Inter-American Committee against Terrorism - CICTE

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security - Organization of American States

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Organization of American States

"Second sub-regional Workshop for Caribbean countries Counter-Terrorism Financing"

The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (OAS/SMS/CICTE) in collaboration with the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (OAS/SMS/CICAD) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and under the auspices of the Ministry of National Security and the Attorney General's Office of The Bahamas, organized the "Second Sub-regional Workshop for Caribbean Countries on Counter-Terrorism Financing" in Nassau, The Bahamas, from June 16 to 18, 2010.

The main aim of the Workshop was to build capacity on (i) legislative issues related to the financing of terrorism and the international approach; (ii) investigation and prosecution special techniques; and (iii) international cooperation.

The Workshop built on the outcomes of the "First Sub-regional Workshop for Caribbean Countries on Counter-Terrorism Financing", that took place in Antigua and Barbuda in October 2008, and took a hands-on approach—e.g. through a terrorism-financing mock investigation on the second day of the workshop.

Prosecutors, officials of National Financial Intelligence Units and law enforcement officials with relevant experience investigating financial crimes from 12 Caribbean Member States participated. Presentations were given by experts from the organizing institutions, the Executive Directorate of United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee (UN CTED), the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF), the Office of Money Laundering Control Policy of Antigua and Barbuda, the Department of Justice of Canada, the Financial Intelligence Unit of the Bahamas, Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the United States (DHS/ICE), as well as private sector representatives (SunTrust Banks Inc.).

The Workshop was opened and closed by the Attorney General of The Bahamas.

More information: Ignacio Ibáñez, iibanez@oas.org

Editorial

Perspectives on Cyber-Security: Tendencies and Emerging Threats

In the past 10 years, Latin America has seen an exponential increase in the use of information technology. The growth of the information society is a phenomenon that experts in the field interpret as the evolution of our current society, in which information is part of our daily life in its countless forms: print media, TV, film, radio, Internet applications, among others. With more than 40 years in the making and 15 years of mass use, the Internet has become of great interest in the last 10 years, as Latin American Governments have promoted its use in order to facilitate procedures in every field. This has become the tendency among service providers: electronic banking, subscription television services, personal procedures, paying taxes, declaring capital; and the widespread use of the Electronic Government (or eGovernment) to simplify the processing of documents and the time invested in the process by the citizens.

Nevertheless, there are factors that directly effect the quality of information that is published in cyberspace: one is the exponential growth of the Internet (above all the mass use of applications such as social networks); another is without doubt, as we mentioned, the continued mass use of services directed towards citizens (in order to avoid unnecessary time spent waiting on lines for a service or request from public and private institutions); and finally, the democratization of access to information technology that has been made available to the citizens in the past 10 years. As a result, day after day a great number of new users enter the information highway without any kind of precaution, malice, or completely unprotected, because of the lack of appropriate education programs to encourage the correct usage of this resource. In other words, there are more and more users in Latin America, but the publicity and teaching mechanisms regarding correct usage, updating and maintaining of computers that connect to the internet in business, home, free access points and institutions is insufficient.

Taking advantage of the factors of inexperience and unfamiliarity, there is a growing platform of cyber attacks or telephone incidents, with an imminent tendency of the growing risks and threats to the new and never-ending uses of information technology services. On this emerging platform of cyber attacks and cyber crime there is a diverse number of threats: directed attacks, sabotage, industrial espionage, diminishing productivity, hijacking, identity theft, electronic fraud, extortion, and blackmailing, just to name a few. Nowadays, it is more common to see cases of defacement of Government and Service portals, viruses, trojans and worms (Malware in general), social engineering and online fraud (known as Phishing and Pharming), Fast-Flux networks (networks of teams of volunteers used as a bridge to guarantee anonymous navigation), as well as the growing, malicious, and not any less dangerous Botnets. The very growth of the internet has allowed for the technical development of those who, by merely using the most well-known internet search engines, can download a video tutorial, manual or source code in order to do what they want to do, or what they "believe" that they want to do with a system or its information. Previously this type of knowledge was held by a minority group of people that enjoyed sharing investigation activities.

The new tendencies aim at the care and protection of information from mobile terminals (through the use of encryption mechanisms), the use of Antivirus and protection software Firewalls, in the care and protection of the information that is published on social networks. But also, these same tendencies announce the development of new Internet Threats, Cyber crime, and Cyber terror, where it is then necessary to have extra and intra governmental articulation. More networks and stronger networks of anonymous and secret attack, which allow the intruder to deploy a series of elements without being detected, in some cases combining software that establishes Fast-Flux networks (such as TOR or Vidalia), with a Distro for anonymous surfing (such as Incognito or Phantomix); in others used the payment of anonymous services (DNS, Hosting, Spam) or paying the utilization of zombie services for Web Attacks (Defacement) or Denegation of Distributed Service (DDos). Recently, these platforms have been exposed in many cases with the support of the CERT networks and the cooperation of local authorities, these are the cases of the RBN (Russian Bussiness Network) and the Bot Marichi Networks – Mariposa – Zeus – Conflicker – Rateros, where a good part of the Drones and C&C (Command and Control) contingent are located in Latin American countries.

In this sense, it is imperative to expose the necessity of: educating the final user, and the necessity of articulation and cooperation, externally and internally, between national actors in charge of managing cyber space threats. It is at this point that it is important to establish preventative and reactionary controls which will allow for a minimum of protection for the information that belongs to these users, and that it is maintained through the internet. In Venezuela, as in other Latin American countries, there exists a governmental CERT organization: VenCERT – National Computer Emergency Response Team (https://www.vencert.gob.ve), in charge of coordinating and articulating efforts in the National and International areas oriented towards Attention to Incident Management Telematics and Information Security in the critical infrastructure of the Bolivarian State of Venezuela and the Pubic Administration entities. From this point forward, VenCERT has attained a sector which was, until the moment of its birth, explored with little incentive. Each time there are more CERTs in the world which look to cooperate and join forces to attempt to contain cyber security threats. Even in Latin America, there continues to be a process of growth, but we are sure that with the support of the National Community, and the input of governmental organisms, the public and private sector, and International Organizations, we will be able to develop our capacities in areas of interest where increased information security needs occur with more intensity in Latin America, the key ones being: commitment, continuity, cooperation and awareness.

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General Coordinator of the Governmental CSIRT of Venezuela
VenCERT

Counter-Terrorism Activities

Preliminary Country visits to meet with relevant authorities on Major Events Security and Crime Prevention

OAS/ CICTE and UNICRI conducted two technical visits to Nassau, The Bahamas from June 9-11, 2010 and to Mexico DF, Mexico from June 17-18, 2010 on a joint mission organized within the terms of Phase I of the Security for Major Events Program - project supported by the Canadian Government's Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program (ACCBP). The aims and objectives of the mission were designed to facilitate international cooperation and the exchange of information, promote the identification of best practices and enhance security governance through interaction with stakeholders. More specifically, the missions were carried out to meet with relevant authorities to discuss major event security and crime prevention matters with a view to building capacity in the country and enhance the quality of the information previously submitted through a need assessment questionnaire.

The mission representatives were able to take the opportunity to explore in detail with high ranking authorities from The Bahamas and Mexico, a range of matters that significantly enhanced the quality of information that had earlier been returned in the needs assessment questionnaire.

As a result, everyone involved in all the different meetings agreed that all the mission aims and objectives had been very well satisfied.

For more information, please contact Paola Fernandez, pfernandez@oas.org

II Virtual Meeting of the Members of the Hemispheric Network of CSIRTS and Cyber Security Authorities

On June 17, 2010 CICTE's Cyber Security team organized the II Virtual Meeting of the Members of the Hemispheric Network of CSIRTs and Cyber Security Authorities. The event was considered successful as it convened 43 participants hailing from 15 Spanish-speaking countries fulfilled its agenda, and went beyond expectations.

The main goal of this month's meeting was to discuss the use of Groove, an application designed for secure document sharing, collaboration, and discussion among members in different organizations and countries who do not share the same network. The majority of those joining the virtual meeting were new users of Groove, but the professionals who have been using the program attested to its value and importance.

As one of the participants pointed out, the tool is only useful if members choose to employ it regularly. Thus, participation in such meetings, frequent use, active workspaces, and a constant exchange of ideas are required to consolidate this network as a strategic instrument to combat cyber security threats. During the activity, three proposals were introduced by representatives of Ecuador, Mexico and Uruguay that would help further the goals set forth by the users of Groove.

A tentative date for the next virtual meeting was set for late July, as many participants expressed an interest in monthly meetings aimed at staying active on the Hemispheric Network and encouraging others to join as well. The meeting set forth a number of improvements for future consideration, and showed the level of initiative and commitment that each member has.

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Specialized Training Workshop on Tourism Safety, Liberia, Guanacaste, Costa Rica, June 2-3rd 2010

The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Secretariat of Multidimensional Security (SSM) of the Organization of American States (OAS), in coordination with the Ministry of the Presidency and the Costa Rican Institute of Tourism of the Costa Rican government, in Liberia, Guancaste, one of the most important tourism zones of the country, held a series of meetings and a workshop with the officials of tourism security from the public and private sector, with the goal of identifying participants for the specialized course in tourism security that the CICTE/OAS will hold in the future.

The workshop's objective was to hold an exchange of perspectives about tourism security and present for the consideration of the managers of security of the hotels and tourism establishments of the area, as well as the members of the Tourism Police of the Ministry of Public Security of Costa Rica, a projected curricula for the course on tourism security prepared by CICTE, in order to suit the specific needs and realities of the location.

The workshop was generously attended; a very interesting dialogue took place with approximately 120 representatives from the public and private sectors of the tourism industry of the Guanacaste region where the Gulf of Papagayo is located; diverse themes were touched upon related to the fact that Costa Rica is the primary tourist destination of Central America and it is the most important and the fastest growing industry in the country, generating 7.7% of GDP; according to the reported statistics, in 2008 the country received more than two million foreign visitors, with American and Canadian tourists occupying first place. The projected curriculum of the course was approved and enriched with various themes including the following: the importance of tourism security; management of crisis and emergencies; communications; hotel security; threat analysis; and the evaluations and diagnostics of security. The Secretariat of Tourism Integration of Central America (SITCA, by its initials in Spanish) and the competent authorities in tourism security of the ministries of Tourism of Central America participated as observers during the workshop. For more information: Alejandro Diaz de Leon AdiazdeLeon@oas.org

EXERCISE BIOSHIELD 2010 AMERICAS, Buenos Aires, Argentina on June 14-16, 2010

Exercise "Bio-shield 2010 Americas" was an International bioterrorism table-top exercise (TTX) organized by INTERPOL and the National Counterterrorism Office of the Netherlands, designed for senior decision-makers of international organizations and national government agencies that brought together experienced leadership in a scenario-driven, facilitated discussion that addressed the roles and co-operation of international organizations and national authorities in an imminent bioterrorism threat scenario.

The exercise focused on increasing understanding of the interoperability and communications issues and requirements between participating national and international organizations and government authorities, in response to a bioterrorism threat. The exercise sought to promote cross-agency information and intelligence sharing, increase awareness of the processes of other functional organizations, and identify specific best practices that should be commonplace when preventing or mitigating a bioterrorism event. The exercise also hoped to identify opportunities for improvement and strengthen communication among participants.

Exercise Bio-Shield 2010 Americas consisted of one day of presentations, followed by a two-day table-top exercise (TTX). Participants broke down in discussion groups divided in functional sectors.

Thirteen Member States participated in the exercise, as well as the following international and regional organizations: Pan American Health Organization, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the OAS/CICTE. The CICTE Secretariat was invited to give a presentation on the Emerging Threats (Bioterrorism) Program, and specifically on the results of the Exercises "161 Fahrenheit" and "Bio-Shield" held in Cancun, Mexico and Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in November 2009 and March 2010, respectively. For more information, please contact Alejandro Diaz de Leon AdiazdeLeon@oas.org

CICTE Scholarships for ICAO Workshop: National Training Program in Civil Aviation Security, Potomac, Maryland June 17-25th, 2010

The CICTE Secretariat, through its Aviation Security program, issued 10 scholarships to aviation security officials from Antigua and Barbuda (1), Barbados (1), Dominica(1), Grenada (1), Haiti (1), Jamaica (1), St. Kitts and Nevis (1), St. Lucia (1), Suriname (1), and Trinidad and Tobago (1) for their participation in the ICAO Workshop on National Training Programs in Civil Aviation Security in Potomac, Maryland from June 17-25th, 2010. The objective of this 7 day workshop was to develop the knowledge and techniques necessary for the development and implementation of a National Civil Aviation Security Program within their respective countries. For more information, please contact Shevaun Culmer at sculmer@oas.org.

Aviation Security Sub-regional in Cargo Security Inspections in Nassau, Bahamas June 7-11, 2010

The CICTE Secretariat in conjunction with The Ministry of Tourism and Aviation, The Bahamas Airport Authority, and the Ministry of National Security sponsored and organized the third Air Cargo Security Sub-regional for the CICTE Secretariat's Aviation Security Program. This course was held in Nassau, Bahamas from June 7-11, 2010.

The newly designed course by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) entailed the participation of 19 mid to senior level aviation and cargo security officials from The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Haiti, and Jamaica. The main objective of this course is to use air cargo security risk management tools to assess the vulnerability to air cargo operations at an international airport and make recommendations to the appropriate authorities to adopt, modify, or create a comprehensive air cargo security program for the airport. This course has been delivered to all OAS Caribbean member states over the last three months.

Captain Patrick Rolle, Director of the Department of Civil Aviation and local coordinator for this activity initiated the opening ceremony for the course with an opening prayer. The ceremony continued with remarks from the Hon. Senator Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace, Minister of Tourism and Aviation; Mr. Peter Deveaux-Isaacs, Under Secretary of the Ministry of National Security and National Point of Contact of The Bahamas to CICTE; and OAS/CICTE Programme Manager for Aviation Security. Members of the Bahamas media and other civil servants and private sector representatives were also in attendance.

The course concluded with remarks and the distribution of certificates by Mr. Milo Butler III, Managing Director of the Airport Authority, Captain Rolle of the Department of Civil Aviation and TSA instructors Michael Yoka and Dana Glass. For more information: Ms. Shevaun Culmer at sculmer@oas.org.

"Excellence in Screening Techniques'', Lima, Peru June 21-25, 2010

The CICTE Secretariat in conjunction with the Aviation Security Office of Peru sponsored and organized the "Excellence in Screening Techniques" course. This course was held at the Jorge Chavez International Airport terminal, in Lima, Peru from June 21st-25th, 2010. The newly designed course by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) entailed the participation of 25 security officers from Peru.

Based on ICAO Security manual Volume IV and Annex 17, this interactive course helps aviation security screening officers build upon their knowledge and skills of screening techniques for passengers and baggage. The main objective of this course is to provide participants with an opportunity to assess, review and perform improved security procedures. This course trained personnel on how to demonstrate the proper commissioning and calibration tests of screening checkpoint equipment; how to differentiate between commissioning and the calibration of security equipment; and the essential supervisory role at a screening check point.

During the closing ceremony, remarks were made by Mr. Donald Castillo, AVSEC Inspector of the General Directorate of Civil Aviation; Mr. Michael Yoka and Mrs. Susie J. Foster, from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA); as well as OAS/CICTE representative. More information: Shevaun Culmer, sculmer@oas.org, Maria Elena de la Flor, mdelaflor@oas.org

United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) opening meeting on Resolution 1373

The CICTE Secretariat participated in the United Nations Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) opening meeting on Resolution 1373 (2001), held June 10, 2010. Several regional organizations –among them the Organization of American States through the CICTE Secretariat- made presentations and shared their experience and lessons learned in combating terrorism in their respective geographic areas. Among the topics presented by the CICTE Secretariat were: The strong cooperation between the OAS/CICTE Secretariat and the UN Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (UNCTED) on technical programs on implementation of Resolution 1373 (2001); Measures to further develop a coherent legal framework on counter-terrorism; Effective implementation of alternative remittances systems and charities; Strengthening of border controls, particularly regarding measures to enhance travel document security, and the ratification of the international counter-terrorism instruments.

For more information: Mr. Pablo Martinez, PMartinez@oas.org

"UN Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force: Promoting Awareness and Strengthening Partnerships to Counter Terrorism"

On June 14, 2010, the CICTE Secretariat participated and delivered a presentation at the conference organized by the International Peace Institute, on the "UN Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force: Promoting Awareness and Strengthening Partnerships to Counter Terrorism". The conference was held at the Trygve Lie Center for Peace, Security and Development in New York and was attended by representatives of UN entities and Permanent Missions, and the main topics discussed were: Addressing Pillar 1 of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, Strengthening CTITF's Relationships with Regional Organizations, and Promoting Engagement with Civil Society Organizations.

For more information: Mr. Pablo Martinez, PMartinez@oas.org

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

An updated June 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

Frequently Asked Questions on UNSC Resolution 1540

Resolution 1540 (2004) is a decision of the Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter affirming that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, constitutes a threat to international peace and security. A list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) can be found on the 1540 Committee's website at the following URL: http://www.un.org/sc/1540/faq.shtml

OSCE-ATU Activities

ATU co-sponsored a WCO regional workshop on non-intrusive inspection, 7-11 June 2010 in St. Petersburg

The ATU co-sponsored a non-intrusive inspection (NII) regional workshop of the World Customs Organization (WCO) on 7-11 June 2010. The workshop was held at the St Petersburg Branch of the Russian Customs Academy, under the Japanese Customs Co-operation Fund, and brought together customs officers from 16 WCO European Members/OSCE participating States.

The use of modern technology such as NII equipment and radiation detection equipment is a key standard of the WCO SAFE Framework to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade, which OSCE participating States decided in 2005 to implement as soon as possible (MC.DEC/6/05).

The workshop focused on procurement and maintenance of NII equipment (in particular x-ray scanners), tactical risk management approach to targeting containers for inspection, training of NII operators and interpretation of x-ray images. All participants made presentations on the deployment of NII equipment in their respective countries.

The workshop highlighted several challenges faced by customs administrations, including: high acquisition and maintenance costs; lack of specialized personnel; difficulties in screening bulk and frozen cargo; interference with logistics operations; difficult interactions with technology providers.

A number of recommendations were also put forth, including: developing guidelines for NII operators; elaborating a training module or guidelines for image analysis; establishing an international databank of x-ray images and corresponding photographs; creating a pool of NII experts; establishing a platform for information exchange on NII; creating a list of national NII responsible officers and NII equipment used by each country; updating and promoting the use of WCO Databank on Advanced Technology and WCO Scanning Guidelines. For more information please contact Mehdi.Knani@osce.org or Asha.Menon@wcoomd.org

COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS

Council of Europe Instruments:

On 2 June Bulgaria signed the Additional Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, regarding supervisory authorities and transborder data flows (ETS No. 181). On 3 June Spain ratified the Additional Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data, regarding supervisory authorities and transborder data flows (CETS No. 181) and the Convention on Cybercrime (CETS No. 185).

Council of Europe events:
1. On 4 June 2010, the Venice Commission held its 83rd plenary session in Venice. At this occasion, the Venice Commission discussed, inter alia, a report on counter-terrorism measures and human rights. For more information refer to: http://www.venice.coe.int/

2. On 7 – 10 June 2010, the European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) held its 59th Plenary Session in Strasbourg. The Committee examined, inter alia, the issue of "Dangerous offenders and preventive detention" and examined a preliminary draft comparative study on the sentencing, management and treatment of 'dangerous' offenders. For more information refer to: http://www.coe.int/t/e/legal_affairs/legal_co-operation/

3. On 9 June 2010, the European Court of Human Rights held a Grand Chamber hearing in the cases of Al-Skeini and Others v. the United Kingdom and Al Jedda v. the United Kingdom. These two cases concern the killing and detention of Iraqi civilians by the UK armed forces in Southern Iraq and raise issues of extra-territorial jurisdiction under Article 1 (obligation to respect human rights) of the European Convention on Human Rights. For more information refer to: http://www.echr.coe.int/echr/

4. On 16 June, the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) released its annual activity report for 2009. This report provides detailed information about the Committee's activities and achievements in the past year, its co-operation with other international players in the global AML/CFT network of assessment bodies as well as on its on-going initiatives and future areas of work in 2010. For more information: http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/moneyval/

5. The third part of the 2010 session of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly took place from 21 to 25 June 2010. An urgent debate on the flare-up of tension in the Middle East, as well as reports on Islamophobia and on legal remedies for human rights violations in the North Caucasus were among highlights of this session. For more information refer to: http://assembly.coe.int/

6. On 24 and 25 June 2010, the 5th meeting of the Convention Committee on Cybercrime (T-CY) was held in Paris. The T-CY examined, inter alia, the issues of transborder access to data, jurisdiction on the Internet and related matters, responsibilities of Internet Service Providers (ISP) and international co-operation on cybercrime related matters between states, international organisations and the private sector. For more information refer to: http://www.coe.int/t/e/legal_affairs/legal_co-operation/

Upcoming events

July – Publication of European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) annual report

Conference on "Judicial Activism", organised by the Venice Commission, in co-operation with the Constitutional Court of Georgia, Batumi (Georgia), 13 – 14 July 2010.

Recommended Reading

Cyber-terrorism, the dark side of the Internet

In this weekly report, RTVE Spain discusses the reality of cyber-security threats to national security. A series of interviews features the General Secretary of the National Intelligence Center (CNI, by its initials in Spanish) and the Spanish Civil Guard, among others, discusses how the terrorists of 9/11 and others have used the internet and highlights the importance of cyber security to the future of national security strategy. For more information click here.

Expert examines global terrorism threat summer 2010

Terrorism specialist John Schindler, the author of "Unholy Terror: Bosnia, Al-Qaeda, and the Rise of Global Jihad," is a professor at the U.S. Naval War College. In this interview he discusses the changing global danger Americans face with McClatchy-Tribune foreign affairs columnist John C. Bersia. For more information click here.

The State of Cyber Security

What is the current state of cyber security, and what are the best career opportunities? Dr. Charles Palmer, Director of the Institute for Advanced Security and Chief Technologist of Cybersecurity and Privacy at IBM, weighs in on these questions in an interview with Tom Field. For more information click here.

Recent Events

Month	Days	Event	Venue
June	TBC	Virtual Meeting of the Hemispheric Network of CSIRTs	Online
	7-11, 2010	Aviation Security Caribbean Sub-regional in Cargo Security Inspections	Nassau, Bahamas
	14-16, 2010	INTERPOL Bioterrorism Tabletop Exercise	Buenos Aires, Argentina
	16-18, 2010	Second Sub-regional Training for Caribbean Countries on Counter-Terrorism Financing	Nassau, Bahamas
	17-25, 2010	Aviation Security Scholarships for ICAO National Training Program Workshop	Washington DC, USA
	21-25, 2010	Aviation Security "Excellence in Screening Techniques" National Training	Lima, Peru

Upcoming Events

Month	Days	Event	Venue
July	6-9, 2010	Basic Subregional Cyber Security Course	Panama City, Panama
	6-9, 2010	UN CTED visit to Bolivia (CICTE, UNODC and GAFISUD will also participate)	La Paz, Bolivia
	19-23, 2010	Course on Detection of Fraudulent Documents	Mexico D.F, Mexico
	20-23, 2010	GAFISUD Plenary meeting	Lima, Peru
	26-30, 2010	Aviation Security "Excellence in Screening Techniques" National Training	Panama City, Panama
	26-30, 2010	Aviation Security "Excellence in Screening Techniques" National Training	Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic

News

Canadian Letter Bomber Guilty of 11 Attempted Murders

An aspiring actor who sent homemade bombs and poisoned water to a host of perceived enemies, including a talent agency owner and a judge, has been convicted of 11 counts of attempted murder.

In July 2004, he sent tainted water bottles disguised as "Nestle Waters" promotional gifts to two talent agencies he felt were not advancing his career sufficiently. The water contained the deadly poison Ricin, the judge ruled Friday, June 25, 2010.For more information click here.

EU, U.S. Adopt Counterterrorism Declaration

The European Union and the United States have adopted a new counterterrorism declaration that calls for strengthened activities aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, officials said on June 18
The document states that the European Union, its member nations and the United States would take a number of measures to reduce the threat of terrorism, including enhancing "efforts to counter the risks of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) material being obtained or used by terrorists, including by building a stronger global nonproliferation regime, securing all nuclear material". Washington and Brussels also pledged to "seek to build a more permanent joint mechanism for EU-U.S. cooperation on explosives and critical infrastructure protection" and to "encourage the global ratification and effective implementation of all relevant international conventions and protocols on counterterrorism". For more information click here.

US and EU join forces in the fight against terrorism and reject the use of torture

June 3, 2010 - The European Union and the United States have approved a declaration in which they commit to carry out a coordinated antiterrorist strategy in order to confront the international threats and, among those, those of Islamic groups.

"As of now, the European Union and the United States will have the same strategy, 100%, in the fight against terrorism", indicated the Spanish minister of the Interior, Alfredo Pérez Rubalcaba.

The declaration aims for concrete efforts between the two parties, such as promoting the exchange of information regarding emerging terrorist groups and information about police and judicial investigations. For more information click here.

The armed Paraguayan group EPP planned to attack a U.S. mission and offers reward for the murder of President Fernando Lugo

Asuncion, June 19th – The self proclaimed Army of the Paraguayan People (EPP, by its initials in Spanish) planned an attempt against a U.S. medical-military mission which, this month, will realize a humanitarian effort in the northeast of the country, reported the diary Abc Color, which gathers information from the Police.

The hypothesis published by the diary is based on some maps of the group that show the mission the American Medical Civil Action Program (MEDCAP) will execute the 26th and 27th of June in the village of Kurusu (Cruz) de Hierro, about 500 kilometers north of Asuncion. A few days later, in an alleged message from the Army of the Paraguayan People (EPP) there is an offer of 1,000 dollars for the murder of President Fernando Lugo. The note that was found in one of the armed group's camp sites, according to the Minister of the Interior. "We are offering G 5.000.000 and our eternal gratitude to those who deliver to us the following executioners of the people: Fernando Lugo, alias Satyr of Saint Peter", signaled the message divulged by the government in which the payment for the head of Lugo is referred to in Guaraní currency. For more information click here and here.

Police and military hostages rescued in Colombia and reunite with family

Three police officers and one military man, who were hostages for almost 12 years of the Marxist guerilla FARC, reunited with their families on Monday, June 14th, in Bogota's military airport, after being rescued the day before in an operation of the Colombian security forces, confirmed the AFP.

Dressed in their camouflage uniforms, the general Luis Mendieta and colonels Enrique Murillo and William Donato, the three police officers, as well as the sergeant of the army Arbey Delgado, arrived in Bogota in a military airplane which brought them from Sane Jose del Guaviare, in the southeast of the country. For more information click here and here.

The Colombian Military destroys 775 FARC anti-personnel mines

On June 7th the Colombian military destroyed 775 anti-personnel mines which belonged to the FARC guerrilla and which, according to the authorities, would have been used on paths in Vistahermosa (in the south) in order to affect the election scheduled to take place on June 20th, from which a new president would be elected.

A military communication signaled that the devices were found in a hiding place of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) located in Vistahermosa.

"A place where soldiers (…) found a cove, hidden inside the thick forest, in which terrorists from the gang "Isaias Pardo" of the FARC maintain hiding places, between plastic bins, 775 anti-personnel mines", indicated the message.

For more information click here.

President Funes considers the act of lighting a bus full of passengers on fire an act of terrorism

"I lament what has happened in Mejicanos, there are already seven captured thanks to the investigations that have been conducted by the National Civil Police and I hope that the entire weight of the law will fall on those responsible."

This was the reaction of the President of the Republic of El Salvador in relation to the violent act which killed 14 people on June 20th in Mejicanos.

The head of state recognized that there still exist deficiencies in the Security System considering that in this case the FGR arrived to the scene of the crime two hours late and "the procedural protocols should be respected", he added.

For more information click here.

Minister of the Interior demanded that terrorist-likes groups are not to undermine democracy

Lima, June 22nd – The minister of the Interior of Peru, Octavio Salazar, demanded of the population that they not fall into the games nor serve as a sounding board for the organizations that resemble terrorists, which intend to impede democracy.

He questioned that Shining Path will attempt to remain active not only in the universities, but also in organizations that resemble terrorist groups which will attempt to run in the next elections.

"These people haven't abandoned anything, what they want is to penetrate through the democratic organizations, through the elections, enter it, undermine, and fool democracy and we cannot allow that to happen." For more information click here.

Terror suspects arrested at JFK airport

On June 6th US authorities arrested two terrorist suspects at JFK airport in New York on their way to Somalia, where they allegedly planned to join an al-Qaeda-linked terror group.

The pre-emptive arrests, based on evidence gathered by a New York undercover detective who befriended the pair in 2006, were the third time in six months that US law enforcement agents have seized Islamist terrorist suspects on US soil. The two men – Mohamed Mahmood Alessa, 20, who is an American-born citizen of Palestinian descent, and Carlos Eduardo Almonte, 24, a US passport-holder born in the Dominican Republic – will be charged on Monday, June 7, with "conspiring to kill, maim and kidnap persons outside the United States". For more information click here.

Venezuelan Government promotes information security

With the objective of promoting a culture of information security among the Venezuelan population, the Bolivarian government has developed activities which aim to increase the awareness and knowledge regarding the secure use of the Web 2.0 and Information and Communication Technologies (TIC).

In this sense, the Superintendence of Electronic Certification Services (Suscerte), entity affiliated with the Ministry of Popular Power for Science, Technology and Industry Intermediate realized, on May 28th, an informative talk for the creation of a culture of information security.

They also stated that the Internet constitutes a space for learning and development for the younger generations in Information and Communication Technologies, however, "it also represents risks and dangers of its integrity and it is precisely these two elements that we are trying to show the children, with the goal that they will learn to identify them on the internet and have the tools to defend themselves," emphasized the Suscerte adjunct. For more information click here.

Ups and Downs in Security at World Cup Headquarters

Someone crosses a metal detector and the alarm sounds. The security guards smile and let the person go through without asking them to empty their pockets or explain why the detector sounded.

This scene, impossible in an airport, is repeated numerous times in various stadiums during the first few days of the World Cup. Because it has attracted the attention of billions of people worldwide, the month long tournament, in South Africa, could be obviously tempting to terrorists.

"Maybe it's (the security) more relaxed," indicated Horst Schmidt, a FIFA security expert, "But there are strict orders… they reviewed my credential. They looked at my face and compared it with my picture ID." For more information click here.

Colombia will issue machine readable passports

This type of document is used by 173 of the 198 countries in the world and it holds the highest standards of security. The process of issuing such a passport lasts eight business days in Colombia and fifteen business days abroad. In countries that already have it, this process can take up to fifteen days. Colombia gradually began the process towards these types of passports. This passport can be requested as of July 15th in Bogota and August 5th in the rest of the country and consulates, except for the following cases: When it is requested for the first time; because of damage or theft; when your actual passport runs out of blank pages; because of deterioration or expiration. For more information click here.

FinCEN Proposed Rule Seeks Greater Transparency for Prepaid Access to Help Curb Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing

In a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) entitled *Amendment to the Bank Secrecy Act Regulations – Definitions and Other Regulations Relating to Prepaid Access*, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) on June 21st proposed new rules that would establish a more comprehensive regulatory framework for non-bank prepaid access. The proposed rule, which focuses on prepaid programs that pose the greatest potential risks of money laundering and terrorist financing, was developed in close cooperation with law enforcement and regulatory authorities.

"FinCEN believes this rule will address vulnerabilities in the current prepaid access environment while maintaining the flexibility to permit new developments in technology, markets, and consumer behavior," said FinCEN Director James H. Freis, Jr. "Other facets of these complex products will continue to be explored as well." For more information click here.

Nine Countries Unite in the Fight against Mafias in Latin America

Representatives of the Police of nine countries in Latin America agreed to create a work unit to exchange information and coordinate the fight against international criminal financing organizations.

The head police experts on economic crimes solidified the agreement in a meeting organized by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), which was held June 21-23 in the headquarters of the School of Investigations in Chile. For more information click here.

House Panel Approves Weapons of Mass Destruction Bill

On June 24th, the U.S. House Homeland Security Committee overwhelmingly approved legislation intended to bolster security measures at the country's biological research laboratories and strengthen federal prevention and response efforts for a potential WMD attack.

"All the evidence we have points to the fact that weapons of mass destruction pose a clear and present danger to our nation and the world at large," Pascrell said before the start of the mark-up session. The process led to one substantive change in the bill as lawmakers adopted an amendment offered by committee Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.). For more information click here.

Symantec Honors 2010 Cyber 7 Award Winners at Symantec Government Symposium

On June 22nd, Symantec Corp. announced the 2010 Cyber 7 Awards winners at Symantec Government Symposium 2010, a one-day annual event devoted to the public sector and its partners. The Cyber 7 Awards recognize seven individuals who exemplify excellence in government cyber security through their contributions to cyber security programs that protect the United States' data and systems. For more information click here.

Russia says rebels planning 2014 Olympic attacks

Russia believes rebel groups are planning attacks on the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi in 2014, the chief of the state security service said on Thursday, June 3rd, according to Russian news agencies. The Black Sea resort city of Sochi is close to Russia's North Caucasus region, scene of a long-running Islamist insurgency.

"Threats from al Qaeda were the reason for the cancellation of the Dakar 2008 road race. Militant leaders have clearly expressed their intention to play out a similar scenario on the eve of the 2014 Olympics," the state-run RIA news agency quoted Bortnikov as saying. For more information click here.

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