



## **Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Experts Working Group**

**1-2 March 2016**

The Sixth Experts Working Group (EWG) Meeting for CASP-MID was held in the Falcon Conference Room, Bahrain Civil Aviation Affairs, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain on 1-2 March 2016. In attendance were representatives from four CASP-MID States; Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan. Also participating was a representative from the United States Transportation Security Administration (TSA). In addition to representatives from Civil Aviation Authorities, Bahrain included a representative from the Ministry of Interior (MOI). The complete attendance list is an addendum to this report.

The meeting followed a provisional agenda and was opened by Mr. David Tiedge, CASP-MID Programme Coordinator. At the conclusion of the opening remarks, the Group elected a new EWG Chairman, Ibrahim A. Alsaggaf, Assistant Director General, Aviation Security, Fire and Rescue, General Authority of Civil Aviation, Saudi Arabia. Mr. Alsaggaf thanked the participants for the nomination and challenged the group to continue to work together as a team to share aviation security experiences in CASP-MID States.

### **CASP-MID Programme Coordinator**

The 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 Fifth Meeting of the CASP-MID Experts Working Group in September 2015. This included a discussion on the productive outcome of the recent Organizational Meeting to Establish the CASP-MID Continuous Monitoring Approach Preparatory Advisory Team (2-3 February 2016), the successful CASP-MID Risk Management Workshops conducted in Jeddah, Kuwait City, Khartoum and Manama and identified a future workshop to be held in Amman 21-24 March 2016. He also updated the Group on continued plans to conduct a future CASP-MID Visit to the UK.

The Programme Coordinator then outlined the goals and proposed outcomes for the meeting which included the updating of the approved CASP-MID Annual Work Plan for 2016 which was approved by the Executive Steering Committee in November 2015 and decisions to be made on the future focus of CASP-MID training initiatives.

### **TSA Discussion on Regional and Global AVSEC Issues**

Jason Schwabel, TSA Representative Middle East, provided background on TSA concerns in the Middle East Region. He emphasized the continued threat in the region with aviation still a primary target for terrorists as demonstrated by the recent bombing of the Metrojet aircraft bound for St Petersburg Russia shortly after departing Sharm El Sheikh Airport in Egypt. Mr. Schwabel also spoke of the concern with “insider threat” as a result of this incident and TSA has focused additional scrutiny on the screening of laptop computers and other personal electronics. He also emphasized the “non-metallic threat” and the use of Canine, Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT) and Trace Detection Equipment as a viable deterrent to neutralize this threat. The discussion was informative and appreciated by the participants.

### **CASP-MID Aviation Security Advisory Project**

The CASP-MID Programme Coordinator conducted a presentation on the outcome of the Organizational Meeting to Establish the CASP-MID Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA) Preparatory Advisory Team. A total of four CASP-MID States were represented at the meeting along with two representatives from the US/TSA. As a result of two days of productive discussion, the meeting participants made the recommendation that the programme be re-named as the CASP-MID Aviation Security Advisory Project. This decision was made to allow CASP-MID assistance with all facets of ICAO CMA audits, both pre-audit and follow up Corrective Action Plans. CASP-MID experts would also be available to assist States with issues previously identified in first and/or second cycle ICAO audits. The project statement was identified: To assist Middle East States by providing technical assistance and guidance for the preparation and follow up for aviation security audits.

The Programme Coordinator emphasized the Project would be applicable only to CASP-MID participating States. He also provided details on operational decisions made on the future implementation of the Project.

The Project Coordinator will be ICAO Certified Auditor, Ibrahim Al Saggaf, Assistant Director General, Aviation Security, Fire and Rescue, General Authority of Civil Aviation, Saudi Arabia and Chairman of the CASP-MID Experts Working Group. He will be assisted by the CASP-MID Programme Coordinator.

### **Civil Aviation Security Training**

The Programme Coordinator discussed the completed training courses/workshops conducted under the CASP-MID Programme since the last meeting of the EWG. CASP-MID sponsored Risk Management Workshops in Arabic were held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from 19-22 October 2015, Kuwait City, Kuwait from 23-27 November 2015, Khartoum Sudan from 14-17 December 2015, and Manama Bahrain from 4-7 January 2016. The final CASP-MID Risk Management Workshop in Arabic will be held in Amman, Jordan from 21-24 March 2016.

All participants agreed the preferred method of training for CASP-MID courses and workshops should be training events held in individual States. This saves on travel costs and will train more students from State agencies and other stakeholders involved in aviation security.

During the discussion, future CASP-MID training priorities were established based on feedback from each participating State. Future training courses/workshops will be conducted as follows:

- Kuwait: Air Cargo and Mail Security; Basic Aviation Security
- Bahrain: Crisis Management Workshop; Air Cargo and Mail Security
- Saudi Arabia: Air Cargo and Mail Security; National Instructors; MANPADS Workshop
- Sudan: Management; Air Cargo and Mail Security; National Inspectors

The Programme Coordinator will follow up to determine the training priorities for Jordan.

Also discussed was the need for a future CASP-MID aviation security audit course to prepare CASP-MID experts for future team assistance visits under the Aviation Security Advisory Project. This course would include 4 aviation security experts nominated from each CASP-MID State and focus on Aviation Security Advisory Project procedures and guidelines. At a minimum, each nominated expert must have basic English language skills to participate in the course.

Also, during this discussion, the TSA Representative provided information on TSA assisted training in the areas of Advanced Screening Technologies and Insider Threat. These courses/workshops could be offered on a multilateral basis to CASP-MID States at some point in the future.

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

The Programme Coordinator presented the updated Annual Work Plan of CASP-MID as approved at the Third Meeting of the CASP-MID Executive Steering Committee in November

2015. Each planned work activity was described, as well as the timeline for completion. As part of the Work Plan, a future CASP-MID Visit to the United Kingdom will be planned for Summer 2016. The specific dates will be coordinated with UK Department for Transport counterparts.

During the discussion, suggestions were made to create a stand-alone website in the future to be administered by a CASP-MID volunteer State. There was also a recommendation that representatives from National air carriers of CASP-MID States be encouraged to attend future meetings of the Experts Working Group. The Programme Coordinator will update the Annual Work Plan accordingly as future CASP-MID training courses and events are scheduled.

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

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

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 specific dates and logistical arrangements for the CASP-MID Visit to the UK in Summer 2016.

Aviation Security Advisory Project Auditor Course - The Programme Coordinator will coordinate with the UK DfT on future support for this course.

TSA assisted training in the areas of Advanced Screening Technologies and Insider Threat - The Programme Coordinator will follow up with TSA on possible CASP-MID training opportunities for these courses.

### **Conclusion of the Meeting**

The meeting concluded with all participants pleased with the productive discussions on a variety of aviation security issues. The newly elected Chairman of the Experts Working Group thanked all for their support and emphasized the goal to make the implementation of security measures the same for all CASP-MID States. As previously planned, the Sudan representative confirmed the Seventh Meeting of the Experts Working Group will be held in Khartoum Sudan in September 2016.

**ATTENDEES SIXTH MEEING OF THE CASP-MID EXPERTS WORKING GROUP**

**BAHRAIN 1-2 MARCH 2016**

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