



ICAO

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North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

NACC/DCA/12 — WP/14  
19/06/24

**Twelfth North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation Meeting  
(NACC/DCA/12)**

Placencia, Stann Creek District, Belize, 9-11 July 2024

**Agenda Item 5: Toward More Effective Implementation Support**

**SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE (SAREX)**

(Presented by France)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The French DGAC through the air navigation services in French West Indies and French Guiana (SNA-AG) supports the ICAO NACC office for Search and Rescue (SAR) implementation and operations in the CAR Region.

This support was implemented with the organisation of the Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) in May 2024. Barbados and ECCAA were active participants to this exercise with other countries attending as observers.

A full-scale exercise could be organised in early 2025 with the opportunity to evaluate the dissemination of information between air traffic services (ATS) organisations, Rescue Coordination Centers (RCC) and airlines as part of a simulation of the Location of an Aircraft in Distress Repository (LADR) and the monitoring of new Emergency Locator Transmitter with autonomous Distress Tracking capability or ELT-DT beacons in the Piarco FIR.

<b>Action:</b>	The NACC/DCA meeting is invited to: a) take note of this working paper. b) promote the organization of a regional SAREX, to rehearse different contingency scenarios and evaluate the CAR region SAR coordination capabilities. c) suggest any other action deemed appropriate.
<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>• ICAO Annex 12</li><li>• IAMSAR manual</li></ul>

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1 French SAR organization in the Piarco FIR**

- 1.1.1 The French aeronautical and maritime Search and Rescue Region (SRR) is illustrated in **Appendix A**.
- 1.1.2 The SAR organisation in the French West Indies and French Guiana is based on three aeronautical facilities (Aeronautical RCC ARCC Cayenne, Air Rescue Sub Centers ARSC Fort de France and ARSC Pointe à Pitre) and one maritime facility (Maritime RCC MRCC Fort de France). A partnership agreement between these SAR entities enables them to work in collaborative mode in their respective areas of responsibility (SRR). The integration of new technologies for flight tracking and information data sharing could open the door in the future to a new form of regional organisation advocated by Annex 12 and IAMSAR.

### **1.2 Rescue coordination centres (RCC)**

- 1.2.1 The IAMSAR MANUAL VOLUME I states that when practicable, States should consider co-locating or combining their maritime and aeronautical RCCs into a Joint RCC (JRCC).
- 1.2.2 Note: a JRCC may be established either by physical co-location or by the integration of communications, information and computer technology between an ARCC and an MRCC to achieve full search and rescue coordination functionality.

## **2 SAREX 2024**

### **2.1 Objectives**

- 2.1.1 One of the objectives of the SAREX was to seek harmonization of aeronautical and maritime Search and Rescue by the integration of communications, information and computer technology between ARCC/ARSC and an MRCC, and to assess a certain number of tools intended to improve SAR response in Piarco and Cayenne FIRs (satellite-based ADS-B, aircraft tracking, eLogbook etc....).
- 2.1.2 The second objective was to clarify SAR areas of responsibility (SRR) and the authorities responsible for setting up search plans and managing the Search and Rescue Unit (SRU) assets in maritime areas (aircraft and boats), in the context of the management of a Mass Rescue Operation by a remote RCC with multiple aircraft involved, including a drone. 3D deconfliction, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) and Aircraft Coordinator (ACO) functions could be assessed.
- 2.1.3 The third objective was to carry out an inventory of existing SAR agreements (aeronautical and maritime) in Piarco and Cayenne FIRs, to standardise the drafting of official documents with the help of ICAO and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) if necessary. A formalisation of agreements between ARCCs and ARSCs highlighting responsibilities and associated zones, means of communication and points of contact is necessary for Cayenne and Piarco FIRs.

## 2.2 Exercises

2.2.1 Two tabletop exercises were played during SAREX 2024 as illustrated in **Appendix B**. Each exercise consisted of:

- the presentation of the context, the environment, participating agencies...,
- the tabletop exercise,
- a workshop and the debriefing of the exercise.

2.2.2 The tabletop SAREX French Guiana on May 13<sup>th</sup> 2024 involved ARCC Cayenne, Prefecture Cayenne and MRCC Fort de France.

2.2.3 The tabletop SAREX French West Indies on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2024 involved ARSC Fort de France and MRCC Fort de France.

## 2.3 Feed-back

2.3.1 Around 100 people expressed an interest in attending as observers and an ECCAA delegation was welcomed by SNA-AG during the tabletop SAREX French West Indies on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2024 and visited MRCC Fort de France on May 17<sup>th</sup> 2024.

2.3.2 For SAREX French Guiana, the OSC role was played by a Casa CN235 with a participation of 3 helicopters (Puma SA330, Dragon EC145, Ecureuil AS350). For SAREX French Antilles, the OSC role was played by a French helicopter EC145 with the participation of a C-26 from Barbados and a drone. The ACO role was played by MRCC Fort de France for both exercises.

## 3 SAREX 2025

3.1 The opportunity to evaluate the dissemination of information between ATS organisations, RCCs and airlines as part of the implementation of the LADR (monitoring of new ELT-DT beacons) should make it possible to carry out a full-scale exercise in early 2025 in the Piarco FIR with Fort de France MRCC as Sarsat Cospas regional SAR Point of Contact (SPOC).

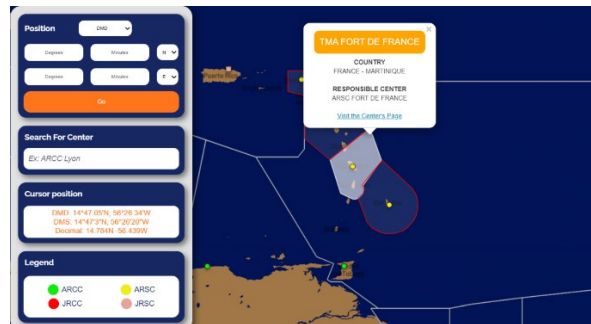
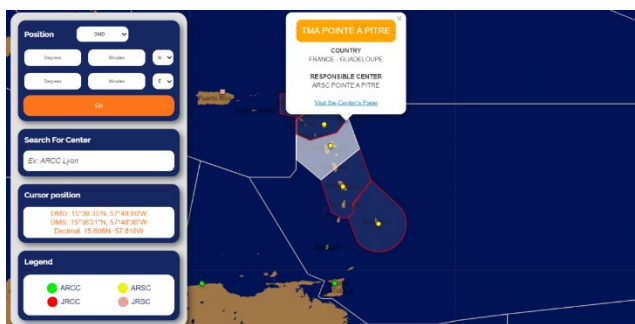
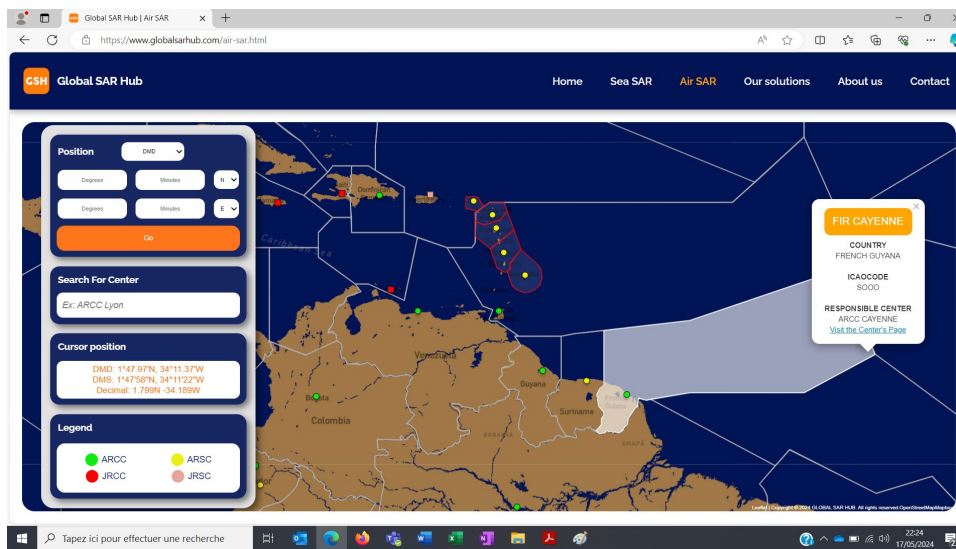
## 4 Suggested actions

4.1 the NACC/DCA meeting is invited to:

- a) take note of this working paper.
  - b) promote the organization of a regional SAREX, to rehearse different contingency scenarios and evaluate the CAR region SAR coordination capabilities.
  - c) suggest any other action deemed appropriate.
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APPENDIX A

French Search and Rescue Region (SRR)



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APPENDIX B

SAREX 973 (Cayenne FIR)

The screenshot displays a video conference interface. On the left, a map of the Cayenne FIR is shown with various search areas labeled A through H. The map includes geographical features like 'Le Malin', 'Le Petit Malin', and 'Le Malin Blanc'. On the right, a chat window titled 'GLOBAL SAR HUB SAREX CAYENNE' is visible. The chat contains several messages: 'TWR - ATC - Cayenne TWR from Casa, request to climb and stay at 2000ft. Expecting 3 helicopters to arrive for rescue mission at 1000ft maximum (CROSS orders)', 'case - 1911 UTC', 'Ch 16 - CASA from CROSS AG - box', 'cross ag - 1911 UTC', 'cross ag - 1911 UTC', 'cross ag - 1912 UTC', and 'Ch 16 - CASA from CROSS AG - Just sent you box area and coordinates'. A circular logo for 'SAREX CACAO' is also present in the chat. The video conference participants list on the far right includes IACC-CUBA, FM (Fabrice...), FD (Frederic...), EM (Mendez...), SC (Serge Cu...), MQ (Marco A...), Isabelle..., CV (CF VIORA), AA (ATM/SA...), IG (ICAO/IM...), and UT (+43).

SAREX 972 (Piarco FIR)

The screenshot displays a video conference interface. On the left, a map of the Piarco FIR is shown with search areas labeled A through D. The map includes geographical features like 'Castries' and 'St. Pierre'. On the right, a chat window titled 'GLOBAL SAR HUB SAREX MARTINIQUE' is visible. The chat contains several messages: 'FOR ALL TO MRCC FDF / Drift simulation', 'mrcc fort-de-france - 1423 UTC', 'mrcc fort-de-france - 1424 UTC', 'DRAKKAR landed on VICTOR LIMA', 'drakkar - 1424 UTC', and 'VHF 16 / VL FROM MRCC FDF / Copy'. Logos for 'dgac' and 'D S N A' are also present in the chat. The video conference participants list on the far right includes IACC-CUBA, Joelle Figaro, and Neil Sarjeant (Barbados).