



भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

DIRECTORATE OF AIRSPACE MANAGEMENT

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ATMC

AIR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CIRCULAR NO. 05 of 2024

DEPLOYMENT OF SAR-TRAINED ATM MANPOWER AT RESCUE COORDINATION CENTRES AND RESCUE SUBCENTRES

1 Introduction:

1.1 Para 2.3.3 of Civil Aviation Requirement, Section 9, Series S, Part I, Issue II on the subject of Search and Rescue stipulates that *"each Rescue Coordination Centre shall be staffed 24 hours a day by trained personnel proficient in the use of the language used for Radio Telephony Communications."* The role and functions of the Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centres (RCC) have also been reflected in the said CAR and Chapter 2 of the National Aeronautical Search and Rescue Manual.

1.2 AAI has established four Rescue Coordination Centres (RCC), one for each Indian Search and Rescue Region (SRR), located at Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai Airports and a Rescue Subcentre (RSC) of Kolkata RCC established at Guwahati to provide better search and rescue (SAR) coordination in the North-East Region of India. RCCs and the RSC are operational round the clock.

2 Purpose:

This ATMC aims to issue formalized procedures and instructions for deploying adequate Air Traffic Management (ATM) officers in RCCs and RSC, who are trained and skilled in Search and Rescue coordination and ATM operational functions.

3 Scope:

This ATMC applies to SAR Coordinators and other SAR-trained ATM personnel assigned to SAR-related tasks at Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Guwahati Airports.



4 Procedures:

4.1 The methodology developed by AAI to assess the requirement of SAR-trained ATM manpower at RCCs/RSC are founded on the following two scenarios:

- a) **Scenario 1:** Normal scenario wherein the RCC/RSC is involved in day-to-day routine function.
- b) **Scenario 2:** SAR Incident Scenario when the RCC/RSC is active due to a SAR incident requiring extensive search and rescue missions.

4.1.1 Normal Operations Scenario

4.1.1.1 In a normal operations scenario, the RCC/RSC-In-charge shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of RCC/RSC. He/she may be suitably assisted by at least one SAR-trained ATM Officer.

4.1.1.2 Additionally, ATS-In-Charges of airports/ATC Centres having RCC/RSC, who are the SAR Coordinators for the respective RCC/RSC, shall ensure that at least three SAR-trained personnel are available in each operational shift. The SAR-trained personnel may be assigned ATC duties when not performing RCC/RSC duty subject to restrictions such as Watch Duty Time Limitations (WDTL).

4.1.1.3 RCCs and RSC are required to be manned on an H24 basis. Hence WSO shall ensure that SAR-trained personnel perform routine SAR functions in the RCC/RSC Unit during the shift.

4.1.2 SAR Incident Scenario

4.1.2.1 In a scenario when the RCC/RSC is active due to a SAR incident requiring extensive search and rescue coordination, the following positions are expected to be manned in the RCC/RSC by trained SAR personnel:

- i. **RCC Coordinator:** Manages SAR operations and has the full operational authority of the SAR Coordinator.

Note: The SAR Coordinator has the overall responsibility for managing RCC/RSC and for the available SAR resources. The SAR Coordinator is normally not directly involved in the conduct of SAR operations at the site. GM(ATM) of the concerned RCC Station and Jt.GM (ATM)/ATS-In-Charge of Guwahati are the SAR Coordinators of the respective RCC/RSC.

- ii. **RCC/RSC Intelligence:** He/She shall be responsible for the collection of all information about the flight in distress including aircraft history, information about the crew, threats if known, existing weather and



abnormal occurrences, information from the public or any other information.

- iii. **RCC/RSC Search**: He/She shall provide Flight Information and Advisory Services to the aircraft engaged in SAR operations and also assist the RCC/RSC Plotting Coordinator in making decisions and coordinating with alerting posts for SAR operations in their areas.
- iv. **RCC/RSC Plotting Coordinator**: He/She shall be responsible for collecting all the flight details from FIC or other ATC units as necessary and plotting the most probable area of the distressed aircraft, to calculate the dimensions of the search area, getting information about the terrain and topography of the search area, and hand over this information to RCC/RSC Coordinator for further action.
- v. **RCC Records**: He/She shall maintain a record of all the activities undertaken by RCC/RSC in the case of any SAR incident and submit the consolidated report to the RCC/RSC Coordinator for further analysis.

- 4.1.2.2 During General Duty Hours, the RCC Coordinator position will be taken over by a SAR-trained official performing General Duty or Shift duty. However, the SAR Coordinator may designate another suitable person as the RCC/RSC Coordinator during a SAR incident.
- 4.1.2.3 Outside General Duty Hours, the RCC Coordinator position shall be taken over by a SAR-trained official performing Shift duty or by the WSO until a SAR-trained official takes over the responsibility from the WSO.
- 4.1.2.4 WSO shall immediately inform the SAR Coordinator (ATS-in-Charge) and the RCC-in-Charge about the SAR incident.
- 4.1.2.5 During a SAR Incident scenario, the RCC/RSC Coordinator may, as the situation warrants, combine the functions of one or more positions under ii) to iv) of para 4.1.2.1 in coordination with the SAR Coordinator.
- 4.1.2.6 The RCC/RSC-In-Charge shall maintain an updated list of all SAR-trained personnel posted at the station, along with their contact details in RCC and with WSO. RCC/RSC Coordinator, in consultation with WSO, may direct any SAR-trained personnel for duty, as per requirement.

35/11/24

**5 Queries:**

- 5.1 Any queries or further guidance required on the contents of this ATMC should be addressed to:

**Executive Director [ASM]
Airports Authority of India
Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan,
Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi-110003.**

E-mail: edasm@aai.aero

6 Validity:

This ATMC shall remain in force until further notice. ATMC 06/2018 stands cancelled.

M. S. T. F.
23/12/2024
**(MOOSA T F)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR [ASM]
AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

Dated: 23-12-2024