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Achievements of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the
scope of Civil Aviation Security

(Information paper presented by the KSA)

SUMMARY

The intent of this information paper is to inform or advise the participants in this conference about the achievements of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a member state of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in the field of Civil Aviation Security and as an example of a state in which air transport is considered the greatest in the Middle east region.

We are proud of the achievements of Kingdom in this domain and its tremendous contribution in the international efforts made to enhance and promote civil aviation security and to deal with the illegal intervention incidents.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia approximately fill up 80% of the total area of the Arab peninsula (Which is estimated to be more than 2000,000 square meters) – the Kingdom is considered as an attraction center for travelers due to its unique location between Asia, Africa and Europe and due to its great role in the international economy as the biggest producer and exporter of oil world-wide, in addition to existence of the two holly Mosques (Mahhak AL-Mukarramah and AL-Madinah AL-Munawwarah) receiving millions of Muslims annually to perform HAJ and OMRAH.

1.2 For a country of such vast area, air transport is considered as the most secure and fast means of transportation between its wide regions. From this point of view the Kingdom has given the air transport sector high importance through the tremendous work done in building, establishing and upgrading its international, regional and domestic airports to cope with the continued increase of air traffic activities, in addition to maintaining the maximum security requirements for civil aviation operations at all airports of the Kingdom and its regional air space.

2. Achievements of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the field of Civil Aviation Security:

2.1 Security requirements at Airports

2.1.1 After the regrettable occurrences that took place at the United States of America on Sept 11, 2001, and in reaction with the international efforts made to enhance civil aviation security, the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has adopted an ambitious plan to provide modern security equipments and systems at its airports including introduction of equipments and systems required for detection and inspection of hazardous materials and other restricted items. The plan has been executed through five stages starting from the year 2002 and completed in the year 2009.

2.1.2 In the year 2009 the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has adopted a comprehensive project titled the National Integrated Project for Airport Security and Protection (NIPASP) to make a gigantic advance and progress in security scope at all airports of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through establishing a modern technical integrated security system to facilitate inspection, monitoring, communication, and control operations including fences, egress, access points, terminals, airside, prohibited areas and support services areas at all airport facilities by using the latest technologies and data base information nets and linking all systems to from a united and integrated security net linked to command and control

centers at airports and to the main command and control center at the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) Headquarters.

The following points represent the basic elements of this titanic project:

1. Modernizing (Updating) of passengers carried baggage and weighed baggage inspection systems and equipments.
2. Promotion of protection and early detection system and security fences protection system.
3. Promotion of egress and ingress points control system for individuals and vehicles.
4. Establishment of identity management and approval system.
5. Modernization (Updating) of CCTV system.
6. Promotion of security operations centers at airports.
7. Establishment of the National Aviation Security and safety control center at GACA headquarters.

2.2   Aviation Security Training and certification

2.2.1 The concerned agencies in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have the conviction that the trained and qualified personnel are the foundation stone in aviation security systems. In harmony with this the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has allocated tremendous efforts and funds for establishing a training   academy specialized in civil aviation training including a special center for training aviation security providing technical training and skills for personnel working in the field of Aviation Security at all airports of the Kingdom including both governmental and private sectors and in accordance with the standard training programs issued by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

2.2.2 In accordance with the common strategies for Civil Aviation security training and certification procedures based upon the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) requirements, all security elements/resources working at airports should be subjected to special standards, qualifying courses, theoretical and practical tests within an

approved program for training and certification of individuals who will be authorized to perform security procedures at airports.

2.3   Security of Cargo

2.3.1 The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has implemented since several years "the approved shipper cargo program" which is considered as a pioneer practice in the Middle East region. The main objective of this program is to ensure safety and security of air cargo and packages in addition to expediting the process of forwarding cargo to the aircraft and consequently reducing the time spent by cargo on the airport ground.

2.3.2 At present these there are (62) Approved cargo shippers exist in the Kingdom. These GACA's Certified shipping agencies are authorized to send cargo and packages through international airports of the Kingdom. Cargo and packages are subjected within the agencies to strict security regulations which are clearly specified in the Approved cargo shipping program.

2.4 Regulation and legislations;

2.4.1 The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia represented by the General Authority of Civil Aviation has established the National Civil Aviation Security Program (NCASP) which incorporate all internationally approved regulations and legislations in the scope of Aviation security and airports protection. The program is presently under updating the third edition which shall be completed before the end of this year 2013.

2.4.2 The General Authority of Civil Aviation also develops and implements the rules and legislation pertaining to aviation security and has achieved during the previous period for example legislations concerning aircraft hijacking, accidents, rules concerning penalties in case of crimes and violations onboard the aircraft and (No Smoking) rules on airports and other required rules………. Etc.

2.5 National Civil Aviation Security Quality Control Program:

2.5.1 The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia represented by the General Authority of Civil Aviation has adopted the (Quality Control Program) in Aviation Security in accordance with the National regulations and international requirements. Based on this program GACA conducts auditing visits and security surveys for all security systems, procedures and standards at airports and airline companies and all other agencies responsible for providing security services. This program also provides correctional reports in case of any weakness of security procedures in addition to providing the appropriate recommendations pertaining to actions to be taken to correct the observations.

2.6 Bilateral Agreements and International cooperation in aviation security.

2.6.1 The General Authority of Civil Aviation gives high importance and consideration to security bilateral agreements with the states and organizations concerned with Aviation and airports security. Cooperation memorandum has been signed with Transport Security Administration (TSA) United States of America, (DFT) British, and Ministry of Interior Germany in addition to participation in the international auditing program of ICAO, and the initial agreement made to participate in the cooperative program of Aviation Security in the Middle East region (CASP-MID)

3. Required Procedures

3.1 The participants in this conference are kindly requested to review and recognize the information contained in this paper.

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