



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

**Fourth Meeting of the AFI Volcanic Ash Exercises Steering Group
(AFI VOLCEX/SG4)***(Virtual, 1 April 2025)***Agenda Item 3.2: Planning for future ICAO volcanic ash exercises in the AFI region****WP3.2D Volcanic Ash Exercise and reporting requirements***(Presented by the Secretariat)*

| SUMMARY |
|---|
| This paper provides an update on the reporting process of the volcanic ash exercise Action by the meeting in paragraph 3 |
| REFERENCE(S): <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Doc 9766 Handbook on the IAVW▪ AFI VA Exercises Directive for Exercise VOLCEX 21-01 Rev0.1▪ AFI VAA Exercises Operational Instructions VOLCEX OPINS Rev0.1 |
| Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A – Safety, B – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency |

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. A volcanic ash exercise is conducted in accordance with the Exercise Directive and the exercise scenario. Participants (or “players”) are expected to issue exercise scenario messages such as volcanic ash advisories, SIGMET and NOTAM in accordance with the examples provided in the Exercise Directive.
- 1.2. There must be no operational impact since the volcanic ash exercises are based on simulations.
- 1.3. All communications pertaining to the exercise (text based, graphics based and/or voice communication) must adopt the guidelines provided in the AFI Volcanic Ash Exercise Operational Instructions (AFI VOLCEX OPINS).
- 1.4. The reporting mechanism of the exercise is provided in Appendix H of the AFI VOLCEX OPINS and includes Immediate local Debriefing, National Debrief, Initial exercise report, Debrief Meeting, Final exercise report.

2. DISCUSSION***Immediate local Debriefing.***

- 2.1 Directing Staff members should give an initial debriefing, within their organization, immediately after the termination of the exercise. The initial debrief should be short and enable the players to:

- Obtain an immediate assessment of their performance; and
- Consider/profit from their strength and weaknesses revealed by the exercise.

National Debrief.

- 2.2 If considered appropriate, an inter-agency debrief meeting is recommended at a national level prior to the Debrief Meeting.

Debrief Meeting.

- 2.3 The Exercise Debrief should be attended by all agencies participating in the exercise and should be detailed to enable players as well as Directive Staff members to:
- Discuss the lessons learned;
 - Identify strength and weaknesses of the exercise;
 - Contribute to the Final Exercise Report;
 - Identify and discuss recommendations and conclusions.
- 2.4 The Debrief Meeting is held within 3 months, preferably 1 month after the exercise has been completed, often conjointly with the Planning Meeting of the next exercise

Reporting.

- 2.5 The purpose of reporting is to highlight key lessons learned, recommendations, and conclusions from the exercise and to share them with participating organizations and relevant international bodies. The reporting process should follow the chain outlined below:
- Initial Exercise Reports:** Each participating organization shall submit an initial draft report to the Exercise Leader within one month after the exercise concludes. The Exercise Leader will compile these reports in preparation for the Debrief Meeting and subsequently use them to develop the Final Exercise Report.
 - Final Exercise Report:** The Exercise Leader shall finalize the Final Exercise Report within two months after the Debrief Meeting. The report will then be published and disseminated to all exercise participants through.

3. ACTIONS BY THE MEETING

- 3.1. The meeting is invited to:
- a) Note the information in this paper; and
 - b) Comment and provide guidance as appropriate.

----- END -----