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Newsflash

RUAG Dornier 228 Demonstrator Performs Emergency SAR Operation at Cape Verde

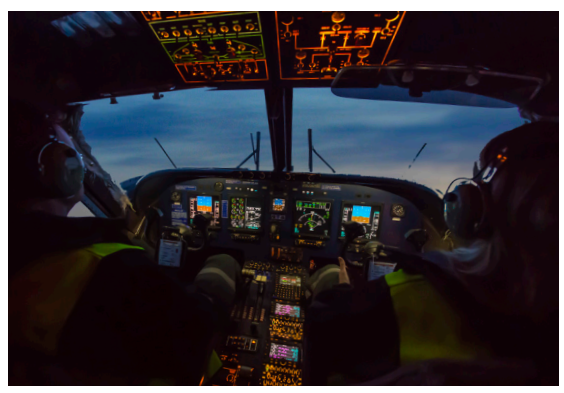
A lone kayaker was in distress several NM off the southern coast of Cape Verde at 19:30 UTC, on 11 April 2016. RUAG Aviation's Dornier 228 demonstrator was on hand to lend expert assistance after authorities diverted it from its 7 hour, non-stop flight from Natal, Brazil. Renowned for its versatile capabilities for low altitude flight and real-time situational awareness, the Dornier 228 proved its reputation and more as the kayaker was rescued successfully, despite prevailing visibility issues.

SAR patterns below 1'000 ft.

Low-lying cloud cover, darkening skies and the small size of the watercraft posed significant challenges to this SAR mission and the kayaker's ultimate safety. The Dornier 228, recognised for its exceptional capabilities, especially at low altitudes, descended from its cruising altitude of 15'000 ft. to 1'000 ft. to perform the Expanding Square search pattern in two separate search locations.

Mission performance

The aircraft's Flight Management System (FMS) and the full complement of sensors for signal reception provided excellent support for SAR pattern guidance. And, midst in flying the SAR patterns, the Dornier 228's high manoeuvrability allowed immediate reaction in response to sudden and brief acoustic distress signals. High wing placement permitted an unobstructed down view and enhanced situational awareness, while the installed bubble windows permitted the perfect vantage point for the crew to identify the kayaker's flare as soon as it was deployed. The Dornier 228 and its crew are proud to have contributed to the rescue of the kayaker by the Guarda Costeira.



Reliable endurance

The Dornier 228 was called for assistance 7 hours after the aircraft had departed Natal, Brazil. In total, the aircraft and its crew accrued 40 additional flight minutes over and above the non-stop transatlantic crossing, completing the Expanding Square SAR patterns without a refueling opportunity. The most economical and versatile aircraft in its class for any mission, the Dornier 228 features the lowest fuel consumption per NM, as well as an outstanding field of vision and a comfortable environment, combining to substantially reduce crew fatigue.

The Dornier 228 demonstrator returned to its home base at Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany, on 12 April 2016.

Contact RUAG to learn more about the Dornier 228's versatility and advanced performance in Multirole (MR) and Advanced Commuter (AC) configurations.

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