

**Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Experts Working Group****8-9 September 2015**

The Fifth Experts Working Group (EWG) Meeting for CASP-MID was held in the Al Shaheen Conference Room, Bahrain Civil Aviation Affairs, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain on 8-9 September 2015. In attendance were representatives of six States; Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Jordan, and Qatar. Also participating was a representative from the United Kingdom Department for Transport (UKDfT). In addition to representatives from Civil Aviation Authorities, two States (Bahrain and Saudi Arabia) included a representative from the Ministry of Interior (MOI), and one State (Saudi Arabia) included a representative of the national air carrier, Saudi Arabian Airlines. The full attendance list is an addendum to this report.

The meeting followed a provisional agenda and was opened by Mr. Hussain Al-Shuail, Assistant Undersecretary Bahrain Civil Aviation Affairs. Mr. Al-Shuail welcomed all participants to Bahrain and spoke about the success of the recent CASP-MID visit to the United States. He also challenged the Group to build off this visit to improve aviation security in the Middle East Region, primarily in assisting CASP-MID States in preparation for future aviation security audits under the newly established ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA). At the conclusion of the opening remarks, the EWG Chairman, Abdulrahman A. Al-Balwi, Assistant Vice President, Aviation Security, Fire and Facilitation, General Authority of Civil Aviation, Saudi Arabia, also welcomed the participants and officially opened the Meeting.

**CASP-MID Programme Coordinator**

Mr. David Tiedge, CASP-MID Programme Coordinator, acted as the Secretary for the Meeting. The Programme Coordinator reviewed the meeting agenda with the participants and provided an update on ongoing CASP-MID activities since the Fourth Meeting of the CASP-MID Experts Working Group in February 2015. This included a discussion on the positive results of the CASP-MID Visit to the U.S.; a review of the CASP-MID Working Paper and presentation conducted at the Third Meeting of the Directors General of Civil Aviation Middle East Region; and an update on CASP-MID training activities. Also discussed was the proposed Aviation Security Technical Seminar for Middle East States. The objective of this seminar is the sharing of aviation security

information and practices with experts from the Middle East Region as it relates to Threat Assessment, Risk Based Security, MANPADS, Capacity Development, Technology, and Air Cargo Security. The seminar would be conducted in collaboration with the Transportation Security Administration, UKDfT, and ICAO CASP-MID to provide information to States concerning the critical importance of aviation security in the Middle East Region. The proposed timing for the Seminar would be early 2016.

The Programme Coordinator then outlined the goals and proposed outcomes for the meeting which included the drafting of the Annual Work Plan for 2015-2016 to submit for approval to the Executive Steering Committee, and decisions on the future focus of CASP-MID training initiatives.

### **Saudi Arabia Presentation on Certified Shipping Agent Programme**

The General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) provided an informational briefing on the Certified Shipping Agent Programme for Saudi Arabia. This integrated programme contains a combination of security measures and operational procedures to ensure the safety and security of air cargo, express parcels and mail. The Programme is administered under GACA supervision and includes the oversight of 62 Certified Shippers.

The Programme development began in 2002 with a Study Taskforce which included GACA, the Ministry of Interior, Customs Authority and Saudi Arabian Airlines. Solutions and Recommendations began in 2004, with the final regulation introduced in 2006 at all international airports in the Kingdom.

The briefing was very informative with a discussion period at the conclusion of the presentation. After the discussion, Sudan representatives requested assistance from Saudi Arabia to develop a similar programme for airports in Sudan. The representative from Jordan offered to provide a presentation on the Regulated Agent Programme in Jordan at the next EWG.

### **UKDfT Presentation on Regional and Global AVSEC Issues**

Mr. Thomson Hunter, Head of International Capacity Development, Aviation Security Division, UKDfT, presented a briefing on ongoing UK activities in the Middle East. He spoke about the additional measures required for UK air carriers which focused on strong visible devices for the screening of passengers and their carry-on baggage at the gate. According to Mr. Hunter, these measures will continue for the foreseeable future. He also spoke about the UK use of Notices to Airmen (NOTAM) for the sharing of information on possible risks to aviation. This procedure was deemed critical after the recent downing of the Malaysian aircraft with a Surface to Air Missile (SAM).

The presentation also led to a discussion on MANPADS mitigation and MANPADS surveys conducted to identify the risk at airports in the Middle East. The UK, US and France conduct MANPADS surveys, with the UK team made up of representatives from the UKDfT, Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the police. Mr. Hunter offered to conduct a MANPADS presentation at the next meeting of the Experts Working Group.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Hunter offered to host a CASP-MID visit to the UK in early 2016 which would include representatives from all CASP-MID Participating States.

### **Civil Aviation Security Training**

The Programme Coordinator discussed the completed training courses/workshops conducted under the CASP-MID Programme in 2015 and future training activities for the Programme. A CASP-MID sponsored Aviation Security National Quality Control Programme Workshop was held at the Queen Noor Civil Aviation Technical College in Amman, Jordan from 2-6 August 2015. A CASP-MID Risk Management Workshop in Arabic will be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from 19-22 October 2015. Invitations for this Workshop have been extended to the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence, international, domestic and regional airports, aviation security auditors, and inspectors. A CASP-MID Risk Management Workshop in Arabic will be held in Kuwait City, Kuwait from 2-5 November 2015. A CASP-MID Risk Management Workshop in Arabic will be held in Manama Bahrain from 23-26 November 2015. A CASP-MID Risk Management Workshop in Arabic will be held in Khartoum, Sudan from 14-17 December 2015. A CASP-MID Risk Management Workshop in Arabic will be held in Amman, Jordan in March 2016 (specific dates TBD).

All participants agreed that specific training events held in individual States should be the preferred method of training for future CASP-MID courses/workshops. This saves on travel costs and will train more students from State agencies and other stakeholders involved in aviation security. CASP-MID regional training courses, which include a cross section of participants from CASP-MID States, have been beneficial, but some States have not sent participants and in some cases there have been a number of no shows. All agreed that it was imperative that participating States fully support future CASP-MID training activities.

The participants also discussed the need for a training course to train inspectors/auditors to prepare for future audits under the ICAO USAP CMA. Mr. Hunter suggested the UKDfT could possibly assist CASP-MID with the presentation of this course. The group also identified a need for a future Facilitation course. The group was advised that the International Air Transport Association (IATA) conducts Facilitation training and could possibly provide this course. It was agreed by all that IATA should be invited to future meetings of the EWG.

## **2015-2016 Annual Work Plan of CASP-MID**

The Programme Coordinator presented the draft 2015-2016 Annual Work Plan of CASP-MID to be approved at the Third Meeting of the CASP-MID Executive Steering Committee. Each planned work activity was described, as well as the timeline for completion.

During this discussion, EWG members focused on the need for CASP-MID involvement in States preparation for future ICAO aviation security audits under the USAP CMA. A proposal was made to create a Continuous Monitoring Approach Preparation Advisory Team (CMAPAT) for the CASP-MID Programme. To implement this programme, CASP-MID would establish a cadre of trained auditors to visit CASP-MID States to review the current aviation security posture and help address key issues prior to an ICAO audit. Mr. Ian Gilchrist, Qatar Civil Aviation Authority, was nominated to be group coordinator and take the lead in the development of the programme. He will be assisted by Mr. Ibrahim Al-Saggaf, GACA, Saudi Arabia, who is a certified ICAO aviation security auditor. Additionally, all agreed on the need to conduct a future CASP-MID training course to train auditors/inspectors to assist in the implementation of the CMAPAT programme. The Chairman also advised the Saudi Arabia delegation will provide a presentation on the USAP CMA for the next meeting of the EWG.

The Programme Coordinator will update the 12 Month Work Plan and distribute it to all EWG participants for review and concurrence prior to the Third Meeting of the CASP-MID Executive Steering Committee.

## **EWG Priorities and follow-up**

The EWG participants identified the following issues for follow-up:

ESC – The Third Meeting of the CASP-MID Executive Steering Committee will be held in Manama, Bahrain on 3 November 2015.

CMAPAT - The group coordinator will establish a CASP-MID Working Group to assist in the development of the CMAPAT programme.

CASP-MID Visit to the UK – In coordination with Mr. Thomson Hunter, the UK Point of Contact for CASP-MID, the Programme Coordinator will follow up on the dates and logistical arrangements for the CASP-MID Visit to the UK in early 2016.

### **Conclusion of the Meeting**

The meeting concluded with remarks from the Chairman on the successful meeting which included productive discussions on a variety of aviation security issues. The participants from Kuwait made a tentative offer to host the Sixth Meeting of the Experts Working Group in February/March 2016 pending DGCA approval.