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CICTE Informe 38

Counter-Terrorism Activities

Costa Rica ratifies the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism

Costa Rica joined 20 other nations in the Western Hemisphere in ratifying the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, a regional pact designed to eliminate the financing of terrorism and to deny safe haven to suspected terrorists.

On September 15, Costa Rica deposited the instruments of ratification at the Organization of American States' headquarters in Washington D.C., honoring its commitment to collaborate in the international effort against the scourge of terrorism.

Costa Rica is now "party to all hemispheric and international instruments in force to combat terrorism," according to Javier Sancho Bonilla, Costa Rica's permanent representative to the OAS.

For more information see:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=September&x=200609181335281xeneerg0.4429285>

OAS hosts counter-terrorism workshop

Although the threat of terrorism in the Caribbean might not be imminent, the OAS believes that the region should be prepared for any eventualities.

The OAS through the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism is sponsoring counter-terrorism workshops under the Interamerican Terrorism and Recreational Facilities Security Program (ITRS), which was first proposed after high level officials met in Trinidad in 2005 to discuss what the countries ought to be doing with respect to protecting their tourism infrastructure with emphasis on the recreational areas.

"They decided to develop a program that is going to be running throughout the Caribbean where we're going to train individuals in the tourism sector, security guards, middle level managers and supervisors, so that they can be alert to anything that might be suspicious in the areas where they work, whether it is an historical site, whether it is at the berthing harbor, at restaurants, at hotels, the entire tourism infrastructure so that people are trained to see anything suspicious and will be in a position to take the necessary action..." OAS Director for St. Kitts/ Nevis, Starret D. Greene

told the SUN. The program has three objectives: strengthen the institutional capacity of the tourism and recreational services sectors in the region; limit the capacity for terrorist attacks on the tourism and recreational services centers in the region and to build visitor confidence in the security and the safety of the tourism and recreational services sector

For more information see:

<http://sunstkitts.com/paper/?asknw=view&asknw=view&sun=494418078207132005&an=270543039609072006&ac=Local>

OAS assesses port facility security training needs

OAS, through its Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), and in co-operation with the government of St. Kitts/Nevis, conducted an assessment of the port facility security training needs in the Federation, between 20 and 21, September, 2006.

The objective of the visits was to assess port facility security training needs in order to identify what subjects need to be covered to achieve the goal of developing counterterrorism/law enforcement/security capabilities within the port facility. Significant attention was paid to access control, security awareness and law enforcement training.

Starret Greene, OAS Director for St. Kitts/ Nevis, stated that as part of the visit, the maritime team would meet and interview appropriate government officials, port authority officials, PFSO's, security managers and supervisors, response personnel, police and others with a stake in port facility security to determine training deficiencies and needs.

For more information see:

<http://sunstkitts.com/paper/?asknw=view&asknw=view,view&sun=494418078207132005&an=202028096709202006&ac=Local>

India upgrades nuclear facilities' security

Following warnings of possible terror attacks, India has "completely revamped" security at its nuclear facilities, according to the country's national security advisor on September. India's 22 military and civilian nuclear facilities are kept behind a three-tier security system manned by soldiers and anti-aircraft weapons while the atomic cores are enclosed inside blast-proof steel-and-concrete structures.

"We can assure you that we have completely revamped security for nuclear establishments... The arrangements are adequate for the threats we face," security advisor M.K. Narayanan told reporters without revealing details.

Israel seizes millions in bank raids across West Bank

The Israeli army confiscated millions of dollars during a series of pre-dawn raids on Palestinian banks across the West Bank, saying the cash was used for funding "terrorism."

Palestinian security sources told AFP that "millions of dollars, documents and files were stolen" when Israeli troops raided banks and money exchange shops in several towns, including Ramallah, Nablus and Jenin.

An Israeli army spokesman confirmed it had carried out the raids, saying the operation targeted “Palestinian financial infrastructure financing terrorism.”

There were no injuries reported, Israeli and Palestinian sources said

Recent Events

Sponsored by CICTE:

- 18-22 September, 2006: TSA National Program Development Workshop in aviation security in Honduras.
- 18-22 September, 2006: Port Security Evaluation in Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts/Nevis.
- 11-15 September, 2006: TSA National Program Development Workshop in aviation security in Nicaragua.
- 11-15 September, 2006: ITRS Security Training phase II, St. Kitts.
- 25-29 September, 2006: TSA National Program Development Workshop in aviation security in Panama.
- 25-29 September, 2006: ITRS Security Training phase III, St. Lucia

- 9-13 October, 2006: TSA National Program Development Workshop in aviation security in Antigua.
- 16-20 October, 2006: TSA National Program Development Workshop in aviation security in Dominican Republic.
- 23-27 October, 2006: TSA National Program Development Workshop in aviation security in Bahamas.

Not sponsored by CICTE:

- 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
- 9-13 October, 2006: FATF Plenary, Vancouver, Canada.

News

- After the transatlantic terror plot in Britain that was allegedly foiled last month, **EU and American officials said they were confident they could reach a deal on sharing airline passenger data.**

The deal risked sparking controversy at a time of heightened concerns in Europe that civil liberties laws are being flouted in the fight against terrorism.

But some civil libertarians in Europe remain concerned that U.S. officials could use the negotiations with the EU to press for a more far-reaching sharing of data. In an op-ed article on

September 30 in The Washington Post, the U.S. homeland security secretary, Michael Chertoff, described Washington as being “handcuffed” by the current trans-Atlantic

agreement because it did not allow U.S. customs officials who collect data on European air passengers to share this information with other agencies like the FBI or with other governments, like Britain.

- **New Zealand has released its first portable bacterial spore detector (BSD)** capable of detecting bacterial spores such as anthrax within minutes.
Developed by Associate Professor Lou Reinisch from the department of physics and astronomy at the University of Canterbury, the mug-sized device produces results at 99% accuracy. Veritide project manager Andrew Rudge said the product would provide an initial indicator test for teams responding to bio-terrorist alerts, to help them decide their course of action.
- **Interpol**, the world's largest international police organization, **opened its 75th General Assembly** in Rio de Janeiro (19 to 22 September 2006) according to Federal Police authorities.
Participants will discuss the struggle against cyber-crime, financial crime, the trafficking of drugs on the web, human trafficking, pedophilia, corruption, organized crime and terrorism.
- **Russia's parliament ratified a global treaty aimed to prevent nuclear terrorism**, a year after President Vladimir Putin became the first leader to sign the pact. The Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism makes it a crime to possess radioactive material or weapons with the intent of committing a terrorist act, or to damage a nuclear facility with the intent of killing or seriously injuring someone or substantially damaging the environment.
The U.S. is helping Russia with programs aimed to ensure the security of nuclear materials and facilities, through Russian officials say the facilities are well protected.