



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AIR RESCUE COMMISSION

International Commission for Alpine Rescue (ICAR)
October 2021

PREPARED BY:

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ICAR Air Rescue Commission

Despite the difficulties posed by COVID-19 in the last many months, the International Commission for Alpine Rescue (“ICAR”) Air Rescue Commission (“AirCom”) remained very active in 2021. The AirCom leadership submits the following Annual Report on its activities and strategies during the past several months.

RENAUD GUILLERMET APPOINTED TO EASA TASK GROUP

ICAR Air Rescue Commission Vice President

Renaud Guillermet was appointed to the

European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)

“HEMS/ Mountain Rescue Rule Making Task Group (RMT).” The RMT group is led by EASA and a total of seven experts have been appointed for the HEMS/Mountain rescue topic.



In his ICAR AirCom role on the Task Force, Renaud will support EASA with our outstanding worldwide operational expertise. He will be the voice of ICAR with a core knowledge that each program, each region, each country has its own operational challenges.

This special appointment is a direct reflection on Renaud’s strong work with EASA leadership. The relationship between ICAR AirCom and EASA has never been stronger, and the EASA appointment of



Renaud is a testament to Renaud’s expertise and commitment to the work of EASA. Furthermore, it is also the result of EASA seeing in ICAR a major partner. ICAR’s voice counts and you all have contributed to this result.

Renaud will be happy to answer any questions concerning the RMT. r_guillermet@hotmail.com .

Field Study on the Effect of Altitude on Rescue Helicopters Crews.

As a practical case ICAR Air Rescue and Medical Commissions will carry out a “field study” related to the effect of altitude on rescue helicopters crews. AirCom helicopter operators will take the opportunity during training flights to test cognitive capacities of their crews at 4000 m. This field study will complement the one already carried out by our colleagues from MedCom (Dr. Giacomo Strapazzon – Italy) in their hypobaric chamber (Bolzano). EASA is already looking forward to using ICAR’s results to validate or amend current regulations.

INTERDISCIPLINARY “DRONE WORKGROUP”

In 2020, the four ICAR Commissions identified drones as an increasing source of influence on the work of mountain search and rescue, as both an asset and a hazard. As such, ICAR has developed an interdisciplinary “Drone Workgroup” to address all issues pertaining to drones across all four main ICAR Technical Commissions.



The ICAR Drone Workgroup members are as follows:

Work Group Chair	Renaud Guillermet	ICAR AirCom Vice President
Air Rescue Commission	Diarmaid Scully	Mountain Rescue Ireland
Avalanche Commission	Dr. Will Smith	Teton County SAR (USA)
Medical Commission	Dr. Peter Paal	ICAR Medcom science lead
Medical Commission	Dr. Giacomo Strapazzon	EURAC
Terrestrial Commission	Filip Biocic	Croatian Mountain Rescue Service
Terrestrial Commission	Jörgen Nordquist	Swedish Police

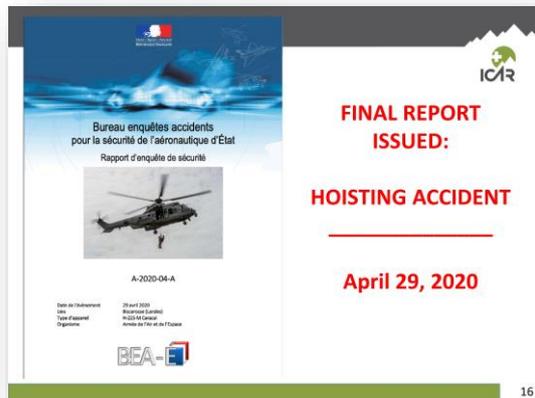
The initial draft goals of the ICAR Drone Workgroup are:

1. To serve as the main point of contact for ICAR drone issues, with each Technical Commission to identify the scope and breadth of the topics.
2. To provide all Technical Commissions with safety guidelines concerning mixed operations of drones and helicopters.
3. To identify types of drone applications in SAR, and subject matter experts and specialists in these applications (including such applications as reconnaissance flights, radio relays, and water rescues).

Other possible goals under consideration include:

1. Working with the UAS industry on research and design
2. Education on how to establish a program
3. Mission examples
4. Interfacing with drone regulators

The issue of drones in search and rescue is a broad and complicated one, and the workgroup is working to identify which issues to address first. For any thoughts on drones in SAR, or to report advances or concerns related to drones, please contact Renaud Guillermet.



INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS REPORTING

One of the hallmarks of the ICAR Air Rescue commission is our recording and reporting on incidents and accidents in helicopter rescue operations (including both HEMS and HEC operations). We report on these in detailed sessions at our annual Congress events and our new AirCom Spring Meetings, and we depend on ICAR members and colleagues to submit incident and accident reports

Of particular note in the 2021 AirCom study are the following types of incidents and accidents:

- Inadvertent Instrument Meteorological Conditions (IIMC) resulting in Controlled Flight Into Terrain (CFIT)
- Inadvertent Human External Cargo (HEC) resulting in the unintended raising of ground personnel during a hoist or short haul HEC operation
- Wake Turbulence left behind a helicopter flight resulting in unstable air mass that could affect the subsequent flight of hanggliders and parasailers into the path of the wake turbulence.

It is very important that ICAR AirCom delegates and colleagues report on any current incidents, accidents, or final reports that can be of value to the AirCom community. Please consider if there have been any incidents or accidents in your region, and report them to Charley Shimanski or Renaud Guillermet.



ICAR STRATEGIC PLANNING

The ICAR Technical Commission Presidents and Vice Presidents met virtually in mid-April to discuss a number of important topics, including developing an in-depth Strategic Plan for the future of ICAR. Terrestrial Commission President Gebhard Barbisch led a discussion about issues facing ICAR, including growth in membership and growth in attendance at in-person Congress events. The ICAR Commission leadership conducted a few more virtual meetings on the topic of a Strategic Plan, and the ICAR Executive Board met in Zurich to further discuss a plan.



Air Rescue Commission President Charley Shimanski is leading efforts to develop a Strategic Framework to guide this strategic plan. Furthermore, the ICAR Executive Board will update ICAR members on its strategic planning thoughts during the upcoming ICAR Online Virtual Congress October 21-23.

2021 ICAR ONLINE VIRTUAL CONGRESS

ICAR will conduct its second annual Virtual Congress on October 21-23, 2021. Like the 2020 Virtual Congress, the 2021 event will take place on the Zoom platform. An Assembly of Delegates will also take place on October 23. Both the Congress event and the Assembly of Delegates will have special required registration to participate. Information about the registration for both events will be coming soon.



Building on the success of our online ICAR Virtual Congress in October 2020, the ICAR Technical Commission Presidents have put together an exciting program for the 2021 Virtual Congress. ICAR members and interested rescue professionals are invited to attend the event, which will have no cost to participate.

We invite you to join us these three days at the times listed below:

VIRTUAL CONGRESS SESSIONS

Thursday October 21 and Friday October 22, 2021

- 1800 hrs to 2200 hrs EET (Eastern Europe)
- 1700 hrs to 2100 hrs CET (Central Europe)
- 1600 hrs to 2000 hrs WET (Western Europe)
- 0900 hrs to 1300 hrs MDT (USA/Canada – Mountain)
- 0800 hrs to 1200 hrs PDT (USA/Canada – Pacific)



Saturday October 23, 2021

- 1800 hrs to 1930 hrs EET (Eastern Europe)
- 1700 hrs to 1830 hrs CET (Central Europe)
- 1600 hrs to 1730 hrs WET (Western Europe)
- 0900 hrs to 1030 hrs MDT (USA/Canada – Mountain)
- 0800 hrs to 0930 hrs PDT (USA/Canada – Pacific)

ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES

Saturday October 23, 2021

- 2000 hrs to 2200 hrs EET (Eastern Europe)
- 1900 hrs to 2100 hrs CET (Central Europe)
- 1800 hrs to 2000 hrs WET (Western Europe)
- 1100 hrs to 1300 hrs MDT (USA/Canada – Mountain)
- 1000 hrs to 1200 hrs PDT (USA/Canada – Pacific)

ELECTIONS FOR ICAR EXECUTIVE BOARD

Election for Executive Board

As noted above, the ICAR Assembly of Delegates (AoD) is scheduled to take place October 23, 2021 during the ICAR Congress. Information from the ICAR Office on the election process has been sent to ICAR Members. Currently ICAR has one nominated candidate for Vice President, two candidates for Avalanche Commission President, and six candidates for the five open Assessor positions (*including our own AirCom Vice President Renaud Guillermet*).

For further information regarding this report, contact:

Charley Shimanski

ICAR Air Rescue Commission President

Past President; Mountain Rescue Association -

Mountain Rescue Program Coordinator; Flight For Life Colorado

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