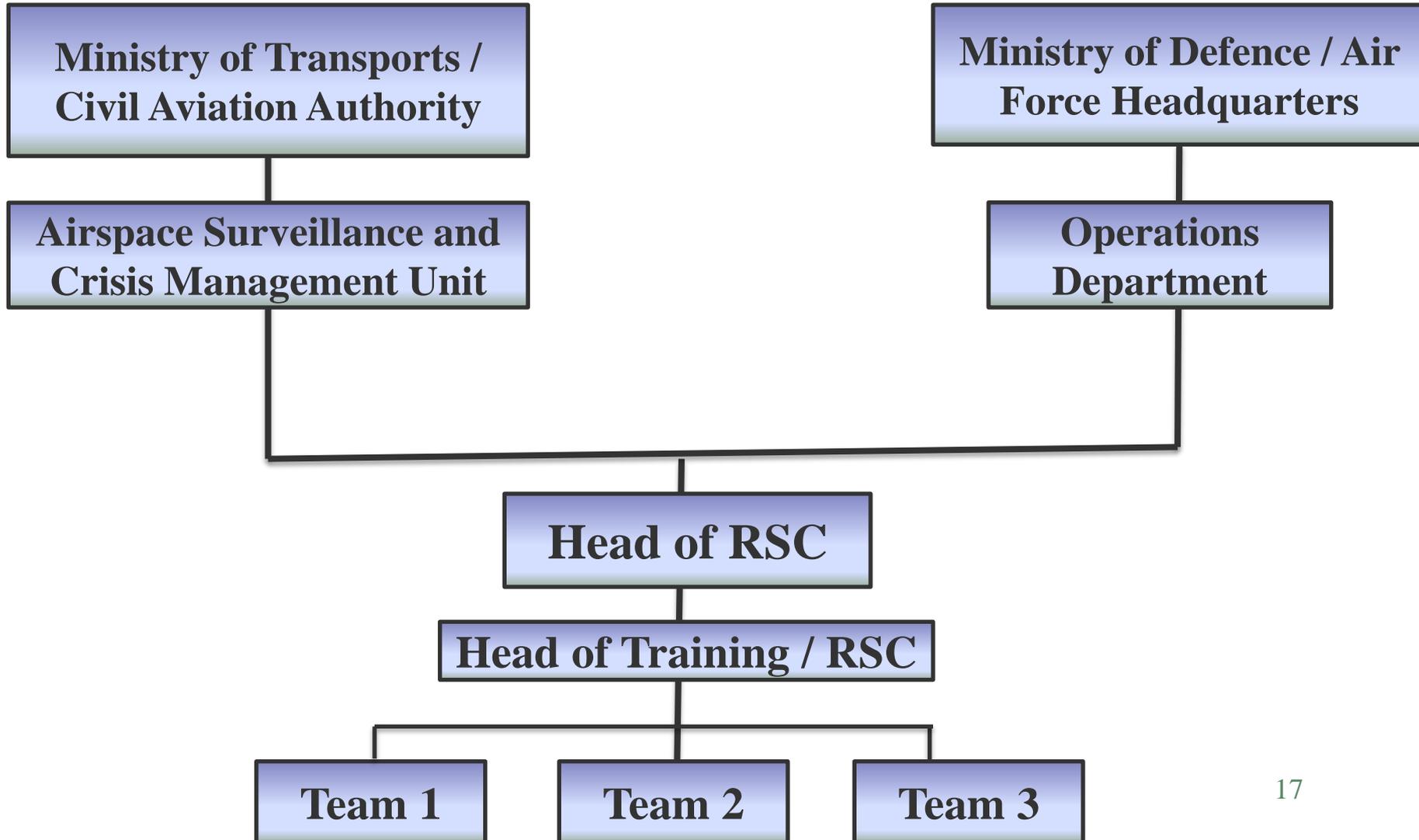
It is subordinate to the Minister in charge of Defence (Air Force Headquarters) for operational aspects.



RESCUE SUB CENTER



CIVIL/MILITARY COORDINATION





CIVIL/MILITARY COORDINATION

Expenses borne by the Civil Aviation Authority :

- Office supplies ;
- Incentive for RSC staff ;
- Training of SAR personnel ;
- Fuel for RSC vehicles.

Expenses borne by the Air Force:

- Acquisition and maintenance of SAR equipment (Distress beacon, survival equipment, life jackets, life boats, etc ...) ;
- Expenses related to the participation in SAR operations.



RESCUE SUB CENTER



PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

The RSC staff is provided by the Ministry in charge of Defence (Air Force Headquarters).

Number of RSC staff : 14





RESCUE SUB CENTER



PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

All RSC staff attended a SMC (SAR Mission Coordinator) training course.

Cameroon hosted two SMC training courses delivered by EAMAC of Niamey and relocated at Yaounde RSC in November 2012 and June 2015.





RESCUE SUB CENTER



PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

Training courses are organized every year for the Air Force crews to enhance their operational readiness.





RESCUE SUB CENTER



EXERCISES

Communications exercises are regularly organised by the RSC.

A coordination exercise has been organised in July 2013. It was the main activity of the ICAO workshop on the provision of SAR services in the AFI Region.





EQUIPMENT

Search means

Cameroon does not have specialized SAR resources (aircrafts permanently assigned to the SAR service).



The means used for search and rescue belong to military and civilian agencies (Army, Gendarmerie, Police, Fire Brigade, Aircraft Operator, Navy, etc ...)





RESCUE SUB CENTER



EQUIPMENT

Rescue means

- Survival kits ;
- Life jackets ;
- Distress signals ;
- Survival rations ;



- Rescue boat ;
- Largable SAR Chain ;
- Dry suits ;
- ...etc.

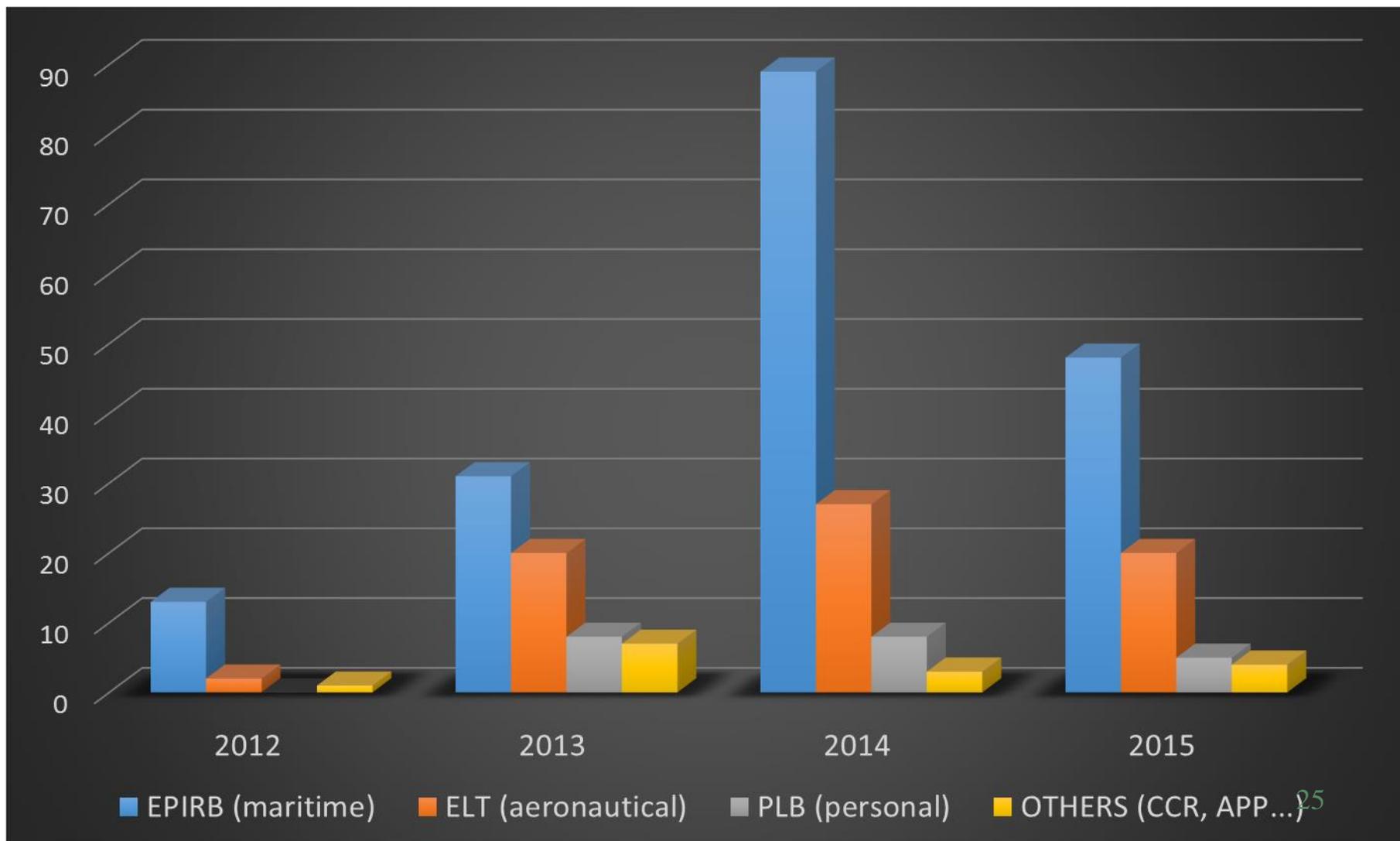




RESCUE SUB CENTER



STATISTICS OF DISTRESS ALERTS FROM 2012 TO 2015





RESCUE SUB CENTER



TWO REAL CASES

- Operation N° 142 of 22 June 2014 concerning the CESSNA C172 registered N9748L ;
- 70 hours 20 minutes of aerial search ;
- Wreckage found after 9 months and 24 days.





No agreement has been signed among Cameroon and neighboring countries (Nigeria, Congo, Chad, Gabon, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea).

Draft agreements with Congo, Chad, Nigeria, and Equatorial Guinea have been prepared, and will be submitted to the other parties.



CHALLENGES

- Coordination with Brazzaville RCC and N'Djamena RCC ;
- Coordination with Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea for the management of the maritime area ;
- Designation and training of Search and Rescue Units (SRU) on the whole territory.



PERSPECTIVES

- Signature of SAR agreements with neighboring countries ;
- Development of new regulations :
 - The Update of the SAR Decree ;
 - Ministerial Order on search and rescue of aircraft in distress in Cameroon (ICAO Annex 12) ;
 - MoU between the Ministry of Transport and the Ministry of Defence on SAR means for aircraft in distress in peacetime ;
 - MoUs with private operators for the use of their resources during SAR operations.



PERSPECTIVES

- Reinforcement of civil/military coordination in SAR domain ;
- Construction of a new RSC, more suitable for the activities of the Center, and equipped with modern facilities ;
- Training of all SAR personnel (RSC staff and SRU) ;
- Regular organisation of SAR exercises (Organisation of a full scale SAR exercise in 2017).

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND
ATTENTION**