

BORDERPOL JOURNAL

March 2004

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Estonian Border Guards: *training and development in that Baltic State*

Australian customs & drugs

WMD: trafficking and proliferation

Trafficking in humans: *the tragedy continues*



**Passport technology:
*if only it was as simple as
this.....***

The official publication of the Borderpol International Association



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“to protect and connect”

The Borderpol Journal is the official publication of the Borderpol International Association.

Borderpol is a non-profit, fraternal organization registered under the Canada Corporations Act. Borderpol is a registered trademark.

Borderpol serves the international community of border security professionals promoting safe and secure borders through orderly and lawful border management.

Publisher: Thomas A. Tass

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Submissions: Articles and letters are welcome and should be addressed to the Editor at the Borderpol Journal and dispatched by e-mail or fax.



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**BORDERPOL
JOURNAL**

Passport technology: *US takes it to the edge*

On January 1, 2004 the United States introduced the VISIT program. On January 2, 2004 a torrent of criticism was heaped on the Americans by some foreign critics, for daring to be unilateral on the subject of biometric standards for passports and visas. The fact is the United States government should be congratulated for their initiative rather than lambasted by technically short sighted and ill informed critics.

Brazil then took a bold step on its own. It imposed a photo and finger program specifically targeting US citizens arriving in that country. The decision, made on the order of a judge, was seen by many as a tit for tat gesture. Yet the US State Department acknowledged that Brazil's version of the VISIT program was based on the international convention known as the "rule of reciprocity". That is, a state may impose identical reciprocal terms and conditions on the nationals of another country wishing to enter its jurisdiction. While the motivation for the imposition of the rule of reciprocity might be suspect in some quarters, Brazil ironically made the world safer by making it tougher for terrorists and other cross border criminals to use that country as an entry point. Terrorists can after all disguise themselves as any nationality, and even American passports have been subject to counterfeiting and have been used by imposters.


By design the US has done what the international community been incapable of doing for the past twenty years and has to come to grips with the standardization of that 19th century travel document known as the passport. Today every border security professional from the ubiquitous passport control officers at the worlds airports and seaports to document forensic experts, know that the passport and the data it contains is extremely vulnerable to fraud. This weakness has provided a significant advantage to terrorists and other criminals who need to disguise themselves, their motives and their travel routings. Terrorists and criminals view the inability of the international community to cooperate on the development and acceptance of universal standards for travel documents as an invaluable asset. Biometrics has made the ability to manufacture documents or alter identities very much more difficult.



While it is true that the International Civil Aviation Authority, a UN agency, has promoted certain standards to follow with respect to certain security features of the passport, there exists no protocol or convention in this regard.

This issue plays out in the arena of voluntary compliance without the universal support of UN member countries. The ICAO has no authority to compel any country to observe these standards.

The VISIT program may not have found supporters in certain very predicable arenas, but it is a small price to pay in the strategic war on terrorism. If all countries adopted the US example, as inconvenient as it may be for everyone who travels, *including American citizens* visiting other countries, the price paid in terms of a safer and more secure world would make it entirely worthwhile. With the passing of time, the process of applying for and using the new passports would become as common place as baggage screening and X-ray machines are at airports.

So do let's stop the negative rhetoric regarding America's approach to passports, visas and international security. For once reciprocity in this instance may be just one of the most effective antidotes to the virus of international terrorism yet devised. 

Thomas A. Tass
Publisher
Borderpol Journal

“whether by accident or design the US has done what the international community has (collectively) been seemingly incapable of doing”



ESTONIAN BORDER GUARDS: *training challenges for a new EU country*

By Lt. Evelin Rikas*

The Estonian Border Guard serves under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It is an institution with a military structure, though in peacetime it has powers similar to those of the Border Police.

As for the training of border guards in Estonia, they are taught at *Muraste Border Guard School*. The school was founded in 1992, a little more than one year after the declaration of independence of the Republic of Estonia. The school existed but was merely an in service training centre. The profession of a border guard wasn't officially recognised. The certificate granted by the school had value only for border guard itself.

In the mid 90's it became clear that if we wanted to be effective and competent in our field, we had to radically change our training system. In 1998 a workgroup was put together by the Board of Border Guard. Initially the task was to update the training system, which didn't satisfy the needs of Border Guard anymore. In summer 2000 the area of questions concerning education within Border Guard was expanded and the main goal now was to have a vision of development, directions and programme how to achieve the goals. As a result the workgroup came out with a professional standard, with levels of qualification and curriculum.

The main reason to change the previous training system was to make it more efficient. This was achieved by integrating border guard vocational preliminary education at secondary schools, vocational studies, military training and border guard dog handlers and dog training.

Today the number of personnel who annually need basic training is around 150. This number will not change in the near future due to some transference of personnel to the eastern land or sea border, especially after May 2004 when the eastern border becomes the external border of the European Union.

The Muraste Border Guard School is responsible for vocational education and in-service training for second level officers (privates and NCOs). The vocational curriculum covers 40 weeks of study. As for mid-level officers Border Guard School together with *Estonian Public Service Academy* trains officers and senior NCOs who need in-service training on higher level on subject of border guard management. The curriculum covers 30 weeks of study after which they have a specialised practice at border crossing points, land or sea border and in regional headquarters.

MANAGEMENT OF TRAINING

There are several institutions whose tasks are related to organising training for border guard personnel. The Ministry of Interior is in charge of planning, co-ordinating and funding in-service training within its limits of competence in area of internal security. The Ministry of Defence is responsible for planning, co-ordinating and funding military education and training. The Board of Border Guard personnel department is responsible for planning training for border guard personnel and co-ordinating directives with border guard educational institutions. The department is also responsible for the international further training, the preparatory training for the EU integration and the training for heads beyond basic training and their retraining when necessary.

“..it became clear if we wanted to be effective and competent in our field we had to radically change our training system.”



Muraste Border Guard School



**Estonian
Border Guard
Emblem**


Estonian Border Guards: *Training for the future*

Future border guard officers who study at *Joint Military Educational Institutions* (JMEI) get their border guard professional training on basis of integrated curriculum between Muraste Border Guard School and Public Service Academy. It is a one-year long study after which officers have specialised practice at the border and in regional headquarters. In total officers study 3.5 years in JMEI's . For the first two years they study only military and general subjects such as languages, psychology, social affairs, tactics, etc. The 3rd year is focused on border guard laws and regulations.

The school has also a training programme for those border guard officials who are going to conduct occupational training for border guards at border and in border guard regions. This training is about guarding and protecting the European Union external border in reference to the EU and Estonian laws and regulations as well as knowledge of relevant Schengen and EU provisions.

The curriculum of Muraste Border Guard School is in accordance with requirements of Core Curriculum for Border Guard Training. The project proposal to set up a Common Core Curriculum was adopted by the "Common Unit of Border Guard Practitioners" at its meeting on 22 July 2002 and the representative from Estonian Border Guard participated in the study group workshops along with other candidate countries, for example Hungary, Poland, Latvia etc.

Further post-graduate training is possible through the faculty in Joint Military Educational Institutions in co-operation with other higher educational institutions such as technical or pedagogical universities.

The Narva-Jõesuu Border Guard Training Centre is a training centre where border guard conscripts get basic military training. Also, in the training centre additional military training for border guard personnel and the reserve forces take place. While the Neeme Border Guard Dog School is a school for training dogs and dog handlers. 

*The author is a training director with the Estonian Border Guard Service.



Map: CIA Fact Book

Borderpol Estonia Factoid:

Area: total: 45,226 sq km

land: 43,211 sq km

water: 2,015 sq km

Also includes 1,520 islands in the Baltic Sea

Number of Border Crossing Points: 37

Length of land borders: total: 633 km

with Latvia 339 km, Russia 294 km

Coastline: 3,794 km

*“training is about guarding
and protecting the European
Union external border....”*

WMD: Defence the international community by border security and safety agencies

By Jacqueline Simon, Borderpol

In response to a growing threat identified by governments and intelligence agencies, many international organizations have embarked upon new initiatives to address the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, biological and radiological weapons (often grouped together as weapons of mass destruction or WMD). Recent revelations of weapons of mass destruction programs in Libya, North Korea and Iran have shed greater light on a thriving black market in the material, equipment and technology related to these weapons. Clearly the international community must build upon this information and coordinate its efforts to ensure that this black market is not drawn upon by other would-be weapons states or terrorist organizations.

Coordination of activities and timely information-sharing pose two of the greatest challenges in addressing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The vast array of organizations involved in implementing government policies to address this threat includes, but is not limited to, port authorities, border agencies, transportation authorities, customs officials, postal unions, the intelligence and export control communities and law enforcement.

Initiatives undertaken to address the proliferation threat have clear impact on the daily activities of those involved in securing international borders against the spread of materials, equipment and material related to weapons of mass destruction.

The effectiveness of these activities will hinge upon the proper training of those combating proliferation on the front lines. Proper training should also be supplemented with regular information on developments related to international weapons proliferation. This article is aimed towards promoting the latter by highlighting some of the new and ongoing activities undertaken by relevant organizations to address the smuggling of WMD and related items.



Various organizations have recently launched new initiatives in this area, such as the *World Customs Organization*, the *International Maritime Organization*, the *International Postal Union*, *Europol* and *Interpol*. In the intergovernmental arena, new and ongoing intergovernmental initiatives include the *Proliferation Security Initiative* and the *G8 Non-Proliferation Experts Group*.

Due to space constraints this article can touch only upon a few of the international activities currently underway to address smuggling of WMD and related materials, equipment and technology. Initiatives launched by the *World Customs Organization* and the *International Maritime Organization*, in addition to G8 nonproliferation efforts and the new *Proliferation Security Initiative* are highlighted below.

These kinds of activities are vital to ensuring that the international norms and prohibitions enshrined in international treaties prohibiting WMD are reinforced and export controls enforced. Clearly this is a problem which requires a multi-faceted and multi-track response.

World Customs Organization

In June 2003 the *World Customs Organization Council* adopted a series of measures in response to concerns that the international trade supply chain could be used to proliferate weapons of mass destruction. The measures are intended to provide a framework of best practices and standards to be used by the 162 members of WCO. Measures adopted include: the *Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters*; a *WCO Data Model* to assist in identifying high risk consignments; international customs guidelines on advance cargo information; guidelines for the development of national laws for the collection and transmission of Customs information; guidelines for cooperative arrangements between WCO members and the private sector; enhancements to the WCO's intelligence strategy (it has a network of regional liaison offices); a new internet-based technology databank to enable WCO members to identify illegal shipments of technology.

Continued as WMD: part two on page 8

“coordination of activities and timely information sharing pose two of the greatest challenges in addressing the proliferation of weapons....” 6



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Indonesia: *get your visa before you arrive*

Indonesia's decision to start charging many visitors a visa fee from February 1, 2004 was not expected to affect the already battered tourism sector according to immigration department spokesman Ade Endang Dahlan. "We have all the facilities and infrastructure set up. I believe this law will not have a negative impact on our tourism sector," he said.

Tourists from 20 countries and from Taiwan who previously did not need visas will from February 1 have to buy visas on arrival, at a cost of 25 dollars for a stay of up to 30 days and 10 dollars for a three-day permit. The countries are South Africa, Argentina, Denmark, the United Arab Emirates, Italy, Canada, Poland, South Korea, New Zealand, France, the United States, Britain, Australia, Japan, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Switzerland, Brazil and Finland.

They are among the main markets for Indonesia's tourism industry. Tourists from nine countries and two regions will not need visas because their governments give Indonesians similar privileges. They are Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, Morocco, Peru, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam and Hong Kong and Macao.

Dahlan said his office had set up visa booths at airports in the cities of Jakarta, Denpasar in Bali, Medan, Surabaya, Manado and Padang. Booths are also available at seaports. Tourists from other countries will have to obtain visas from embassies before they leave home. The policy has sparked protests from the tourism industry, which is still reeling from the impact of the Bali bombings on October 12, 2002 and the regional outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome last year. An August 5 hotel bombing in Jakarta also unnerved travelers. 

WMD: part two

As noted by WCO officials, enhanced customs response to possible terrorist threats and smuggling of weapons of mass destruction and related material, equipment and technology requires enhanced risk management programmes capable of targeting high-risk goods that could conceal weapons of mass destruction. Risk management programs are essential to ensure that efforts are focused on key areas and that resources are wisely distributed among the various initiatives of an organization like the WCO.

The WCO has also embarked upon cooperative initiatives with organizations such as the *United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee*, and the *International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)*. With the assistance of the IAEA, the WCO developed a Council Recommendation on illicit cross-border movement of nuclear and hazardous material, included nuclear and hazardous materials in the *Customs Enforcement Network* database, and ensured that customs officials are trained in dealing with and identifying nuclear materials. *International Maritime Organization*

Since September 11 1999, the *International Maritime Organization*, and particularly its *Legal Committee*, has been reviewing a number of proposed amendments to various treaties aimed at strengthening maritime security in light of possible terrorist threats, including the use of weapons of mass destruction. In particular, the *Legal Committee* began to review the *Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation* and the *Protocol relating to Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (SUA Convention and Protocol)*. A decision was taken to amend these treaties and a diplomatic conference will be held to adopt proposed amendments during the 2004-2005 biennium.

Activities have also been undertaken outside of international organizations, in the framework of what has been called 'coalitions of the willing'. Two of these initiatives include the activities of the *G8 Nuclear Nonproliferation Experts Group (NPEG)* and the recently launched *Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI)*.

G8 Global Partnership and Non-Proliferation Experts Group

In 1996, G8 member states announced a *Programme for Preventing and Combating Illicit Trafficking in Nuclear Material*. One element of this initiative, the G-8's ongoing *Non-proliferation Experts Group (NPEG)* established the system of "points of contact" to serve as a permanent means of communication for exchanging information on significant trafficking incidents and on related matters. In addition, laboratories in a variety of countries have participated in joint efforts on nuclear forensics (including conferences and "round robin" examination of particular items of nuclear material). The number of countries participating in the program has expanded to several dozen.

In 2002, the leader of the G8 group of states formed the *Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction*. This initiative is focused more on bilateral projects with Russia such as the dismantlement of nuclear submarines, disposition of fissile nuclear material and the employment of former weapons scientists.

Proliferation Security Initiative

The PSI was undertaken to enhance the degree of enforcement capability at the disposal of international officials to counter the proliferation of WMD. The initiative, launched at Krakow in May 2003 originally consisted of 11 participants and now counts 15 official participants with several other countries expressing interest. PSI participants have been very active since the launch of the activity, despite questions about of legality of the initiative, and have already held several meetings of operational experts and training activities. On 4 September 2003 the PSI released its 'Statement of Interdiction Principles'. The statement indicates that "The PSI seeks to involve in some capacity all states that have a stake in nonproliferation and the ability and willingness to take steps to stop the flow of such items at sea, in the air, or on land. The PSI also seeks cooperation from any state whose vessels, flags, ports, territorial waters, airspace, or land might be used for proliferation purposes by states and non-state actors of proliferation concern."



The Author: Jacqueline Anne Simon (M.A. International Affairs) is the newest member of the Borderpol Technical Committee. She is currently a non proliferation officer with the CNSC in Canada.


Anti WMD programs (need to be) complementary and cooperative...

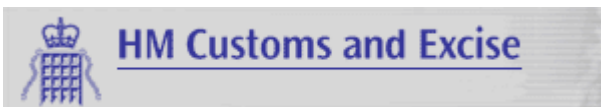
Key elements of the PSI include a commitment of participating states to undertake effective interdiction measures (land, sea and air), to adopt streamlined procedures for information sharing, and to review and where necessary strengthen national legal authorities to accomplish the aforementioned objectives. In the context of the PSI, participants are asking other countries to sign pacts that would allow vessels to be stopped and searched.

Concluding Comments

As illustrated above, a number of innovative initiatives are currently underway to address the issue of the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

As noted at the outset of this article, it is essential that these efforts are complementary and cooperative. Efforts which are not coordinated may ultimately hinder rather than help this problem. The various organizations involved must liaise frequently to ensure that their efforts are complementary rather than counterproductive or redundant. Without coordination, costly international efforts may ultimately fail as critical resources are misdirected.

Time is of the essence in addressing this problem and thus efficient information-sharing and cooperation procedures and protocols are critical. 



IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY D I R E C T O R A T E



Borderpol SOCA Factoid:

NCIS: 1,200 staff, £93m budget
NCS: 1,750 staff, £130m budget
Customs and Excise: 1,500 staff
Home Office: 60 staff


UK announces new elite agency: Serious Organized Crime Agency

The National Crime Squad, the National Criminal Intelligence Organization and the Investigative Branches of Customs and the Immigration services will merge. The UK wide SOCA will combat crimes such as people smuggling and drug trafficking. It will however not have remit with respect to terrorism or murder cases.

The announcement made on February 9, 2004 was made by Home Secretary David Blunkett. He said that organized criminals make millions from human misery by trafficking in people, drugs, weapons and engaging in fraud and extortion.

The new agency, to come into being in actuality in 2006 is the biggest shakeup in border enforcement and intelligence since the mid sixties. It follows a global trend in the western border policing establishments by removing the compartmentalization factor from operations.

The new agency will employ as many as 5,000 officials. It will not compete with existing police forces and the London Metropolitan Police welcomes the new agency. Assistant Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur said that London was being blighted by organized crime nets which have both a national and international dimension.

SOCA is likely to have civilian investigators such as accountants, computer experts and other non-police professionals working with police intelligence specialists. It is also likely that a Chairperson and a Director General will be announced by the government. 



Borderpol Watch List


Top 10 Hottest Cities For Car thieves

According to the US National Insurance Crime Bureau, and the cities with the most stolen cars are:

Phoenix-Mesa, Arizona
Fresno, California
Modesto, California
Stockton-Lodi, California
Las Vegas, Nevada
Miami, Florida
Sacramento, California
Oakland, California
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, Washington
Tacoma, Washington

The top 10 car models stolen:

Toyota Camry
Honda Accord
Honda Civic
Ford Mustang
Toyota Corolla
Toyota pickup
Saturn SL
Acura Integra
Toyota van
Chevrolet Camaro

The vehicles stolen most frequently were made between 1985 and 1997 and don't have car alarms. Auto theft is the No. 1 property crime in America, costing more than \$8 billion a year. What's more, the FBI reports that auto theft is on the increase. No where is that more true than in California where vehicle theft has surged from 210,000 cars stolen in 2001 to more than 227,000 in 2002. California Highway Patrol Sgt. Mike Maskarich describes most car thefts as transportation thefts. "They are stealing older cars and using them to joyride, to commit other crimes, and to get from Point A to Point B," he told Oakland's Tri-Valley Herald newspaper, noting that many car thefts are crimes of opportunity. "People pull into a convenience store, leave their keys in the car, come back, and it's gone," Maskarich added. 

The watch list is a regular summary of the main global border security and policy trends that affect the border enforcement community.

BORDERPOL SUGGESTS

When you park the car, shut the windows and lock the doors. Park in well-lit areas at night. Don't leave electronics lying on the front seat. Use a car alarm, wheel or brake lock, or other theft warning or deterrent device. *Source: Netscape 281203*

The new Borderpol Logo

After many designs were considered, the new Borderpol logo has been chosen. It is graphically simple and recognizable as it incorporates a laurel wreath symbolizing friendship and cooperation with the universal border police sign representing the general mission and membership of the association. It will complement and in some instances replace the Borderpol wordmark.



Borderpol Watch List


US Chiefs of Police: “...border security is a sham”

It was reported in the WorldNet Daily on January 27, 2004 that the National Association of Chiefs of Police claimed that national border security was a "sham" and the lack of controls by the federal government is rewarding criminals. In a statement, Jim Kouri, vice president of the 14,000-member organization, slammed the US federal government for using "smoke and mirrors" in its border security strategy. He also indicted states issuing driver's licenses to illegal aliens. "Even the president of the United States is prepared to reward lawbreakers," he said, referring to President Bush's proposal to legalize millions of illegal aliens in the U.S.

Kouri, an Arab-American, said the lack of security on U.S. borders causes the murder of law-enforcement officers as well as civilians. "Border security is the weakest link in our antiterrorism effort - it's our Achilles' heel," said Kouri, who claimed "billions of taxpayer dollars" were being wasted on an immigration bureaucracy that does "practically nothing to stop the illegal-alien traffic."

The law-enforcement expert and columnist claims the nation's political leaders have a "cynical approach to American sovereignty," winking at the immigration problem to garner votes and adhere to a "suicidal politically correct orthodoxy."

Kouri mentioned the case of the murder of a cop by an illegal Mexican alien as a prime example. The alien killed the Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy and then fled across the border back into Mexico. "If these killers aren't afraid to target or kill cops, then who in America is really safe from terrorists, murderers, rapists and other offenders?"

Kouri asked, adding, "And anyone wishing to debate the problem is labeled a racist or xenophobe." 



***“Border
security is the
weakest link in
our anti-
terrorism
effort”***

Jim Kouri, Vice President NACP

Borderpol Watch List

International drug Syndicate Smashed by Australian Customs

An international drug syndicate based in Rome in Italy has been dismantled, more than 5.5 tonnes of cocaine seized worldwide and 15 search warrants executed in Australia following an operation by the Italian Carabinieri, the Australian Federal Police (AFP), South Australia Police (SAPOL) and the Australian Customs Service (Customs).

The Australian investigation (by SAPOL, AFP and Customs) named *Operation Hellenic* commenced in August 2000 following an intelligence gathering process with Italian authorities. This led to the successful seizure of 317kg of cocaine in Adelaide on 27 August 2000.

As a result of subsequent inquiries made in Australia and overseas, 15 warrants have been executed in Australia; six in Adelaide, one in Mildura and eight in Melbourne. A large number of documents and computer equipment were seized during the warrants and will be examined over the coming months by Australian authorities.

AFP Director Adelaide Office, Federal Agent Jenny Russ said today the operation was an excellent example of the importance of close cooperation between Australian and international law enforcement agencies.

" The AFP has again used its Liaison Officer Network to work collaboratively with foreign law enforcement agencies, in this case particularly the Italian Carabinieri, to investigate an international drug trafficking syndicate targeting Australia as a market. " Whilst no arrests or seizures have been made in Australia, we believe we have disrupted a large scale international drug trafficking ring. We have several ongoing inquiries in relation to Operation Hellenic and this is certainly not the end of our investigation.

" The key focus of AFP is fight illicit drug trafficking offshore. By successfully targeting global criminal networks and preventing drugs from reaching our shores, we are making the best possible inroads into protecting the community from harmful drugs," said Federal Agent Russ.


The Australian part of the operation was coordinated with the Italian Carabinieri investigation. Police organisations from Columbia, Spain, Holland and France were also involved in the resolution phase.

Approximately 5,533.6kg of cocaine has been seized in the last four years in the combined operation. It is alleged that the worldwide drug syndicate, involving mafia families in Calabria, Italy and Colombian drug cartels, was involved in trafficking cocaine between Australia, America and Europe.

Customs Regional Director in South Australia, Virginia Lynch said Customs had worked closely with other law enforcement agencies involved in the international investigation.

"Border protection is a key responsibility for Customs and this operation demonstrates the success that can be achieved by adopting a co-operative approach to sharing intelligence and expertise during long-term investigations," Ms Lynch said.

Acting Assistant Commissioner Denis Edmonds, South Australia Police, said: "The South Australian aspect of this investigation is still in progress and we are unable to comment on operational matters. The scope of the investigation is a reflection of today's law enforcement environment where agencies at State and Commonwealth levels in Australia combine resources and commitment towards national and international objectives."

This article was provided to Borderpol by the Australian Customs Corporate Communications. 

*"border protection is a key
responsibility for
Customs...success can be
achieved by adopting a co-
operative approach"*

Ms. Vera Lynch, Customs Regional Director South Australia

Borderpol Watch List

Cell Phones at Airports: *They can kill*

If you get asked to test your cell phone at the airport, this is the reason. Because cell phone guns have been discovered. The attached video clip shows how cell phone guns operate. These phones are not in the US yet, but they are in use overseas. Beneath the digital phone face is a .22 caliber handgun capable of firing four rounds in rapid succession using the standard telephone keypad. European law enforcement officials are stunned by the discovery of these deadly decoys. They say phone guns are changing the rules of engagement in Europe. "We find it very alarming," says Wolfgang Dicke of the German Police Union.

"It means police will have to draw their weapons whenever a person being checked reaches for their cell phone." Although cell phone guns have not reached the US yet, the FBI, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the U.S. Customs Service say they have been briefed on the new weapons.

All US ports of entry have been alerted. These covert weapons were first discovered in October of 2000 when Dutch police came upon a cache during a drug raid in Amsterdam. In another recent incident, a Croatian gun dealer was caught attempting to smuggle a shipment through Slovenia into Western Europe. Police say both shipments are believed to have originated in Yugoslavia.

Interpol sent a warning to law enforcement agencies around the world. "If you didn't know they were guns, you would think they were cell phones," said Ari Zandbergen, a spokesperson for the Amsterdam police. "Only when you have one in your hand do you realize that they are heavier than a regular cell phone."

Be patient if security asks to look at your cell phone or turn it on to show that it works. They have a good reason!




Provided to Borderpol by the IAASP Secretariat

“beneath the digital phone face is a .22 caliber handgun capable of firing four rounds in rapid succession...they are changing the rules of engagement in Europe”



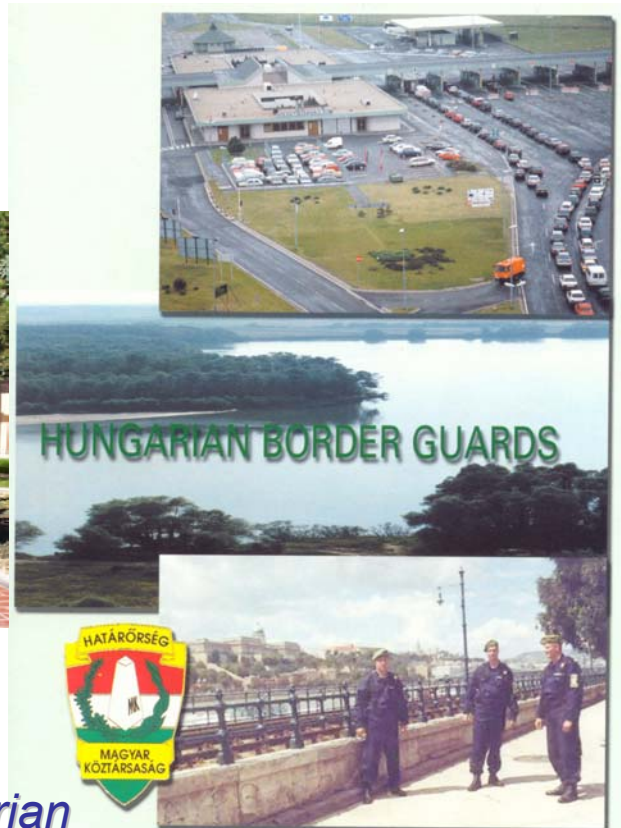
Borderpol Watch List

International Border Police Conference: *getting ready for the XIIth meeting*

The Hungarian Border Guards will be hosting its annual IBPC meeting in May 2004 at the lakeside town of Siófok, in Hungary. In early February over twenty countries and Borderpol worked together to develop the agenda for the forum that will be attended by more than 50 countries and organizations. 



Borderpol Photo: IBPC members attending the 11th annual plenary session, February 2004



*Next Issue: Hungarian
Border Guards - ready
for the EU challenge?*

Milipol Qatar 2004

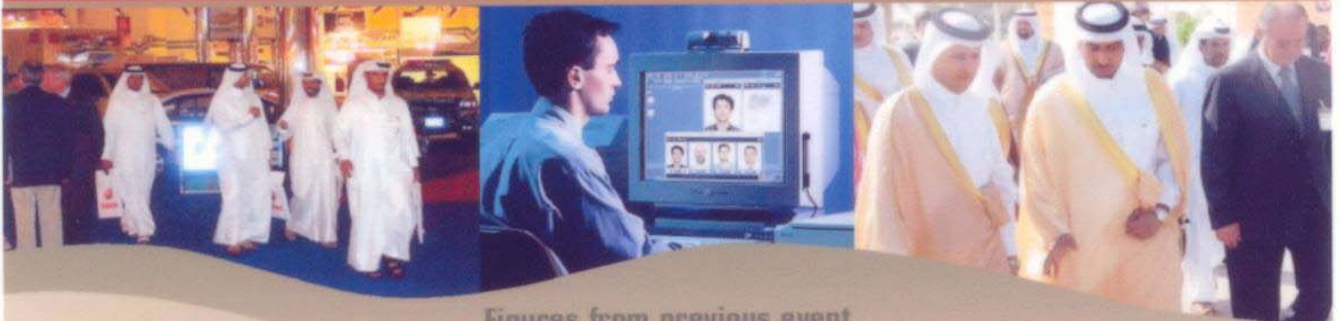
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Figures from previous event

3 600 visitors from **60** countries

150 exhibitors from **28** countries

14 international official delegations

M I D D L E E A S T

Borderpol Watch List

Spain has had enough: government plans new anti THB program


EFE with Expatica News, January 29, 2004

The Spanish government announced in January 2004 that it plans to fight the organized trade in prostitution.

The Minister of Employment and Social Affairs, Eduardo Zaplana, said if his ruling conservative Popular Party (PP) is returned to power after the general election on 14 March, it will launch a plan to stop the trafficking of women for prostitution.

This will include more effective protection for the victims involved in the sex trade, something Zaplana labeled an "execrable" form of violence against women. The plan would include harder penalties for those responsible for sexual exploitation, added Zaplana, who was speaking at a meeting on the subject in Madrid. The meeting was organized by the Swedish Institute and the municipal government of Madrid.

Present at the meeting was the Swedish Minister of Democracy, Integration and Gender Equality, Mona Sahlin. Zaplana said it was Sweden that had introduced a series of innovations against the trafficking of women and minors and prostitution. In Sweden, the purchase of sexual services can be punished with fines or jail terms of up to six months. Since the Law of Prohibition of Purchase of Sexual Services came into force in 1999, Sweden has seen a drastic reduction in prostitution of women in the street, according to the data of the police and the Social Services in Sweden.


Sahlin said there needed to be an "energetic" fight against this kind of violence against women, and said society needed to become more sensitive and eradicate sex tourism. Ninety percent of those who work in prostitution in Spain are immigrants, retained and exploited by criminal gangs. Ana Botella, mayor of Madrid, called prostitution the "slavery of the 21st century". She said the traffic of human beings cannot flourish without the existence of a local market of men willing to buy or sell sex. She said the municipal government of Madrid would launch a plan to try to change the mentality of the people in the city. This will include help for the women who abandon their trade. Sahlin said the traffic of women and children is increasing and that "hundreds of thousands" are recruited, sold and bought by procurers of networks of organized crime with the intention of dedicating them to sexual exploitation. 

UN Protocol: *finally approved*

The United Nations got new teeth in the fight against international trade in human beings when a protocol on trafficking came into effect. The UN hailed the new protocol as "a landmark for the fight against the smuggling of migrants and another milestone to the global effort to combat transnational organized crime".

The protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea is supplementary to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and came into effect because 40 of the 112 state signatories have ratified it, the United Nations said in a statement out of Vienna .

The new protocol, which came into effect January 28, 2004 urges cooperation between member states to "prevent, fight and punish" the practice that sees three to four million women and children sold into forced labour or prostitution every year.

It gives national authorities new tools to combat organized crime groups engaged in people smuggling. The protocol aims to criminalize the smuggling of migrants and those who practice it, while recognizing that illegal migration itself is not a crime and that migrants are often victims needing protection. The new measure is designed to strengthen the international communities response in countering trans-national organized crime groups and their highly sophisticated networks to smuggle migrants while making sizeable criminal profits in the process. 

...the new protocol urges states to "prevent, fight and punish" those who are involved in THB



UNITED NATIONS
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Borderpol Watch List

Australian E-visa system under fire: Minister defends program

Minister Amanda Vanstone defended Australia's system of issuing electronic visas against claims it could allow suspected terrorists to sneak into the country.

Immigration researcher William Maley said that the Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) system is a serious weakness in Australia's bid to protect its borders. He said it is currently more difficult for foreign cheeses and salamis to enter Australia than it is for foreign terrorists.

The Immigration Department bills the ETA system, which is used to authorize visits by citizens from 33 countries, as the most advanced and streamlined travel authorization system in the world. The department's website for electronic visas requires applicants to enter their passport and credit card information and a visa can be approved within 30 seconds.

Professor Maley, the director of the Asia Pacific College of Diplomacy at the Australian National University, wants more visa applicants to be scrutinized in face-to-face interviews.

He says the ETA system is a possible threat to national security.

"It cuts out of the visa issuing process the opportunity for Australian officials to scrutinize the backgrounds and particularly the passports of individuals who may have traveled to countries in which terrorist groups are active," he said.

Professor Maley has written a research paper which attacks the ETA system, pointing to the example of French national Willie Brigitte, who entered under an electronically issued visa and is now in detention in France under suspicion of belonging to Al Qaeda.

"The Willie Brigitte case is alarming because he was admitted to Australia very easily," he said. "The fact that his name was not on the movement alert list when he applied meant that he received almost instantaneously a visa, and as a consequence of that we were exceedingly lucky that he was not working on a timeline which called for some kind of terrorist outrage to be executed before the French authorities actually got around to warning Australia."

"the Australian Immigration Department bills ETA as the most advanced and streamlined travel authorization system in the world"

But Senator Vanstone says she is happy with the existing arrangements. "Electronic travel authorities give people a visa to Australia but that is simply the first rung on the ladder," she said. "There are many more checks that people have to go through, hurdles they have to climb before they can simply enter Australia." But Professor Maley says the system is outdated.

"I think it reflects the way in which this system was introduced before September 11, 2001, when we had a gentler view of the world and it was seen as very important that tourists be able to come to Australia with as few barriers as possible," he said.

"Now, of course the ETA system only applies to a relatively small number of developed, wealthy countries, whose nationals are unlikely to wish to overstay visas and claim refugee status.

"So from a narrowly immigration-control perspective, the ETA system is one that seems to work. But it is actually inappropriate if one's concern is the prevention of the movement into Australia of people who are serious security risks."



New and Now Available

Inflated' Role For Police NBC Training

Vital chemical and biological training is being done by police ... in an inflatable building. British Transport Police use an Airesshelta to give their officers a realistic insight into the pressures they will be under during such an incident.

The officers don respirator masks and protective equipment before walking into the Airesshelta filled with CS gas. The officers then have to change a filter cannister on the front of their masks and drink through a special straw which can be popped through the mask without breaking its seal. Insp Duncan Manners from BTP's operations department at the force HQ in central London said:

"The Airesshelta is used as part of our three-day CBRN training programme. The officers are trained how to use the kit, but the Airesshelta filled with CS gas means they then have to perform specific drills in a hostile environment.

"The drill lasts around 15 minutes. This scenario tests both the kit and the officers. Being in the Airesshelta underpins and rubberstamps the whole training. It is a vital part of the training and means the officers leave knowing they can do it when it counts for real."

He added: "Before we had the Airesshelta we did this training at military establishments in purpose-built stand-alone chambers. The Airesshelta lets light in and has an excellent viewing window so we can see what's going on inside. It's better than many of the permanent CS gas training chambers which are simply disused buildings."

The cannisters have particle filters in them which need to be changed regularly to make them effective in a hostile environment. Insp Manners added: "We could not get planning permission to construct any more permanent buildings at our training base in Tadworth, Surrey.

The Airesshelta is quickly and easily inflated and is not a permanent structure so it proved to be the ideal solution.

"It also means we can take it around the country and train officers nearer to where they are based. It's clearly a lot cheaper than a permanent building."



New and now is a feature of Borderpol highlighting the newest products of interest to members and readers.



Airesshelta inflatable buildings in action at the scene of the Selby rail crash

Many more officers are now set to be trained in the Airesshelta and there will be regular refreshers for those who have already been on the course.

The BTP also uses Airessheltas – made by West Yorkshire company The Aire Group - as portable command and control headquarters at major incidents. They have been used at the Selby and Paddington rail crashes.

Huddersfield-based The Aire Group also manufactures award-winning mobile decontamination systems and supplies chemical protection equipment which meets military standards. Other products include inflatable outdoor floodlights, searchlights, generators, Quikstep foldaway ladders, soft ground tiles, body bags and powerful method of entry equipment including world-renowned Paratech tools and Master door rams.

This report was provided for Borderpol by Andrew Hirst of the Aire Group.



Smuggling Overlord goes to jail


The Australian Associate Press reported in late January that a major domo was convicted and sent to jail for THB.

In Indonesia, Cambodia and Thailand they are seen as untouchable - the "snakeheads" who for a price can open up the passage to a better life. With the jailing for 12 years of one of south-east Asia's people smuggling overlords in a Perth court, the Australian Federal Police and their international partners hope that aura of invincibility has been punctured.

Palestinian national Keis Abd Rahim Asfoor was found to responsible for trafficking almost 1,700 illegal immigrants to Australia. He will not be released until at least 2009.

As far as the Australian government was concerned he was their number one target. And the agents scouring the Pacific Rim, trying to plug the leak of illegal immigrants into Australia, believe the sentence will send a message to other ringleaders - get caught and you will pay.

Asfoor's seven-week trial, which took more than two years to reach a jury, heard from more than 50 asylum seekers who said they were brought to Australia in one of Asfoor's boats. Up to 353 people at a time would set out from Indonesia, usually Lombok, and land at Ashmore Reef, 610km north of Broome, on the northern tip of the WA coastline.

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) calculate the operations would have netted him as much as \$A6.3 million - other estimates are as high as \$A25 million. The money was secreted in accounts outside Indonesia, and may never be located. 

Message from the Chairman of Borderpol



Dear Readers,

On behalf of the Governing body of the Borderpol International Association and on the occasion of our publishing the print version of the Borderpol Journal, I wish to take the opportunity to introduce the Association and at the same time to inform you of its mission and programme.

From the very beginning, I consider it necessary to point out that Borderpol is a non-profit association founded in January 2003 in Canada with the Department of Industry. The purpose of the Association is to enhance the creation of safe, secure and open borders all over the world through international cooperation, communication and consultation. Along with professionals of international business, media, diplomatic, border police and other respective law enforcement communities, the founders of Borderpol are firmly determined to promote better understanding and collaboration in the field of border protection, migration, organized crime, trafficking in human beings and related activities.

From this perspective it is clear why Borderpol produces this magazine and why it organizes symposiums and training courses. Residents of several countries including Canada, the United States of America, France, Portugal, China, Italy, Croatia, Hungary, etc. are members of the Borderpol or the Management Board.

All of us actively participate in the activities of Borderpol and firmly believe that the welfare, stability and progress of the world as a whole, to a great extent, depend on the intercommunications facilitated by safe, secure borders and the movements of people, goods and ideas across the borders. Especially, since 11 September 2001, the global community is faced with a great deal of danger with counter terrorism constituting the every day work of border guards and related law enforcement organs. Customs, immigration, aviation and seaport security and border police officers now work in an environment which requires greater effort, skill and effectiveness in fulfilling their mandate.

If you feel like making your own contribution to help reduce trafficking in human beings, drugs smuggling terrorism and other cross border crime by harnessing the power of cooperation and communication you are invited to join us and make a difference.

Dr. Zoltan Szilagyi
Chairman

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Ø Get an insight into future trends from a strong set of professionals who are all recognized as leaders in their field.
- Ø Hear front line personnel relate their findings and problems. The people who actually have to use the technology selected by Governments.
- Ø What are illegal immigrants doing to attempt to get into the country? Hear some latest counterfeiting attempts.
- Ø Much talk and argument has been held on Biometrics. Suppliers and users will tell their story.
- Ø Which Biometric is best for you? Come hear the experts and the users.
- Ø Can a document ever be interrogated and validated while still in your wallet or purse? Find out how close that is.
- Ø How much data can be carried on a document? How fast can it be validated?
- Ø How much data can legally be stored.
- Ø Find out the very latest ICAO resolutions affecting the travel and identification industry.
- Ø Listen to a mix of purchasers, sellers and actual users of products and technology. Do all three agree?
- Ø Hear the "Wish list" from the Governing bodies like ICAO, State and Local Police, Border Control, Airline officials, along with commercial applications for technologies.
- Ø If you have an interest or just require background to a technology, come to Ottawa. The best will be here to supply the latest answers and demonstrate the latest developments. While here, arrange meetings with colleagues and peers locally. Ottawa has many leaders in the field within the city and has the offices of the Federal Government within steps of the hotel.

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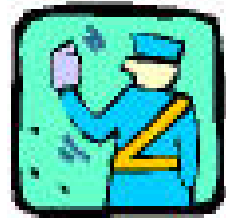
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BORDERPOL SUPPORTED PROGRAM

Join the Borderpol International Association

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If you are a border safety or security professional who:

- (a) Encourages and promotes safe, secure and accessible borders through cooperation, communication and consultation among border security professionals;
- (b) Is interested in research in the field of border security and intelligence in the interest of higher education, scholarship and an informed public opinion;
- (c) Wants to be part of an interdisciplinary forum through which interested academics, professionals (serving or retired) and others can meet and discuss matters relating to border security;
- (d) Would like to provide expertise in order to facilitate awareness and understanding of the activities of the international border security community;
- (e) Wants to attend annual meetings and conference, as well as special conferences on particular themes;
- (f) Wishes to contribute to the Borderpol Journal, Borderpol activities and other items pertinent to the Association's mandate;
- (g) Wants to study the role of border security, to foster the accumulation of knowledge about such activities, and to study the relationships between border security agencies, governmental institutions and civil societies;
- (h) And would like to provide professional developmental assistance and training to organizations and border security agencies, then,

Join Borderpol!



BORDERPOL INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

If you would like to join the Borderpol International Association please fill in this membership form and mail or fax the completed form to:

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