



International Civil Aviation Organization

MIDANPIRG Communication, Navigation and Surveillance Sub-Group

Seventh Meeting (CNS SG/7)
(Cairo, Egypt, 31 May - 02 June 2016)

Agenda Item 4: CNS planning and implementation in the MID Region

USING EMAIL/AFTN GATEWAY IN THE REGIONAL AFS CONTINGENCY PLAN

(Presented by Jordan)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the trial outline conducted on deploying the email/ AFTN gateway in Beirut COM center to be used in Contingency cases.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

REFERENCES

- MIDAMC STG/3 Meeting Report

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Third meeting of the MID ATS Message Management Center Steering Group (MIDAMC STG/3) was held at the ICAO Middle East Regional Office in Cairo, Egypt, from 26 to 28 January 2016. The meeting was attended by a total of twenty four (24) participants, from Eight (8) States and one (1) Organization.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 During the Third meeting of the MIDAMC Steering Group, the meeting had brain storming session on the AFS contingency plan for the MID Region. The brain storming covered the content of the plan and developed requirements of the contents of the plan as following:

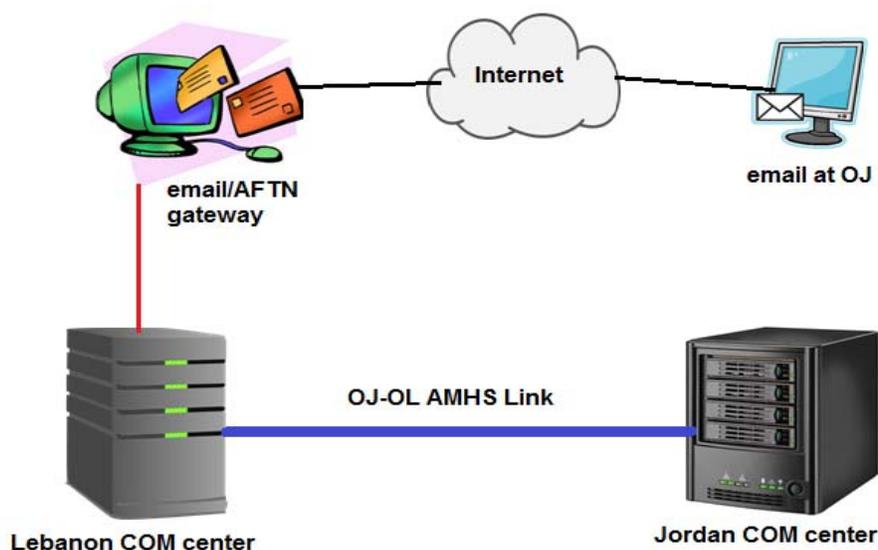
- ✓ Establishment of Contingency AFS Centers in States
- ✓ Using Email / Fax gateways
- ✓ Using different media for communication [Satellite connections (VSAT)]
- ✓ Exploring using SITA connection in case of all lines fail
- ✓ Fax to be used as a Last option (in distress cases)
- ✓ Exchanged traffic during the contingency cases is only Distress urgent and FPL and related messages.
- ✓ The need for Letter of Agreement

2.2 Furthermore, it was mentioned that Bahrain and Lebanon have the email/AFTN Gateway and expressed their readiness to provide services for other MID States during contingency cases.

2.3 In connection to that, Jordan and Lebanon had a meeting in Amman, Jordan, from 25 to 26 April, 2016.

2.4 The meeting discussed in details deploying Regional email/AFTN Gateway and agreed that a trial should be conducted on 24th May, 2016.

2.5 The connection architecture is as the following:



Email gateway Test Outline

2.6 Based on above, a trial was conducted using the email of NOF officer at Queen Alia Airport and send FPL to the Lebanon Gateway (lbgateway@beirutairport.gov.lb).

2.7 Furthermore, it was agreed on a standard email format, so the AFS operator in Lebanon can forward the message easily, it was agreed that the email includes two parts; the address line starting with ADD: *Addresses*, then the text of the message. Also it was agreed that the origin will be always "OJAIZPZX" and no need to be written in the email. For security reason, Lebanon will create a list of allowed email from each State interested.

2.8 The Gateway handle the incoming message as "free text" message, it does not check the syntax and semantic of the text. The responsibility of information lies with the sender States.

2.9 Notification procedure has been formalized, the AIS office should use phone to call Beirut COM center at the beginning and end of crisis. Focal points from both sides should send follow-up emails later.

2.10 Flight plan and related message can be exchanges during the contingency cases, also Rejection/acceptance messages should be passed to the sender.

2.11 A list of addresses saved as template to be used by the NOF officer.

2.12 The workload on the AFS officer in Beirut COM center was monitored, and it was confirmed that message relay does not need a lot of effort and can be done smoothly.

2.13 During the test, Messages filled from email to Lebanon gateway, including Jordanian Address under ADD part of the email, the messages were received within minutes, which confirms that the performance is acceptable during the contingency cases. Also Messages in both directions were tested.

Conclusion and Next steps

2.14 The email gateway proved to be an efficient alternative mean in contingency cases with degraded level of service; When the AFS network is totally out of service in Jordan.

2.15 A letter of agreement between Jordan and Lebanon should be developed and signed.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Provide comments/views on the test result and provide suggestion for improvement (if any);
- b) use the trial outline to conduct similar with the Regional email gateways and provide feedback to formalize a comprehensive Regional AFS Contingency Plan; and
- c) develop AFS contingency plan for the MID Region.