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WORKING PAPER

E/CAR/DCA/26 — WP/27
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**Twenty-sixth Directors of Civil Aviation of the Eastern Caribbean Meeting (E/CAR/DCA/26)
New Orleans, United States, 1 - 3 December 2015**

- Agenda Item 6: Air Navigation Matters**
- 6.3 Implementation of Air Navigation under the NAM/CAR Regional Performance Based Air Navigation Implementation Plan (RPBANIP)**
- 6.3.2 E/CAR/CATG/2 Meeting**

PROGRESS ON SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) ACTIVITIES IN THE E/CAR REGION: SAR COMMITTEE

(Presented by Rapporteur E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This Working Paper presents the progress made by the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Technical Group (E/CAR/CATG) SAR Committee in relation with Conclusion 25/3 of the Twenty-fifth Eastern Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation Meeting (E/CAR/DCA/25) regarding development of an E/CAR Aviation Contingency Plan.	
Action:	Suggested Actions are presented in Section 4.
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report of the Second Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Technical Group (E/CAR/CATG/2) Meeting, Miami, United States, 15–17 July 2015;• Report of the Twenty-fifth Directors of Civil Aviation of the Eastern Caribbean Meeting (E/CAR/DCA/25), St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 3–5 December 2013

1. Introduction

1.1 The E/CAR SAR Committee continues to support the development of the E/CAR Aviation Contingency Plan. The Plan takes into consideration the many factors which can disrupt the provision of Air Navigation Services (ANS) and implements strategic approaches to ensure that a State's aviation system in case of an emergency, such as those caused by natural disasters, civil unrest, terrorism etc. to ensure the continuity of operations and services.

1.2 The Committee has also engaged E/CAR States/Territories/International organizations, in an effort to improve SAR services. The analysis of the SAR capability of States and Territories and other recommendations are on-going to improve SAR services in the E/CAR Region.

CONCLUSION 25/3 – E/CAR NATURAL DISASTER EMERGENCY PLAN

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 E/CAR Aviation Contingency Plan is still one of the top priorities of the E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee. The E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee continues to be challenged with States lack of participation in the development of the E/CAR Aviation Contingency Plan.

2.2 In order to fulfill the operational requirements of Aeronautical SAR for the Piarco Flight Information Region (FIR) and Air Navigation Security, Trinidad and Tobago has created the Aeronautical SAR and Air Navigation Security (A-SAR and AN-SEC) Unit. The Unit is mandated to support the E/CAR Aviation Contingency Plan through preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery from emergencies.

2.3 The A-SAR and AN-SEC Unit plans to outfit its Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Center (ARCC) and AN-SEC Operations Room by January 2016.

2.4 Trinidad and Tobago has developed an Aeronautical Search and Rescue (A-SAR) Operators Course. This course would be used to certify current Air Traffic Controllers as Aeronautical Search and Rescue Operators to function within the ARCC Piarco. The first A-SAR Operators Course will begin in January 2016 with the expectation to have the A-SAR and AN-SEC Unit staffed 24/7 by April 2016.

2.5 The E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee has been in discussion with Trinidad and Tobago to review the SAR communication needs throughout the E/CAR region. A proposal was made for the implementation of a supplement communications means (a hotline) for emergency situations through the Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) System to connect the E/CAR States to the Piarco ARCC.

2.6 Trinidad and Tobago has trained two (2) persons in Quality Control in Aviation Security (QCCAS) in March 2015. The QCCAS Course was delivered by facilitators from the United States Office of Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA).

2.7 The E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee arranged for two (2) persons from the A-SAR and AN-SEC Unit to attend the Search and Rescue Controllers Training Course in March 2014 and 2015, hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Maryland, Washington.

2.8 The E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee Rapporteur and two (2) persons from the A-SAR and AN-SEC Unit participated in the Insider Threat Awareness Seminar hosted jointly by the Caribbean

Aviation Security and Safety Oversight System (CASSOS) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in July 2015.

2.9 Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago received SAR Administrator training at the Singapore Aviation Academy during August 2015.

2.10 The E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee has held four (4) webinars in October 2013, September 2014, May 2015 and November 2015. States are encouraged to ensure that there are active participation in upcoming teleconferences, webinars and meetings in order to meet the SAR requirements in the E/CAR Region.

2.11 The E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee was invited to observe a Search and Rescue (SAR) exercise in Martinique on 12 November 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. A draft Letter of Agreement (LoA) between Martinique and Trinidad and Tobago for Aeronautical SAR operations within the Piarco FIR was submitted to Martinique for review.

2.12 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 LoA: 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

2.13 The ICAO NAM/CAR/SAM Meeting/Workshop to Improve Regional Search and Rescue System and Civil/Military Coordination was held in Mexico City, Mexico 26 to 30 May 2014; and in Havana, Cuba, 13 to 17 April 2015. Two (2) persons from the A-SAR and AN-SEC Unit attended both meetings which highlighted Global Standards, emerging trends and futuristic endeavors. Trinidad and Tobago presented theoretical and practical updates, queries and concerns; which generated various levels of discussion and support.

2.14 The E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee has been invited as a participant to the Trinidad and Tobago Search and Rescue Region Working Group (TTSRR/WG). The TTSRR/WG includes Barbados; Grenada; St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago; and 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.

2.15 The 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.

2.16 The E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee Rapporteur is proposing that a high-level meeting for E/CAR States including adjacent airspaces be held in 2016. Trinidad and Tobago is willing to host this meeting. The meeting would be targeting an audience of Ministers responsible for Search and Rescue and/or National Security; and Civil Aviation.

3. Conclusion

3.1 The E/CAR SAR Committee has made significant improvements in the areas of Aeronautical SAR. These improvements include an increase in civil/military coordination within States, greater efforts in training and infrastructure, and participation at SAR drills/meetings.

4. Suggested Actions

4.1 E/CAR States are invited to:

- a. submit their SAR Action and Emergency Contingency plans (activities, dates, responsible, deliverables);
- b. provide feedback regarding the analysis of SAR Capability of States and Territories' level of maturity in accordance with the respective national SAR plan, which is to be harmonized with the regional SAR plan;
- c. attend ICAO SAR meetings as a mean of education and training to develop their SAR systems;
- d. designate persons or agencies as Points-of-Contact for their Civil and Military areas, responsible for SAR and encourage these designates to attend the ICAO SAR Meetings and E/CAR/CATG SAR Committee Webinars;
- e. identify relevant personnel to be trained as SAR Operators; and
- f. advise willingness and commitment to attend a high level SAR meeting to be hosted by Trinidad and Tobago in 2016. Trinidad and Tobago is willing to host the meeting, based on E/CAR States commitments to attend.