



CICTE Informe #14

April 2004

Counter-Terrorism Activities

U.S. Extends Fingerprinting Rule to Millions More Visitors

The Department of Homeland Security will now require photographing and fingerprinting for travelers from 27 countries who can enter the U.S. without visas. Countries included in the extension of the rule now include Britain, Japan, Germany and Australia. The fingerprinting rule has caused no change in the status of visitors from Canada and Mexico, who may still enter the U.S. without passports. Since January, visitors from countries that must have visas to enter the U.S. have been fingerprinted and photographed at many American airports and seaports.

Upcoming Counter-Terrorism Meeting and Events

- 12-14 April, Terrorism Seminar, Kingston, Jamaica
- 16 April, Bio terrorism Conference
- 17-21 April, CTC Meeting, Copenhagen
- 19-23 April, Aviation Security Workshop, El Salvador
- 19-22 April, CFATF Plenary XIX, Trinidad
- 26-28 April, Tradewinds Exercise, Dominican Republic
- 28-30 April, REMJA V, Washington DC
- 26 April – 4 May, Tri-border Countries visit to USA
(Washington, El Paso, Laredo, Miami)
- 17-21 May, 3+1 FIU Conference, Buenos Aires
- 31 May – June 4, ICAO Crisis Management Course, Quito, Ecuador
- 15-18 June, Counter Terrorism Simulation Exercise, Barbados
- 20-30 June, Customs Integrity Training, Southern Cone Visits
(Ascuncion, BA, Brazilia)
- 23 June, JIACG Meeting, Miami, Florida
- 30 June, FATF Plenary, Paris, France

Recent Developments in the News

Liquid natural gas (LNG) tankers may be the target of future acts of terrorism. In an article written on 6 April in the *csmonitor.com*, the security of LNG terminals is debated. “If you locate LNG terminals close to residential areas, urban areas, they become a major terrorist target,” says Gal Luft, director of the Institute of the Analysis of Global Security in Washington, an energy security policy think tank. Opposing this view are big energy companies such as BP and ExxonMobil. They argue that fears of terrorism and even

human error in handling fuel are vastly overblown, and point to strong safety records, tighter post 9/11 security, and robust LNG tankers.

Three suspects in the Madrid railway bombings were reported as having blown themselves up as police prepared to storm their apartments in the *Washingtonpost.com* on 3 April. One special force agent was killed in the explosion and 15 police officers were wounded. The blast blew out part of the exterior walls on the first and second floors of the brick apartment building. Spain has been a major US ally in Iraq and has been warned previously by al-Qaida that it would be the target of terrorism for its support.

Information technology (IT) security breaches are said to be primarily caused by human error, according to a survey by the Computing Technology Industry Association. The survey results were published on March 31 in *washingtontechnology.com*. Survey respondents said training and certification significantly improve IT security. The survey found organizations with at least 25% of their IT staff trained in security less likely to have had a departmental security breach than those with few trained staff in IT security. "The findings underscore the fact that security and human capital, more so than security and technology, should be given the highest priority by all organizations," said John Venator, president of the Association and publisher of the survey.

Roving teams of bomb-sniffing dogs were selected by a panel of transit security officials and counterterrorism veterans as being the cheapest and quickest way to prevent a "Madrid-style" terrorist attack, according to the *Oakland Tribune* on 26 March. In response to the Madrid attacks, the article claims that American counter terror officials are now focusing on securing transit, where nearly half of world's attacks have occurred. Tom Ridge was cited as "moving in the same direction" referencing his comments on 21 March, in which he too called for rapid-response, on-call teams of bomb dogs.

New York and New Jersey ports will be the first to have technology to scan every truck leaving American ports. According to the 23 March *nytimes.com*, the scanners, known as portal radiation monitors, will be installed by the end of the summer at all cargo terminals operated by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. By the end of the year the systems will be in place nationwide at all port terminals receiving waterborne cargo.

Organization of American States invited Spain to participate in the OAS Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE). The invitation was extended on behalf of the OAS delegations of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) by Mexico's Ambassador to the OAS, Miguel Ruiz-Cabañas, in response to the terrorist bombing in Madrid. The Spanish Permanent Observer expressed deep appreciation for the outpouring of solidarity in the OAS Council, as he recalled that Spain has been fighting terrorism for decades.

Measures for improved cybersecurity are "essential" if terrorists are to be kept from using the web to attack Western democracies, according to an article written by Jim Bencivenga in *csmonitor.com* on 2 April. Bencivenga cites a recently released US task force report which states, "It is possible that national security or critical infrastructure protection may require a greater level of security than the market will provide." The

report calls on the federal government to better protect all Internet software, and consider passing legislation to that end. Three recommendations of the task force are to 1) increase funding for cyber security research at universities, 2) improve university certification programs that stress security training for engineers, 3) require the Department of Homeland Security to evaluate and certify software vulnerabilities. Microsoft, it appears, has joined on the cybersecurity bandwagon, announcing that it will delay a first beta-release of Longhorn, the next version of Windows, until next year because it will concentrate first on a security-focused update to Windows XP.

New Documents on OLAT

- *National Experiences in the Adoption of Antiterrorism Measures with a Human Rights perspective*, Organization of American States (Spanish Version)
- *14th Forum of Incident Response Security Teams (FIRST) Conference, Hawaii*, Brazilian Research Network (RNP)/ Security Incidents Response Center (CAIS)
- *Relatorio Annual 2002*, Security Incidents Response Center (CAIS) (Portuguese Version)
- *Collective Protection Against Chemical Weapons*, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- *Decontamination of Chemical Warfare Agents*, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- *Detection of Chemical Weapons*, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- *Protections Against Chemical Weapons*, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- *Chemical and Biological Weapon Links*, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

Books on Terrorism in Spanish

1. Terrorismo o Rebelión: Propuestas de Regulación del conflicto armado en Colombia by Abogados José Alvear Restrepo
2. Redes y Guerras en Red: El Futuro del Terrorismo, el Crimen Organizado y el Activismo Político by John Arquilla & David Ronfeldt
3. Cobardes y Rebeldes: Por Que Pervive el Terrorismo? by Eburne Uriarte
4. La Guerra Sin Fin: El Terrorismo en el Siglo XXI by Walter Laqueur