



July 2006

CICTE Informe 36

Counter-Terrorism Activities

Government of Bahamas Contributes to OAS, Praises CICTE

- On July 18, the Government of the Bahamas presented \$5,000 to OAS Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin to support the CICTE program. Upon making the payment, Bahamian Ambassador Joshua Sears praised the valuable work being done by CICTE and noted the committee's help in preparing for the 2007 Cricket World Cup to be held in the Caribbean next spring. The \$5,000 given to CICTE was part of an overall contribution of \$30,000 earmarked for OAS programs.

For more information see: www.caribbeannetnews.com/cgi-script/csArticles/articles/000024/002402.htm

University Offers Counterterrorism Degree

- The University of Detroit Mercy in the United States will start offering a master's degree in analyzing counterterrorism intelligence this fall. The school also offers a master's degree in information assurance (protecting information infrastructure) and school officials say that there is a great demand for graduates in both of these fields.

For more information see: "Detroit University Offering Counterterrorism Degree," Associated Press, July 20, 2006.

Development-Oriented Counterterrorism Approach Successful in Philippines

- Filipino and U.S. forces have found that a humanitarian focus in their counterterrorism strategy has been largely successful on the island of Basilan, and they plan to try the same tactics on the nearby island of Jolo. These islands, volatile and economically depressed, are now frequented by Filipino terrorist groups Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah. A successful counterterrorism tactic in Basilan has involved a two-pronged approach where, in addition to the traditional method of hunting terrorists militarily, Americans and Filipinos have also built roads, bridges, schools and wells. The U.S. Navy's hospital ship has also provided medical care to thousands of poor Filipinos.

Lieutenant Commander Franklin Sechriest of the U.S. Navy says “What we are doing is stepping outside of our traditional military role”. He believes that this non-traditional assistance will do much to reduce the pool of potential terrorism recruits and contain the spread of terrorism.

For more information see: “U.S. Fights Terror on Humanitarian Front,” *International Herald Tribune*, July 5, 2006.

Recent Events

- 5-7 July, 2006: CICTE and UNODC National Seminar on Legislation in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
- 9-12 July, 2006: Interpol Conference on Bio-terrorism in Santiago, Chile.
- 10-14 July, 2006: TSA National Program Development Workshop in St. Kitts and Nevis.
- 11-13 July, 2006: Training on Passport and International Documents Security and Issuance System in Miami, Florida.
- 13-14 July, 2006: Latin American Cargo and Border Security Summit in Miami, Florida.
- 17-21 July, 2006: TSA National Program Development Workshop in Guyana.
- 24-28 July, 2006: TSA National Program Development Workshop in St. Vincent.
- 27-28 July, 2006: OSCE Working Level CT-Practitioners Roundtable with Relevant Regional Organizations in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 7-11 August, 2006: TSA National Program Development Workshop in Costa Rica.
- 7-11 August, 2006: ICAO / AVSEC Screener Certification Program Workshop in Trinidad and Tobago.

Future Events

- 21-25 August, 2006: DTRA Combat Support Assessment Division Joint Staff Mobile Training in Surinam.
- 21-25 August, 2006: TSA National Program Development Workshop in El Salvador.
- 21-25 August, 2006: ITRS Security Training in Grenada.
- 6-8 September, 2006: ICAO’s second Symposium on Machine Readable Travel Documents and Biometric Enhancement in Montreal, Canada. An exhibition of important related products and services will complement the symposium. For more information, see: http://www.icao.int/icao/en/atb/MRTDsymposium/MRTD_06/index.html.
- 11-15 September, 2006: TSA National Program Development Workshop in Nicaragua.
- 18-22 September, 2006: TSA National Program Development Workshop in Honduras.

Latest News

- **In recent days a message calling for jihad in Latin America has circulated through email, claiming to be from a Venezuelan Hezbollah cell.** The document asserts that the indifference of Latin American Muslims to the events taking place around the world

with Islam is the best ally of Islam's oppressors. Members of Venezuela's Jewish community staged a protest against Hezbollah on Friday, July 28, and sent a letter of concern to Venezuela's UN headquarters in Caracas.

For more information see: www.infobae.com/notas/nota.php?Idx=268419&IdxSeccion=100

- **OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza condemned the deaths of four UN observers in Lebanon** during an Israeli airstrike on July 25. He sent his condolences to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, and demanded a complete investigation into the circumstances of the deaths. Secretary General Insulza also demanded the immediate cessation of Hezbollah attacks on Israel, and urged prudence on the part of the Israeli response to avoid the deaths of innocent people.

For more information see: www.ansa.it/ansalatina/notizie/rubriche/amlat/20060726231034004548.html

- **Salvadoran leaders are endeavoring to adopt the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering's (FATF) recommendations to curtail terrorist financing.** Members of the country's Inter-Institutional Counterterrorism Group want to ensure that the Salvadoran draft law is not overly general, and point out the consequences of a lack of anti-terrorist financing laws. Rolando Monroy, head of the financial investigation unit of the attorney general's office, notes that countries that do not adopt the international standards of the FATF could become economically marginalized and their companies prevented from participating in the international market.

For more information see: www.elmundo.com.sv/vernota.php?nota=56337&fecha=26-07-2006

- **A summit of world religious leaders held in Moscow in early July concluded by condemning terrorism and extremism.** Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Shintoist representatives from 49 countries particularly eschewed attempts to justify terrorist activities on religious grounds. The group's closing statement, sent to the G-8 Summit, included the following: "The world must be multi-polar and pluralist, satisfying all people and all nations, and not subjected to simplistic, lifeless ideological systems."
- **G-8 countries re-confirmed their commitment to cooperate to fight terrorism in their summit earlier this month.** In particular, they emphasized the urgent need to protect energy infrastructure from terrorist attack, and made plans to identify and rank sensitive sites. The countries agreed that the UN should be strengthened to deal with terrorism, and that private sector participation in the counter-terrorism efforts was needed as well.

For more information see: "G8 Cites 'Urgency' in Protecting Energy Sites from Terror Attack," *Agence France Presse*, July 17, 2006.

- **The Colombian Army has established a military base in Marquetalia, the birthplace of FARC.** Upon its opening, former Minister of Defense Camilo Ospina called the arrival of troops in the area "historic" and declared that the military presence would be there to stay. The FARC had control of the area from 1964 until recently, and one

Marquetalia resident claimed that the opening of the base was the first time he had seen the Colombian flag. The Colombian government has promised to provide monetary aide to those living in the area.

For more information see: www.noticias.canalrcn.com/noticia_print.php3?nt=32196

- **On July 11, terrorist explosions on India’s subway system during evening rush hour in Mumbai killed over 180 people.** The seven bombs in different train cars injured hundreds more as well. Though they have denied responsibility, as of this writing, Indian investigators suspect Lashkar-e-Taiba, a Pakistan-based Islamist militant group, and the Pakistani military spy agency, Inter-Services Intelligence, of instigating the attack. Indian police are now holding eight people in relation to the explosions.

New Books

- The Looming Tower, by Lawrence Wright. This book, deemed “remarkable” in its *New York Times* review, offers a unique take on the chronicle of Al Qaeda and 9/11 with the help of over 500 interviews conducted with key players, from Osama bin Laden’s best friend in college to Richard A. Clarke. Details are collected on topics like day-to-day life in Al Qaeda training camps, and the life histories of a few important figures are explored, including that of John O’Neill, the former F.B.I. Counterterrorism Chief who died on 9/11. The result is that the text has something like a narrative’s feel. This allows readers to ponder aspects of the events that are not emphasized in other books, such as what effect various personalities had on 9/11, its prelude, and its aftermath. The author suggests that bin Laden’s ultimate goal in instigating the attacks five years ago was to create such outrage in the United States that the country would be drawn into a mire similar to that of the Soviet Union’s intervention in Afghanistan.