



# **AFI/APAC/MID Inter-regional Search and Rescue (SAR) Workshop**

***(Salalah, Oman, 26 – 29 August 2019)***

**State: Ghana**

***Presented by: Kofi Danso***

**Search and Rescue Organization and  
Operations in the Accra FIR**



# Presentation Outline

- Establishment
- Accra Search & Rescue Region
- SAR coordination with adjacent FIRs
- SAR arrangements/agreements with the National Agencies



## Presentation Outline Cont'd

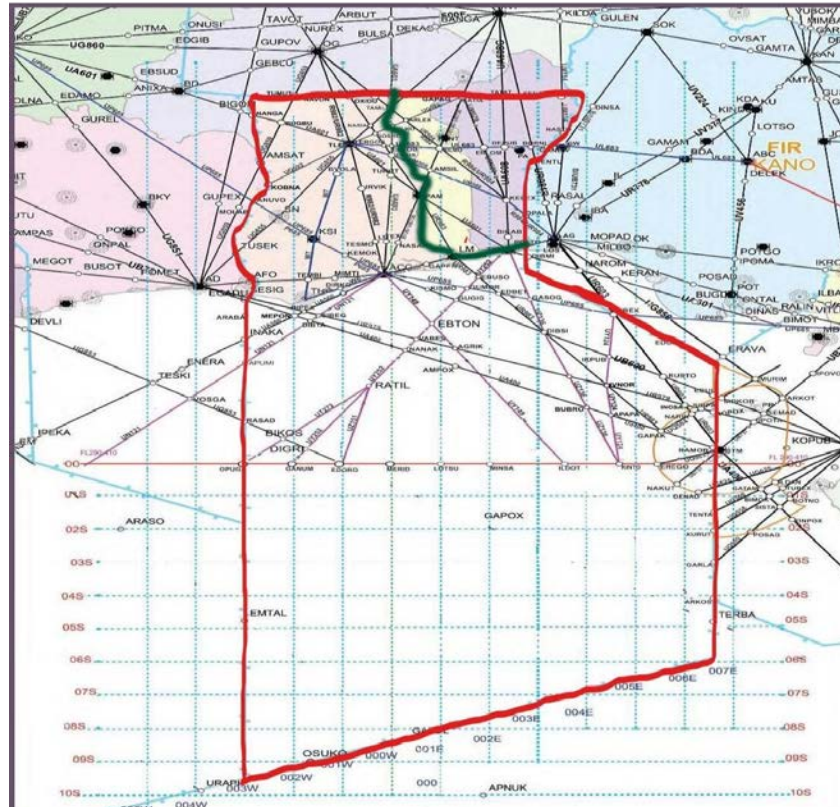
- Communication with SAR Agencies
- Cooperation between ARCC and MRCC
- Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for Regional Airports
- Overview of SAR operation in Ghana – Helicopter crash in the sea
- Challenges (RCC)



# Establishment

- SAR organization in Ghana is established by an Act of Parliament, Ghana Civil Aviation Act, 2004 (Act 678)
- Regulated by Ghana Civil Aviation Directives, Part 37 (Aeronautical Search & Rescue)

# Accra Search & Rescue Region



# Coordination with Adjacent FIRs

- Accra Rescue Coordination Centre has signed SAR Agreements with the ff adjacent FIRs:
  - a) Lome
  - b) Cotonou
  - c) Lagos
  - d) Ouagadougou
  - e) Abidjan (in progress)
  - f) Luanda (pending)
  - g) Brazaville (pending)

# **SAR Arrangements/Agreements with the National Agencies**

- Ghana Armed Forces(Navy, Airforce, Army)
- Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority
- Ghana Police Service
- NADMO - Ghana
- Ghana National Fire Service
- Ghana Health Service
- Ghana Immigration Service
- Ghana Maritime Authority
- Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority
- Ghana Airports Company Limited (GACL)
- Ghana Ministry of Defence
- Ghana National Ambulance Service
- Private Agencies (Fishermen, Helicopter Companies, etc)

# Communication with SAR Agencies

- Communication exists with the ff Units:
  - Air Traffic Services
  - Military
  - Rescue and Emergency Services
  - Meteorological Service
  - Aeronautical Telecommunication
  - NOTAM Office
  - Airport Operations, and
  - Others



# **Cooperation b/n Aeronautical and Maritime Search & Rescue**

- Not a joint RCC
- Agreement between Aeronautical and Maritime Agencies (High Level)
- Operational Agreement between Aeronautical and Maritime RCCs
- Direct communication between MRCC and ARCC
- Joint SAREX between MRCC and ARCC
- Liaison visits between ARCC and MRCC personnel

# **Emergency Response Plan (ERP) for Regional Airports in Ghana**

- The RCC is responsible for accidents beyond eight (8) Nm from the Airport
- The RCC has established ERPs for five (5) Regional Airports in collaboration with relevant SRUs
- The ERP is activated in Emergency

# **Overview of SAR operation in Ghana - Helicopter crash in the sea**

- An off-shore helicopter crash in May 2014
- Ghana Airforce, Takoradi, informs RCC in Accra
- RCC coordinated with Takoradi Airforce to establish EOC at the Airforce Base
- The EOC was transferred from Airforce Base to Naval Base to continue with the maritime search (MRCC)
- Inadequate assets of the Maritime team required external support (appropriately equipped Vessels, Divers, etc)

# Overview of SAR OPS Cont'd

- Devastated Helicopter rescued from the sea bed after 19 days of search operation
- Services of a ship, **Seabed Worker** was employed in the search operation
- Casualties? .....Four (4) deaths, Four (4) survivors.

# SAR Operations in pictures





# SAR Operations in pictures (cont'd)



# SAR Operations in pictures (cont'd)





# SAR Operations in pictures (cont'd)





# SAR Operations in pictures (cont'd)



# Challenges (RCC)

- Agreements with some neighbouring States and RCC
- Robust National SAR Plan and Operating Procedures
- Establishment and functioning of the National SAR Committee
- Funding SAR organization, establishment and operation
- Inadequate office space with modern SAR facilities for the RCC
- Inadequate staff strength for the RCC & RSCs
- Adequate Training
- SAR Exercises



# Thank you

\*\*\*\*\*

# QUESTIONS ?