



# ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization  
North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

NACC/WG/SAR/TF/4 — WP/08  
31/07/23

**Fourth NAM/CAR North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group  
Search and Rescue Implementation Task Force (NACC/WG/SAR/TF/4) Meeting  
ICAO NACC Regional Office, Mexico City, Mexico, 9 to 11 August 2023**

- Agenda Item 3:**           **CAR/SAM SAR Interregional Affairs**  
                          **3.2     Civil-military coordination in the provision of SAR Services**  
                          **3.3     Maritime and Aeronautical SAR coordination**

**INTERREGIONAL SAREX PROJECT (May 2024)**

(Presented by France)

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	
This paper presents Search and Rescue services in French Guiana and French West Indies and describes a scenario for a regional exercise to be conducted in May 2024	
<b>Action:</b>	Suggested actions are included in Section 5
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safety</li><li>• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</li></ul>
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Doc 7300 - <i>Convention on International Civil Aviation</i></li><li>• Annex 12 – <i>Search and Rescue</i></li><li>• GREPECAS Procedures Manual</li><li>• Third NAM/CAR North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Search and Rescue Implementation Task Force Meeting (ICAO NACC Regional Office and Online 17 to 19 October 2022)</li></ul>

**1.                   Introduction**

1.1               The purpose of Search and Rescue (SAR) services is to provide assistance with maximum efficiency in the rescue of persons on board aircraft in distress and, on request to ensure aeronautical assistance to the rescue of human lives on land or at sea.

1.2               Pursuant to ICAO Annex 12, France is legally bound to organize and provide search and rescue services in the entire SAR area under its responsibility. Therefore, France fulfils this mission in French Guiana and French West Indies, through its ANSP, *Direction des Services de la Navigation Aérienne* (DSNA).

1.3 Cayenne Control Centre, Martinique and Guadeloupe towers belong to *Service de la Navigation Aérienne Antilles Guyane* (SNA-AG), which is DSNA's regional service provider.

## 2. SAR in French Guiana and French West Indies

### *Areas of responsibility and competent organizations*

#### 2.1 Aeronautical SAR in French Guiana

2.1.1 Cayenne ARCC is responsible for managing search and rescue operations for aircraft in distress in the geographic area corresponding to Cayenne Search and Rescue Region (SRR), whose lateral limits include Cayenne and Paramaribo Flight Information Regions (FIRs).

2.1.2 Zanderij RSC (Suriname) is subordinated to Cayenne ARCC.

2.1.3 By delegation of authority from Cayenne ARCC and with its close collaboration, Zanderij RSC is responsible for managing search and rescue operations for aircraft in distress in the area corresponding to the limits of its FIR (Paramaribo), in coordination with Cayenne ARCC, it can request assistance from other states.

#### 2.2 Aeronautical SAR in French West Indies

2.2.1 By delegation of authority from Piarco ARCC and with its close collaboration, Fort de France and Pointe à Pitre RSCs are responsible for managing search and rescue operations for aircraft in distress in the area corresponding to the limits of their TMAs.

#### 2.3 Maritime SAR

2.3.1 A Maritime Search and Rescue Region (SRR) under the responsibility of France has been established (red solid lines).

2.3.2 The Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) is located in Fort de France (Martinique - French West Indies). This centre is staffed with French Navy personnel who ensure permanent continuous watch.

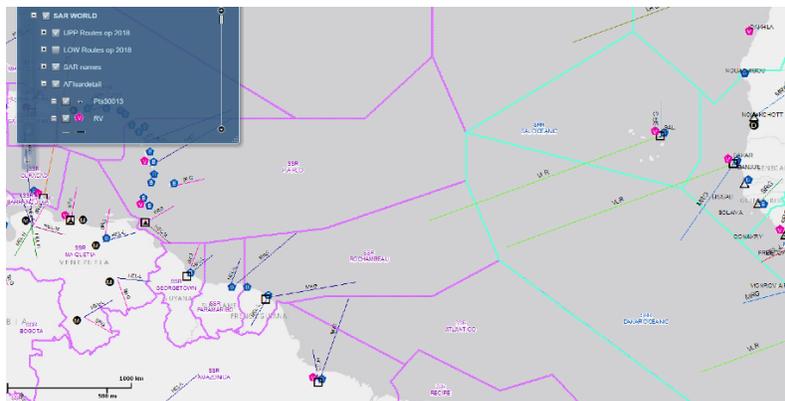


2.4 SAR Air Assets

2.4.1 Cayenne ARCC and both FWI RSCs can only rely on complementary and occasional means. They consist of all military aircraft that are likely to participate in SAR operations on short notice. Other means are State aircraft that can be activated on a temporary basis.

2.4.2 Military and State Aircraft air assets which can be used by French ARCC/ARSC and MRCC in the region are as follows:

Civil Defense	Cayenne Fort de France Pointe à Pitre	3 HEL/L	EC-145
French Air Force	Cayenne	3 HEL/M 2 HEL/L 2 MRG	SA-332 PUMA AS-355 FENNEC CN-235 CASA
French Customs	Fort de France	1 MRG 1 HEL/L	BEECHCRAFT KA 350 AS 355
Gendarmerie	Cayenne Fort de France Pointe à Pitre	3 HEL/L	EC-145 AS 350 B2
French Navy Air Force	Lorient Dakar	1 VLR or 1 MRG	ATL2 FA-50



2.5 SAR Agreements & LOAs (Caribbean area)

- SAR Technical Arrangement between Cayenne ARCC and Piarco ARCC January 2021
- SAR Technical Arrangement between Cayenne ARCC and Paramaribo ARSC June 2019
- SAR Agreement for Eastern Caribbean (Barbados, France, OECS, Trinidad & Tobago) May 1997
- SAR Technical Arrangement between SNA/Martinique and TTCAA/Piarco July 2021
- SAR Technical Arrangement between SNA/Guadeloupe and TTCAA/Piarco July 2021
- SAR Technical Arrangement between SNA/AG GUADELOUPE and MARTINIQUE and DASPA/DOMINICA (written in September 2022 - not signed)

### 3. Exercises (Search and Rescue Implementation Task Force Meeting)

3.1 ICAO and International Maritime Organization (IMO), both in Annex 12 and in the IAMSAR Manual, strongly emphasize the need for States to carry out SAR Exercises and Simulations, with which Operations Plans are tested and improved, as well as helping to highlight and evaluate the true effectiveness of the training, efficiency and competence of the SAR Service in Operations, highlighting the defects that the SAR plans may suffer, allowing us to identify and improve them.

3.2 The Meeting recognized the importance of Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) at the different levels of the exercises. It was motivated to carry out SAR exercises, share experiences and promote interregional experience through them.

### 4. The Exercise

4.1 One Airbus 320 departing from Cayenne, bound for Fort de France, then Pointe à Pitre crashes in FIR Cayenne (option 1), FIR Paramaribo (option 2), FIR Piarco (option 3-4), between TMA Martinique and TMA Guadeloupe (Option 5).

Tabletop exercise: options 1-2-3-4  
Full scale exercise: option 5



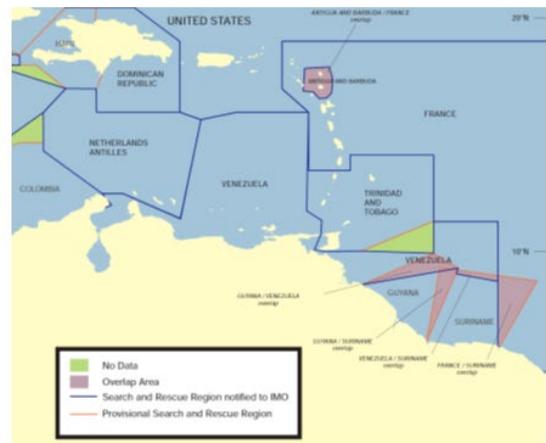
FIR Boundaries



FMCC Area Cospas Sarsat



SRR MRCC Fort de France



IMO Maritime SAR Regions

**5. Suggested Actions**

5.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the information provided in this Working Paper;
- b) Request States and Territories under the Piarco Search and Rescue Region to join this SAREX;
- c) Urge States of the CAR Region and the NACC Working Group SAR Implementation Task Force to participate in this exercise as observers; and
- d) Suggest any other actions deemed appropriate.

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