



Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)
Organization of American States (OAS)

COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

APEC/OAS Interregional Cooperation on Port Security



The 32nd Meeting of the APEC Transportation Working Group (TPT-WG 31) and its Maritime Security Experts Subgroup (MEG-SEC) took place in Lima, Peru, August 25-28, 2008. Twenty-six (26) delegates attended the MEG-SEC meeting, representing 12 Economies, namely, Australia, Canada, Japan, the People's Republic of China, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and the United States. Observers from the Organization of American States' (OAS) Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) and the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Regional Coordinator for East Asia also attended the meeting.

Among other issues, MEG-SEC agreed to the request of the OAS/CICTE Secretariat to translate the APEC Manual of Maritime Security Drills and Exercises for Port Facilities into languages of the Americas for distribution to its Member States. MEG-SEC also announced that the second of two workshops on the use of APEC's Manual of Maritime Security Drills and Exercises for Port Facilities is tentatively scheduled for Vancouver, Canada, for October 2008. The CICTE Secretariat will be invited to participate in the workshop.

The United States provided a presentation on its Port Security Risk Assessment Tool (PSRAT). As a result of the coordination of the OAS/CICTE Secretariat, Peru has offered to pilot the PSRAT and agreed to report on the outcomes at the TPT-WG 32 Meeting that will take place in Singapore in July 2009. MEG-SEC will also continue to seek IMO and OAS/CICTE Secretariat inputs when updating its Maritime Security Training Matrix, to avoid potential duplication. For more information: Pablo Martinez (PMartinez@oas.org)

Aviation Security Crisis Management Training

CICTE's Aviation Security program executed two training courses in the month of August. The first was Crisis Management Training in Barbados August 11-21 and Basic Security Training in Dominica August 18-28. The opening ceremony for the Crisis Management Training in Barbados was addressed by the Honorable John Boyce, Minister of International Transport and Mrs. Mary Ourisman



US Ambassador to Barbados among others. At the Opening Ceremony the importance of developing counter-terrorism measures was emphasized with Mrs. Ourisman being quoted as stating "we are only as strong as our weakest link, so therefore we all rely on strong partnerships to achieve the necessary security measures"

CICTE will continue its capacity building efforts in the area of Aviation Security in the upcoming months, with training programs planned for Argentina, Uruguay, Bahamas, and Belize among others. For more information: Ms. Hayda Wallen-Jaganath, HWallen@oas.org.



Inter-American Committee against Terrorism - Newsletter No. 59

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Highlights:

Editorial	2
Port Security Training	3
UN Forum on Supporting Victims of Terrorism	4
Recent Training and Conference Events	5
Upcoming Events	6
U.S. First Responders Training for Disaster	7
5 arrested in Italy 'terror cell' bust	8
Colombia sends troops to Afghanistan - first Latin American country	9
Semi-sub's Becoming Drug Security Risk	10
Contact us	11

[Click here for previous Newsletters](#)

“Guest Editorial”

The Government of the Republic of Panama has determined to continue its policy of comprehensive security, which, among other things, signifies the creation of new institutional structures in this area. Thus, five draft laws were recently approved, two of which created the National Air and Sea Service and the National Border Service.

With these two new institutions the Government is seeking to develop action plans to ensure a new climate of peaceful existence so that citizens can enjoy their rights, in an environment where the growing threats of drug trafficking, firearms, illegal migration, and terrorism are reduced without diminishing the ongoing fight against crime.

In this context, the security needed for the Panama Canal, the services which it provides to users, and the users themselves, are all factors that represent a significant benchmark of importance to the nation. The concentration of people, technical resources of strategic value and financial resources which come from these activities require enforcement of security by the Panamanian state in the area.

On March 2, 2007, at the Seventh Annual Meeting in Panama City during the Panamanian presidency, CICTE approved the Declaration of Panama on Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Hemisphere in the Face of Terrorism,” recognizing “that terrorism is a threat to critical infrastructure” and reiterating the commitment of the Member States of the OAS CICET “to take all necessary actions, in accordance with their domestic law and relevant international agreements, to prevent mitigate and deter potential terrorist threats to critical infrastructure, through the development and implementation of national measures and the strengthening of regional and international cooperation.” The Declaration highlighted the Panama Canal as an example of critical infrastructure for the Hemisphere.

It was in this context that the government of Panama and the U.S. Southern Command organized the multinational exercise Allied Forces (AF) PANAMAX August 11-22, based on a fictitious scenario of international terrorism provoked by drug trafficking, with the additional variable of submersible crafts which represent a latent threat for the Panama Canal and which threaten the security of all of humanity.

The principal objective of the exercise was to defend the Canal. Other events included humanitarian support and response to disasters in Honduras, a Global Initiative of Operations for Peace in Guatemala, and a command and control event with the Center for Joint Operations in the Dominican Republic.

Some 7,000 persons from 16 nations participated in this new version of the exercise of ALLIED FORCES PANAMAX (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, the United States, and Uruguay), as well as three organizations—the Central American Conference of Armies, the Organization of American States (the CICTE Secretariat), and the United Nations (OCHA). France, Mexico, Paraguay, and Spain participated as observers.

AF PANAMAX encourages international cooperation and operations among similar groups, promotes confidence among participating nations and contributes to regional, hemispheric, and global security. The exercise ensures that civil and military forces operate as an effective team to coordinate resources and share information when necessary. This team work serves to protect the security of the region and at the same time respects the sovereignty of national territory.

In addition, through CICTE programs, Panama is promoting regional international cooperation in port security through participation of its experts in the Workshops on Best Practices in Port Security in Fortaleza, Brazil, in June and in Guatemala in September, as well as in the crisis Management exercise in the Port of Callao in Lima, Peru, in April.

In this way, through its doctrine of neutrality and with security institutions adapted to the legal national conditions it has established, Panama is working both inside the country and within the region towards construction of a peaceful environment which will also benefit the international community.



DANIEL DELGADO-DIAMANTE
Ministro de Gobierno y Justicia
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COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

Port Security Training – The Bahamas – July 14- August 9, 2008

Under its Port Security program, the CICTE Secretariat organized a major assessment of training needs for two major ports in The Bahamas under the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) of the International Maritime Organization. Following a competitive process, Halcrow, a major U.S. maritime company, was selected to undertake the assessment in March and conduct appropriate training for six hundred and sixty (660) port employees in Nassau and Freeport. This training took place July 14 -25 at the Prince George Wharf in Nassau and continued from July 28- August 9 at the Freeport Harbor Terminal on the Island of Grand Bahamas.



The training focused on Port Facility Security Awareness (400 trainees); Advanced Port Facility for Security Officers (37 trainees); Basic Course for Port Facility Security Guards and Customs Officers (140 trainees); Incident Command System (32 trainees); and table-top exercises for International Ship and Port Facility Compliance (51 participants).

The table-top exercises benefited from the presence and the participation of three cruise lines. For more information: Ms. Francine Hanna, fhanna@oas.org

OAS XXXV Course on International Law

From August 4-29, 2008, the OAS Secretariat for Legal Affairs organized in Rio de Janeiro the XXXV Course on International Law, "New Developments in International Law in the Americas." The course offered the opportunity to promote the exchange of ideas and generate an open dialogue on issues of special relevance to the OAS in the area of international law. The students from all OAS Member States received scholarships to attend the course and consisted of a group of young professionals who work in the area of international law, whereas instructors and professionals in international law from throughout the Hemisphere and other regions participated as speakers. The CICTE Secretariat's Program Manager for Legislative Assistance and Terrorism Financing also participated as a speaker in two sessions on "The International Legal Framework against Terrorism. Universal and Inter-American Instruments." For more information: Mr. Ignacio Ibáñez, iibanez@oas.org

Two-Year Review of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy



On September 4, 2008, the UN General Assembly will hold a plenary session at its headquarters in New York to review progress made in implementing the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy adopted on the same date two years ago. The Facilitator, Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the UN, has been conducting consultations with UN Members on the outcome of the Review. The Review will take into consideration the numerous UN and regional meetings which have taken place since 2006 on various aspects of the Strategy, as well as the work of the nine UN Working Groups of the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force. Member States will have an opportunity to share Best Practices identified and programs undertaken in the implementation process and to discuss the ways the Strategy can be used to attune the global, regional, and sub-regional efforts to combat terrorism. As one of the inputs, the Secretary General has provided a report on activities of the UN system to implement the Strategy which can be found [here](#).

August Revisions to Consolidated List of the United Nations Security Council Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee

An updated August 2008 version of the Consolidated List is accessible in XML, PDF and HTML formats on the Committee's website at the following URL: <http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/consolist.shtml>

UN Forum on Supporting Victims of Terrorism



A symposium on supporting victims of terrorism will take place on September 9, 2008, at the United Nations in New York, in the Economic and Social Council Chamber. The Secretary-General is hosting the symposium in response to the call in the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on supporting victims of terrorism. The objective is to provide a forum which will assist Member States in their Strategy commitment to “strive to promote international solidarity in support of victims and foster the involvement of civil society in a global campaign against terrorism and for its condemnation.” The symposium will help to put a human face to the scourge of terrorism and highlight the steps being

taken to build solidarity with and support for victims. It follows a long line of United Nations support to, and consultations with, victims on a range of core United Nations concerns, including: crime and abuse of power; genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes; gross violations of human rights; colonialism and apartheid; and natural disasters.

All Member States as well as regional and subregional organizations are invited. The governments of Spain, the United Kingdom and Colombia have provided voluntary contributions for the symposium. Their contributions will enable the Secretary-General to bring 25-30 victims, experts and civil society representatives from all regions of the world as participants in the symposium.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/issues/cts.shtml>

Implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the Latin America and Caribbean Region

On 12 September from 12:30-2:30pm the Center on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation will inaugurate its new Washington DC office (1111 19th Street, NW, 12th Floor) to present their latest report titled “Implementing the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the Latin America and Caribbean Region.” The report is the culmination of a six-month research project which included a workshop hosted by the Canadian Mission to the United Nations involving participants from OAS Missions, the OAS Secretariat, UN Missions, the UN Secretariat, nongovernmental experts, and others. The authors will present the report, which includes recommendations for improving implementation of the holistic counterterrorism framework reflected in the UN Strategy, and, more broadly, counterterrorism cooperation in the region and between the region and the United Nations. Dr. Carol Fuller, Secretary of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), and Dr. Peter DeShazo, Director of the Americas Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, will offer comments and then other guests will be invited to join the discussion. Copies of the report will be available at the luncheon.

More information about the Center on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation is available at www.globalct.org

OSCE Public-Private Partnership Conference on Combating Terrorism

The 2008 Follow-up Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Conference on “Partnership of State Authorities, Civil Society and the Business Community in Combating Terrorism” will be held on 15-16 September in Vienna, Austria. The conference, organized by the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit, will focus on public-private partnerships (PPPs), including with the media, to counter violent extremism, PPPs to protect critical infrastructures and major events against terrorist attacks, as well as PPPs to block channels for terrorist financing. The objective of this conference is to take stock of the relevant developments in the area of PPPs in combating terrorism since the High-Level OSCE Political PPP Conference held on 31 May-1 June 2007, and to further explore the concrete potential for such co-operation in specific fields. State officials as well as representatives from civil society, business and international organizations will exchange ideas and information, discuss recent developments and further explore the potential for concrete public-private co-operation in countering terrorism within the OSCE region. The event is organized in implementation of OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/07 and Permanent Council Decision No. 848, with financing from Spain, the United States, and the Russian company Norilsk Nickel.



For more information please contact Reinhard.Uhrig@osce.org

RECENT TRAINING AND CONFERENCE EVENTS

Month	Days	Event	Venue
August	11-21, 2008	Advanced Aviation Security Training Course for Barbados, organized by CICTE	Bridgetown, Barbados
	18-28, 2008	Basic Aviation Security Training Course for Dominica, organized by CICTE	Roseau, Dominica
	25-26, 2008	OAS Course on International Law, organized by the OAS International Law Office	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
	25-29, 2008	APEC Maritime Security Experts Sub Group	Lima, Peru

UPCOMING EVENTS

Month	Days	Event	Venue
September	1-5, 2008	Aviation Security Crisis Management Training, organized by CICTE	The Bahamas
	3-5, 2008	Cybercrime Legislation Workshop for Latin American countries, organized by OAS-REMJA Working Group on Cybercrime and the US Department of Justice	Bogota, Colombia
	4, 2008	UN General Assembly Review of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy	New York, United States
	15-17, 2008	Conference on Public Private Partnerships against Terrorism, organized by the Action against Terrorism Unit, OSCE	Vienna, Austria
	8-12, 2008	Advanced Aviation Security Training Course for Dominica, organized by CICTE	Roseau, Dominica
	25-27, 2008	Port Security Crisis Management Exercise for Trinidad and Tobago, organized by CICTE	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
	29 - October 3, 2008	Workshop for Central America, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic on Best Practices in Port Security and ISPS Code Implementation, organized by CICTE	Guatemala City, Guatemala
October	6-8, 2008	Fourth Symposium and Exhibition on ICAO MRTDs, Biometrics and Security Standards, organized by ICAO	Montreal, Canada
	7-8, 2008	OAS Ministerial Conference on Public Security	Mexico City, Mexico
	9-10, 2008	First meeting of ICAO International Capacity Building Working Group (ICBW)	Montreal, Canada
	13-17, 2008	Sub-regional Workshop for the Caribbean on Terrorism Financing, organized by CICTE	St. John's, Antigua
	26-31, 2008	Document Examination and Document Fraud Workshop for Mexico, organized by CICTE	Mexico City, Mexico
	30, 2008	First Preparatory Session for IX Annual Meeting of CICTE, organized by CICTE	OAS Headquarters, Washington DC
November	10-12, 2008	Sub-regional Workshop for Andean countries on Best Practices on Travel Document Security, organized by CICTE and ICAO	Bogotá, Colombia
	14-16, 2008	UN Working Group on Public Private Partnerships for the Protection of Vulnerable Targets, organized by UNICRI	Torino, Italy
	19-21, 2008	Conference on Secure Trade and Transportation, organized by Government of Panama	Panama City, Panama
	24-26, 2008	XV Meeting of Group of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER), Council of Europe	Strasbourg, France
December	1-5, 2008	Sub-regional Workshop for the Caribbean on Cyber Security Awareness and the Creation and Management of a Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT), organized by CICTE and IMPACS	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
	8-12, 2008	Aviation Security Crisis Management Training, organized by CICTE	Roseau, Dominica
	8-12, 2008	Specialized Workshop on Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing for Brazil, organized by UNODC and CICTE	Brasília, Brazil

*NOTE: Only events that have formally accepted by host countries appear on this list.

NEWS

The “Foreign Minister” of the FARC in Ecuador Could be the Woman Granted Political Asylum by Daniel Ortega

“Esperanza” might be Nubia Calderon, the significant other of Franklin Aisalla, the Ecuadoran who died along with “Raul Reyes” in March. According to President Ortega, the woman requested asylum from the Nicaraguan Embassy in Quito, and was then transported to Managua, where she is being treated in a hospital for wounds incurred during the attack and for a long-standing illness. In addition to Calderon, three Colombians are being protected by the Nicaraguan government: Martha Pérez and Doris Torres, also injured in the bombardment, received asylum in April. The Colombian President told his Nicaraguan counterpart that this problem could be solved if the presumed guerrillas are demobilized because this way “President Ortega can protect these girls but not encourage terrorism in Colombia and can seek creative solutions if what he wants is to find creative solutions.” Despite opening this option, the Colombian President criticized the granting of asylum to the guerrillas. “The right to asylum in the world is not for terrorists. To give political protection to terrorists is to violate the norms of the United Nations.” For more information [click here](#).

US Says Delisting NKorea From Terror List Conditional

Nuclear-armed North Korea cannot be removed from a [US] list of state sponsors of terrorism unless it agrees to a comprehensive protocol verifying its atomic program, US officials said, on August 1. North Korea has signaled it would agree to a verification protocol if Washington removed it from the terror list under an "action-for-action principle." For more information [click here](#).

Travelers' Laptops May Be Detained At Border

U.S. Federal agents may take a traveler's laptop or other electronic device to an off-site location for an unspecified period of time without any suspicion of wrongdoing, as part of border search policies the Department of Homeland Security recently disclosed. Civil liberties and business travel groups have pressed the government to disclose its procedures as an increasing number of international travelers have reported that their laptops, cellphones and other digital devices have been taken -- for months, in at least one case -- and their contents examined. In April, the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco upheld the government's power to conduct searches of an international traveler's laptop without suspicion of wrongdoing. For more information [click here](#).

U.S. First Responders Training for Disaster

The U.S. Defense Department led a large-scale disaster preparedness exercise the first week of August aimed at helping first responders at all levels prepare for a possible Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) event. The exercises were intended to test responders' ability to deal with communication obstacles as well as intelligence distribution among various agencies. NATO sent observers to the exercise, as did Italy, Japan, Spain, Sweden, and a number of other nations. For more information [click here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

UK seeks quick ruling on 'terror cleric'

The European Court in Strasbourg, France, ruled Monday, August 4, that Abu Hamza, who is also known as Abu Ayyub al-Masri and Mustafa Kamal Mustafa, may not be extradited until it considers his appeal. Judges in Great Britain have ordered Abu Hamza extradited to the United States, but he appealed to the European Court. He argued that his extradition would violate European human rights provisions because of health problems. Abu Hamza has exhausted his appeals in Britain. For more information [click here](#).

Former bin Laden driver gets light sentence

The Yemeni man convicted at the first Guantanamo war crimes trial will be eligible for release in less than five months after receiving a light sentence, on August 12, from a jury made up of U.S. military officers. The judge, Navy Capt. Keith Allred, called Hamdan a "small player," and the jury apparently agreed, rejecting the recommendation of prosecutors who said even a life sentence would be fitting to send a message to would-be terrorists. Hamdan thanked the jurors for the sentence and repeated his apology for having served bin Laden. While being convicted of supporting terrorism, Hamdan was acquitted of providing missiles to al-Qaida and knowing his work would be used for terrorism. He was cleared of being part of al-Qaida's conspiracy to attack the United States.

For more information [click here](#).

5 arrested in Italy 'terror cell' bust

Police broke up a suspected terror cell Saturday, August 9, and arrested five North Africans, including the alleged leader who Italian officials said recruited Islamic extremists for attacks in Iraq and Afghanistan. Authorities also suspect the cell sent tens of thousands of euros (dollars) to groups in Bosnia that offer training and logistical support to Iraqi and Afghan terror organizations.

For more information [click here](#).

Unpublished Details of US Participation in "Operation Jaque"



Although the successful rescue of Ingrid Betancourt and 14 others kidnapped by the FARC was done by Colombia, they received technical, political, and intelligence support in the days leading up to it. For four years U.S. personnel had been working on the issue through special forces, FBI hostage negotiation Experts, intelligence planes, and even a "green light," which they held back until the last moment because of concern for the lives of the three Americans.

For more information [click here](#).

Revelation of Video Shakes Colombia

The International Red Cross condemned the apparent "deliberate abusive use" of its emblem by the Colombian Army. "If these are real, these images clearly demonstrate an inappropriate use of the emblem, which we deplore," explained the Vice Director of Operations of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Dominik Stillhart. Colombian Minister of Defense Juan Manuel Santos said that neither he nor the commander of the military forces, General Freddy Padilla de Leon knew about the video in its entirety.

For more information [click here](#).

FARC go-between Arrested in Spain

On July 25th, the Spanish police detained María Remedios García Albert, considered to be the FARC representative in Spain, according to the Minister of the Interior. Her capture resulted from collaboration with police authorities in Colombia, thanks to information found in the computers of Raúl Reyes, the FARC second in command who died March 1 during the Colombian Air Force attack on Ecuadoran territory.

Investigation sources clarified that her detention has nothing to do with a possible collaboration between the FARC and the terrorist organization ETA. Chief Prosecutor in the National Spanish Court, Javier Zaragoza, and Colombian judicial authorities, spoke about the possible relationship this week in Bogota. Mario Iguarán, Colombia's Attorney General, asserted that both organizations maintained a "terrorist agreement" and that they had identified those responsible for the entry and circulation in Spain of money obtained by the guerrillas in drug operations.

For more information [click here](#).

Colombia sends troops to Afghanistan - first Latin American country

Colombia will become the first Latin American country to participate in the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, the Spanish daily El Pais reported Thursday, August 7. The Colombian unit comprising about 100 soldiers will be integrated into a Spanish force based in Qal-i-Naw in northwestern Afghanistan. Spain has a contingent of about 800 soldiers in Afghanistan as part of the ISAF. For more information [click here](#).

Costa Rica's Drug Trafficking Commission Approves Counter Terrorism Agree-

After having received from the Egmont Group an extension of time until Next May to approve the counter terrorism agreement, the Special Commission on Drug Trafficking approved the text. Requirements are international in nature and are aimed principally at preventing and combating the financing of acts of terrorism. For more information [click here](#).

Trini dies in Taliban attack

A Trinidadian woman working with an aid agency to help the children of war-ravaged Afghanistan, was killed on August 13 by Taliban fighters, who labelled her a western spy. Also dying in the attack her co-workers, Jacqueline Kirk, 40, a dual citizen of Canada and the United Kingdom, and a Canadian woman, whose name was withheld on the request of her family. The driver of their SUV, Mohammed Aimal, 25, of Kabul, Afghanistan, also died. The four worked for International Rescue Committee, a New York-based humanitarian organisation, working in Afghanistan for the past 20 years in community-based development projects. For more information [click here](#).

Libya: Settlement Ends Terrorism Suits

On August 15, the United States and Libya settled all outstanding lawsuits by American victims of terrorism on Thursday, clearing the way for a restoration of full diplomatic relations. There were 26 pending lawsuits filed against Libya by United States citizens as a result of the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, and other attacks, said a Libyan government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the details had not been announced. The official said three other pending suits were filed by Libyan citizens as a result of United States airstrikes on Tripoli and Benghazi in 1986 that Libyans say killed 41 people. Under the agreement, a fund will be set up to compensate the American and Libyan claimants, officials said. International institutions and foreign companies in Libya, including some American businesses, will contribute. Many relatives of victims of the Lockerbie bombing have opposed any deal on compensation, saying Libya should be held fully accountable. For more information [click here](#).

FBI Presents Forensic Evidence on Anthrax Attacks Suspect

The anthrax used in the 2001 mailings was a perfect genetic match to a supply of the agent possessed by an Army scientist, Bruce Ivins, the U.S. Justice Department contends is responsible for the attacks. Ivins killed himself in late July as federal prosecutors were reportedly preparing to file charges against him. However, researchers, attorneys and other skeptics continued to express doubts about the evidence, and even participants in the investigation admitted that questions remained. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).

Busting the Anthrax Myth



Dr. Jeffrey W. Runge, chief medical officer at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, told a congressional subcommittee on July 22 that the risk of a large-scale biological attack on the nation is significant and that the U.S. government knows its terrorist enemies have sought to use

biological agents as instruments of warfare. Runge also said that the United States believes that capability is within the terrorists' reach. Runge gave his testimony before a subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology. For more information [click here](#).

Semi-submersibles Becoming Drug, Security Risk

Drug-smuggling semi-submersible vessels could also become a means of bringing weapons into the United States, counter-terrorism experts fear. The low-riding boats have been detected by the U.S. Coast Guard at least 27 times this year, more than the previous six years combined. Far more are believed to have gone undetected, The Boston Globe reported Sunday August 17. For more information [click here](#).

Before the Gunfire, Cyberattacks

Weeks before bombs started falling on Georgia, a security researcher in suburban Massachusetts was watching an attack against the country in cyberspace. Jose Nazario of Arbor Networks in Lexington noticed a stream of data directed at Georgian government sites containing the message: "win+love+in+Russia." Other Internet experts in the United States said the attacks against Georgia's Internet infrastructure began as early as July 20, that overloaded and effectively shut down Georgian servers. For more information [click here](#).

Internet filtering and censorship rife



The recent conflict between Georgia and Russia has highlighted many of the issues at play with Internet filtering, as its increasing use by governments raises serious doubts about the freedom of the Web. Filtering simply means restricting access, blocking or taking down Web sites. According to a 2007 report by the OpenNet Initiative, which surveyed more than 40 countries, almost two-thirds of the states involved were filtering content to some degree.

With recent developments in Georgia and Internet restrictions during conflict in Estonia last year, there are concerns that filtering could be further utilized in future "cyberwarfare." The kind of 'cyberwarfare' that we hear about usually isn't filtering as much as 'denial of service' attacks that disable servers hosting particular Web sites. Another type of 'cyberwarfare' that occurs more regularly is hacking into computers and stealing information, as well as planting Trojans or viruses. For more information [click here](#).

Simulated Nuclear Accident Provides Opportunity to Study Response

The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization completed a two-day international emergency response exercise entitled ConvEx-3 on 9-10 July 2008. The exercise simulated an event at the Laguna Verde nuclear power plant in Mexico. In this scenario, a fire in the nuclear plant resulted in the release of radioactive material into the atmosphere. For more information [click here](#).



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