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OAS assesses port facility security training needs

Wednesday September 20 2006

The Organisation of American States (OAS), through its Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), and in co-operation with the government of St. Kitts/Nevis, will conduct an assessment of the port facility security training needs in the Federation.

An official OAS release stated that a maritime personnel team, from a United States based company, Han-Padron Associates, will visit St. Kitts/Nevis 20 and 21 Sept., respectively.

“The objective of the visits is to assess port facility security training needs in order to identify what subjects need to be covered to achieve the goal of developing counterterrorism/law enforcement/security capabilities within the port facility. Significant attention will be paid to access control, security awareness and law enforcement training,” the release added.



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Meanwhile, the OAS representative, Starret Greene, explained that the intent of the visit would be to evaluate training needs with respect to access controls to port facilities, including restricted areas, handling of cargo and unaccompanied baggage, delivery of ship stores, law enforcement procedures, security personnel training needs and capabilities, including customs, immigration, port police and the knowledge and level of expertise of the Port Facility Security Officers (PFSO).

Greene also said as part of the visit, the maritime team would meet and interview appropriate government officials, port authority officials, PFSO's, security managers and supervisors, response personnel, police and others with a stake in port facility security to determine training deficiencies and needs.

He stressed that the intent of the exercise was not to audit or criticise existing security practices, but rather to enhance and supplement maritime security procedures.

Based on the information gathered from the assessment, the maritime team will identify and provide a list of required and/or recommended port security training programmes for a possible five to 10 day period that may address issues to include port facility security awareness, port facility security guard training and training for customs, immigration, police and port authority officials.

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