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Virtual Workshop on the establishment of an effective Search and Rescue (SAR) organization

Topic: AFI SAR Gap Analysis Questionnaire

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Context

As part of the support to States of the AFI Region with a view to the establishment an efficient and operational search and rescue (SAR) organization, a self-assessment questionnaire of the SAR system is proposed to said States.



Objectives

- Allow States to assess their level of implementation of the SAR service (this is a self-assessment and not an audit);
- Identify the actions to be taken, as well as the actors and the target dates;



Objectives

- Conduct a gap analysis based on the questionnaires completed and sent by the States;
- Identify areas requiring improvement and assist States in the development and implementation of corrective action plans (CAP).



References

- Annex 12 : Search and rescue;
- Doc 9731 (International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Manual : IAMSAR) Volume 1 (Organization and Management);
- Annex 6 (Operation of Aircraft) Part 1 (International Commercial Air Transport — Aeroplanes).



Presentation of the questionnaire

The questionnaire is organized in seven (7) parts :

1. General system concept;
2. SAR system concepts;
3. Training, qualification, certification and exercises;
4. Communication;
5. SAR system management;
6. Improving services;
7. Implementation of the GADSS.



Presentation of the questionnaire

1. General system concept

- ratification of international conventions relating to search and rescue;
- SAR service availability H24;
- responsible government agency, national SAR plan, formal national SAR coordinating committee;
- aeronautical / maritime, civil / military, RCC/RSC coordination;
- Transmission of SAR information to ICAO and IMO.



Presentation of the questionnaire

2. System concepts

- availability of essential elements of the SAR system;
- delimitation of SAR regions, designation of a SPOC;
- coordination of operations between adjacent RCCs and between ARCC and MRCC;
- SAR operations plans, manuals and procedures;
- SAR resources, SRU;



Presentation of the questionnaire

3. Training, qualification, certification and exercises

- availability of SAR personnel in sufficient number and skilled in coordination and operational functions;
- SAR personnel job descriptions and training program;
- periodic training;
- SAR exercises.



Presentation of the questionnaire

4. Communication

- rapid and reliable means for communications available H24 covering the entire area of responsibility;
- proficiency in the use of the English language;
- satellite communications, Internet, AFTN;
- carrying and registration of 406 MHz distress beacons, electronic direction-finding capabilities;
- mutually compatible communications, planned improvements.



Presentation of the questionnaire

5. System management

- national agencies responsible for the various functions related to SAR services (aircraft safety, air traffic, investigation of aviation accidents and incidents, land based search and rescue, etc.);
- designation of public or private service SAR units suitably located and equipped for SAR operations;
- coordination with neighboring states;
- participation in ICAO and IMO meetings dealing with SAR issues.



Presentation of the questionnaire

6. Improving services

- availability of a system for safety management and the continuous improvement of the State SAR system;
- availability of a statistical database on SAR events;
- complete records for SAR events, debriefings of SAR operations;
- analysis of SAR case records to improve the SAR system.



Presentation of the questionnaire

7. Implementation of the global aeronautical distress and safety system (GADSS)

- Underwater Locating Devices;
- Aircraft Tracking Function;
- Flight Recorder Data Recovery.



Completion of the questionnaire

- Ensure the participation of representatives of all organizations involved in the provision of the SAR service;
- For provisions that have not yet been implemented, indicate the actions to be taken, the actors and the target dates;
- Send the completed questionnaires as soon as possible, before 11 November 2020.



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