



**Agenda Item 3: Assessment of development of regional air navigation and security
infrastructure**

**ACTIONS TAKEN BY COLOMBIA TO ENHANCE THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS
REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY AND ASSURING A
PRO-ACTIVE ATTITUDE CONCERNING THE AIR TRAFFIC SERVICES PERSONNEL**

(Presented by Colombia)

SUMMARY

This working paper shares the actions taken by Colombia to strengthen security in civil aviation by means of introducing conferences about our National Security Program, threats and general aspects of crisis management in the training programs of our air traffic service personnel.

1. Background

Looking for actions that strengthen civil aviation security, Colombia noticed that aeronautical personnel, who work in control towers and air traffic control centers, did not have complete awareness of risks involving Aviation Security and they have had negative behavior in relation to established security controls that have been put in place, such as identification systems and control accesses for people and vehicles.

This lack of awareness combined with the increased risk of air traffic facilities, not only made security controls more complex, but also made an impact on the appropriate risk management by the personnel.

Our analysis of this situation allowed us to determine that this has happened for two reasons. First, is the fact that traditionally a hiatus has existed between aeronautical and airport personnel, making it difficult to put levels of coordination in place concerning common subjects such as relations with civil aviation threats. Second reason is based on the fact that efforts to increase level of awareness concerning security, have taken place focusing on airport personnel.

2. Actions taken by Colombia

To facilitate the goal that enhances the level of civil aviation personnel's awareness, in general, about the importance of security, the first step was to invite them to a sensitive process, which has taken place at airports for the aeronautical personnel.

However, by means of these actions, the results were not at the level expected due to several reasons, such as the aeronautical personnel lack of interest regarding these subjects and the difficulty to coordinate the processes within personnel shifts.

Facing these results, preparing and executing a sequence of short conferences into air traffic control personnel courses was chosen; among them we have the Introduction to National Airport Security Program, Threats to Civil Aviation and Principles for crisis management due to acts of unlawful interference.

These short talks were reinforced into radar supervisor courses by means of simulations of attacks against radar control centers, hijacking of aircrafts, attacks by means of computers, communications sabotage and entrance of explosive devices and armed terrorist to the facilities.

3. Results obtained.

One year after the process started at our Training Center “Centro de Estudios de Ciencias Aeronáuticas (CEA)”, up to day 90% of our air traffic personnel who work in the country have gone into the process.

An immediate result by Air Traffic Control personnel were that they are more aware of the risks in civil aviation, not only related with airports above and beyond with risk that specifically can affect their activity and therefore their lives.

Once Air Traffic controllers returned to their bases, they contacted airport managers and security committees to settle down the risk map of their work places and to establish how to coordinate measures to prevent an act of unlawful interference.

The process outlined above not only led to an increased level of Air Traffic Control personnel awareness of aviation security, but also encouraged pro-active behavior.

The training carried out by Colombia was shared with Air Traffic Controllers from Costa Rica and it was concluded that this phenomenon is also occurring in this country; this is why Costa Rican personnel were motivated to develop coordination actions between security personnel and air traffic controllers.

4. Suggested Action

The experience carried out must allow States to evaluate if a similar or equivalent circumstance exists in each country, as was the case in Colombia. If a similar circumstance occurs, then it is important that ICAO request that AVSEC/COMM group develop the necessary guidance to take action to overcome barriers between civil aviation personnel and therefore make it possible to enhance risk management with a pro-active attitude of the aeronautical personnel. In that sense, we extend an invitation to GREPECAS to study the following draft conclusion:

DRAFT CONCLUSION 14/X - AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE PRO-ACTIVE ATTITUDE FACING AVIATION SECURITY

It is important for the Aviation Security schema to provide a clear knowledge about procedures for air traffic service personnel thus the AVSEC/COMM group must study alternatives and prepare guidance to strengthen the knowledge in AVSEC matters for the aeronautical personnel in order to generate a pro-active culture.