



Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)

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

COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

Ninth Regular Session of CICTE Focuses on Border Controls



The Ninth Regular Session of CICTE (CICTE IX) was held on March 4-6, 2009 in Washington DC, at OAS headquarters and focused on the topic of strengthening border controls. The Inaugural Ceremony was opened by the Minister of Defense of Peru, Ántero Flores-Aráoz, who chaired the CICTE Secretariat from 2008 – 2009 and reaffirmed the commitment of CICTE Member States to combat terrorism and confront new terrorist threats. Ambassador Neven Jurica, the Chair of the Counter-Terrorism

Committee of the Security Council of the UN and Permanent Representative of Croatia to that Organization, emphasized that “in the counter-terrorism field, CICTE has for years been considered a model for regional integration.” OAS Assistant Secretary General Ambassador Albert Ramdin stressed the necessity of expanding traditional concepts of security to include new and non-traditional threats, such as economic, political, health, and environmental aspects. The Government of Mexico was elected Chair of CICTE for 2009-2010, represented by Juan Miguel Alcántara, Deputy Attorney General of Legal and International Affairs of Mexico. The Government of The Bahamas was elected Vice-Chair.

The CICTE IX Agenda included three topics for discussion: "Measures to combat illicit arms trafficking in the context of the fight against terrorism"; "Transfer of money or assets across borders through informal systems or networks aimed at financing terrorism"; and Measures related to improving port and airport security and controls". The Member States adopted a joint consensus declaration [link to declaration] renewing their commitment to combat, prevent and eliminate terrorism with a focus on strengthening border controls and international cooperation. Experts from Member States along with international experts, including from the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and FATF/GAFISUD, shared information and experiences related to these issues. The National Points of Contact to CICTE met in closed session to discuss emerging terrorist threats.

For more information on CICTE IX, <http://www.cicte.oas.org/rev/en/meetings/sessions/9/default.asp>

For the Declaration, http://www.cicte.oas.org/rev/en/meetings/sessions/9/CICTE_DECLARATION_CICTE00452_E.pdf



Inter-American Committee against Terrorism - Newsletter No. 65

March, 2009

Highlights:

Editorial	2
Joint Border Security Meeting	3
CTED visits Panama	4
Workshop on Tourism Security for the Caribbean	5
Upcoming Events of the Council of Europe	6
UNODC 2009 on-line course	7
Recommended Reading	8
Recent Training and Conference Events	9
UPCOMING EVENTS	10
Conficker C Worm Threatens Computers Worldwide	11
GAO: Fake passports easy to get	12
UK to shift anti-terror strategy	13
Response to terrorist attack makes bus driver a hero	14
Counter-terrorism team helps deliver baby at Penn Station	15
Contact us	16

Click here for previous Newsletters

Editorial

Cooperation between UNODC/TPB and OAS/CICTE

Since the launch of its Global Project on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism in 2003, UNODC's Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) has globally assisted more than 164 countries in becoming parties to and implementing the 16 international conventions and protocols related to terrorism. The global TPB assistance has included tailor-made national level assistance to 120 countries, 63 sub-regional and regional workshops, training of more than 7,700 national criminal justice officials, and the development of more than a dozen technical assistance tools, including legislative databases and model legislative provisions against terrorism.

The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by the General Assembly in September 2006 was a landmark event, when all 192 Member States agreed on a common strategic and operational approach in the prevention and fight against terrorism. The UN Global Strategy underlines the permanent partnership with regional and sub-regional organizations as a key to its success and a means to share good practices, maximize available resources, increase political support and ensure sustainability.

In the Latin American and Caribbean regions, the partnership between the UNODC/TPB and the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States started already before the adoption of the UN Global Strategy. Since 2004, the implementation of technical assistance activities by the Branch in the Americas is accomplished in close cooperation with the CICTE Secretariat. This partnership has been recognized by the UN Security Council as a model of excellence and an example of sustained, close, strong and effective cooperation between international and regional organizations.

This permanent partnership and close cooperation ensure the provision of technical assistance to Member States avoiding overlapping and duplication of efforts. While UNODC/TPB takes the lead on legal assistance, every mission constitutes an opportunity to ensure complementarity of action with the variety of the excellent programmes that the CICTE Secretariat can offer, as well as to sustain and increase political awareness and commitment.

Our joint efforts have particularly focused on bilateral legislative assistance, sub-regional or regional activities and ministerial conferences, which have contributed to strengthening the legal regime against terrorism all over Latin America and the Caribbean.

The major challenge ahead is to strengthen assistance on the implementation of the legal regime, especially by building national capacities, including through the provision of specialized and systematic training to criminal justice officials on the proper application of newly enacted laws. Fomenting international cooperation in criminal matters is another key task.

All these efforts will contribute to the implementation of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, which requires technical assistance to be delivered in an integrated and multi-disciplinary manner to respond to the needs of the region.

UNODC/TPB and the CICTE Secretariat are convinced that coordinated efforts by our organizations, together with the commitment made by countries, will provide us with a basis to fully implement the Global Strategy, to reach our development, security and rule of law goals and, hence, to secure a more safe, equal and peaceful world for all.

UNODC looks forward to maintaining and further developing this long-standing cooperation with the CICTE Secretariat, which has been an exceptionally competent and reliable partner for the implementation of our activities in the Americas.

Cecilia Ruthström-Ruin
Chief
Terrorism Prevention Branch
Division for Treaty Affairs
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

COUNTER-TERRORISM ACTIVITIES

Border Challenges and the Merida Initiative: Arms Trafficking, Drugs and Organized Crime

During the Ninth Annual Meeting of CICTE in Washington DC March 4-6, Mexican officials and security experts underlined the growing nexus between terrorism and illegal arms trafficking, and proposed a series of measures that can be undertaken on the national and international level to counteract this tendency. Under the Merida Initiative, the United States is building a strategic partnership with Mexico and the Central American countries, based on the principles of shared responsibility, to support strong efforts by those countries to strengthen institutions and bolster homeland security by impeding transnational criminal activity. The package includes three major components: counternarcotics, counterterrorism, and border security; public security and law enforcement; and institution-building and the rule of law. It recognizes that the threat posed by drug trafficking, transnational criminal organizations, and violence is a regional one.

In recent public statements, U.S. State Department officials, including Secretary Clinton during her March 25 visit to Mexico, have acknowledged that the weapons employed by the criminal organizations against law enforcement agencies and innocent civilians in Mexico primarily originate in the United States and are smuggled illegally across the border. U.S. agencies are working in the U.S. and with Mexican officials to curtail this deadly trade and to disrupt the bulk transfer of cash from drug sales that flow from the U.S. and finance the operations and arms purchases of the Mexican drug cartels. They have also acknowledged that the U.S. demand for illicit drugs drives the narcotics trade, sending up to \$25 billion a year in illicit drug profits back into the hands of the drug kingpins. Drug profits are propping up cartels financially allowing them to continue their campaign of violence and lawlessness. Progress on all three interrelated fronts—arms trafficking, the bulk transfer of cash from drug sales across borders, and reduction of drug consumption and production—is critical to the success of the Merida Initiative to defeat these criminal organizations.

Summarized from press reports and press releases, including:

<http://www.state.gov/p/inl/merida/index.h>

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2009a/03/120905.htm>

<http://www.state.gov/p/inl/rls/rm/120679.htm>

Joint Border Security Meeting

On March 16-18, the OAS Department of Public Security, the U.S. Department of State and the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) jointly convened a meeting on “Practical Approaches to Combating the Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other related Materials Across Borders: Meeting of Law Enforcement Authorities and Customs Officials” in Vancouver, British Columbia. The meeting was attended by law enforcement and customs officials from over 20 OAS Member States, and was particularly significant in that it marked the first time officials from these two operational areas have come together to discuss illicit trafficking in weapons and related materials.

The CICTE Secretariat made a presentation on its Document Security and Fraud Prevention Program, which has as one of its primary objectives enhancing the detection capabilities of Member States’ relevant authorities in order to improve border security and controls. Presentations were also made by representatives of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the World Customs Organization (WCO), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), CBSA, and Transport Canada, among others. In addition, participants were afforded the opportunity to visit the Douglas Facility and Pacific Highway and a container examination facility in British Columbia, to observe best practices being utilized by Canadian authorities in their effort to combat illicit trafficking in arms and related materials.

For more information: Brian Sullivan (bsullivan@oas.org)

CBSA Training in Santiago, Chile

Canada’s Border Services Agency (CBSA) conducted a national training course for intelligence officials in Santiago, Chile on March 23-26. The course dealt with topics such as risk management, trends in smuggling and terrorism activities, Intelligence Cycle Scanning, development of action plans, and the analytical process, among other topics. The CICTE Secretariat was invited to give a presentation on its programs.

For more information: Ignacio Ibáñez, iibanez@oas.org

CTED visits Panama

The UN Counter-Terrorism Committee, acting through the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), conducted a focused subject matter visit to the Republic of Panama on March 2 and 3, 2009 in order to monitor certain aspects of the country's efforts to combat terrorism in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. The delegation, which also included representatives from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the CICTE Secretariat, discussed with high authorities from Panama topics such as the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), in particular Panama's efforts to prevent terrorist financing, and resolution 1624 (2005); good practices in the area of maritime security; the ratification and implementation of international legal counter-terrorism instruments; and areas in which Panama might be in a position to provide technical assistance to other States. For more information: Ignacio Ibáñez, iibanez@oas.org



CIP's TAG on Port Security meeting in Buenos Aires

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Port Security of the Inter-American Commission on Ports (CIP) held a meeting in the city of Buenos Aires on March 23, as part of the X Meeting of CIP. Port security developments in the region were discussed, and reports were presented by several countries and specialized agencies. The CICTE Secretariat was invited to attend and give a presentation on recent activities undertaken in the region under its Maritime Security Program. For more information: Pablo Martínez, pmartinez@oas.org

2nd Meeting of ICAO's Implementation and Capacity Building Group

Meeting "Two" of the new Implementation and Capacity Building Working Group (ICBWG) created by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) at its 18th meeting in May 2008 was hosted by the Portuguese Government in Tavira, Portugal, March 18-20, 2009. The main strategic objective of the ICBWG is to enhance global civil aviation security and compliance with facilitation standards concerning border-crossing, including those relating to Machine-Readable Travel Documents (MRTDs.) The 2nd Meeting of the ICBWG focused on finalizing the 2009-2011 ICBWG Business Plan, including the Group's strategy, and the activities that will contribute towards achieving its outcomes. The Plan locates the ICBWG's work within the strategic and operational context of ICAO and its Machine Readable Travel Document (MRTD) program. This meeting allowed the participants to discuss how to make guidance materials available to States to implement security and facilitation standards and how to measure the level and progress on implementing MRTD standards. Workshops will also be planned to assist the States that require assistance towards the implementation of the ICAO standards. The CICTE Secretariat is an active member of the ICBWG. For more information: Brian Sullivan, bsullivan@oas.org

Training Workshops on Tourism Security in Mexico

Dr. Carol Fuller, Secretary of CICTE, led a mission to the cities and ports of Acapulco, Cancun, and Cozumel in Mexico March 9-13 to conduct 5 workshops on tourism security. Approximately 200 persons participated, including business owners and security managers from the private sector and security and tourism officials from the public sector, in order to be briefed on the CICTE Tourism Security Program and comment on a draft curriculum for the courses which will be given during the second half of 2009 and in 2010 in the three cities. The workshops accomplished the objectives of identifying the realities of each location and the specific needs for training on the subject and raised awareness on the part of the participants of the need to improve communication between the public and private sectors in the area of tourism security. Also participating in the workshops was Mr. Duccio Mazares of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), which partners with the CICTE Secretariat on developing and strengthening public-private partnerships to protect vulnerable targets, like the tourist and recreational facilities which are included in the CICTE training program.



Caleta Bay, Acapulco, Mexico

For more information: Alejandro Diaz de Leon (adiazdeleon@oas.org)

Workshop on Tourism Security for the Caribbean

The CICTE Secretariat conducted a workshop on Tourism Security for all Caribbean countries in Mt. Irvine, Tobago, March 22-27, 2009. The workshop was offered at the request of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago which will host two major events in 2009: The Summit of the Americas in April and the Meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of State in November. These meetings will require accommodation and protection for a wide variety of dignitaries and other government officials. Thus, the five-day, specialized program was aimed at Security and Law Enforcement Supervisors from Hotels and conference venues throughout the Caribbean sub-region who on occasion host international government dignitaries. Over fifty (50) Supervisory level private and public sector officers from Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean sub-region were trained in advance of the two international conferences.

For more information: Hayda Wallen (hwallen@oas.org)

CICTE-Council of Europe Joint Conference on “Terrorism and Cyber Security”

The Secretariat of CICTE and the Council of Europe are co-organizing a conference for the 81 countries of the two regional organizations on “Terrorism and Cyber Security,” which is being hosted and funded by the Government of Spain (Chair of the Council) at San Lorenzo de El Escorial (Madrid), Spain, April 16-17, 2009. The event will bring together national and international experts to share their experience in combating the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes and ensuring the protection of the Internet and critical infrastructure from cyber attacks by terrorists. The Conference will offer participating States a valuable insight into how to better implement existing policies and standards in these fields. It is also intended as a discussion-oriented forum for exchanging information, experiences, ideas, and innovative approaches.

The conference represents the first joint conference organized by the Council of Europe and the OAS and reflects the close working relationship between the Council’s Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER) and the CICTE Secretariat. The event will immediately follow the 15th meeting of CODEXTER, also held at El Escorial, April 15-16.

Given the large number of countries invited, attendance at the conference is limited and all reservations from CICTE Member States must be communicated to the CICTE Secretariat through the CICTE National Point of Contact in each country. For more information: Brian Sullivan (bsullivan@oas.org) or Maria Catalina Noreña (cicteint4@oas.org ; 202 458-6432).

European Commission acts to protect Europe from cyber-attacks and disruptions

The [European Commission](http://www.europa.eu) (EC) unveiled a new strategy March 30 to prepare the region to act in case of major disruptions or attacks against critical information infrastructure. It called efforts to make the European Union (EU) more prepared for and resistant to cyber attacks and disruptions. At the moment Member States’ approaches and capacities differ widely. A low level of preparedness in one country can make others more vulnerable, while a lack of coordination reduces the effectiveness of countermeasures.

The EC wants all stakeholders, in particular businesses, public administrations and citizens to focus on the following issues:

- Preparedness and prevention: fostering cooperation, exchange of information and transfer of good policy practices between Member States via a European Forum. Establishing a European Public-Private Partnership for Resilience, which will help businesses to share experience and information with public authorities. Both public and private actors should work together to ensure that adequate and consistent levels of preventive, detection, emergency and recovery measures are in place in all Member states.
- Detection and response: supporting the development of a European information sharing and alert system.
- Mitigation and recovery: stimulating stronger cooperation between Member States via national and multinational contingency plans and regular exercises for large-scale network security incident response and disaster recovery.
- International cooperation: driving a Europe-wide debate to set EU priorities for the long term resilience and stability of the Internet, with a view to proposing principles and guidelines to be promoted internationally.
- Establish criteria for European critical infrastructure in the ICT sector: the criteria and approaches currently vary across Member States.

The Commission invited the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA) to support this initiative by fostering a dialogue between all actors and the cooperation necessary at the European level. ENISA expects to provide a full analysis and response by mid-April.

For more information: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/494&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

OSCE-ATU Events

- **OSCE Workshop in Serbia seeks to tackle terrorist use of the Internet, cybercrime and other threats**

At the request of Serbia, on 25-26 February 2009, the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) organized a *National Expert Workshop on Combating Terrorist Use of the Internet / Comprehensively Enhancing Cyber-security*, in Belgrade, Serbia. The first event of its kind, this workshop was intended to raise awareness on concrete steps to strengthen cyber security, the impact (including the economic impact) of potential attacks and to showcase pertinent defensive measures, including lessons-learned and relevant best-practices. It brought together some 50 national representatives and decision makers with internationally recognized experts in this field, from both, the public and private sector. Sessions focused on comprehensively enhancing cyber security, addressing topics such as terrorist use of the Internet, cyber-attacks by terrorist groups and cyber-crime as well as other threats, including those to critical infrastructures. Key international organizations active in this thematic area also participated, including the CoE, EU, NATO and the UN, as well as several other OSCE structures such as the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) and the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA).

Building on the success of this first event, the ATU plans to use it as a model for future such workshops, which could be organized on a national or a regional basis for other requesting states. The workshop was funded through Spanish extra-budgetary contributions.

For more information please contact Nemanja.Malisevic@osce.org

- **OSCE Workshop on Cyber Security**

On 17-18 March 2009, the OSCE held the *OSCE Workshop on a Comprehensive OSCE Approach to Enhancing Cyber Security* in Vienna, Austria. More than 200 civil and military representatives met in OSCE's first wide-scale effort to discuss cyber security, building on previous OSCE efforts to combat terrorism on the Internet, exchange information, and discuss concrete steps for a way forward. Four working sessions addressed: threats to cyber security; national and international good practices and legal frameworks: policy options for governments; the role of the private sector, civil society and the individual Internet user; and a comprehensive OSCE approach for enhancing cyber security.

For more information: Nemanja.Malisevic@osce.org

- **OSCE Conference on Travel Document Security in Belarus**

On 31 March – 1 April 2009, the OSCE ATU in co-operation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) will organize a *Travel Document Security Conference for Belarus: Biometric Applications in Electronic Machine-Readable Travel Documents and Issuance Systems*, in Minsk.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE Events

Upcoming Events:

- “The OCTOPUS Interface Conference on Co-operation against Cybercrime took place on 10-11 March 2009 in Strasbourg, France, and was followed by the 4th meeting of the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) on 12-13 March 2009. Further information at: <http://www.coe.int/t/dg1/legalcooperation/economiccrime/cybercrime/>



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

- The Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER) will hold its 16th meeting on 15-16 April 2009 in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain. This event will be followed by a *Conference on Terrorism and Cyber Security* organized jointly by the Council of Europe and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS) on 16-17 April 2009. Further information on these events as well as the Council of Europe action against terrorism is available at: <http://www.coe.int/gmt>.

SECURITY COUNCIL AL-QAIDA AND TALIBAN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE (1267) CONDUCTS REVIEW OF ENTRIES

By United Nations Security Council Resolution 1822 (2008). Paragraph 25, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and Associated Individuals and Entities was tasked "to conduct a review of all names on the Consolidated List at the date of the adoption of this resolution by 30 June 2010 in which the relevant names are circulated to the designating States and States of residence and/or citizenship, where known, pursuant to the procedures set forth in the Committee guidelines, in order to ensure the Consolidated List is as updated and accurate as possible and to confirm that listing remains appropriate".

The Committee announced on March 12 that it has commenced the above-mentioned review, which is being conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in section 9 of the Committee's Guidelines (attached). The review pertains to the 489 names that were included on the Consolidated List on 30 June 2008. Each trimester, the Committee will initiate a review of a subset of names on the Consolidated List by circulating these names to the designating State(s) and the State(s) of residence and/or nationality.

Those States that are approached in connection with the review of a name on the Consolidated List are requested to submit to the Committee, within a three-month period, any updated information on the reasons for listing, as well as any additional identifying information and other information, along with supporting documentation on the respective listed individuals and/or entities, including updates on the operating status of the listed entities, the movement, incarnation or death of the listed individuals and other significant events.

For more information: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/sc9612.doc.htm>

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

An updated March 2009 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>

UNODC 2009 on-line course – Global Norms against Terrorism at Work: Getting International Law in Motion

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the DIPLO Foundation have developed two new online training courses on the Universal Legal Regime Against Terrorism—one for English-speaking participants, and one for French-speaking participants. The courses aim to strengthen national capacities by assisting criminal justice officials and other individuals involved in counter-terrorism issues to develop the skills and knowledge required to effectively utilize the channels for international legal cooperation envisaged in 16 treaties adopted within the UN system between 1963 and 2005, and a number of binding resolutions of the Security Council. To achieve these aims, the course:

- introduce the main concepts and requirements of the universal legal regime against terrorism;
- familiarize participants with the main legal issues involved in counter-terrorism;
- raise awareness and develops specialized expertise in the effective implementation of relevant legal instruments, including the adoption of appropriate national legislation;
- raise awareness on the work of the UN on counter-terrorism, international standards and norms, regional arrangements and national obligations in the field of counter-terrorism legislation.

These courses will be conducted entirely online, over a period of 6 weeks. Reading materials and tools for online interaction are provided through an online classroom. The course is offered free of charge as part of a capacity building initiative on the part of UNODC.

For full details on the course and application instructions, please visit the course website at:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/terrorism/online-training-course.html>

Candidates interested in the course for English-speaking participants should send their CV with a short motivation letter to: fariza.abu.bakar@unodc.org (Application deadline: 13 April 2009)

Candidates interested in the course for French-speaking participants should send their CV with a short motivation letter to: nejat.ncube@unodc.org (Application deadline: 20 April 2009)

Recommended Reading:

the Investigative Project on Terrorism

- The article “*Are Acts of Staged Controversy an Islamist Strategic Tactic?*” published on The Investigative Project on Terrorism (IPT) website deals with the possibility of “acts of staged controversy”, which the authors describe as non-violent activities designed to attract attention and provoke a response to serve terrorists’ strategic purposes. The full article can be accessed at <http://www.investigativeproject.org/1002/are-acts-of-staged-controversy-an-islamist>.
- “*Terror’s Web: How the Internet Is Transforming Terrorism*,” an article by information security expert Dorothy Denning, explores how the internet is fundamentally transforming terrorism, particularly in media operations, attacks, recruitment, learning, finance, and security, and discusses the impact of internet use on terrorism and counterterrorism. It emphasizes al-Qaeda and the global jihadist movement, and concludes with a section on counterterrorism strategies that focus on the internet use. The article will appear soon in *Handbook on Internet Crime* (Y. Jewkes and M. Yar, eds.), Willan Publishing in 2009.
- The International Centre for the Study of Radicalization (ICSR) has released its latest policy report entitled “*Countering Online Radicalisation*,” the first systematic effort to bring together industry, experts and government on the issue of online radicalization, and sets out a truly innovative approach which goes beyond ‘pulling the plug’. The full report can be accessed at <http://www.icsr.info/news-item.php?id=21>



- On March 2, 2009, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) published the report on “Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for the protection of vulnerable targets” based on the analysis led by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) on the cooperation between public and private sectors in the field of vulnerable target protection. The CICTE Secretariat participates actively in the Working Group led by UNICRI on this topic, and the next report will include a report on CICTE’s Tourism Security training program being developed in Mexico. The full report can be accessed at: <http://www.un.org/terrorism/workgroup8.shtml>



- “*Ending Colombia’s FARC Conflict: Dealing the Right Card*,” the latest report from the International Crisis Group, argues that the rebel group has suffered severe setbacks, but under its new leader, Alfonso Cano, is not close to military defeat. Since President Álvaro Uribe took office in 2002, it has seen its capability weakened by an aggressive government offensive, but it retains remarkable adaptive capacity. The full report can be accessed at <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=6016&l=1>

RECENT TRAINING AND CONFERENCE EVENTS

Month	Days	Event	Venue
January	6-14,2009	CICTE Basic Aviation Security Training Course for Trinidad & Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago
	19-28, 2009	CICTE Scholarships to Guyana and Suriname to attend ICAO Instructors Development Training	Aruba
	26-30, 2009	CICTE Scholarships to Chile and Peru to attend ICAO Screener Certification Workshop	Bolivia
February	3-6,2009	CICTE/CICAD Workshop on Terrorism Financing	San Jose, Costa Rica
	3-12, 2009	CICTE Advanced Aviation Security Training	Paramaribo, Suriname
	9-10, 2009	CICTE/UNODC Follow-up legislative technical assistance mission	San Jose, Costa Rica
	12-13, 2009	CICTE/UNODC Follow-up legislative technical assistance mission	Sto Domingo, Rep. Dominicana
	16-20,2009	CICTE Advanced Training on the Management of a National CSIRT for the Central American and Mexico Sub-region	San José, Costa Rica
	25-27, 2009	APEC Workshop on Implementation of APEC Manual on Port Security Drills and Practices, CICTE staff participation	Vancouver, Canada
March	25 Feb - 11 March, 2009	CICTE Port Security Training	Roatan, Honduras
	2-3, 2009	UN CTC Visit on Terrorism Financing and Port Security, participation by CICTE staff	Panama City, Panama
	2-4, 2009	Technical assistance visit to the FIU by two Colombian experts, financed by CICTE at the request of UNCTED	Kingston, Jamaica
	3-11, 2009	CICTE Scholarships to Guatemala and El Salvador to attend ICAO Instructors Development Training	Honduras
	4-6, 2009	Ninth Regular Session of CICTE and Seventh Meeting of National Points of Contact to CICTE	Washington DC, United States
	9-13, 2009	CICTE Tourism Security consultation workshops	Acapulco, Cancun, Cozumel, Mexico
	13-27, 2009	CICTE Port Security Training	Puerto Castilla, Honduras
	18-20, 2009	2nd Implementation and Capacity Building Working Group (ICBWG) - International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	Tavira, Portugal
	19-20, 2009	CICTE Port Security Crisis Management 2nd preparatory meeting	Santiago, Chile
	23, 2009	Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) Technical Advisory Group, CICTE presentation	Buenos Aires, Argentina
	23-27, 2009	CICTE Tourism Security Training	Trinidad and Tobago
	30 March-4 April, 2009	CICTE Sub-regional Workshop for the Caribbean on Best Practices in Port Security and Implementation of the ISPS Code	Nassau, Bahamas
	30 March - 6 April, 2009	CICTE Port Security Training	Puerto Cortes, Honduras

UPCOMING EVENTS

Month	Days	Event	Venue
April	14-22, 2009	CICTE Port Security Training	Puerto Cortes, Honduras
	TBD	CICTE Port Security Assessment	Trinidad & Tobago/ St Vincent and the Grenadines
	16-17, 2009	Joint CICTE/Council of Europe Workshop on "Terrorism and Cyber Security"	Madrid, Spain
	22-24, 2009	CICTE Crisis Management Exercise on Port Security	Valparaiso, Chile
	24 April - 8 May	CICTE Port Security Training	Santo Tomas de Castillo, Guatemala
May	11-25, 2009	CICTE Port Security Training	Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala
	25-29, 2009	CICTE Aviation Crisis Management Training	Haiti

NEWS

Conficker C Worm Threatens Computers Worldwide

Computer experts warn that the latest variant of Conficker, found on the morning of March 6, 2009, poses an unknown, but potentially serious, threat to computers worldwide. Conficker, Downup or Kido are three different names for the same computer worm that worries experts from the world main security companies due to its effectiveness to evade security measures and infect millions of PCs around the world, attacking Microsoft Windows Operating System.

According to John Markoff, security expert and The New York Times technology columnist, Conficker is programmed to activate April 1st, and will connect with its control center. During that day the creator will take control of this enormous network of zombie PCs and will rent it to organized criminal groups that will send spam or steal information.

Perhaps the most obvious frightening aspect of Conficker C is its clear potential to do harm. Among the long history of malware epidemics, very few can claim sustained worldwide infiltration of multiple millions of infected drones. Perhaps in the best case, Conficker may be used as a sustained and profitable platform for massive Internet fraud and theft. In the worst case, Conficker could be turned into a powerful offensive weapon for performing concerted information warfare attacks that could disrupt not just countries, but the Internet itself.

Recommendations: 1) Install and update your antivirus software; 2) update your operating system to keep it free from security failures; 3) activate your firewall; 4) before connecting a flash drive or an USB memory to your computer, scan it with the antivirus. Microsoft offers an online tool that helps to detect and eliminate worms and malware (<http://www.microsoft.com/latam/seguridad/malwareremove/default.aspx>). Other companies also created free tools to combat the malware; for example, Eset, developer of the antivirus NOD32, presents one at <http://www.eset-la.com/support/tools.php>). For more information [click here](#) and [here](#)

Vast Spy System Loots Computers in 103 Countries

As reported by the *New York Times* on March 28, Canadian researchers at the University of Toronto have concluded that a vast electronic spying operation has infiltrated computers and has stolen documents from hundreds of government and private offices around the world, including those of the Dalai Lama. In a report, the researchers state that the system was being controlled from computers based almost exclusively in China, but that they could not say conclusively that the Chinese government was involved. The researchers, who have a record of detecting computer espionage, said they believed that in addition to the spying on the Dalai Lama, the system, which they called GhostNet, was focused on the governments of South Asian and Southeast Asian countries.



The newly reported spying operation is by far the largest to come to light in terms of countries affected. This is also believed to be the first time researchers have been able to expose the workings of a computer system used in an intrusion of this magnitude.

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

Focus shifts to flow of cash, arms into Mexico

As reported on March 18, 2009, California lawmakers and the Obama administration have begun to shift U.S. border policy with Mexico, abruptly changing focus from illegal immigration to the flow of cash and weapons from the United States that is fueling a savage war between the Mexican government and powerful drug cartels. Government officials say 90 percent of the arms in the drug wars come from the United States, including grenades and rocket launchers. Southbound drug cash is estimated as high as \$25 billion a year. With the death count last year in Mexico at 6,290, more than the United States has lost in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, Mexican officials are pleading with U.S. counterparts to help stop the southbound smuggling and focus on reducing U.S. drug consumption.

For more information [click here](#)

CBP Officers Seize Cache of Weapons, Arrest 1 at Laredo Port of Entry

On March 3, 2009, U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported that while conducting outbound inspections March 2 at the Laredo port of entry, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers intercepted a cache of weapons destined for Mexico. The foiled attempt resulted in the arrest of an Oklahoma man. The vehicle was selected for a non-intrusive exam. Closer visual inspection by CBP officers resulted in the discovery of 15 wood rifle stocks concealed under the truck bed liner and rifle barrels concealed within the gas tank.

For more information [click here](#)

Hezbollah uses Mexican drug routes into US



According to a piece published by the Washington Times on March 27, Hezbollah is alleged to be using the same southern narcotics routes that Mexican drug kingpins do to smuggle drugs and people into the United States, reaping money to finance its operations and threatening U.S. national security. While Hezbollah appears to view the U.S. primarily as a source of cash - and there have been no confirmed Hezbollah attacks within the U.S. - the group's growing ties with Mexican drug cartels are particularly worrisome at a time when a war against and among Mexican narco-traffickers has killed 7,000 people in the past year. In October, an interagency operation led to the arrests of several dozen people in Colombia associated with a Hezbollah-connected drug trafficking and a money-laundering ring. Hezbollah uses these operations to generate millions of dollars to finance Hezbollah operations in Lebanon and other areas of the world.

For more information [click here](#)

GAO: Fake passports easy to get

CNN reported on March 14, 2009 that a US congressional investigation has exposed gaping holes in security eight years after the September 11 terrorist attacks, a government report says individuals with "even minimal counterfeiting capabilities" can obtain genuine U.S. passports, which can be used to travel overseas, open bank accounts and prove U.S. citizenship, the GAO report says. The GAO said in the report that State Department officials "agreed that our findings expose a major vulnerability" in the passport issuance process. State Department officials said the department's ability to verify the information submitted "is hampered by limitations to its information-sharing and data access with other agencies at the federal and state levels."

For more information [click here](#)



Al Qaeda builds a 'Shadow Army'

Reporting for The Washington Times on 13 February 2009, Bill Roggio wrote that al Qaeda has reorganized its former paramilitary unit Brigade 055, into a larger, more effective fighting unit known as the Lashkar al Zil, or the Shadow Army. Active primarily in Pakistan's tribal areas, and in eastern and southern Afghanistan, the force was believed to be instrumental in the Taliban's consolidation of power in Pakistan's tribal areas and has attacked NATO Coalition- and Afghan forces in eastern and southern Afghanistan on several occasions.

For more information [click here](#)

Man held over Spanish, Moroccan terror plots

On March 5, 2009, Spain's Interior Ministry announced that Spanish authorities had arrested a Moroccan man wanted for alleged terrorist plots in Spain and Morocco. The 21-year-old suspect was arrested Tuesday (March 3) in eastern Tarragona province, near Barcelona, on a Moroccan warrant, but the ministry did not make it public until Thursday. The man - identified only by his initials, J.M., and an alias, "Abou Mosaab Anadori" -- allegedly plotted terrorist attacks in Spain. Moroccan authorities also link him to an alleged plot against tourist sites in Morocco, the ministry said in a statement.

For more information [click here](#)

US Proposes to Adopt a New Joint Counter Terrorism Focus with the EU

In a press conference on March 16 while visiting the U.S., the European Commissioner of Justice and vice-president of the European Commission, Jaques Barrot, stated that The United States and the European Union are looking for a new joint approach for combating terrorism, which would mean leaving behind the divisions generated by the war in Irak and the abuses committed in Guantanamo. The possible acceptance of some of the prisoners in the detention center in Cuba is one of the keys to this new stage of relations that began with the presidency of Barack Obama. Eurocámara has invited Obama to give a speech in April.



“The United States truly wants to turn a new page (...) it wants to change the way it fights terrorism,” said Jaques Barrot. “We will agree to accept whichever of the detainees so long as it remains absolutely clear that past errors will not be repeated”, he stated.

For more information [click here](#)

UK to shift anti-terror strategy

The BBC reported on 16 February 2009 that the UK government was preparing a major shift in its counter-terrorism strategy to combat radicalization. According to the BBC's Panorama program, the *Contest 2* initiative would aim to promote the identification of shared values in a bid to move away from just challenging violent extremism to also challenging people who were against democracy and state institutions.

For more information [click here](#)

Shining Path Finances Itself through Armed Robberies in Bolivia

“It was an atypical action, belonging not to professionals, but rather super-professionals”, said, on March 3, 2009, one of the agents investigating the assault on Banco Bisa branch, located in el Alto, a city close to La Paz. With greater precision, the general commander of the Police, Miguel Gemio, admitted that an ex-member of Shining Path took part in the hold up. Nonetheless, suspicions are not limited to this simple fact: the president, Alan García, has ordered an investigation of the presence and operations of the Peruvian terrorist group in Bolivia. An official consulted by the Bolivian newspaper La Razón pointed out that there is clear evidence that the group “is in the process of reorganizing itself...”

For more information [click here](#)

Peruvian Military Captures Seven Members of Shining Path

On March 17, 2009, The Armed Forces of Peru reported the capture of seven alleged members of Shining Path in the zone of Vizcatán, considered the last bastion of the terrorist group, in the south of the Andean country. According to a press release by the Joint Command of the Armed Forces, the capture took place on March 16 as part of their “search and consolidation” operations that have followed the “complete and definitive conquest of the region of Vizcatán.” The area, which is estimated to harbor some 300 members of the remaining terrorists, has been attacked since last August by some 800 members of the special forces of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force. The remnants of Shining Path maintain alliances with groups of drug traffickers that abound in the region, according to official sources.

For more information [click here](#)

Raúl Reyes' Computer Reveals FARC Intent to Promote Subversive Groups in Latin America

On March 10, 2009 El Tiempo reported that one year after the death of Raúl Reyes, secrets about the content of the computers that the military and the police found in his camp are still being revealed. EL TIEMPO accessed the new documents, which reveal the FARC's intention of supporting subversive groups in different parts of the continent with the goal of spreading the Bolivarian call for coordination. In various emails, 'Reyes' expresses his intention to encourage the “revolutionary groups of the continent”. According to analysis by authorities, the idea is to achieve the resurgence and/or reactivation of other guerilla groups.

For more information [click here](#)

Supreme Court of Denmark Ratifies Conviction of Six Danes for Supporting the FARC

The Danish high court judged that the accused violated the antiterrorism law in sending money to the Colombian guerilla organization and to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The 2002 Danish antiterrorism legislation, adopted as a result of the September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States, prohibits the direct or indirect financing of terrorist movements, and those who break it can be sentenced to up to 10 years in prison. The Supreme Court sentence closed the process begun in January 2006, when the Danish clothing company "Fighters+Lovers" announced it would designate a part of the profits from their t-shirts to a radio station linked to the Farc or a PFLP print shop. The convicted Danes consider the sentence "symbolic" and announced that they would appeal to the European Court of Human Rights and that they would continue to act in solidarity with the FARC and the PFLP.

For more information [click here](#)

South American Defense Council Created with the Support of All the Countries of the Area

The Ministers of Defense of the 12 member states of the Union of South American Nations that met in Santiago de Chile gave the green light to the new organization.

Nine months after its conception in the constituent summit of UNASUR that was celebrated in last May in Brasilia, the Council comes to light with the principal objective of "consolidating South America as a zone of peace, a base for the stability of democracy and the integral development of its peoples, and as a contribution to global peace. This organization arose from a proposal that the president of Brazil, Luis Inácio Lula da Silva, made on that occasion in order to avoid the repetition of situations like the military incursion by Colombia against a Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) camp in Ecuadorian territory. For more information [click here](#)



Response to terrorist attack makes bus driver a hero

On March 5, 2009, CNN reported on one citizen bus driver's response in Pakistan to a terrorist attack. Meher Mohammad Khalil had been part of a convoy heading to Gaddafi Stadium, where the Sri Lankan cricket team was to continue a match against Pakistan. His job was to drive the bus. But Meher Mohammad Khalil is now being hailed as a lifesaver. When gunmen jumped out of bushes and began spraying bullets at the bus carrying the Sri Lankan cricket team on Tuesday, Khalil quickly sized up his options and got everyone to safety. On Wednesday, Meher Mohammad Khalil went back to the place where gunmen attacked his bus to pay his respects and the crowds hailed him as a hero. For more information [click here](#)

Scientists See Promise in New Anthrax Detection Technology

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said Tuesday, March 19, 2009, that it has made progress toward developing a method for quickly detecting tiny amounts of anthrax. "The FDA findings could form the basis of a test that allows earlier diagnosis of anthrax infection than currently possible," said FDA researcher Indira Hewlett in a press release. "The earlier those infected with anthrax can be treated, the better." Study results have been published in this month's [Clinical and Vaccine Immunology](#). For more information [click here](#)

UK: Nuclear, chemical terror threat growing

The threat from terrorists using chemical, biological and even nuclear weapons is growing, Britain said March 24, 2009, warning advances in technology will enable extremists to conduct more lethal attacks in the future. The predictions came as Prime Minister Gordon Brown's government's laid out its anti-terrorism policies and strategy in a document containing previously-classified information. In it the government also warned that although the al Qaeda organization of Osama bin Laden, was likely to fragment in coming years, the group's ideology will live on. For more information [click here](#)

Online campaign showed suspect's dedication to terrorism: expert

On 17 February the Canwest News Service quoted Rita Katz, co-founder of the Search for International Terrorist Entities (SITE) Intelligence as saying that the Internet had become one of the most important tools for al Qaida and other terrorists for recruiting, communicating and creating virtual cells. Her statement was made at the trial of Namouh, a Moroccan-born permanent resident of Canada who was charged with conspiracy, participating in a terrorist group, facilitating the activities of a terrorist group, and extortion for, or on behalf of, a terrorist group. For more information [click here](#)



Counter-terrorism team helps deliver baby at Penn Station

On March 18, 2009, NYPD officers on counter-terrorism patrol helped deliver a baby during morning rush hour in the middle of New York's bustling Penn Station. Caesar Penn Boothe, whose middle name reflects his birthplace, was taken to Bellevue Hospital along with his mother, and the two were reported to be doing well. For more information [click here](#)



Carol S. Fuller

Secretary

CFuller@oas.org

Pablo Martínez

Deputy Secretary and
Programs Coordinator

PMartinez@oas.org

Sheridon Hill

Program Manager

Immigration and Border Controls

SHill@oas.org

Lilia Moraes

Program Manager

Cyber Security

LMoraes@oas.org

Gillian Bristol

Program Manager

NPC Liaison - Crisis Management -

Secretary for CICTE Meetings

GBristol@oas.org

Brian Sullivan

Specialist / Program Manager

Port Security -

Document Security and Fraud Prevention

BSullivan@oas.org

Belisario Contreras

Administrative Assistant

Cyber Security

BContreras@oas.org

Hayda Wallen

Program Manager

Aviation Security - Tourism Security

HWallen@oas.org

Alejandro Díaz de León

Program Manager

Tourism Security

ADiazdeLeon@oas.org

Ignacio Ibáñez

Specialist / Program Manager

Legislation - Terrorism Financing

Port Security

Ilbanez@oas.org

María Elena de la Flor Musso

Budget and Administrative Officer

Webmaster

MDelaflor@oas.org

Daniela Westphal

Administrative Assistant

DWestphal@oas.org

Inter-American Committee against Terrorism
Organization of American States
1889 F Street, N.W. (8th floor)
Washington D.C., 20006
U.S.A.

Telephone: +1+202.458.6960
Fax: +1+202.458.3857
E-mail: cicte@oas.org

www.cicte.oas.org