



Inter-American Committee against Terrorism - CICTE

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security - Organization of American States

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II Sub-regional Workshop on the Interdiction and Investigation of Cross Border Bulk Cash Smuggling

The CICTE Secretariat (OAS/SMS/CICTE), in conjunction with ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement), in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Inter-American Commission on Drug Abuse Control (OAS/SMS/CICAD), and under the auspices of the Government of Peru, organized the “*Second Sub-regional Workshop on the Interdiction and Investigation of Cross Border Bulk Cash Smuggling.*” The workshop was held in Lima from December 15-18, 2009.



The main objective of the workshop was to enhance the capability of participating countries to effectively apply the national and international legal framework on bulk cash smuggling, as well as the investigation of violations of their local cash declaration laws/regulations. There was also an exchange of best practices with respect to special analysis, investigative and prosecution techniques, and the importance of international cooperation on those matters. The framework is provided by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Special Recommendation IX.

More than 40 financial intelligence analysts from Financial Intelligence Units, immigration and customs officials, and prosecutors from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay participated in the workshop. Experts from the Executive Directorate of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (UN CTED), the South American Financial Action Task Force (GAFISUD, by its initials in Spanish), the United States Department of Homeland Security, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, as well as the organizers, gave theoretical and practical sessions on bulk cash smuggling. The workshop was opened by Mr. Felipe Tam Fox, Superintendent of the Peruvian Bank Examiner's Office (Superintendencia de Banca, Seguros y AFP de Perú). For more information: Ignacio Ibáñez, iibanez@oas.org

Training on Tourism Security in Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico; 18-22 January 2010.

As part of the CICTE Secretariat Critical Infrastructure Protection Programs, a training activity on Tourism Security was held in Cancun, Mexico. The CICTE Secretariat, in coordination with the Government of Mexico and in partnership with the Hotel Association of Cancun, held a course –delivered through experts provided by a private contractor- for 40 private sector security managers and 20 public officials from federal, state and local tourism and security agencies. The training lasted 40 hours divided into 8 hours for five days; the curricula included topics such as: Security in the Tourism Industry, Emergency/Crisis Management, Communications, Hotel/Facility Security, Threat Analysis, Security Surveys and Assessments. The actual training sessions combined presentations on theory with practical in-room exercises for each topic, as well as a tabletop exercise that combined elements from all topics, which allowed the trainers to evaluate the participants' progress along with written tests that were administered on the first and last training days. For more information: Alejandro Díaz de León, adiazdeleon@oas.org



Editorial

Private security for maritime security?

In May 2009, the United States Coast Guard approved the Maritime Security Directive, *Maritime Security (MARSEC) Directive 104-6 (Rev 2)*. Its objective is that ships under the American flag adopt new security measures when they navigate in high risk waters, where terrorist acts, piracy and armed robbery are frequent. The directive was approved weeks after two American merchant ships (*Maersk Alabama* and *Liberty Sun*) each suffered pirate attacks in waters off the coast of Somalia.

The emergence of terrorism and piracy as linked concepts forces us to consider new questions. Is the collusion of interests between both criminal groups possible? Will terrorists focus on the bottlenecks of maritime commerce worldwide like the Panama Canal and the Suez Canal? In July 2009, Egyptian authorities dismantled a plot by *Al Qaeda* against the Suez Canal.

Certain obligations from the new North American regulations that are imposed on American ships sailing through the Horn of Africa to embark private security, armed or unarmed should be highlighted due to their innovative approach. It is also worth pointing out that its recommendations "could be considered" by ships from other countries. Even though the majority of *Port Security Advisories* published since then by the United States Coast Guard follow the recommendations suggested by the shipping industry and international organizations, like *Intertanko*, *BIMCO* or the *International Maritime Bureau*, in this case it appears that a discrepancy exists. The organization of ship-owners *BIMCO* has reiterated its opposition to the presence of private security on board. *BIMCO* will only allow security on board if the ship is slow or has a low freeboard and the ship-owner has not obtained protection from its own State. In addition, in June 2009, the Bahamas, Liberia, Panama and the Marshall Islands (countries that represent 43% of the tonnage worldwide) signed a declaration in which they refused to support the presence of firearms on board.

What lessons can be learned from what happened in Somalia? The risk of collusion between terrorists and pirates is on the rise, given the links between *Al Qaeda* and the Somalian Islamic radical militia *Al Shabaab*, which controls a good part of the south of the country. On January 1, 2010, it announced its willingness to send combatants to Yemen to fight next to *Al Qaeda*.

Some 40 ships and aircrafts from three international missions and several countries protect the maritime navigation in the zone facing piracy, but the area to be covered (from the Red Sea to Oman and from the Gulf of Aden to Seychelles) is equivalent to the distance from north to south similar to Argentina and from east to west the area that covers Cuba, Hispaniola and Puerto Rico. The number of military units present is insufficient. Richard Farrington, Chief of Staff of the European Naval Force of Operation *Atalanta*, declared in May 2009 that in order to guarantee security "we need 60 ships in the Gulf of Aden and 150 others in the Somalian basin."

An immediate international agreement is not foreseeable to coordinate all of the ships present under one single command, not even from the United Nations. The Ministries of Foreign Affairs hope to increase the coordination between the three international missions present, along with a better involvement from China and Russia in the centralization of the efforts.

Unless the international community takes new measures or favors the political stability of the "failed" State of Somalia, the solution proposed from the United States can end up being imposed in other countries.

The debate has also arrived to Europe. While France has preferred to embark soldiers on board French tuna fishing boats that fish near Somalia, last September, Spain carried out important legislative changes that partially follow the steps of what was approved in the United States. The Spanish ships that sail in high risk zones will be protected by means of private security guards, authorized to carry firearms. The dissuasive capacity of this measure has been historically demonstrated: up to this date no ship that has employed armed private security agents has been hijacked by Somalian pirates.

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Counter-Terrorism Activities

Training Course on Fraudulent Document Detection



The Secretariat of CICTE, in collaboration with the Government of the Dominican Republic, held a training course on the detection of fraudulent travel documents and imposters on January 18-22, as part of the CICTE Program on Document Security and Fraud Prevention. Experts from the Forensic Documents Laboratory (FDL) of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provided the technical instruction. The primary objective of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of the participating officials and their respective countries to prevent and detect the use of altered or fraudulent travel and other identity documents.

Hosted in Santo Domingo, the course was attended by 32 participants: 15 from Panama and 17 from the Dominican Republic. Participants were drawn from migration, law enforcement, customs and related authorities responsible for border controls and the examination of travel and other identity documents. This was the sixth in a series of training workshops tailored for the recipient countries.

For more information: Paola Fernandez, pfernandez@oas.org

Workshop on the Prevention and Fight against Terrorism and its Financing – Bogotá, Colombia



The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (OAS/SMS/CICTE), under the auspices of the Government of Colombia and the Prosecutors Office, carried out a “Workshop on the Prevention and Fight against Terrorism and its Financing” in Bogotá, on January 26-29, 2010.

Experts from Colombia, Mexico, Peru, United States, France, Italy and Spain and representatives from international organizations such as EUROJUST, INTERPOL, OAS/CICTE and UNODC shared their experiences and exchanged best practices with 60 public prosecutors, judges and criminal justice officials. Main topics of the workshop included: the regional and international legal framework in the prevention and fight against terrorism and its financing; national experiences in investigation and prosecution of cases of terrorism; evidence aspects of judicial inquiry; bulk-cash smuggling for terrorist purposes; and the use of joint investigative teams.

For more information: Alejandro Díaz de León, adiazdeleon@oas.org

Crisis Management Simulation Exercise: Response to a bioterrorist attack. Cancun, Mexico. November 11-14, 2009

Participating countries: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, México, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic. Under a new work area called “Strengthening Strategies for Emerging Terrorist Threats”, the CICTE Secretariat is developing an ongoing program to provide technical and policy coordination assistance to Member States on how to manage a potential terrorist incident. Realistic tabletop exercises emphasize specific issues dealing with contingency planning and consequence management, with the goal of motivating public authorities to prepare and test formal crisis management plans – either government-wide or in specific sectors such as ports, tourism or health – in which policymakers and counter-terrorism experts within Member States role-play a terrorist scenario specifically designed to help them assess their existing plans and capabilities. Each scenario highlights a potential terrorist threat and challenges government officials to brainstorm real-time solutions to the problems with which they are confronted. An after-action discussion and evaluation provides the authorities with professional criticism and the opportunity to improve or draft national action plans to respond to potential threats. →



The objective of these exercises is to examine plans, processes and procedures to ensure public health and security as well as preserve domestic and international trade after a biological attack of a transnational nature.

As a phase I of this new program, a Crisis Management Bioterrorism Simulated Exercise was held in Cancun, Mexico, on November 11-14, 2009. The exercise was attended by high ranking officials of the Governments of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic. Also in attendance were experts from international organizations such as: Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO); INTERPOL; United Nations Security Council 1540 Committee; United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs, WMD Branch; Organization of Security and Cooperation of Europe (OSCE) Secretariat, Action Against Terrorism Unit; and from special-

ized entities within the Government of the United States including NORTHCOM, Navy, Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of State.

This exercise established a learning environment to examine plans, policies and response procedures to a bioterrorist threat to public health, international transport, commerce and tourism within Mexico and neighboring countries. A range of topics were discussed by participants, including: 1) Incident and Emergency Management; 2) Law Enforcement; 3) Public Health and Medical Surveillance; and 4) Media and Public Affairs (local and international).

OSCE-ATU Activities

Public-Private Expert Workshop to focus on Protecting Non-Nuclear Critical Energy Infrastructure from Terrorist Attacks

The OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) will hold a Public-Private Expert Workshop on Protecting Non-Nuclear Critical Energy Infrastructure from Terrorist Attacks on 11-12 February, 2010 in Vienna, Austria. The workshop's objectives are to enhance awareness of current and emerging issues in protecting non-nuclear critical energy infrastructure; to facilitate the exchange of best practices and timely sharing of information; as well as to foster co-operation among participating States and to promote the development of public-private partnerships with a view to increase non-nuclear critical energy infrastructures protection.



A tabletop simulation will take place on the second day of the workshop, based on a scenario designed to discuss the implications of a terrorist attack against non-critical energy infrastructure for the OSCE region. The event is organized thanks to a generous extra-budgetary contribution from the United States. For more information, please contact Mehdi.Knani@osce.org

Council of Europe News – January 2010

Council of Europe Conventions

The Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism (CETS No.: 198) entered into force for Belgium on 1 January 2010.

Austria and Slovenia ratified the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS No. 196) respectively on 15 and 18 December 2009. The treaty will enter into force for both States on 1 April 2010.

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Council of Europe Events

The 3rd round evaluation reports on Armenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina - as adopted by the CoE Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) - are now available for consultations. Furthermore, a MONEYVAL team of evaluators visited Hungary from 18 to 22 January 2010 under the fourth evaluation round. Further information is available at www.coe.int/moneyval



On 15 January, the Council of Europe published its 2009 annual Report on the Technical Cooperation Against Economic Crime. In 2009, the Council of Europe has carried out some 400 activities under 13 economic crime-related projects involving a wide range of countries and organizations. The report presents the achievements of these projects which aim at building capacities to enable countries to ratify and implement relevant Council of Europe and international standards and to follow up on recommendations resulting from monitoring mechanisms. The document is available at : <http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/cooperation/economiccrime>

On 25-29 January, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe convened for its winter session in Strasbourg. Debates ranged from the situation in the Middle East, media freedom, judicial corruption and the detention of asylum seekers and irregular migrants. Further information on PACE work is available at: <http://assembly.coe.int>

Upcoming Events

Registration has been opened for the Octopus Interface Conference 2010 on Cooperation against Cybercrime, which is to be held on 23-25 March 2010 in Strasbourg. The conference will provide an opportunity to interface for cybercrime experts from public and private sectors as well as international and non-governmental organizations from all over the world.

For further information on the Council of Europe action against terrorism, please visit <http://www.coe.int/gmt>

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

An updated January 2010 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>

Recommended Reading

Countering Terrorism and Building Cooperation in North Africa: The Potential Significance of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (ARI)

ARI 162/2009 - 1/12/2009



Eric Rosand, Co-Director of the Center on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation in New York offers an article on how the UN Strategy for North Africa can contribute to a recalibration of counterterrorism efforts in the region and to a stronger cooperation among regional stakeholders and between the region and external partners such as the EU, the UN and the US.

For more information [click here](#).

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Are we winning? Measuring Progress in the Struggle against al Qaeda and Associated Movements Christine Bartolf and Bernard I. Finel, American Security Project


In this report, the American Security Project intends to comprise a holistic approach, examining causes and processes associated with the terrorism threat, in addition to outcomes; analyzing topics such as al Qaeda and Associated Movements (AQAM), Terrorism Financing, International Cooperation Against Terrorism, the State Sponsorship of Terrorism and the Public Attitudes of the Muslim World and in the US toward this problem. The report ends with conclusions and recommendations. For more information [click here](#).

A M E R I C A N S E C U R I T Y P R O J E C T

Selecting the right AVSEC Consultant

Professor Francis Spranza, owner of Spranza and Avsec-Center, offers an article on how, whether the need is for training, document preparation, scenario exercises, or simply management enhancement programs, selecting the right outside consultant or consulting agency to assist your organization can be, at times, a challenging proposition at best. For more information [click here](#).

No Longer On Auto Pilot: Aviation Security and Intelligence Reform

 On January 8, 2010, HSPI released a commentary by W. Ralph Basham, Former Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection and HSPI staff Frank J. Cilluffo, Daniel J. Kaniewski, and Sharon Cardash where they offer an analysis on the errors, defects and new challenges of American Intelligence architecture based upon President's Obama latest statement regarding the attempted Christmas day Bombing. For more information [click here](#).

Prevention of WMD proliferation and Terrorism Report Card

Former Senator Bob Graham (D-FL) and former Senator Jim Talent (R-MO), chair and vice chair of the bipartisan Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism, present an assessment of the U.S. government's progress in protecting the United States from weapons of mass destruction proliferation and terrorism. For more information [click here](#).

Al Qaeda Weapons of Mass Destruction Threat: Hype or Reality?


Rolf Mowatt-Larssen spent more than two dozen years in intelligence, both in the CIA and U.S. Department of Energy. After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, he led the U.S. government's efforts to determine whether al Qaeda had WMD capabilities and to prevent a nuclear terrorist attack on the United States. Mowatt-Larssen, now a senior fellow at Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, has put together a detailed timeline illustrating terrorists' efforts to acquire WMD. For more information [click here](#).



Washington Post on attack against CIA facilities

Two articles about the attacks against the CIA base in Afghanistan by the false informant. For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).

Cybersecurity and Cyberdefense: a first approach

 Document from the Ministry of Defense of Colombia on Cybersecurity and Cyberdefense. For more information [click here](#).

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Recent Events

Month	Days	Event	Venue
January	26-29, 2010	Specialized Workshop on Terrorism Financing (CICTE-UNODC)	Bogotá, Colombia

Upcoming Events

Month	Days	Event	Venue
February	4-5, 2010	Preparatory Meeting - Crisis Management Exercise on Port Security	Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis
	8-12, 2010	National Aviation Security Training Course (To be confirmed)	Belize
	9-12, 2010	Specialized Training for judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials (CICTE-UNODC)	Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis
	23-26, 2010	Specialized Training on the Legal Framework against Terrorism and Border Controls	Cartagena, Colombia
March	1, 2010	Third Preparatory Session for X Annual Meeting of CICTE	Washington DC, USA
	3-5, 2010	Crisis Management Exercise on Port Security	Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis
	8-9, 2010	Preparatory Meeting - Crisis Management Exercise on Port Security	Nassau, Bahamas
	9-17, 2010	Aviation Security Scholarships for ICAO National Training Course	Ecuador
	17-19, 2010	Tenth Regular Session of CICTE	Washington DC, USA
	29-31, 2010	Crisis Management Exercise on Port Security	Nassau, Bahamas
April	12-16, 2010	Aviation Security Scholarships for ICAO Cargo and Mail Training Course	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
May	27-28, 2010	OSCE Workshop on the ICAO Public Key Directory (PKD)	Vienna

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

NEWS

Terror Attempt: Man Tries to Ignite Device on Jet

A Nigerian man tried to ignite an explosive device aboard a trans-Atlantic Northwest Airlines flight as the plane prepared to land in Detroit on Christmas Day, in an incident the United States believes was “an attempted act of terrorism.” The device, described by officials as a mixture of powder and liquid, failed to fully detonate.



According to Obama administration officials and congressional aides, The U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency had information about alleged terrorist Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab three days before his departure from Amsterdam to Detroit, but even with that much advance notice nothing could be done to stop him from boarding the plane.

Despite the billions spent since 2001 on intelligence and counterterrorism programs, sophisticated airport scanners and elaborate watch lists, it was something simpler that averted disaster on a Christmas Day flight to Detroit: alert and courageous passengers and crew members.

As a result of this terror attempt, the government has added dozens of people to the ominous lists of suspected terrorists and those barred from U.S.-bound flights. Also, Air passengers from 14 countries (Yemen, Afghanistan, Algeria, Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Syria) are now subject to additional security scrutiny. The new security measures include body pat downs, checks of carry-on luggage and scanning for explosives.

The EU will decide on a US request that Europe install body scanners at its airports after studies into their effects on health and privacy are completed. Britain and the Netherlands have already said they will employ the scanners while France and Italy plan to try out the devices. Scandinavian nations and Germany and Spain have been more cautious.

For more information click : [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), [9](#), [10](#)

Three men linked with Al Qaeda are detained for alleged drug trafficking for FARC

DEA agents posed as members of this guerrilla group in order to catch them. The American authorities believe that the three men plotted to commit narcoterrorism acts, a crime that entails a minimum sentence of 20 years in prison and a maximum of life imprisonment.

Additionally, the three men are accused of attempting to lend material support to a foreign terrorist organization. The prosecutor’s office maintains that the men agreed to transport cocaine through North Africa with the intention of supporting Al Qaeda, the organization Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and FARC.

“Today’s accusations highlight the emergence of a worrying alliance between Al Qaeda and international narco-traffickers,” noted the prosecutor through a press release, in which he explained that as terrorists introduce themselves into the world of drugs “they give us more opportunities to incapacitate them and cut the financing sources of future terrorist acts.

For more information [click here](#).

Colombia rebels, al Qaeda in "unholy" drug alliance



BOGOTA (Reuters) - Colombian guerrillas have entered into "an unholy alliance" with Islamic extremists who are helping the Marxist rebels smuggle cocaine through Africa on its way to European consumers, a U.S. official told Reuters on January 4.

Interdiction efforts have made it more difficult to send cocaine straight from Colombia and other Andean producer nations to the United States and Europe.

For more information [click here](#).

Report says Al-Qaeda still aims to use weapons of mass destruction against U.S.

When al-Qaeda's No. 2 leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, called off a planned chemical attack on New York's subway system in 2003, he offered a chilling explanation: The plot to unleash poison gas on New Yorkers was being dropped for "something better," Zawahiri said in a message intercepted by U.S. eavesdroppers

Mowatt-Larssen writes about this in a report released Monday by the Harvard Kennedy School of Government's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs as a panel on weapons of mass destruction appointed by Congress prepares to release a new assessment of the federal government's preparedness for such an attack. For more information [click here](#).

Officials fear toxic ingredient in Botox could become terrorist tool

[January, 25.] Al-Qaeda is known to have sought botulinum toxin. The Lebanese Hezbollah movement, which the United States has designated a terrorist organization, and other groups have bought and sold counterfeit drugs to raise cash. Now, with the emergence of a global black market for fake Botox, terrorism experts see an opportunity for a deadly convergence. For more information [click here](#).

OAS Deplores the Assassination of Colombian Governor

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (CIDH) deplores the murder of the governor of the department of Caquetá, Luis Francisco Cuéllar, in Colombia along with the police agent Javier García Gutiérrez, and two other policemen who were injured. The government of Colombia attributed the responsibility of the murder to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

On Christmas Eve the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights issued a press release in which it "repudiates and condemns" this assassination "that represents a flagrant violation of International Human Rights". For more information [click here](#).

FARC accepts responsibility for death of Colombian Governor

A suspected FARC rebel thought to have organized the kidnapping and subsequent murder of Caqueta provincial Gov. Luis Francisco Cuellar was arrested in the northwestern city of Medellin, Colombian authorities said.

The Southern Bloc of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, took responsibility for the governor's death in a communiqué dated Dec. 24 and posted on the Web site of Anncol, a Swedish-based radical news agency.

The rebels said Cuellar was kidnapped so that he could be placed on "political trial" for corruption. For more information [click here](#).



Three African men flown to U.S. for trial linked to terrorism, drugs

Three African men suspected of ties to al Qaeda in North Africa have been arrested in Ghana and flown to New York to face charges that they engaged in drug trafficking and supported terrorism, federal officials said.

Court documents released in Washington reveal a DEA undercover operation that included agents claiming to have ties to FARC. The alleged plot involved shipment of cocaine from Africa to Europe, with al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb helping facilitate the trafficking.

For more information [click here](#).

U.S to Make Stopping Nuclear Terror Key Aim

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration’s classified review of nuclear weapons policy will for the first time make thwarting nuclear-armed terrorists a central aim of American strategic nuclear planning, according to senior Pentagon officials.

When completed in year 2011, the Nuclear Posture Review will order the entire government to focus on countering nuclear terrorists — whether armed with rudimentary bombs, stolen warheads or devices surreptitiously supplied by a hostile state — as a task equal to the traditional mission of deterring a strike by major powers or emerging nuclear adversaries.

For more information [click here](#).

Obama Administration takes a new approach to biological weapons

The Obama administration plans to announce a new policy to curb the spread of biological weapons, but it will reaffirm the Bush administration’s opposition to an international regimen for verifying stockpiles of anthrax, smallpox and other agents.

The policy, to be disclosed in a speech in Geneva by the undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, Ellen O. Tauscher, will focus on increasing health security to reduce the impact of outbreaks of infectious disease, whether natural or man-made, administration officials said.

The United States, these officials said, will pledge to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention, a 1975 treaty barring the development, production and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons.

For more information [click here](#) and [here](#).

Jamaica will monitor extremist Muslim cleric

As reported on January 4, a Jamaican-born Muslim cleric once jailed in Britain for urging the killing of Americans, Hindus and Jews will be a security concern for his Caribbean homeland when he is deported from Kenya, an official said.

Kenya's immigration minister said the East African nation would soon expel el-Faisal to Jamaica for preaching in mosques in violation of his tourist visa.

For more information [click here](#).

Google threatens to quit China over cyber attacks



January 13 - Google has vowed to defy Chinese Internet censors and risk banishment from the lucrative market in outrage at "highly sophisticated" cyber attacks aimed at Chinese human rights activists.

China-based cyber spies struck the Internet giant and at least 20 other unidentified firms in an apparent bid to hack into the email accounts of activists around the world, Google said.

For more information [click here](#).

In Digital Combat, U.S. finds no easy deterrent

[Jan 26] On a Monday morning earlier this month, top Pentagon leaders gathered to simulate how they would respond to a sophisticated cyberattack aimed at paralyzing the nation's power grids, its communications systems or its financial networks. The results were dispiriting. The enemy had all the advantages: stealth, anonymity and unpredictability.

Participants in the war game emerged with a worrisome realization. Because the Internet has blurred the line between military and civilian targets, an adversary can cripple a country — say, freeze its credit markets — without ever taking aim at a government installation or a military network, meaning that the Defense Department's advanced capabilities may not be brought to bear short of a presidential order. For more information [click here](#).

False 'Iranian Cyber Army' attacks Twitter

Twitter was blocked for approximately one hour because of an attack against its web page that was attributed to a group self named as "Iranian Cyber Army".

When users tried to connect with the Twitter service, their request was redirected to another page in which a green flag with Islamic symbols appeared along with a message in English that said: "This site has been hacked by the Iranian Cyber Army," according to CNN.

For the time being it is not known if the hackers that are said to be members of the "Iranian Cyber Army" are connected with Iran. For more information [click here](#).



As attacks increase, U.S. struggles to recruit computer security experts

The federal government is struggling to fill a growing demand for skilled computer-security workers, from technicians to policymakers, at a time when network attacks are rising in frequency and sophistication.

Demand is so intense that it has sparked a bidding war among agencies and contractors for a small pool of special talent: skilled technicians with security clearances. Their scarcity is driving up salaries, depriving agencies of skills, and in some cases affecting project quality, industry officials said. For more information [click here](#).



Drug trafficking goes against civilians, alerts DEA

An internal report from DEA warned on December 31, 2009 that the attacks could take place in Michoacán, Nuevo León, México, Chihuahua, Sinaloa, Durango, Zacatecas and even the Federal District.

For more information [click here](#).

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FARC and ELN announce they will unite to confront the State

This was revealed in a press release signed by the leaders of both organizations. "We aim to work for the unity in order to confront, with strength and belligerence, the current regime," expressed the National Secretary of FARC and the Central Command (COCE) of ELN in the declaration, circulated by the New Colombia News Agency.

For more information [click here](#).

Anthrax false alarm disrupts Alabama



BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 5 (UPI) -- Anthrax scares disrupted government operations across cities in Alabama as federal authorities checked substances sent to senators and members of Congress and found it was mostly fructose.

Officers from the Federal Bureau of Investigation said the powder found in the mailed packets tested negative for anthrax or any other biological agent but they would still treat the situation as a terror incident until satisfied.

For more information click : [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)

Queens Man Is Accused in Plot to Kill U.S. Soldiers

A Queens College graduate who traveled to Pakistan in 2008 to attend a Qaeda training camp conspired to kill American service members in Afghanistan, a federal prosecutor said in court, as reported on January 20.

The prosecutor, Assistant United States Attorney James P. Loonam, also said his office expected to seek additional charges against the Queens College graduate, Adis Medunjanin, 25, and might consolidate Mr. Medunjanin's case with that of Najibullah Zazi, 24, one of two other men who prosecutors say attended the camp. Mr. Zazi was charged in September in a separate indictment alleging a Qaeda bomb plot.

For more information [click here](#).

High-Level Panel Calls for Biosecurity improvements

January 12 - The U.S. government should divide its list of deadly disease-causing pathogens and toxins into separate categories so that research facilities can implement security measures that correspond to the risk posed by those materials, according to the findings of a high-level panel of experts.

The much-anticipated 149-page report issued by the Working Group on Strengthening the Biosecurity of the United States also calls for the government to take actions that would lead to changes in the rules governing the handling, storage and management of the 82 "select agents" -- pathogens and biological toxins such as anthrax declared to pose a severe threat to human or animal health by the U.S. Health and Human Services and Agriculture departments.



For more information [click here](#).

Jamaican police credit alliance with Customs for arms find



The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) is crediting its close collaboration with the Customs Department for the seizure of 12 guns and 730 assorted rounds of ammunition at Port Bustamante in Kingston on Monday, January 11.

The cache of illegal weapons and ammunition was discovered hidden in cargo declared to contain two barrels, a compressor and power washer. An X-ray conducted on the cargo revealed inconsistencies, which led to it being detained and taken to the Contraband Enforcement Team (CET) office, where the weapons were uncovered. For more information [click here](#).

NNSA Recovers High-Activity Radioactive Sources from Warehouse 25 Miles from New York City

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) announced, on January 14, that it has successfully completed the recovery of two high-activity Cesium-137 devices from a warehouse located approximately 25 miles from Manhattan in Rahway, New Jersey.



The devices, which contained more than 3,000 curies of Cs-137 at the time of their recovery, were used for medical research during their useful life. To date, NNSA has recovered more than 24,000 disused and unwanted radioactive sealed sources containing more than 768,000 curies of activity eliminating the threat this material poses if lost or stolen and used in a dirty bomb”.

For more information [click here](#).

Alleged hijacker reportedly killed in Pakistan missile strike

A U.S. missile strike in Pakistan recently killed one of the FBI's most wanted terrorists, a man suspected in a deadly 1986 plane hijacking with a \$5 million bounty on his head, three Pakistani intelligence officials said on January 15.

The death would be the latest victory for the CIA-led missile campaign against militant targets in the insurgent-riddled Pakistani tribal belt bordering Afghanistan. The Pakistani officials described him as an al-Qaeda member, but the FBI site says he was a member of the Palestinian terrorist group Abu Nida.

For more information [click here](#).

Agencies ill-armed to fight US-based terrorists

America's military and counter-intelligence establishments are ill-equipped to deal with domestic extremist threats, Robert Gates, US Defense Secretary, said on January 15 in comments that highlighted US fears about home-grown terrorism.

Concerns about US intelligence gathering have intensified since the Fort Hood killings, chiefly because of the failed Christmas day aircraft attack in Detroit and the murder of seven CIA operatives in Afghanistan by a Jordanian triple agent.

For more information [click here](#).

Turkey police arrest 120 al-Qaeda suspects

The arrests were made in co-ordinated pre-dawn raids in 16 provinces. The raids came after police seized documents disclosing details of extremist militant activity in Turkey. Suspected leaders of al-Qaeda cells in Turkey - including the local group's leader, Serdar Elbasi - were reportedly among those detained. The raids, which took place in cities including Ankara and Istanbul, came after 33 suspected al-Qaeda members were arrested in Ankara and Adana earlier that week. For more information [click here](#).



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