



ICAO

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WORKING PAPER

E/CAR/CATG/2 — WP/13
09/07/15

Second Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Technical Group (E/CAR/CATG/2) Meeting
Miami, United States, 15 to 17 July 2015

Agenda Item 4: Air Navigation Matters

4.2 Follow-up on the implementation of the NAM/CAR Regional Performance Based Air Navigation Plan (RPBANIP) and the *Port-of-Spain* Declaration Air Navigation Targets in the Eastern Caribbean:

SAR COMMITTEE REPORT

(Presented SAR Committee Rapporteur/Trinidad and Tobago)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This paper provides a summary of the SAR Committee's work since the last E/CAR/WG/33 and the E/CAR/DCA/24 meetings.	
Action:	Suggested Actions are presented in Section 3.
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency• Environmental Protection
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report of the First Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Technical Group Meeting (E/CAR/CATG/1) Martinique, French Antilles, France, 19 to 21 June 2013;• Report of the Twenty Fifth Meeting of Directors of Civil Aviation of the Eastern Caribbean (E/CAR/DCA/25), St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 3–5 December 2013;

1. Introduction

1.1 Following the First Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Technical Group Meeting (E/CAR/CATG/1) Martinique, French Antilles, France, 19 to 21 June 2013 and the Twenty Fifth Meeting of Directors of Civil Aviation of the Eastern Caribbean (E/CAR/DCA/25), St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 3–5 December 2013, developments within the E/CAR Region continued with improvements in Search and Rescue (SAR) via civil/military collaboration and meetings.

1.2 The First Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Technical Group Meeting concluded that: *“ICAO facilitate, through coordination via teleconference, the exchange of expertise and experiences among the SAR Committee, E/CAR States, and other States with mature SAR structures to assist with SAR implementation in E/CAR States by 15 August 2013.”*

1.3 The E/CAR/DCA/24 meeting concluded:

“That the E/CAR SAR Committee, in coordination with E/CAR States, Territories, and International Organizations concerned, develop an E/CAR Natural Disaster Emergency Response Plan for submission to the ICAO NACC Regional Office by 30 June 2014, for distribution and approval by the Eastern Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation through the fast track mechanism.”

“The SAR Committee reported that significant progress had been made with the development of SAR capability in the E/CAR. There has been increased coordination among States leading towards the development of Letters of Agreement (LOAs); however, E/CAR States still need to submit their SAR Matrix and SAR National Plans to the E/CAR SAR Committee Rapporteur by 30 June 2014.”

2. Discussion

2.1 The Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Technical Group (E/CAR/CATG) SAR Committee Rapporteur was invited to join the working Group on the Conference of the Defence Ministers of the Americas (CDMA). At the last Conference of the Defence Ministers of the Americas (CDMA) held in Peru (2014), the conference offered assistance to States in the area of Search and Rescue. The group is charged with the responsibility of providing a model document for Search and Rescue assistance within the Western Hemisphere. The working group is committed to assisting in the National and Regional Plans which will benefit the Eastern Caribbean.

2.2 The E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee has been in discussion with the possibility of Trinidad and Tobago providing dedicated communication links between RCCs within the Eastern Caribbean via the Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) System.

2.3 The E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee has held three (3) webinars in October 2013, September 2014 and May 2015. A SAR point of contact needs to be assigned by each State. The incumbent would be required to participate in upcoming teleconferences, webinars and meetings in order to meet the SAR activities in the E/CAR Region and have a keen understanding of the States SAR system.

2.4 The E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee was invited to observe a Search and Rescue (SAR) Exercise in Martinique on November 12, 2014. Five (5) persons representing Trinidad and Tobago were in attendance. The exercise was used to test the Operational Capability of France’s assets, in an aeronautical related incident, in the island of Martinique. The drill provided valuable learnings for the committee.

2.5 The E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee arranged for Trinidad and Tobago to have an Operational visit/meeting with the United States Coast Guard, in San Juan, Puerto Rico on March 18-19, 2015. The following was achieved:

- Facility Briefing by the MRSC San Juan and the ARCC Piarco
- Introduction of proposed Letter of Agreement: ARCC Piarco/MRSC San Juan
- Discussions on Training Opportunities
- Regular operational site visits
- Discussions on Search and Rescue Drills and Bilateral exercises
- Exchange of Search and Rescue Contact Lists
- Site visit – Direct Observation of MRSC Operational Positions

2.6 The E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee is continuing to develop ties between the respective offices of Disaster Preparedness and Management throughout the region.

2.7 The Trinidad and Tobago Search and Rescue Region Working Group (TTSRR/WG) including Barbados; Grenada; St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago; has concluded on States developing National Plans and Regional Plans; and a Multilateral Agreement is before the relevant States for signatures after which the Working Group shall continue its Search and Rescue efforts as a formalized committee.

2.8 Two (2) persons from the Trinidad and Tobago Aeronautical Search and Rescue Unit attended the Search and Rescue Controllers Training Course in March, 2014 and 2015 hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Maryland, Washington. The intention is to continue sharing information and experience with the E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee.

2.9 The ICAO NAM/CAR/SAM Meeting/Workshop to Improve Regional Search and Rescue System and Civil/Military Coordination was held in Havana, Cuba, 13 to 17 April 2015. Two (2) persons from Trinidad and Tobago attended the meeting which highlighted Global Standards, emerging trends and futuristic endeavours. Trinidad and Tobago presented theoretical and practical updates, queries and concerns; which generated various levels of discussion and support.

2.10 Portugal has submitted a Letter of Agreement (LOA) for Aeronautical Search and Rescue operations within the Piarco FIR to Trinidad and Tobago. Trinidad and Tobago has reviewed the Agreement with the aim of signing in the near future.

2.11 In November 2014, a draft LOA between Martinique and Trinidad and Tobago for Aeronautical Search and Rescue operations within the Piarco FIR was submitted to Martinique for review.

2.12 The ARCC Piarco continues to be developed with the completion of its new office expected to be completed by November 2015. The ARCC Piarco will continue to operate with a Remote service until mechanism are implemented to facilitate 24/7 operations.

2.13 Trinidad and Tobago has dedicated human resource to the development of the ARCC Piarco. This is evident by the new Organisational Structure which includes an Aeronautical SAR and Air Navigation Security Unit, which has a Unit Chief and an Air Traffic Management Officer assigned.

2.14 Trinidad and Tobago has completed a draft Search and Rescue Operators Training program. This would be used to certify Aeronautical Search and Rescue Operators to function within the ARCC Piarco to provide a 24/7 service.

2.15 The E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee Rapporteur is working diligently to ensure that each State has a Military and Civilian/Aeronautical Representative on the SAR Committee.

3. **Suggested Action**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information presented in this working paper;
- b) urge E/CAR States/Territories/International organisations to present their improvements based on the analysis of SAR Capability of States and Territories; and
- c)
- d) provide other recommendations to improve SAR services in the E/CAR Region.

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