



## **Summary Report of the CASP-MID Visit to the United States**

**16-20 March 2015**

The Cooperative Aviation Security Programme Middle East in coordination with the United States Transportation Security Administration conducted a visit to Washington D.C. 16-20 March 2015 to learn more about risk based security by examining aviation security programmes and practices in the U.S. The visit included a total of 9 participants from 4 CASP-MID States (Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Tunisia). During the visit, informational briefings and tours were conducted at TSA facilities, Washington Reagan National Airport and Dulles International Airport.

The visit consisted of the following:

- A visit to the TSA Systems Integrated Facility (TSIF) which included a tour of the facilities and demonstrations on current and future technologies for the screening of passengers, baggage, and air cargo.
- A briefing on current threats to aviation in the Middle East Region with emphasis on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) which are chemically initiated and of non-metallic design. The briefing emphasised that aviation continues to remain a primary target for terrorists in the Middle East.
- A briefing on Risk Pathways which focuses on the analysis of threat, risk, vulnerability and consequence to determine the most appropriate and effective application of aviation security measures.
- A detailed briefing on the latest aviation security screening technologies including Explosive Trace Detection (ETD), Advanced Technology X-ray (AT), Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT), Bottle Liquid Scanners (BLS), Explosive Detection Systems (EDS), and Credential Authentication Technology (CAT).
- A visit to TSA headquarters to meet with senior leadership and staff of the Office of Global Strategies. During this portion of the visit, informational briefings were held on Red Team Testing at U.S. airports and MANPADS threat and mitigation measures.

- A visit to Ronald Reagan National Airport to meet with the TSA Federal Security Director and observe active passenger screening checkpoints and the screening of hold baggage. The visit also included a live demonstration on K9 capabilities at screening points.
- A visit to Dulles International Airport to meet with the TSA Federal Security Director to discuss airport aviation security operations and screener training. The visit also included a review of cargo acceptance and screening procedures at the cargo facility for Saudi Arabian Airlines.

During each briefing, there was productive dialogue between the participants and TSA officials which led to interactive discussions on U.S. requirements in comparison with aviation security measures implemented in Middle East States. It was very beneficial to all involved.

At the conclusion of the visit, all participants were pleased with the openness of TSA concerning aviation security procedures and practices and felt the trip was a total success. There will be continued coordination with the TSA Representative for the Middle East to establish future CASP-MID seminars/workshops based on the information provided during the trip.