



DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION-MIDDLE EAST REGION

Third Meeting (DGCA-MID/3) (Doha, Qatar, 27-29 April 2015)

Agenda Item 6: Aviation Security and Facilitation

COOPERATIVE AVIATION SECURITY PROGRAMME FOR THE MIDDLE EAST (CASP-MID)

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

On 19 January 2013 the Cooperative Aviation Security Programme–Middle East (CASP-MID) was established to enable participating States to improve their aviation security provisions and arrangements, and to develop a standing structure for cooperation and coordination in aviation security matters in the Middle East Region. CASP-MID provides a regional approach to aviation security assistance and training designed to meet the specific needs of participating States. This paper provides background on CASP-MID and highlights the successful results of the implementation of the programme to date. States are encouraged to become participants in CASP-MID and to make optimum use of this cooperative programme to strengthen aviation security in the Middle East.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The ICAO Assembly, in Resolution A37-17, Appendix C, positions ICAO as the global leader for facilitating and coordinating assistance and support for States, invites States to seek assistance from ICAO, calls on States to utilize the ICAO Aviation Security Training Centres (ASTC), and urges all States to increase assistance to countries in need and to financially support the Organization's aviation security activities. Furthermore, the High-level, Ministerial Conference also concluded inter alia that regional and sub-regional approaches can make a significant contribution to ICAO's aviation security activities.

1.2 The CASP-MID was formed in 2013 as a result of these considerations and as an initiative of ICAO and the States of the Middle East Region emanating from the First Meeting of the Directors General of Civil Aviation-Middle East Region (Abu Dhabi, 22 to 24 March 2011). Additionally, the Joint Statement of the Regional Conference on Aviation Security (Bahrain, 10 to 11 April 2012) and the Recommendation of the ICAO High-level Conference on Aviation Security (Montréal, 12 to 14 September 2012) provide support and guidance for the activities to be undertaken by such a regional cooperative approach.

- 1.3 The CASP-MID specific objectives are two-fold:
- a) To improve the regulation and enforcement provisions of aviation security as well as the security arrangements and implementation capability of participating States. In order to achieve this objective a specific work plan would be developed for States. Items within these plans would include (but not be limited to) the formulation of aviation security laws and regulations; determination of the adequacy of a risk or threat process; and the development of various National Civil Aviation Security Programmes and assistance in implementing regulatory oversight. Additionally assistance would be provided through training of the appropriate aviation security personnel for rectifying deficiencies identified through the ICAO Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) audits.
 - b) Development of a standing aviation security structure in the long term for the cooperation and coordination in aviation security matters amongst the participating States.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The most effective and efficient way ICAO technical cooperation can assist Middle East States is through a technical cooperation programme that provides the required regulatory, technical and training expertise in aviation security to the participating States. This allows for the efficient use of the time of experts, promotes greater cooperation and coordination among the States of the Middle East, and leads to the implementation of aviation security requirements, in accordance with ICAO Assembly Resolution 37-17 and the Recommendations of the High-level Ministerial Conference on Aviation Security. Such a regional programme promotes the goal of establishing in the long term a standing aviation security structure in the region, manned by personnel familiar with and in some cases trained through the programme. Also, technical coordination and cooperation with the ICAO Implementation Support and Development-Security Section in Montréal and with the ICAO Middle East Regional Office in Cairo adds further strength to the programme.

2.2 CASP-MID is open to all accredited States in the Middle East Region and other Arabic-speaking countries. Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Tunisia are full participating States in the programme. Other States in the region have participated in CASP-MID events as observers and one of these States has begun the process of accepting the Memorandum of Participation to become a full member. ICAO is hopeful the programme membership will continue to expand through continued awareness of the benefits and the potential of the programme.

2.3 After a six month interim period, the permanent CASP-MID Programme Coordinator (PC) has occupied the position in Manama, Bahrain, since July 2013. The PC has facilitated two meetings of the CASP-MID Executive Steering Committee (ESC) and four meetings of the CASP-MID Experts Working Group (EWG).

2.4 The ESC is composed of the Directors General of Civil Aviation of Member Administrations, senior representatives of ICAO Middle East Regional Office, the major donors, and the Programme Coordinator. The ESC meets annually to review the progress of the Programme, take note of any difficulties encountered, adopt proposals and action plans to achieve Programme objectives and increase its effectiveness, agree to modifications to Programme activities, provide inputs and contributions as necessary and approve the annual work plan prepared by the Programme Coordinator for the subsequent year.

2.5 The EWG is composed of aviation security experts from Civil Aviation Authorities of Member Administrations, Ministry of Interior officials, aviation stakeholders, and major donors. The group meets twice yearly to discuss technical and operational matters affecting participating States and is provided with a comprehensive briefing on all related ICAO developments and activities by the MID Regional Officer for Aviation Security and Facilitation. The EWG assists in the development of the annual work plan and provides input to the ESC on operational issues and contributes to the strategic direction of the programme.

2.6 CASP-MID has heightened awareness amongst Middle East States on the importance of aviation security in the Region and has created a venue for open dialogue between Civil Aviation Authorities and Ministry of Interior officials. Since its inception, the CASP-MID programme has achieved the following results:

- a) the development of a National Civil Aviation Security Training Centre for the Kingdom of Bahrain in cooperation with Civil Aviation Affairs and the Ministry of Interior, Bahrain Airport Police Directorate;
- b) the Certification of the Gulf Aviation Academy, Manama Bahrain, as an ICAO Aviation Security Training Centre;
- c) the development of Basic Civil Aviation Security Training Courses for the Kingdom of Bahrain which includes students from Civil Aviation Affairs, Bahrain Airport Police Directorate, Bahrain Customs, Bahrain Airport Company, Bahrain Airport Services and Gulf Air;
- d) the Programme Coordinator conducted Assistance Coordination Visits to CASP-MID participating States (Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Sudan) which assisted in the development of CASP-MID training courses and workshops;
- e) CASP-MID Aviation Security Certification Systems Workshop was conducted at the Queen Noor Civil Aviation Technical College in Amman Jordan, 17-21 August 2014;
- f) CASP-MID National Aviation Security Inspectors Course was conducted at the Gulf Aviation Academy in Manama Bahrain, 7-15 September 2014;
- g) CASP-MID National Aviation Security Instructors Course was conducted at the Sudan Academy for Aviation Sciences and Technology in Khartoum Sudan, 8-16 December 2014; and
- h) CASP-MID Visit to the United States 16-20 March 2015 which enabled experts from Participating States to visit Transportation Security Administration (TSA) facilities and U.S. airports to examine aviation security programmes and practices.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to encourage States to become participants in the CASP-MID programme and to make optimum use of this cooperative programme to strengthen aviation security in the region.