



Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

Organization of American States (OAS)

Seasons Greetings from the CICTE Secretariat Staff!

This combined November/December newsletter is the last in 2007. Our next newsletter will be issued in February 2008. The staff of the CICTE Secretariat would like to wish everyone enjoyable holidays and a happy new year.



Inter-American Committee
against Terrorism -
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COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

II OAS Cyber Security and Cyber Crime Workshop

The II OAS Cyber Security and Cyber Crime Workshop convened from November 5-9, 2007, at the field office of the U.S. Secret Service in Miami, Florida. The event was organized and conducted by the CICTE Secretariat in conjunction with the U.S. Secret Service and the CyberScience Laboratory, Unisys, American Express and Mastercard.



Thirty-one of the 34 OAS Member States were represented, with 102 people in attendance. Participants included officials who are primarily assigned to their country's existing CSIRT or who will likely be assigned to their national CSIRT when one is established; officials who direct electronic and cyber crimes units, with security or law enforcement responsibilities; and officials who contribute to the development of policies and decision-making at the national level on cyber security matters. Participants also included representatives of the Asia-Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (APCERT), Spain's Guardia Civil, the Anti-Phishing Working Group (APWG), and numerous private corporations, and Academia.

The workshop had three primary objectives: increase awareness of the cyber threat to OAS Member States from organized transnational criminal and terrorist groups; build the capacity of OAS Member States to comply effectively with the requirements to combat threats to cyber-security; and strengthen a culture of cyber security within OAS Member States by broadening a network of regional contacts and exchanging expertise and data.

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November-December,
2007

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Editorial

Border Controls, Free Trade and Secure Transportation



Prestigious economists and multilateral institutions such as the World Bank have recognized that free markets and free trade, when appropriately balanced with other development principles, are a source of economic prosperity. Trading partners are, for example, more likely to resolve differences than to resort to undesirable conflicts. On the other hand, security measures to combat drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism have increasingly become an asset for trade relationships.

Any strategy to deal with these security threats implies tangible costs, but the intangible costs that insecurity can produce could be far higher. For example, according to the World Bank, the Caribbean economies were the most severely affected in the world by the terrorist attacks of 9/11—after Afghanistan and its immediate neighbors. Officials of the Dominican Republic reported US\$450 million in lost tourism revenues from September 11, 2001, through December 2002.

The trade networks are the highways of our economies and must be appropriately managed and protected. That necessarily includes controlling and protecting our borders. We are faced with an array of potential transnational threats in the region—like drug trafficking, organized crime or even terrorist acts—that may undermine the security, prosperity and—potentially—the stability of a country, or an entire subregion. We need to learn how to sustain *economic growth while taking the necessary steps to incorporate security principles and measures along with our schemes of development.*

Countries that establish and maintain a secure system of border management make a significant contribution to the economic and social well-being of their citizens, as well as those in neighboring countries. Securing borders includes not only control of people—of increasing importance as the global population becomes more mobile—, their goods and documents, but such issues as public health and the environment. The goal is to balance the potential positive impact of trade on society and the economy with the potential for negative impact through security failures.

Most OAS border security programs deal with preventing breaches of security which could disrupt economic development, including trade. In particular, the OAS Port Security programs represent a good example of the multi-dimensional approach that can support and protect trade. Port security contributes to overall crime-prevention programs, to fighting terrorism and other threats, such as illegal trafficking of drugs, arms and people and other forms of organized crime, as well as other offenses affecting cargo security and maritime traffic that threaten criminal port exploitation. But maintaining security in ports is not only a matter of border controls. It is also a matter of protecting Critical Infrastructure.

In February 2007, the Secretariats of CICTE, CICAD, and the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) formed a Port Security Assistance Partnership (PSAP) with the U.S. Coast Guard and Transport Canada. The PSAP has begun organizing crisis management exercises and a series of sub-regional workshops on best practices in port security, focused on topics such as international security standards, free trade zones, public/private partnerships, and container security. In addition, the Government of Panama, which currently chairs CICTE, has proposed an International Conference on Secure Trade and Transportation for 2008.

Through international cooperation and regional integration, countries can benefit from each other's experiences and more effectively maintain the balance between securing borders and facilitating the movement of people and goods. The key to our success in combating security challenges will be the ability of the Hemisphere to reconcile the relationship between security and trade and development, and to move forward with an integrated, multi-dimensional approach that emphasizes greater cooperation and partnership to meet common challenges.

COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

Legislative Technical Assistance Mission to Suriname

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the CICTE Secretariat, under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Suriname, undertook a joint Legislative Technical Assistance Mission to Paramaribo, Suriname, on November 19-20, 2007. The main goals of the mission were to increase awareness at the highest level of the Executive, Judiciary and Legislative powers, on the importance of ratifying and implementing the universal legal instruments against terrorism and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism; and to provide technical assistance on the Surinamese draft counter-terrorism legislation.



During the first day of the mission, consultations were held with, among other authorities, the Minister of Defence, the Minister of Justice and Police, the President of the Court of Justice, the Prosecutor General, and the President of the National Assembly. On the second day, a workshop was held on the ratification and implementation of the universal legal instruments against terrorism and the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism. Around 40 high-ranking officials from various ministries and institutions attended the workshop, which was opened by the Minister of Justice and Police and closed by the Minister of Defense.

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Aviation Security training programs in Trinidad and Tobago and St. Vincent and the Grenadines

The Aviation Security program of the CICTE Secretariat organized two training programs through November and December 2007: Crisis Management Training in Trinidad and Tobago, November 26 – 30 and Basic Security Training in St. Vincent and the Grenadines December 3 – 11. Both courses were implemented by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA). These will be the last courses offered for 2007 and the Aviation Security program is expected to resume in the second half of January 2008 with a stronger focus to the Latin American Member States.



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Customs and Immigration security training in Guyana

From November 5-10, 2007, the CICTE Secretariat organized a customs and immigration follow-on security training for customs, immigrations, and security officials functioning at the air and sea ports in Guyana. Twenty-three (23) participants attended this training program which was held at the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) Headquarters. Expert instructors from the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Department of Homeland Security, covered issues such as processing of passengers, interviewing techniques, and searching of vessels, aircrafts and luggage.

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Preparations for the Eighth Regular Session of CICTE

Preparations for the Eighth Regular Session of CICTE are well underway at OAS Headquarters. Two preparatory sessions have been held and one more is scheduled for February 11, 2008. The agenda for CICTE VIII includes an in-depth focus on three substantive topics: cyber security, document security and fraud prevention, and port security--trade and safe transportation. Also being planned are the Meeting of government experts to evaluate a tourism and recreational facilities' security pilot project, and the Sixth Meeting of National Points of Contact to CICTE. All the meetings are to be held March 4-7, 2008 at the OAS in Washington, D.C. with participation by all 34 CICTE Member States.

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Regional Seminar on Security for Major Events

In April 2008, the Ministry of the Interior of Spain, thanks to the support of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) and in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the CICTE Secretariat, will convene a Regional Seminar in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on Security for Major Events. The event will take place under the umbrella of UNICRI's International Permanent Observatory (IPO) program on Security for Major Events and in particular the regional initiative IPO Americas, jointly implemented with the CICTE Secretariat. The event will include briefings on the most recent major events and offer the opportunity to identify future major events of regional interest and promote mechanisms for facilitating international and regional cooperation in preparation for and during major events.

The Regional Seminar will be an occasion to bring together, for the first time, the National Focal Points (NFP) on Security for Major Events, appointed by OAS Member States in response to a letter of request sent by UNICRI and the CICTE Secretariat in September 2007. In accordance with the Terms of Reference provided in that letter, the NFPs should have knowledge of security planning and be identified within the national authorities responsible for planning or validating the security of major events. This network will function as a sub-network of the CICTE National Points of Contacts (NPCs). To date, three countries have formalized appointment of their NFPs: Costa Rica, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

We look forward to receiving responses from the other Member States on their appointment of an NFP in preparation for the Regional Seminar of Cartagena.

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RECENT TRAINING AND CONFERENCE EVENTS

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--|--------------------------|
| November | 1 - 2, 2007 | Disasters - Recipes and Remedies. Organized by social research. | New York, United States |
| | 2, 2007 | First Session of the Preparatory Meeting of the Eighth Regular Session of CICTE | Washington D.C, U.S |
| | 5-9, 2007 | II Cyber Security and Cyber Crime Workshop organized by CICTE | Miami, USA |
| | 5-9, 2007 | Crisis Management Training (Aviation Security) | Grenada |
| | 5-9, 2007 | Customs and immigrations follow-on security training | Guyana |
| | 5-9, 2007 | Customs and immigrations follow-on security training | St. Kitts and Nevis |
| | 7-9, 2007 | Customs and immigrations assesment | Antigua & Barbuda |
| | 12-18, 2007 | Port Security Assesment | Jamaica |
| | 19-21, 2007 | Legislative Technical Assistance Mission | Suriname |
| | 26-30, 2007 | Crisis Management Training (Aviation Security) | Trinidad & Tobago |
| | 26 - Dec 1, 2007 | Port Security Assesment | Guyana |
| December | 3, 2007 | Second Session of the Preparatory Meeting of the Eighth Regular Session of CICTE | Washington D.C, U.S. |
| | 3 - 7, 2007 | Customs and immigration follow-on security training | Antigua and Barbuda |
| | 3-15, 2007 | Basic Security Training (Aviation) | St. Vincent & Grenadines |

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | | | |
|---|---------------|---|----------------------|
| January | 2008 | Port Security Training | Jamaica |
| | 2008 | Port Security Training | Guyana |
| | 2008 | Workshop on Best Practices in Port Security | Veracruz, Mexico |
| February | 11, 2008 | Third Session of the Preparatory Meeting of the Eighth Regular Session of CICTE | Washington D.C, U.S. |
| | 20 - 22, 2008 | Crisis Management Exercise in Port Security | Bogota, Colombia |
| March | 2008 | Meeting of Experts to Evaluate the Pilot Project on Security of Tourism and Recreational Instalations | Washington D.C, U.S. |
| | 5 - 7, 2008 | Eighth Regular Session of CICTE | Washington D.C, U.S. |
| | 5, 2008 | "Sixth Meeting of National Points of Contact" | Washington D.C, U.S. |
| *NOTE: Training events that have not yet been confirmed by the host country do not appear on this list. | | | |

NEWS

The Secretary General of the OAS receives Marc Perrin de Brichambaut of OSCE

The Secretary General of the OAS, Jose Miguel Insulza, received the Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, on November 12, 2007, as a courtesy visit to the OAS in Washington.

They discussed about a wide range of topics while reaffirming their mutual interest in deepening and expanding cooperation in areas of common interest, such as electoral observation and crime, in their respective operational zones, as well as the exchange of information on key subject areas.

For more information [click here](#).



EU Commission proposes new counter-terrorism package

Terrorism is still the "main threat to society" and therefore new tools are needed in the field of counter-terrorism, according to a European Commission communication presented by Justice Commissioner Franco Frattini on November 6, 2007. In addition to the implementation of the EU counter-terrorism strategy, the current communication--entitled "Strengthening the fight against terrorism"--focuses on the following three integral parts: an amendment to the Framework Decision on Terrorism; an EU Action Plan on the security of explosives; and a European Passenger Name Record (PNR), requiring all 27 EU member states to have an information database on commercial air passengers which their security services would be able to access.

The amendment would add public incitement to commit terrorist acts as well as the recruitment and training for terrorism to the list of criminal offences and would also especially deal with the use of the internet for terrorist propaganda purposes.

Addressing the concerns likely to emerge from human rights activists, the Commissioner added: "Our objective continues to be preserving the right balance between the fundamental right to security of citizens, the right to life and the other fundamental rights of individuals, including privacy and procedural rights." For more information [click here](#).

11/11, waiting for Bin-Laden's hackers

The internet site Debka File, which specializes in information on the Middle East, raised the alarm on September 7 when stating that "followers of Osama ben-Laden announced Monday the beginning of a holy cyber war. On Sunday, November 11, al Qaeda experts will begin to attack Western, Jewish, apostate Muslim and Shiite internet sites."

Debka File assured that in a first phase, the attacks would focus on 15 web pages and that, little by little, other Islamist hackers would join the attacks affecting hundreds of western sites. However, at this point, no attacks have been registered. Cyber security companies try to explain possible reasons why these cyber attacks have not taken place. According to expert companies, such as F Secure or MacAfee, the problem is that the program they were going to use for the attacks was poorly designed and had scarce—or no—chance to succeed. For more information [click here](#).

Allan Wagner rejects attack to the police as proof of a new terrorist outburst

On November 14, 2007, the Peruvian Minister of Defense, Allan Wagner discarded the theory that the attack on a police group in the Andean region of Huancavelica, where four agents died, could be considered as a new terrorist outburst. In a statement to the media at the Palace of Government, Wagner explained that the attacks were “a reaction to the joint operations against Shining Path and drug trafficking undertaken by the military and the police in the area of the Valley of the Apurimac and Ene rivers (VRAE).”

The Minister of Defense added that “in the VRAE zone there is a huge problem of drug trafficking” and, moreover, “comrade Alipio,” one of the current principal leaders of Shining Path, is commanding a group of 200 people in that area. He also confirmed that among the “followers” of Alipio there are the so-called “captive populations”, locals of Asháninka ethnic origin, who are obliged to join the criminal group. For more information [click here](#).

Group of Experts recommends OAS Member States to adopt legislation criminalizing cyber crimes

On November 20, 2007, the V Meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on Cyber-Crime ended its deliberations in Washington, calling upon OAS member states to assess, as early as possible, its judicial systems and adopt the necessary legislative and procedural measures required to criminalize the different types of cyber-crime.

The document states that criminalization will ensure effective and efficient investigation and prosecution of these crimes. In addition, it will facilitate cooperation on these issues among Member States.

The Group of Experts also urged Member States to adopt the necessary legislative and procedural measures to ensure getting and maintaining custody of all forms of electronic evidences and admission into a criminal process or trial. Also, to allow mutual legal assistance among States regarding matters related to electronic evidences. This would include developing regulations for service providers that ensure the protection and retrieving of stored or in-transit information. For more information [click here](#).



Peruvian government shapes up strategy to combat narco-terrorism



During the week of December 10-14, the Council of Ministers of Peru discussed the additional credit project, worth 50 million soles (approx. US\$16.8 million), that will be used to strengthen the fight against terrorism and drug-trafficking, stated the Minister of Defense, Allan Wagner. Wagner explained that the 25 million soles that will be invested through his Ministry—the other half will be channeled through the Ministry of the Interior—will be used to implement four counter-terrorism bases in coca-sensitive areas, as well as in human and material military resources.

Additionally, the Minister of Economy and Finance, Luis Carranza, said that in addition to the 50 million soles that will be included in the 2008 budget, another 80 million soles (approx. US\$26.9 million) have been allocated to fight narco-terrorism. He also announced that the “Growing in the Apurímac and ENE Rivers’ Valleys” (VRAE) Program will soon be implemented, as a comprehensive strategy to focus on that area. For more information [click here](#).

Two bombs explode in Algerian capital near government and U.N. buildings

On December 11, rescuers sifted through the rubble of the main United Nations headquarters in the Algerian capital looking for 14 U.N. staffers missing hours after a powerful bomb ripped off the building's facade. It was one of two car bombs that struck Algiers within 10 minutes of each other.

Algerian Interior Minister Noureddine Yazid Zerhouni blamed a militant Islamic group with ties to al Qaeda for the attacks, which also targeted a building housing Algeria's Constitutional Council and Supreme Court.

In a strongly worded statement, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned what he called "an abjectly cowardly strike against civilian officials serving humanity's highest ideals under the U.N. banner." For more information [click here](#).

Colombia accuses FARC before the OAS and advocates freedom of hostages

The Vice-president of Colombia, Francisco Santos, strongly defended at the OAS on Tuesday, December 11, the initiatives adopted by the Colombian government to try to obtain the release of the hostages the FARC guerrilla has kidnapped.

"The FARC has made of kidnapping a lucrative means of financing its activities" together with drug-trafficking, Santos said at a special session of the Permanent Council of the OAS. "These kidnapers have asked for money in exchange for evidence of people being alive or for returning corpses", he recalled.

Santos also accused FARC of having the hostages imprisoned "under subhuman conditions", which "is a cruel treatment extensive to their families" and close friends too. For more information [click here](#).



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