



DIRECTORS GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION-MIDDLE EAST REGION

Fourth Meeting (DGCA-MID/4) (Muscat, Oman 17-19 October 2017)

Agenda Item 6: Aviation Security and Facilitation

COOPERATIVE AVIATION SECURITY PROGRAMME 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 is based in the ICAO Middle East Regional Office in Cairo, Egypt and 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 and the future activities under CASP-MID Phase II. The Riyadh Declaration on Aviation Security and Facilitation in the ACAC and ICAO MID Regions, encouraged States that have not yet participated in CASP-MID to do so as CASP-MID's role is foreseen to evolve in line with the formulation of a Regional Security and Facilitation Plan to foster collaboration among States and concerned stakeholders. 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 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. Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Sudan are full participating States in the programme. Other States in the region have participated in CASP-MID events as observers. ICAO is hopeful the programme membership will continue to expand through continued awareness of the benefits and the potential of the programme.

2.3 Since its inception, there have been four meetings of the CASP-MID Executive Steering Committee (ESC) and nine 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) 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) Certification of the Gulf Aviation Academy, Manama Bahrain, as an ICAO Aviation Security Training Centre;
- c) Development of Basic Civil Aviation Security Training Courses for the Kingdom of Bahrain which included students from Civil Aviation Affairs, Bahrain Airport Police Directorate, Bahrain Customs, Bahrain Airport Company, Bahrain Airport Services and Gulf Air;
- d) 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 in Amman Jordan, in August 2014;
- f) CASP-MID National Aviation Security Inspectors Courses were conducted in Manama Bahrain, September 2014; Kuwait City, Kuwait August 2016; and Khartoum Sudan November 2016;
- g) CASP-MID National Aviation Security Instructors Course was conducted in Khartoum Sudan, December 2014;
- h) CASP-MID Aviation Security National Quality Control Programme Workshop, was conducted in Amman Jordan, in August 2015;
- i) CASP-MID Aviation Security Risk Management Workshops were conducted in Jeddah Saudi Arabia, October 2015; Kuwait City Kuwait, November 2015; Khartoum Sudan, December 2015; Manama Bahrain, January 2016, and Amman Jordan, March 2016;
- j) In coordination with the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA), a CASP-MID MANPADS Workshop was conducted in Jeddah Saudi Arabia, in April 2016;
- k) CASP-MID Aviation Security Crisis Management Courses were conducted in Manama Bahrain in May 2016 and Khartoum, Sudan in August 2017.

- l) CASP-MID Aviation Security Basic Course was conducted in Kuwait City, Kuwait, in July 2016;
- m) CASP-MID Air Cargo and Mail Security Courses were conducted in Jeddah Saudi Arabia, in September 2016 and Kuwait City, Kuwait in March 2017.
- n) CASP-MID Visit to the United States 16-20 March 2015 which enabled experts from Participating States to visit TSA facilities and U.S. airports to examine aviation security programmes and practices.

3. CASP-MID Phase II

3.1 In January 2017, CASP-MID began the implementation of Phase II of the project (2017-2022). The future work of the programme will focus on capacity building initiatives in States, with a renewed emphasis on pre-audit assistance.

3.2 A CASP-MID sponsored Aviation Security Workshop on U.S. and British Ban on Portable Electronic Devices was convened in the ICAO Middle East Regional Office (ICAOMID) Cairo Egypt on 14-15 May 2017 to assist Middle East States. The workshop provided an opportunity for the affected States and their stakeholders to share their concerns with the ban on portable electronic devices and fully discuss its ramifications.

3.3 To assist in pre-audit preparation, a CASP-MID sponsored Aviation Security Assessment was conducted in Kuwait City, Kuwait from 25-28 July 2017. Two aviation security experts from CASP-MID States (Jordan and Saudi Arabia) conducted the assessment.

3.4 CASP-MID will sponsor a Visit to the United Kingdom from 23-25 October 2017. This visit will provide the opportunity for participants to meet with UK Department for Transport (DfT) counterparts and visit a UK airport to learn more about DfT programmes concerning aviation security.

4. ACTION BY THE MEETING

4.1 The meeting is invited to note the information provided and 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.