

BORDER SECURITY REPORT

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FOR THE WORLD'S BORDER PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY INDUSTRY
POLICY-MAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS

COVER STORY

BORDER SURVEILLANCE AND AI-BASED SYSTEMS



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Border Security Report is a bi-monthly electronic magazine and is the border management industry magazine delivering agency and industry news and developments, as well as more in-depth features and analysis to over 20,000 border agencies, agencies at the borders and industry professionals, policymakers and practitioners, worldwide.



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Greater challenges require greater cooperation!

A lot has changed in the world since our last issue back in early July.

International travel has started to open up again as national COVID vaccination programmes start to take effect and travel restrictions ease.

This is obviously a most welcome development, and we must hope, that as we go into the northern hemisphere's autumn season, the vaccination programmes continue to be effective, and we are not hit by another more vaccine resistant virus.

However, one concern I have is that despite the devastating effects to both people and the world's economy, there is still no global consensus on how to handle a resurgence of the virus, or any established international protocols for COVID19, or any other future pandemic. Each country has just carried on doing its own thing, opening up travel at different times, locking down at different times, without international co-ordination of any kind. This approach is far from effective and can have negative effects on international partners.

At the World Health Assembly on the 31 May this year, the 194 members of the WHO adopted the decision to discuss a new international treaty on pandemics at a special session to be held in November 2021. Such a treaty would support international efforts to reinforce global health security, in particular on preparedness and response to health emergencies.

However, an assembly to set a date for a future session to 'discuss' a new treaty doesn't seem to give the situation the urgency and gravity it deserves. You would have thought that the discussions would have already started.

Over the years I have written and researched a number of articles about existential threats to the

human populations (other than global warming), including super volcanoes, solar flares, meteorite impacts etc. but always at the top of the list has been a global pandemic.

COVID19 has been the first global pandemic in our lifetime, but possibly not the last. In history pandemics have been regular occurrences. The last, the Spanish flu at the end of WW1 in 1918/19, killed multi-millions of people, more than the war itself, and was almost certainly made worse by the mass movement of people around the world as a consequence of the war.

Today, the jet age means that more of us, travel more often and more widely than ever before in history, and that trend is set to accelerate. Meaning that the time between global pandemics could become ever shorter.

So, the conditions for global pandemics, perhaps much more deadly than COVID19, grow with each passing year, and if COVID19 has taught us anything, a medical response in the form of vaccines for newly emerging viruses, take time. Therefore, containment must be the first response to any future pandemic.

Back in the February 2020 issue of this magazine, at the beginning of this crisis, we called for a set of agreed international protocols for containing the virus. Even then it was obvious that one country had got it right.

Taiwan still has had only 16,129 coronavirus cases and only 839 deaths (at the time of writing), despite its proximity to the source of the virus, Wuhan, and even though many tens of thousands of its citizens work in Wuhan and travel there and back on a regular basis.

So, if we are looking for best practise, we don't have to look very far or spend an inordinate amount of time discussing it. In my opinion these

discussions should have started as soon as the gravity of the situation became clear last year, and an agreement already be in place for this autumn and winter seasons. But we are where we are, so let's hope discussions don't drag on too long and we have an agreement in place for 2022.

Of course, the other seismic shift in international geopolitics that must be mentioned, is the chaotic and humiliating retreat of coalition forces from Afghanistan.

Whether you agree withdrawal was a good idea or not, it is likely to have major impacts for the border community.

Whether that is in increased migration, an increase in the amount of heroin coming onto the international market, or a resurgence in international terrorism.

That will largely depend on how discussions with the new regime progress. The new leadership will now be grappling with the realities of governing a failed state. They are desperately short of cash to pay public servants wages, and to pay for imports of foods, medicine, spare parts for vehicles and critical machinery etc.

They import ten times what they (legally) export, so are totally dependent on overseas aid, and most of that came from the US.

So, the international community has leverage going forward, to encourage and cajole them to cooperate with the international community, to soften its stance on human rights, tackle opium production and ensure that the country does not become a safe haven for terrorists. But it is difficult to see, certainly western democracies, doing business with a regime that already openly discriminates against its female citizens in multiple ways, especially in refusing to educate them.

They may be able to squeeze more money from China for access to its mineral resources that could be worth trillions, as well as from Russia, Pakistan and even Iran, who all have an interest in a stable Afghanistan.

However, in the short term, if the Taliban fail to pay wages, feed their people, and establish some sort of stable government, we could then see a deeply divided Afghanistan fall back into civil war with all the potential consequences of mass migration, drugs trafficking and even terrorism.

Tony Kingham
Editor

Interview of the month

WATCH NOW

UNODC Container Control Programme

In this interview Tony Kingham talks to Bob Van Den Berghe of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and is the Law Enforcement Expert for the

Container Control Programme. We discuss how the programme works around the world, the current status of the programme and recent major successes.





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Greece lies at the crossroads of East and West, Europe and the Middle East. It lies directly opposite Libya so along with Italy is the primary destination for migrants coming from that conflict zone and is a short boat trip from Turkey, the other principal migrant route for Syrians fleeing there conflict there.

Greece has over sixteen thousand kilometres of coastline and six thousand islands, only two hundred and twenty-seven of which are inhabited. The islands alone have 7,500 km of coastline and are spread mainly through the Aegean and the Ionian Seas, making maritime security incredibly challenging.

The sheer scale of the migrant crisis in late 2015 early 2016 had a devastating impact on Greek finances and its principle industry, tourism. All this in the aftermath of the financial crisis in 2009. Despite this, both Greece and Italy, largely left to handle the crisis on their own, managed the crisis with commendable determination and humanity.

With their experience of being in the frontline of the migration crisis, Greece is the perfect place re-convene for the next meeting of the World Border Security Congress.

The World Border Security Congress is a high level 3 day event that will discuss and debate current and future policies, implementation issues and challenges as well as new and developing technologies that contribute towards safe and secure border and migration management.

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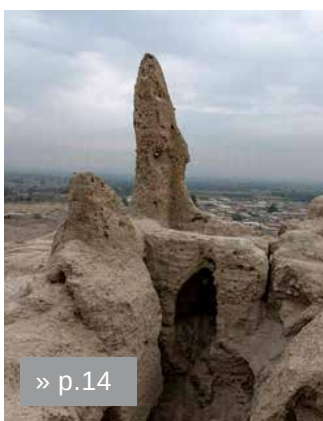
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Cabo Verde Launches Country's First-Ever Standard Operating Procedures to Combat Human Trafficking



With technical support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Government of Cabo Verde has launched the country's first-ever standard operating procedures to combat human trafficking.

The 420-page manual provides

guidance on comprehensive assistance with a focus on child trafficking and taking into account the traumas victims face. This effort is part of a larger initiative by a regional action network comprised of 15 member countries of the Economic Community of West African States, which includes Cabo Verde. The manual will be a vital tool as Cabo Verde continues to make great strides in eliminating trafficking in all its forms.

Interim Head of Office for IOM Cabo Verde Quelita Goncalves presented the manual during an event yesterday and emphasized the importance of a multifaceted approach to counter human trafficking, including referral, direct assistance, legislation, investigation and prosecution.

In his speech during the opening session, Christopher Gascon, IOM Regional Director for West and Central Africa, urged all institutions to “disseminate this manual internally and encourage its use, especially facilitating the identification and assistance of possible victims who at this moment may be suffering in a situation of abuse and exploitation, thus contributing to the protection of human rights.”

The Minister of Justice, Joana Rosa, also encouraged institutions to use the manual and stressed that “the good use of this tool is capable of generating new learning and multiplying good practices in the fight against human trafficking in Cabo Verde.”

Amanda Porter, Deputy Chief of Mission for the U.S. Embassy in Praia, also delivered remarks. The U.S. Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking provided funding to support this initiative..

Border guards found 200,000 cannabis bushes in Donetsk Ukraine



According to the borderguards operative and search unit of the Eastern Regional Administration, in the

Konstantinovsky border guard district of Donetsk region, border guards found a field with mass sowing of hemp.

In total, the offenders grew about 200,000 cannabis bushes on 2 hectares of land. According to this fact, the National Police was notified of the detection of signs of a criminal offense under Art. 310 of the Criminal code of Ukraine “Sowing or cultivation of a sleeping poppy or hemp”.

Now, border guards and policemen have destroyed the illegal plantation.

Nearly 90 victims saved from severe labour exploitation in Italy

Coordinated simultaneous actions in Basilicata (Italy) and in the Republic of Moldova resulted in the takedown of a criminal human trafficking network, saving nearly 90 victims from severe labour exploitation under horrid conditions. Authorities focussed on tracing the victims of exploitation to provide legal assistance and protection.

The joint action was the result of an intense investigative effort and structured international judicial cooperation during the past year coordinated through the Italian Desk at Eurojust in close cooperation with the Eurojust contact point in the Republic of Moldova at the General Prosecutor's Office and with the support of Europol.

Working together in a joint investigation team, Italian and Moldovan authorities thus pooled their efforts and succeeded in building operational synergies, connecting two initially separate investigations and

mapping out the activity of the criminal group. Solid evidence has been secured to support the prosecution in criminal courts and judicial follow-up.

The suspects, six Moldovans and one Italian national, worked closely together to use online platforms to recruit vulnerable women living in precarious social, family and economic conditions in Moldova. The women were lured by the prospect of getting a job as a household worker in the provinces of Potenza and Matera in Italy.

However, once engaged with the criminal group, the women's passports were confiscated and used to prepare counterfeit documents, such as false COVID-19 health certificates and employment contracts. From January to May 2021, the criminal group arranged 16 trips between Italy and Moldova, despite the COVID-19 restrictions on the movement of people in place at the time.

Migrant smuggling with luxury vehicles in Greece halted with Eurojust support



Eurojust has assisted the Greek and Bulgarian authorities to halt an international criminal network involved in migrant smuggling within Greece. During an action day, coordinated by the Agency, 11 suspects were arrested, who organised the transport of irregular migrants from the Greek-Turkish land border in Evros to the Thessaloniki region in the north of Greece. The network used powerful luxury cars and pickup trucks to avoid attention and security checks of the authorities, leading to serious road accidents. Eurojust supported a joint investigation team (JIT) between Greece

and Bulgaria and enabled the cross-border judicial cooperation.

The organised crime group (OCG) operated for at least two years and transported approximately 350 migrants within Greece, during 56 transfers. Migrants had to pay between EUR 2,000 and EUR 2,500 per person, with up to 15 persons per vehicle during the high-risk journeys. Due to the high speeds reached during the transfers, one smuggler died and thirteen migrants were injured in road accidents.

At least 89 luxury cars and high-speed pickup trucks were used, which were provided by Bulgarian suspects. The other OCG members are of Greek, Turkish and Georgian nationality and organised and performed the transports for the journeys within Greece.

The vehicles were imported from Georgia and transported to Greece for the smuggling activities. In both countries, 15 places have been searched, leading to the seizure of 29 vehicles, as well as computer and GPS equipment, mobile phones, financial documents, cash and a mining tool for Bitcoins.

BORDER SURVEILLANCE AND AI-BASED SYSTEMS

Towards providing a more complete surveillance solution covering all aspects, the ROBORDER platform aims at developing and demonstrating a fully functional autonomous border surveillance system with unmanned mobile robots including aerial, water surface, underwater and ground vehicles which will incorporate multimodal sensors as part of an interoperable network.

The importance of border management during a migration crisis

During February 2020, a migration crisis occurred at the Greek-Turkish borders in Evros, Greece. Due to a series of events in Idlib, Syria, a vast number of immigrants from Turkey searched out pathways towards Europe. The events started on February 28, 2020, when thousands of individuals not necessarily opting for a refugee

profile, arrived at the area of the Greek-Turkish borders, trying to pass through the customs area of Kastanies, Evros, Greece. A series of attempts were constantly taking place until the end of March, when the Turkish borders with Greece and Bulgaria closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A number of security issues were raised during this period, with the profile of the crisis being completely different compared to past events,

this time having a very strong and complex geopolitics background. Mitigation measures were identified in two pillars, political and operational. Among others, the political decisions focused on the upgrade to the maximum level of securing the East borders (land, sea) by the Security forces and the Defense Services, the activation of Art. 78 (3) of the of the treaty on European Union and the treaty on the functioning of the European Union as well as the submission of a request to FRONTEX, for providing assistance via RABIT. Moreover, the Presidents of the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Council arrived at the area, since the events would have an impact to the European Union as a whole, affecting not only Greece.

A predetermined, upcoming crisis

Since April 2021, a specialist on foreign policy and migration of the Brookings Institution, raised a warning with respect to a great migration wave from Afghanistan, which could trigger a new refugee crisis in Europe. Recent events in Afghanistan, where the Taliban have reclaimed leadership, following the decision made by the USA and NATO to withdraw their security forces from the country, the aforementioned warning is close to become a reality. Since the beginning of 2021 it is estimated that around 400,000 Afghans have fled their country, according to UNHCR. According to UNHCR in



Afghanistan, 20,000 to 30,000 of them have left during the second week of August. The main question arising is where these populations will be relocated. The new regime welcomes the prospect of anti-regime individuals leaving the country towards neighbor countries such as Iran or Pakistan.

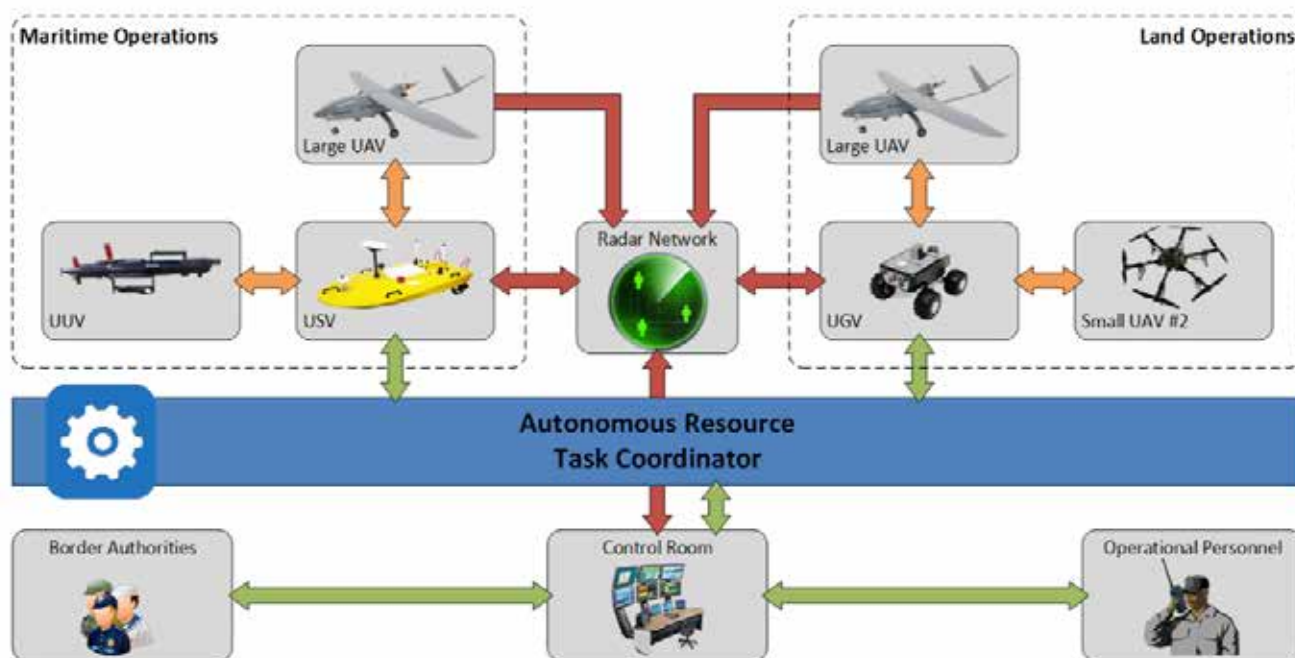
The ability of those countries on supporting new populations of migrants and refugees is under examination, since extra support will be required by other countries of organisations, such as the UNH and the EU, for the establishment of the necessary provisions. Turkey, on the other hand, already acts as a pool of around 4 million migrants and refugees, most of them coming from Syria, and appears to be negative towards the prospect of providing hospitality to new populations.

Under this scope, according to Politio, populations fleeing Afghanistan have no other option than trying to illegally insert the

European continent. An evaluation of the recent situation refers to an estimate of 300,000 – 500,000 refugees that will try to reach Europe during the next months, via different paths.

Terrorism concerns

One of the major concerns, among others, is the existence of terrorists among the many thousands of immigrants and refugees coming to Europe. There are many cases where such travels are organised and controlled by smugglers, with people without any documents or any kind of ID being among the groups of travelers. The links between smugglers and terrorists have been identified, leading the EU countries' Law Enforcement Agencies and the Public Safety Organisations to be alerted for emergent situations to occur, enabling the appropriate security mitigation measures. Moreover, the EC currently invests great amounts of money in research security projects, with the active involvement



of FRONTEX.

Security measures in Greece

A number of security measures for prevention of illegal trespassing and activities, in general, have been activated along the Eastern Greek borders, including a fence made of steel, drones, autonomous underwater vehicles occupied with state of the art sensors, two Zepellin-type airships, military, police and coastguard infrastructure, along with support from the volunteers and the active involvement of Frontex. The operational capacities of this hybrid model have been extensively evaluated through pilot demonstrations.

More particular, Greece has acquired two Zepellin-type airships through FRONTEX, which can be employed for surveillance operations. The first was deployed

on the airport of Alexandroupolis and the second was located in Limnos Island. Both are occupied with state-of-the art visual sensors, with the ability to provide a visual footage on a range of up to 20 km, thus enhancing the situational awareness on the land and sea borders.

With respect to the steel fence, it is deployed on a width of 27 km along the Greek-Turkish borders in Evros, has a height of 5m and includes specifically designed patrolling paths. Currently there are discussions between the Greek Government and the EU with respect to funding the extension of the fence in the areas of Didimoticho, Soufli and Oresitiada, in order to prevent smugglers from reaching specific points which have been identified as “weak”.

In addition, to increase patrolling

and surveillance capabilities in the Aegean Sea, the Greek Military Forces have employed the Heron UAVs. This type of asset enables the Greek LEAs to have a 24/7 enhanced situational awareness from the Aegean Sea. Heron UAVs are able of operating in missions up to 1,000 from their base and are occupied with naval surveillance radars and electro-optical sensors able to operate during nighttime as well.

The Roborder Platform

Towards providing a more complete surveillance solution covering all aspects, the ROBORDER platform aims at developing and demonstrating a fully functional autonomous border surveillance system with unmanned mobile robots including aerial, water surface, underwater and ground vehicles which will incorporate

multimodal sensors as part of an interoperable network. The project aims at the implementation of a heterogeneous robot system and its enhancement with detection capabilities for early identification of criminal activities at border and coastal areas along with marine pollution events. The system is capable of functioning both as standalone and in swarms and incorporate multimodal sensors as part of an interoperable network. Moreover, the developed system is equipped with adaptable sensing and robotic technologies that can operate in a wide range of operational and environmental settings to cover all the aforementioned needs of the relevant border personnel and fulfill the diversity of the challenges. To provide a complete and detailed situational awareness picture that supports highly efficient operations, the network of sensors includes enhanced static networked sensors such as border surveillance radars, as well as mobile sensors customised and installed on the vehicles. These include: (i) passive radars that can extend the capabilities of the existing border surveillance radars, (ii) passive RF-signal sensing devices to intercept emission sources that are present in area, enrich the overall situational awareness picture with this information, allowing for further characterizing the nature and behaviour of entities in the picture, and detecting unauthorized signal sources and



(iii) other mobile sensors like thermal cameras (infra-red), optical cameras etc. Towards delivering an operational solution, a number of supplementary technologies is also applied enabling the establishment of robust communication links between the command-and-control unit and the heterogeneous robots. On top of this, detection capabilities for early identification of criminal activities e.g. illegal trespassing and hazardous incidents have been developed. This information is forwarded to the command-and-control unit that enables the integration of large volumes of heterogeneous sensor data and the provision of a quick overview of the situation at a glance to the operators, supporting them in their decisions. Additional command and control functionalities allow for the translation of the intention of the operators into remote actions, automatic selection of the most appropriate composition of hardware (robots, sensors and

communication links) for each given situation and easy deployment and operation of the fleets of heterogeneous robots and sensors.

ROBORDER Pilot Use Case

Delivering intermediate prototypes and covering various operational requirements defined by Border Agencies, the developed border surveillance technologies and the ROBORDER platform has been tested in the scope of three main pilot use cases, consisting of several scenarios to cover multiple situations of violations and mostly towards securing the under-surveillance territories. In each evaluation cycle, three different use cases have been tested in different terrains, in order to exhibit the wide applicability of ROBORDER over different scenarios. Such an approach mitigates many risks in order to achieve a fully functional and operational system under such challenging circumstances and environmental conditions.



Efficient, intelligence-led border control



Secure and automate borders using multibiometrics



Manage traveler movements at each entry/exit point



Anticipate threats and assess risks using smart data and video analytics

Sustained Support for NAPTIP Towards Ending Human Trafficking in Nigeria



The fight against human trafficking and another societal menace by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) received a great boost as the Kano State Governor, His Excellency, Abdulahi Umar Ganduje promises to join hands with the Agency to ensure that Nigeria remains a trafficking free Country.

The Governor also lauded the Director-General of the Agency, Senator Basheer Garba Muhammed for his zeal, commitment, and innovation which he said had led to the ongoing repositioning of NAPTIP as well as bringing to fore some of the salient vital aspects of its mandates.

Governor Ganduje stated this in Kano while receiving Senator Basheer Garba Muhammed and members of the Management of NAPTIP at the Government House, Kano prior to the formal inauguration of the Kano State Task Force on Human Trafficking.

He said Kano State is a potential endemic State for human trafficking because of its status as an emerging business hub of the country bearing in mind the giant infrastructural investments in the areas of massive road construction, rail line resuscitation, industrialization, and rapid development of small and medium scale industries and other amenities.

“This is why we welcome the idea of the State Task Force on Human Trafficking. We shall partner with your Agency and the Task Force will be given the desired support. The previous Management of NAPTIP had narrowed their approach to issues of human trafficking

alone. It is therefore commendable to know that you have identified other societal problems and you are now tackling them”, the Kano State Governor pointed out.

Earlier in His speech, the Director-General of NAPTIP, Senator Basheer Garba Muhammed who was giving a rousing welcome to Kano State, stated that the Task Force on Human Trafficking in a counter-trafficking initiative and a component of the awareness strategy of the Agency aimed at securing the support of critical stakeholders and partners in the fight against the evil of human trafficking and other social problems in the Country.

Senator Garba Muhammed stunned the Governor and other dignitaries at the programme as he disclosed that Kano State is highly endemic in the statistics of the rescue of victims of human trafficking as well as arrest and prosecution of offenders.

The NAPTIP boss said, “The problem of Human Trafficking and Irregular migration has become of national and international concern. A large number of Nigerians are trapped in sexual and labour exploitation in various African and European countries. Additionally, hundreds continue to die in transit along the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea. Last year reports emerged about human farms in some parts of Libya where black African migrants are allegedly kept in cages like animals and organs like eyes, kidneys, and lungs are harvested to service the medical needs of Europe.

” You may wish to note that from inception to date, NAPTIP has rescued a total of 16,277 victims of human trafficking, out of which 14,474 are Nigerians and 1,287 are from Kano State. This makes Kano State the most endemic State to human trafficking in Northern Nigeria and the second in the Country according to the States Vulnerability Index Analysis. In the same vein, out of the total of 482 convicted persons by the Agency from inception, 110 were from Kano Zonal Command, representing the highest in the country.

AFGHANISTAN 2021. NEW CHALLENGES FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE AND PEACE IN THE WIDER AREA

*(The following article is about cultural heritage of Afghanistan. Human lives are far more important than cultural heritage and the main priority of national and international organizations should be focused to save lives
by Sotiriou Konstantinos-Orfeas*

The ongoing instability in Afghanistan once more has raised questions about the fate of cultural heritage of Afghanistan . This cultural crossroad has seen several cultures bloomed throughout the centuries such as Bactria-Mariana, a prehistoric civilization spreading in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan as well. Then the area was known as

Bactria and Sogdiana, provinces of the vast Persian Empire conquered and annexed to the Great Alexander's Kingdom. After Alexander's death, the Greek-Bactrian Kingdom flourished under the rules of kings such as Diodotus, Heliocles, Eucratides, Menander, Apollodotus and Demetrius to name just a few. Besides this the country experienced cultures such



Ruins of old Kandahar, Zorr Shar, founded by Alexander the Great, Kandahar, Afghanistan

as Kushans, Indo-Sassanids, Kabul Shahi, Saffarids, Samanids, Ghaznavids, and many more.

There were seven ancient Greek cities scattered all over Afghanistan, such as Alexandria in the Oxus River (Ai-Khanoum), Alexandria in the Caucasus, Alexandria in Arachosia and Alexandria Ariana to name but a few.

As a result, the soil of Afghanistan still hosts ancient artefacts waiting to be found through legal scientific excavations, or through looting. The latter creates insurmountable difficulties for the entire region due to the fact that money from illicit trafficking of cultural heritage objects could be fund terrorist groups .

This should ring the bell in the entire international community and Organizations forcing them to focus

on how to stop this devastating phenomenon.

Nowadays, the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage property seems to be divided in two different levels. The first one is the “non-physical” level. A potential buyer could access to objects for sale from the couch of his /her house with the use of technology, like social media, closed groups and dark web which recently have been used for trafficking of cultural heritage objects (among other illegal objects).

But there is also a “physical” level as well. That of receiving the objects. That part includes that somehow the artefacts must be transfer from Afghanistan to other countries, and there are two choices for smugglers.

The one is to use air transfer which in our case is quite difficult.

Commercial flights have stopped between Afghanistan and other countries. Even if we assume commercial flights will start again under Taliban regime, these flights will be placed in the “red list” of flights for custom officials around the world. Meaning that, extensive checks for baggage and passengers which equals to great risk for smugglers will occur at their arrival.

The other way is the traditional way, transfer the stolen objects via land. Here is where international community should focus.

Afghanistan shares land borders with Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, China, and Pakistan. By training Border Troops in land borders and Police Officers responsible for the security in the refugee camps of the above-mentioned countries to identify questionable objects when Afghan citizens, refugees or vehicles entering their country the chances to mitigate the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage objects from Afghanistan will surely be increased. With that way, a security circle around the country will be made incommode smugglers efforts to export stolen / looted cultural heritage objects. We must not forget that Afghanistan hosts an impressive manuscript collection besides countless other cultural heritage objects.

Summarizing all the above, it is more than important to strengthen cooperation and efforts around

a problematic area in order to eliminate spin-off effects. Already U.S.A, Uzbekistan and Pakistan have agreed about the creation of a platform for regional cooperation . In that sense, international organizations must create join actions in order to maintain peace in the area of Central Asia by mitigating illicit trafficking of cultural heritage objects from Afghanistan.

* Sotiriou Konstantinos Orfeas is a Senior Civil Servant, alumnus of the Hellenic National School of Public Administration and Local Government. Nowadays, he works for the Hellenic Organization for Cultural Resources Development, and he is an External Expert/ Lecturer of Multinational Peace Support Operations Training Center of Hellenic Army. Also, he is a former Police Sergeant who have worked at the Cultural Heritage and Antiquities Department of Hellenic Police, and he holds a Bachelor and a Master in Archaeology



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To boost refugee resettlement and complementary pathways, humanitarian actors must engage the private sector and others

A new report from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and Migration Policy Institute Europe highlights the energy and innovation that have emerged in the refugee resettlement and complementary pathways space in the last several years, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The report maps efforts globally to create and scale durable solutions to address unprecedented levels of displacement, with nearly 21 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate. It examines emerging opportunities for growing resettlement and the use of complementary pathways such as existing work and student visa programs. It also offers recommendations for how UNHCR, national governments, civil society and other partners can most effectively support the growth of resettlement programs, while also using complementary pathways to place refugees on the road to a better life.

The report, *Refugee Resettlement and Complementary Pathways: Opportunities for Growth*, makes clear that partnerships with actors beyond the humanitarian sphere must be central to efforts to advance and scale resettlement and complementary pathways, as called for in the *Three-Year Strategy (2019-2021) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways* launched following the adoption of the *Global Compact on Refugees* in 2018.

"New and active partners among local governments, the private sector, higher education and private philanthropy have critical roles to play in advocating for the development of resettlement and complementary pathways programs, and in supporting their implementation and the development of welcoming societies, particularly at the local level," the report concludes. "Ensuring that resettlement and complementary pathways truly become whole-of-society endeavors will thus

be the central challenge going forward."

The report, prepared in partnership with the University of Ottawa Refugee Hub, distils findings from a global mapping exercise of existing resettlement and complementary pathways, specifically third-country employment and education visa opportunities, drawing on interviews with more than 120 stakeholders in government, business, higher education, civil society and UNHCR offices in Asia and the Pacific, Europe and the Americas. Offering examples from many countries, the report takes a closer look at five case study countries: Finland, France, Germany, Japan and the United States.

Even as the number of resettlement countries has grown in recent years, many new programs remain relatively small in scale. Beyond supporting the growth in resettlement countries and building the capacity of existing programs, the report underscores the need to look beyond the "usual suspects" for partners. Cities and regions, for example, are at the forefront of advancing resettlement in countries such as Finland and Germany. Employers, civic associations and faith-based groups also can be powerful validators to grow public and political support, and community sponsorship has emerged as an important tool to capitalize on this support.

The report also makes clear the need for operational capacity support for resettlement programs, including well-targeted peer support and venues where states can exchange practical information on resettlement operations in specific contexts and identify opportunities for coordination and collaboration. In addition, states could consider ways to build flexibility into programs. They also could invest in better understanding public views of resettlement and how these are shaped and influenced.

Over 100 arrests in crackdown against Albanian clan running industrial cannabis operation in Spain



An organised criminal network composed mainly of Albanian-speaking criminals, suspected of illegally trafficking drugs, has been dismantled with the support of Europol. 107 persons were

arrested during an action day which involved law enforcement authorities in Spain, Germany and Albania.

The criminal group is believed to have been managing cannabis plantations in Spain where they cultivated and processed the marijuana, before it was transferred to other European countries for further distribution.

On the action day, some 400 police officers on the ground carried out simultaneous raids in 42 different locations in Spain (Tarragona, Barcelona, Girona and Castellón). An additional 9 searches were carried out a few days later.

Nearly 90 victims of labour exploitation identified in Italy



The Italian Carabinieri Corps (Arma dei Carabinieri) and the Moldavian National Police (Poliția Republicii

Moldova), supported by Europol and Eurojust, dismantled a criminal network involved in human trafficking for labour exploitation.

The investigation was initiated in 2019 when the Italian authorities detected a family-based criminal association, which recruited Moldavian women and transported them to Italy with tourist visas. The network then placed the women to work for local families without wages or any social benefits such as health insurance. The investigation uncovered that only between January and May 2021 and despite the travel restriction related to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the suspects had arranged at least 16 trips between Moldova and Italy.

The cocaine market: more competitive and more violent

The new Cocaine Insights Report, launched by Europol and UNODC, outlines the new dynamics of the cocaine market, which represents a clear threat to European and global security. The report was launched as part of the work programme of CRIMJUST – Strengthening criminal justice cooperation along drug trafficking routes within the framework of the Global Illicit Flows Programme of the European Union.

The report highlights the importance of intervention at the source as this market very much driven by the supply chain. Strengthening cooperation and further increasing the exchange of information between law enforcement authorities will enhance the effectiveness of investigations and the detection of shipments.



Closing ranks on emerging organized crime: INTERPOL open Caribbean office



INTERPOL and the Government of Barbados have signed an agreement to open an INTERPOL liaison office aimed at strengthening Caribbean police cooperation and security.

The new office will be housed by CARICOM's Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) at its Barbados-based Joint Regional Communications Centre (JRCC) in St Michael, and will serve CARICOM and the wider Caribbean.

The objective is to nurture police cooperation between each of the 25 Caribbean countries and territories and increase their use of INTERPOL policing capabilities in their national and regional investigations,

Officers seconded by a range of Caribbean Police forces, Intelligence agencies, Immigration, Customs and Defence Forces will staff the new liaison office and deliver INTERPOL operational support throughout the region, with a particular focus on capacity building and police operations.

Inside a French police crackdown on the Eurasian mob



INTERPOL's Project Millennium works to give law enforcement worldwide the intelligence and support needed to combat Eurasian organized crime.

In early 2021, INTERPOL's Project Millennium team began working closely with the French OCLDI on an operation targeting a Thieves in Law group, exchanging

information and expertise. The cooperation culminated in a day of simultaneous crackdowns in Lyon, Nancy and Paris last April in which law enforcement arrested 25 suspects, including one of Project Millennium's high value targets.

The operation also allowed police to seizure luxury vehicles, over EUR 300,000 in cash and different bank accounts, as well as documents detailing an "Obshak", or Russian criminal fund. In one of the apartments raided, police found a Vory artefact decorated with criminal symbols and bearing the message "For the Thieve – May God bless you".

INTERPOL provided operational support throughout the operation in the form of an INTERPOL Support Team (IST), in which specialized personnel from the INTERPOL General Secretariat are deployed on the request of a member country.

Colombian police take down criminal group behind human trafficking

A three-year investigation has concluded with police in Colombia arresting six individuals believed to be behind the trafficking and sexual exploitation of Colombian and Venezuelan women.

The criminal group was first identified in 2018 by Panama's Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants Division, following the discovery of several victims who had been promised jobs as waitresses, only to have their passports confiscated and be exploited. They were often denied food, slept on the floor and would regularly see their so-called "debts" for "travel and accommodation" increase arbitrarily.

INTERPOL and the UNODC played a critical role in supporting the investigation by facilitating intelligence exchange, coordinating police and judicial actions including victim hearings. The hearings played a major role in securing crucial evidence for the investigation.



OSCE Presence in Albania organizes advanced training on complex international narcotics investigations with Albania's State Police personnel

The OSCE Presence in Albania organized an advanced training programme on "Complex International/Joint Investigations on Drug Trafficking" for sixteen officers of Albania's State Police's Anti-Drug Units and Security Academy.

The training aimed at enhancing the State Police's capacities to dismantle organized criminal groups specialized in drug trafficking and to communicate and co-operate with partner law enforcement agencies when conducting complex international/joint investigations,

which is vital for a successful fight against the cultivation and trafficking of narcotics.

International experts from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), EUROPOL, Nordic countries' police forces, Croatian Police, and the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC) engaged participants with scenarios of successful cases of complex international investigations of organized criminal groups dealing with drug trafficking.

Strengthening transport security through modernization of customs and transport procedures

Best practices on modernization of customs and transport procedures as a tool to improve transport management and transport security, especially during emergency situations, were discussed at an OSCE-organized online seminar.

Best practices in the application of digital technologies and intelligent transport systems, harmonization of transport and transit procedures and ensuring sustainable and secure operation of logistic chains

during the pandemic period were presented.

"Facilitating cross-border transport is a crucial prerequisite for economic development and security. Moreover, ensuring efficient transport networks, and promoting good governance at border crossing points are vital for states to overcome issues, such as lack of access to the sea and dependence on transit services of neighboring countries," said William Leaf, Officer-in-Charge of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat.

Austria takes over Chairpersonship of OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation



"Trust has to be earned over and over again. Trust is the 'sine qua non' for stability and sustainable security in the OSCE region. We therefore need dialogue, co-operation and transparency," said Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal, Secretary General for Foreign Affairs of Austria, as he opened the Austrian Chairpersonship of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) in Vienna.

"Shaping the future — this is our mission here in the OSCE. It is up to all of us to live up to the dynamic aspirations of the past decades such as the Helsinki Final Act or the Charter of Paris," he said. "It is about putting predictability, solution orientation and confidence-building back at the centre of our actions and our thinking as fundamental elements of effective co-operation."



Thousands of Stranded Migrants in Yemen Need Extra Support to Return Home



As the dangers for migrants in Yemen intensify against a backdrop of conflict and the COVID-19 crisis, nearly

5,000 Ethiopians stranded in Yemen are waiting for their chance to safely return home.

About 300 migrants are scheduled to depart Aden for Addis Ababa on two Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) flights run by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The Organization hopes to continue at this pace, operating two flights per week until the end of the year and plans to expand VHR to other places such as Ma'rib where the conflict persists.

"Since the start of the pandemic, migrants in Yemen have been pushed even further into the shadows," said John McCue, IOM Yemen's Deputy Chief of Mission.

Conditions for Migrants at EU-Belarus Border of Utmost Concern

Reports of cross-border pushbacks of migrants, including families and children, lack of adequate access to asylum for those seeking international protection as well as shelter and assistance are particularly alarming. The Organization is monitoring the situation closely and emphasizes that migrants should not be instrumentalized. Their protection and respect of human rights must be at the heart of any State response.

Many migrants have been stranded at the EU-

Belarus border in extremely harsh conditions, with limited access to drinking water and food, medical assistance, sanitation facilities and shelter for several weeks. Prolonging this unacceptable situation poses a grievous threat to the migrants' lives and health. IOM urges States to ensure people's well-being, and human rights, including dignity and humane treatment, and to allow humanitarian access to all migrants in need of assistance.

IOM Helps Vulnerable Bangladeshis Return from Lebanon as More Migrants Line Up to Leave



The IOM has said an increasing number of migrant workers are desperate to escape economic hardship in Lebanon and a group of stranded Bangladeshis

among them arrived in Dhaka today from Beirut with IOM, Bali Process and government help.

A recent IOM survey of more than 1,000 migrants in Lebanon showed that nearly half wanted to return home. With the economy in deep crisis and a political stalemate after the government resigned following the devastating Beirut Port explosion a year ago, embassies have also seen a sharp rise in the number of migrants asking to return to their countries of origin.



Frontex recruit new standing corps officers



Frontex has launched a new recruitment for entry-level positions in the European Border and Coast Guard

standing corps, EU's first uniformed service.

The agency is looking for candidates who are interested to start their career as Frontex border and coast guards. The future officers do not necessarily need prior law enforcement experience as they will undergo 12 months of training organised by Frontex.

The standing corps officers will perform basic border management functions, such as border checks and patrols, identity and document checks, registration of migrants, countering cross-border crime.

The standing corps is composed of Frontex and EU Member States' officers, who support national authorities facing challenges at their external border.

Technology Foresight on Biometrics: Progress update



Two new steps of the ongoing Technology Foresight on Biometrics project have been successfully completed. The research team managed to create a taxonomy of biometric technologies and carry out a Delphi survey to gather information on key technologies. A brief description on the outcome can be found in the attached newsletters.

The development of the taxonomy of biometric technologies at the early stages of the study enabled the team to outline the technological landscape to be addressed as part of the project and establish a common and systematic understanding of the technological field for future research and innovation activities. Thanks to the wide array of methods used, such as expert consultation and examination of considerable datasets, the research team was able to identify 20 biometric technological clusters that will be considered in the next step of the project.

The intelligence gathered through the multi-level assessment of the technological clusters in the ring of the Delphi survey led to the construction of the so-called 4CF Matrix. This way, we were able to recognise key technological areas for the subsequent roadmapping and capability analysis exercises.

Increase in the Central Med and Western Balkans

The number of illegal border crossings at Europe's external borders in the first seven months of 2021 reached over 82 000, 59% more than the total from a year ago, according to preliminary calculations.

In July, Frontex registered 17 300 illegal border crossings, 33% more than in the same month last year and slightly more than in the previous month (14 600). Migratory pressure continued to build up on the eastern frontiers of the European Union with more

than 3000 illegal entries from Belarus registered at the border to Lithuania in July.

The Central Mediterranean route accounted for the highest share of illegal border-crossings in July, followed by the Western Balkan route.



ASEAN, Australia launch Project Portcullis 2021 to tackle illicit tobacco

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Australia established Project Portcullis 2021, the ASEAN-Australia Task Force on Illicit Tobacco to combat the smuggling of illicit tobacco in a month of action.

Throughout June, participating customs authorities shared intelligence information on tobacco consignments to support enhanced targeting opportunities, disruption efforts and enforcement actions across the ASEAN region and Australia.

The smuggling and sale of illicit tobacco is a global issue, with proceeds often being used by transnational organised criminal syndicates to fund other forms of criminal activities that impact our societies.

The collaboration has enabled customs authorities to apply scrutiny to an increased volume of suspicious sea cargo and land border consignments via the 'Alert Notification System' designed by ASEAN Customs Enforcement and Compliance Working Group (CECWG).

The operation aims to implement more effective

countermeasures to disrupt the global supply of illicit tobacco and combat transnational organised crime. Collectively, the Task Force had detected the abuse of transshipment facilities to smuggle illicit tobacco. A comprehensive regional approach is needed to address these challenges to prevent the economic and health consequences in ASEAN and Australia.

Project Portcullis, which was initiated by CECWG, has proven to be highly effective, the month of action had more than 50 referrals and has led to the seizure of 19 million sticks of cigarettes being smuggled in the region. The ASEAN Directors-General of Customs are committed to combatting Transnational Organised Crime, and will apply similar techniques utilising the CECWG Task Force mechanism to disrupt border-related threats.

Australia, as one of ASEAN's dialogue partners, will continue to work cooperatively with ASEAN to implement effective countermeasures to disrupt organised crime in the region.

Strengthening coordination efforts with G5 Sahel



UNODC, through its Global Firearms Programme, organized a coordination meeting with countries in the Sahel region, neighboring countries and the G5 Sahel in order to address practical ways of fighting illicit firearms trafficking in the sub region as well as in the larger West African region. The meeting gathered national representatives and expert from eight countries as well

as the various departments of the G5 Sahel Secretariat.

The meeting was aimed at promoting cross-border cooperation, the exchange of good practices and experiences in arms control and on the investigation and prosecution of firearms related offenses, as well as their links to organized crime, including terrorism. The event was part of a series of activities with the overall objective of strengthening the criminal justice chain in target countries and in the region, particularly on the subject of firearms trafficking.

The meeting was opened by General Mohamed Znagui Ould Sid'Ahmed Ely, Defense and Security Expert of the G5 Sahel, who highlighted the importance of fighting illicit firearms trafficking as part of overall efforts to improve development in the sub region, as well as the links this has with other kinds of trafficking, including drug and human trafficking. He stressed thus the importance of improving cross-border cooperation.

FUTURE READY: BEYOND THE TRADITIONAL BORDER SPECIFIC LENS

Dr John Coyne was the established the Australian Strategic Policy Institute's Border Security Program. John is now the Head of the Strategic Policing and Law Enforcement Program

The 34th president of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, once said: "neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him". We face a raging pandemic, massive irregular people movements, more capable criminal actors, and ongoing terrorist threats in the current strategic environment.

Rogue states, a resurgent Russia, and an expansionist China are all reshaping the geostrategic environment in which border agencies operate. Collectively these circumstances are ensuring that our future is unprecedentedly uncertain. Like many of its partners, today's border agencies are facing down the train of the future, and are left asking if our current planning approaches will help us prepare.



Whether presenting to courses like the Border Control Agency Management Program (BCAMP) and Container Control Programme - Women's Professional Development Programme (CCP-WPDP) or meeting with border agency leaders, today's border professionals ask similar questions. They want to know the critical emerging developments for the border management landscape. This is a fair question for those preparing for the future.

There is, of course, a relatively straightforward answer to this. There will likely be an increase in the volume, velocity and variety of goods crossing our borders. Covid-19, along with other threats vectors, will in most cases demand a selectively permeable border for people movement. Finally, they will face off with increasingly capable non-state threats, including transnational serious and organised

crime and terrorist groups. However, this broad-brushed image, without contextualization, does not help here. It fails to offer sufficient granularity for border agencies to invest in the future or provide a coherent argument to their respective governments for funding.

Border agencies' past capability investments have provided them with a level of assurance regarding many risks. In many cases, this assurance is primarily understood through a border lens: and this approach is prudent. However, border agencies have a responsibility to bolster capability and capacity to effectively manage emerging threats and risks. This kind of preparation is critical to future-proofing these organisations.

Border agencies increasingly build their capacity and capability to develop and strengthen border security by working with their partners through innovation and

business transformation. To do so effectively, they must reduce the likelihood of black swan events by decreasing the opaqueness of the future. The key to this approach is broadening and deepening how they consider the external environment.

Traditionally, border agencies have avoided thinking too far outside of the bailiwick of the border environment to consider future requirements. Australia's Department of Home Affairs, and its operational agency, Border Force, went some way to consider this by adopting a border continuum model for border management. However, this was all about creating a border ecosystem with strategic depth rather than estimating future complexity.

There are many social, technological, economic, environmental and political factors that, individually and collectively, may act as a catalyst for sudden changes to border agency risk assumptions and mitigation measures. These kinds of changes to a global ecosystem lead to seemingly unpredictable events beyond what would usually be expected of the situation and potentially severe consequences.

Future scenario planning, which examines the broader drivers of change, assists an agency with making assumptions on what its future will look like and how the border security threat context might change. More specifically, this



planning should identify specific sets of uncertainties or different realities that may happen.

Here is an example in which I would like to provide seven possible future scenarios which may have a strategic impact on border security.

- **Cascading risks.** Irrespective of an incident or risk source, cascading impacts accumulate with aggregated effects within complex ecosystems like borders. Trade globalisation increasingly leads to complex structures that increase the likelihood of cascading risks which are difficult to pre-empt in terms of likelihood and consequences. This development requires border agencies to have both rapid and scalable decision-making, usually under emergency conditions.

- **Bifurcation of the rules-based order.** The continued geopolitical rise of China and its great power competition with the United States could lead to the emergence of two trade control systems. Most border agencies would need to be connected with both.

- **Super acceleration.** Global economic, technological and social changes drive regular and unpredictable changes to the velocity, variety, volume and providence of cross border trade. Agencies in this context would need to anticipate more frequent and dramatic changes to requirements.

- **Minilateral trade.** The accelerated breakdown of the international rules-based order could give rise to regional and or ideological trade blocs. Already we see such developments with the further development of the Association of South-East Asian Nations single trade window.

- **Economic de-coupling.** Great power competition and the lessons of Covid-19 see a renewed focus in economic de-coupling from China with production moved to new locations like India. This development could create all-new flows of trade, and with it at present unknown risks.

- **Bio-terror and the Grey Zone.** State and non-state actors are

beginning to use strategies short of armed conflict to further their interests. In this environment, the use of biothreats as weapons of mass economic destruction could well become more likely. Borders are the natural places to mitigate these kinds of risks.

- **Weakened multilateralism.** The current rules-based order remains in place but is further weakened by great power competition. This development could weaken organisations like INTERPOL, World Customs Organisation and the World Trade Organisation. This would necessitate international engagement to take advantage of a greater number of bilateral agreements.

These future vignettes would each create commiserate changes to volume, velocity and variety of flows across borders, often in short order. Furthermore, these changes would test existing capabilities and planning assumptions. None of these scenarios may come to full fruition. However, they provide a robust way to frame future capacity and capability development discussions: a better alternative than laying in front of Eisenhower's future train.

Regardless, futures scenarios like those presented here consistently reveal that border agencies need to be far more internally and externally collaborative and agile if they are to be future-ready.

UNODC and EAPCCO Strengthening Investigation and Intelligence Capacity to Counter Links between Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime in Eastern Africa



The Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) Regional Counter-Terrorism Centre of Excellence (CTCoE) and UNODC recently presented a 5-day training workshop on “Strengthening Investigations and Intelligence Capacities of Terrorism Cases with Links to Transnational Organized Crime” at the Marine Police College in Mwanza, Tanzania.

The overall aim of the workshop was to foster stronger national inter-agency collaboration between criminal intelligence officers, investigators and prosecutors, including cultivating practices of early involvement of prosecutors in the investigative phase of terrorism and related cases.

Criminal justice practitioners from Burundi, Comoros, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda as well as expert facilitators from the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), East Africa Community (EAC), Global Centre for Policy & Strategy (GLOCEPS) EAPCCO CTCoE, INTERPOL and UNODC discussed the prevalence and solutions to links between terrorism and transnational organized crime and the serious threats it posed to peace, security and development in Eastern Africa.

Mr. Ramadhan Ng'anzi, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police, representing the Inspector General of Police of the Tanzania Police Force, welcomed the participants to Mwanza and the Marine Police College. In his opening remarks, Mr. Ng'anzi,

highlighted the crucial need to build capacity of law enforcement officers and prosecutors dealing with the cross-cutting field of terrorism and organized crime.

The workshop focused on special investigation techniques, proactive intelligence taking, collection and analysis, including the use of open-source intelligence and digital evidence. Discussions also focused extensively on means to strengthen regional cooperation, including through information exchange, joint operations and investigations, and sharing of regional knowledge and best practices in responding to the challenges posed by the links between terrorism and transnational organized crime.

UNODC continues to emphasize the importance of enhanced regional cooperation of Member States to counter the links between TOC and terrorism cases, as required by UN Security Council Resolution 2482 (2019) on the Links between Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime.

UNODC, with technical expertise and knowledge to address links between TOC and terrorism cases, will continue to support and is ready to upscale support to Member States including through national and regional training workshops as well as bilateral technical assistance implemented through the UNODC Transnational Organized Crime, Illicit Trafficking and Terrorism Programmes for Eastern Africa.

Building on the previous project “Supporting and enhancing the EAPCCO Regional Counter-Terrorism Centre of Excellence for Eastern Africa”, the overall aim of this project is to support and strengthen the capacity of Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) Member States, EAPCCO Secretariat, and EAPCCO Regional Counter-Terrorism Centre of Excellence (CTCoE) to effectively prevent and counter terrorism and links to transnational organized in Eastern Africa, including through enhanced international cooperation in criminal matters, with a rule of law and human rights-based approach.

ITBP personnel urged to remain alert to wildlife crimes



Personnel of Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) were facilitated with an exposure to the global trend of burgeoning wildlife crimes that have transcended frontiers across the globe and demanded focused attention of border guarding forces for mitigation.

Northeast India's frontline biodiversity conservation organisation Aaranyak in collaboration with Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) today conducted a workshop for the Indo-Tibetan Border Police personnel based at ITBP's 33 Battalion Unit at Sonapur. This

was first such workshop conducted by Aaranyak-WCCB for ITBP on wildlife crime.

Dr. Jimmy Borah, Senior Manager – Legal and Advocacy Division (LAD), Aaranyak explained about wildlife crime and the its extent globally. He stressed on how illegal wildlife crime is connected with national security and economy of a country, and how border agencies can help mitigate or check the wildlife crime and illegal trade in wildlife parts in various key locations in Assam and North-east India, particularly in respect of cross border illegal trade.

Hiten Bora, Intelligence assistant with WCCB talked about legal aspects and different sections under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 to effectively reduce wildlife crime and trade. He explained in details regarding modus operandi of a hunter and the crimes. Nabajit Barman and Kangkan Kaushik Goswami from WCCB demonstrated various wildlife products commonly found in markets.

UNODC Supporting Victims of Trafficking in Persons in Ethiopia



UNODC commemorated the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in Ethiopia by providing essential food supplies and COVID-19 protective equipment to two shelter homes – Agar Society and Organization for Prevention Rehabilitation and Integration of Female Street Children – that support victims of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in Ethiopia.

This support is part of the UNODC project on Enhancing Effective and Victim-Centred Criminal

Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons in Ethiopia, funded by the U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, UNODC is supporting Member States with effectively countering TIP.

To counter TIP in Ethiopia, UNODC programme activities include supporting specialised investigation units of the Federal Police Commission and its Criminal Investigation Bureau, but also the Federal Office of the Attorney General and its specialized prosecution units and Witness Protection Directorate, including by ensuring protection and support for victims of TIP and vulnerable migrants, especially women and children.

Recent UNODC programme activities focusing on the protection of witnesses of TIP in Ethiopia, UNODC supporting the Government of Ethiopia to review its legislation and policies on Witness Protection and Whistleblowers Proclamation.

Jamaica developing national border security policy



The Government of Jamaica has announced plans to respond to the country's vulnerable border landscape issues with a national border security policy and strategy.

Permanent secretary in the Ministry of National Security, Courtney Williams, told a national security stakeholders retreat in Kingston that the new measures will respond to emerging and existing vulnerabilities in border security, as well as risks to trade, the blue economy and public health, through the implementation of the policy.

"This border security policy that we are developing aligns with key initiatives being undertaken by the Government of Jamaica's Vision 2030, and represents an important priority of the Government to disrupt the gun-for-drugs and food-for-guns trade, while bolstering our capacity as a country to fight transnational organised crime and criminal networks," Williams said.

The policy, he said, will be dynamic, sustainable and inclusive, and that its success will be contingent on the involvement of each ministry, department and agency of government with each playing its part in ensuring that the strategic objectives are achieved.

"The policy is also aligned to partnerships, so it is envisaged that this outcome will garner sustainable partnerships with regional and international partners,

and foster greater public-private partnerships in border security. This will result in a more positive image for Jamaica as a tourist destination and logistics hub, and will further protect Jamaica's blue economy and exclusive economic zone," he pointed out.

CEO at the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA) Andrew Wynter, who also spoke at the meeting, pointed out that the policy and strategy, when developed, will improve cross-sector cooperation, enhance border intelligence gathering capabilities, data sharing and risk assessment, resulting in a more responsive security protocols.

"It will also promote policy coherence and cohesiveness in the wider society, modernise and streamline the legislative framework for the effective implementation of the policy and strategy," he added.

Other anticipated outcomes of the policy include: increased compliance with international obligations; streamlining of local laws, in a bid to incorporate port health in border security efforts; reduce fraud associated with passports, immigration and citizenship; and reduce the illegal entry of foreign nationals and goods, which will also serve as a deterrence for trafficking in persons and human smuggling.

Funding for the development of the National Border Security Policy and Strategy is being supported by the United Kingdom's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office Border Security Partnership Initiative.

Security Minister Dr Horace Chang said that with an increased capacity to police territorial waters, Jamaica will be in a better position to turn its attention to more aggressively developing its blue economy, which is critical to economic resilience. However, he noted that due to Jamaica's geographic position, which facilitates trade, logistics, maritime transport, and connectivity, it is often confronted by security risks that require bilateral and regional cooperation.

Tanzania: Rwanda, Tanzania Police Forces Hold Bilateral Talks

Rwanda National Police (RNP) and Tanzania Police Force (TPF) held a bilateral meeting in Kigali which mainly focused on strengthening cooperation against cross-border crimes especially terrorism.

The bilateral meeting held at the RNP General Headquarters in Kacyiru was co-chaired by Inspector General of Police (IGP) Dan Munyuza and his counterpart of Tanzania, Gen. Simon Nyakoro Sirro.

While speaking during the bilateral meeting, Munyuza thanked his counterpart for honouring the invitation, which he described as a “sign of mutual trust and existing friendship between our two countries.”

He commended the existing cooperation framework especially in information flow on terror activities in the region and particularly in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, which lies on the border with Tanzania in the south.

“During the course of the operations against terrorists in Cabo Delgado, in which forces of our two countries are involved, we have collected information on ground, either from captured terrorists or those killed in action, which we have been sharing with you as we endeavour to devise strategies to secure our region against violent terrorists that continue to kill innocent people in our region and make thousands homeless and refugees in their own countries,” Munyuza said.

As the terrorists continue to lose ground in Mozambique, Munyuza said, there is need to carefully establish networks in the region and share timely information on their next course of action.

“More than ever before, we need to work together to update our approaches, especially in controlling our borders against movement of radical Muslims and be able to detect movement of likely terror materials in our region. Terrorists fleeing from their hideouts in Mozambique may infiltrate our borders and establish cells in our countries or in neighbouring countries” Munyuza said.

This struggle against terrorism, he said, should be at the top of the agenda for the Eastern Africa Police

Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) to simplify operational information exchange and conduct joint operations against terrorists to address and avoid the gap between terrorist threat and the collective response to defeat terrorists.

Tanzania is the current chair of the 14-member regional bloc.



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Onion Load Turns Out To Be 230 KGs of Marijuana



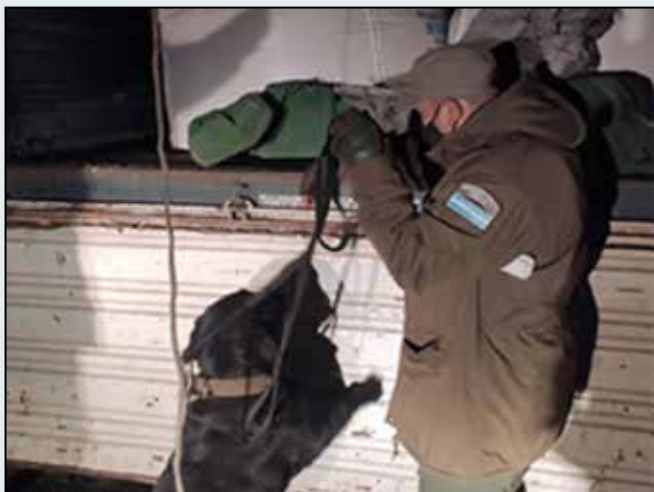
More than 230 kilograms of marijuana type cripy encafetada in the middle of a load of onion were seized in the last hours on the roads of the department, the narcotic substance was destined for the city of Manizales-Caldas.

A routine inspection by our officials attached to the Traffic and Transportation Section in the Cerritos II toll sector, allowed the discovery of the cache, thus, when carrying out the inspection of the load of a truck-type vehicle In the middle of the onion boxes, 56 packages wrapped in adhesive tape were found, which contained the hallucinogenic substance.

According to the mobility guide, the vehicle came from the city of Palmira- Valle del Cauca and would have the destination city of Manizales. In the police procedure, it was achieved not only the seizure of the drug but the capture of two people (driver and assistant), 21 and 26 years old.

The captured and seized substance, which has a commercial value of \$ 70,000,000, were left at the disposal of the corresponding authority for the crime of trafficking, manufacture or possession of narcotics..

60 kilos of cocaine hidden in truck



When the uniformed officers inspected the loading area of the vehicle, they observed with the naked eye three green cloth bags and a burlap type, which alerted the personnel of the Force, because it did not coincide with the mineral "barite" described in the document of the MIC / DTA (International Cargo Manifest / Customs Transit Declaration) presented by the driver.

Given this fact, with the participation of the anti-narcotics cannon of the "Tango" Force, who reacted in an exalted way when sniffing the packages, the officials confirmed the presence of narcotic drugs, for which they proceeded to open them before witnesses.

The gendarmes seized 58 "bricks" containing a total of 60 kilos 580 grams of cocaine.

Seeking to eradicate micro-trafficking in Nariño

The Nariño Police Department seized 154 thousand doses of marijuana. The uniformed men who were conducting road control, made the stop signal to a vehicle type private service truck, which covered the Pasto - Mojarras route, a car that ignores and runs away; The police units carry out the movement in order to reach the said vehicle, which is found abandoned kilometers later without its occupants. When checking inside the vehicle, a compartment or cove is observed in the rear part under the seats.

When continuing with the search, it is observed that the plate of the truck presents some modifications, finding another compartment where a total of 100 rectangular packages wrapped in tapes are housed, whose content by physical characteristics and smell is identified as marijuana, with a weight approximate 154 kilograms.

This substance is valued at more than \$ 123,200,000 million pesos; seized narcotic substance and vehicle were made available to the competent authority.

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RAPID DNA: A POWERFUL NEW TOOL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- *The US DHS has increased efforts to combat and raise awareness of human trafficking*
- *To help fight human trafficking, the US DHS partnered with Bode to implement a rapid DNA testing program for verification of family relationship claims of those seeking asylum*
- *Bode deployed over 40 Applied Biosystems™ RapidHIT™ ID Systems*
- *The new technology was supported by a reach back center and portal to help increase communication, response time, and identification success rate*

As many as 40 million people or more, mostly women and children, are victims of human tracking globally, including hundreds of thousands in the United States. Human trafficking refers to the use of violence, coercion, or deception to transport someone into a situation of exploitation—the US State Department recognizes headtracking as “modern slavery”. Victims may be forced into the sex

trade, labor, marriage, begging, militias, illicit organ transplantation, or fraudulent adoptions. Over the last decade, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has ramped up efforts to raise national public awareness of these terrible crimes, train law enforcement agencies to increase detection and investigation, protect victims, and bring traffickers to justice.

One of the newest tools supporting



these efforts in the US and around the world is “Rapid DNA”, a cutting-edge DNA technology already being used by many law enforcement agencies for quick human identification in fighting a range of crimes. Rapid DNA can help combat child trafficking in particular by quickly confirming the veracity when someone claims to be a parent of a child. Verifying authentic parent–child relationships while identifying fraudulent claims can help increase arrests, prosecutions, and convictions of traffickers, as well as minimize the need for victim testimony during legal proceedings.

As part of its effort to fight human trafficking, the Discreetly turned to Bode Technology to pilot the use of rapid DNA to determine the validity of parent–child relationship claims among individuals entering or attempting to enter the United States along the southern border. Since early 2018, the DHS has encountered a migration crisis at the southern border, including

an increase in fraudulent family relationship claims. To help address this, Bode developed, deployed, and operated a wide-ranging program for thuds to utilize rapid DNA to identify and deter possible child trafficking by identifying fraudulent claims for parent–child relationships.

Rapid DNA is a newer and faster method of processing genetic information that makes it possible to analyze DNA right at the point of action. In the US, the introduction of rapid DNA technology led to the passage of the Rapid DNA Act of 2017, which allows for the upload of DNA profiles generated outside accredited forensic laboratories to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), the national DNA database for the US.

This approval of the use of rapid DNA for fighting crime at the national level in the US enabled the DHS partnership with Bode to implement a rapid DNA program

in 2019. Bolstered with a “reach back” lab verification program to confirm results and other professional scientific support, rapid DNA technology can help law enforcement organizations increase DNA testing success rates while streamlining investigations and reducing costs. One of the main technologies at the center of Bode’s Rapid DNA program is the Rapid HIT ID System, a compact and easy-to-use instrument from Thermo Fisher Scientific, which can be operated directly by law enforcement agencies in the field to process samples and provide answers in 90 minutes or less.

Implementing the rapid DNA program

The program implemented by Bode for DHS was robust. Fifteen separate field-forward and geographically separated rapid DNA facilities were established and over 7,000 DNA samples were processed with greater than 94% first-pass success rates. Additionally, Bode deployed scientists to support the development of protocols and provide formal training and certification of operation to over 300 field operators. The first-of-its-kind program relied on a network of over 40 rapid DNA instruments spaced across the border in conjunction with Bode’s accredited laboratory, which was stated with personnel who provided around-the clock support. This large number of instruments and operators allowed for 24/365 operation of the program

to support investigations at any time.

A reach back portal was also created to enable government personnel and the instruments in the field to connect, interface, and communicate with a scientist-stated rapid DNA reach back center, providing fast 24/365 field operations support. With reach back support, a forensic analyst can review the quality of data from flagged samples run on field-deployed rapid DNA instruments and provide additional insight.

Case Studies

The following examples of documented cases from the DHS program demonstrate the value of rapid DNA for supporting the efforts of the DHS to both root out fraudulent parent/child relationship claims by suspected human traffickers and verify authentic parent/child relationships.

Case study 1

A 22-year-old male claimed to be traveling with his 19-month-old daughter and presented a counterfeit birth certificate. Agents noticed discrepancies and questioned the validity of the document. A rapid DNA test revealed the subjects were not related. After being presented with the DNA evidence, the subject admitted that he was not the child's father and instead claimed the child belonged to his first cousin. He also claimed that he did not have any contact information for the biological mother of the child. He admitted to utilizing the fraudulent document in

an attempt to be released into the US as a "family unit".

Case study 2

A 23-year-old male claimed to be traveling with his 5-year-old son and presented a counterfeit birth certificate. Agents noticed discrepancies and questioned the validity of the document. A rapid DNA test revealed that the subjects were not related. After being presented with the DNA evidence, the subject admitted that he was not the child's father and instead claimed to be the boyfriend of the child's mother, but he could not recall her complete name or contact information. He also admitted to utilizing the fraudulent document in an attempt to be released into the US as a "family unit".

Conclusions

Bode's comprehensive rapid DNA support program utilizing RapidHIT ID DNA systems provided the DHS with a complete human identification solution, from implementation to ongoing reach back support. The program increased the DHS DNA testing success rate from an average of 80% to over 94%. The program led to hundreds of arrests for child trafficking and or smuggling as the result of DNA-supported investigations. The program also saved the operators critical hours in their investigations while significantly saving tens of thousands of dollars. The reach back center fielded over 1,000 requests, providing an average response time of less than 15

minutes, with the majority of requests filled in the first 5 to 10 minutes.

Combatting child trafficking and verifying real family relationships through the collection and analysis of DNA using traditional lab testing often has long wait times for confirmation, but rapid DNA enables this process to be completed in hours or less, enabling action. Additionally, the DHS case studies suggest that the full potential of rapid DNA is realized when proper instrumentation and infrastructure are implemented together with 24/365 support to help increase success through ongoing reach back support. Such fully integrated implementation of rapid DNA shows significant potential to become a major tool to combat human trafficking, and the DHS example can serve as a roadmap for other agencies who wish to utilize rapid DNA technology to support their own efforts in this global fight.

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AGENCY NEWS AND UPDATES

China Begins Landmine Removal Operation Along Border With Myanmar



Chinese authorities have begun removing landmines along the border between southwestern Yunnan province and Myanmar, according to ethnic Chinese living on the Myanmar side.

A committee that runs the Kokang Autonomous Region in northern Myanmar, an ethnic Chinese enclave just across the border from Yunnan, warned local residents that China would be carrying out demining operations.

The demining operations came after Chinese authorities closed the border as part of efforts to halt the spread of COVID-19. China has built a barbed-wire fence spanning around 1,000 km (620 miles) between Ruili, Lijiang, and

the Gaoligong mountains in Yunnan, seen as a bid to stem the free flow of goods and people between the two countries.

Afghan Taliban close Torkham border for pedestrians

Afghan Taliban suspended the return of Afghan nationals to their country through the Torkham border.

Security officials on Pakistani side of the crossing point, however, said vehicular traffic continued as loaded vehicles from both the sides crossed the border.

Though the exact reason for restricting movement of Afghans returning to their country could not be ascertained, local sources said hundreds of Afghans aspiring to come to Pakistan had gathered at the Afghan side of the border in the hope that the crossing would reopen for regular pedestrian movement.

Security officials have said they had not received any orders or intimation about

reopening of the border for pedestrian movement.

Lithuania to fence first 110 km of Belarus border by April

The Lithuanian government said work would start soon on the first section of fence along the Belarus border aimed at keeping out migrants, a 110 km (70 miles) stretch topped with razor wire that should be finished by April.

More than 4,100 migrants, mostly from the Middle East and Asia, have entered Lithuania this year, prompting a dispute between the European Union and Belarus.

The EU accuses Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko of flying in migrants and sending them over the border in retaliation for sanctions imposed on Minsk following a crackdown on the political opposition.

The remaining 400 km (240 miles) of the planned structure will be finished by September 2022, with parts marked by rivers and lakes not being fenced.

The border stretches for 670 km (420 miles).

D G of BSF Visits India-Pak Border In Jammu



Director General BSF Pankaj Kumar Singh Thursday arrived at frontier Headquarters Jammu on a 2-day visit of International Border (IB) under BSF Jammu Frontier.

Director-General of Police Dilbag Singh visited South Kashmir's Shopian and chaired a joint security review meeting to continue to put in the best efforts not only to maintain peace and order in Jammu and Kashmir but also to ensure that the dividends of a peaceful environment are further consolidated.

"The DGP emphasised that the police must continue to deal strictly with elements involved in pushing the youth towards terrorism. He directed the officers to identify and book the persons involved in these activities. He said that forces should remain more vigilant in view of increased infiltration bids by terrorists from across the IB/LoC so that nefarious designs of anti-peace elements are foiled. He said that many successful operations on the borders have not only thwarted infiltration bids considerably but also killed many infiltrating terrorists. He stressed intensified operations against the terrorists and also directed for stringent action against the elements involved in Narco trade," the police said in its statement.

Turkey Plans To Add 242 Kilometers Of Border Wall With Iran

Turkey will add 242 kilometers to its border wall with Iran to prevent the influx of illegal immigrants and bolster security, Interior Minister Süleyman Soyly has announced.

Turkey began building its border wall with its eastern neighbor in 2017 and has so far completed 221 kilometers of the concrete structure. The announcement to add a longer segment comes after the Islamic militant Taliban movement took over Afghanistan that can lead to a huge refugee wave toward Europe.

Already there are about 500,000 Afghans refugees and millions of Syrians in Turkey according to estimates. Ankara has also reinforced 837 kilometers of its 911-kilometer border with Syria.

Turkey also faces dangers from armed Kurdish insurgents who can relatively easily cross borders into and from neighboring countries, Iran, Iraq and Syria. Ankara is also planning to build walls along borders with Armenia and Georgia.

EU to cooperate further with Turkey on irregular migration

The EU intends to strengthen cooperation with Turkey on the issues of irregular migration and border security, the head of the EU Delegation to Turkey, Nikolaus Meyer-Landrut, said.

Meyer-Landrut told how in recent years the EU provided support worth over €350 million, adding that the

bloc is ready to maintain cooperation and support on the issue of irregular migration.

He said the EU is closely following developments in Afghanistan, especially in regard to immigration and security, after the Taliban formed an interim government.

After hearing about the difficulties that Turkey faces on the Iranian border – where Afghan migrants are likely to try to cross – Meyer-Landrut said such difficulties are shared by Turkey, the region, Europe and the rest of the world.

The European Council will quadruple its humanitarian aid for the Afghan public to €200 million by the end of 2021, as discussed at a U.N. conference in Geneva aiming to raise more money for growing humanitarian needs in Afghanistan.

Malawi: Police Arrest Mozambicans for Trafficking Persons in Mangochi

Police in Mangochi have arrested two Mozambican nationals for trafficking six young Malawian men into Mozambique, Police Spokesperson there Amina Tepani Daudi has disclosed.

In a statement, Daudi says the incident occurred at Kalanje crossing border point in Katuli.

"Mobile Border Police officers who were manning the said point were tipped by members of the community that the said suspects were hidden at a place close to the border with some people whom they wanted to take into Mozambique.

Tunisian president says border with Libya to reopen

Tunisia's President Kais Saied has ordered the border with Libya, which had been closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, to reopen after meetings between health teams from the two countries, his office said.

The decision to reopen the border follows a visit by Libya's interim Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibeh to Tunis after growing friction over the border and other issues.

Dozens found in a sweltering trailer at Texas border

Almost 50 people who had entered the U.S. illegally were found inside the sweltering trailer of a truck stopped at a Border Patrol checkpoint in South Texas, officials said.

Border Patrol agents found the people at its Freer checkpoint 45 miles northeast of Laredo on U.S. 59, according to a U.S. Customs and Border Protection statement. A trained dog detected something amiss in the trailer and agents had the trailer opened.

No injuries were reported from the 90-degree interior of the trailer. The Border Patrol says those inside came from Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador. They and the driver of the truck were taken into custody, said CBP spokeswoman Sara Melendez.

U.S. Border Agents Stopped Undocumented Migrants 209,000 Times In August

U.S. authorities stationed along the southern border stopped migrants nearly 209,000 times in August, as unlawful entries slowed down slightly after reaching a 21-year high during the previous month, according to government data.

The Customs and Border Protection (CBP) statistics show that unauthorized migration to the U.S.-Mexico border remained at an extremely high level toward the end of the summer, when migrant apprehensions have historically dropped due to the heat.

Single migrant adults, who have a high rate of attempting to cross the border multiple times, were stopped over 103,000 times, which is a 7% drop from July. Roughly 75% of them were swiftly expelled to Mexico under a Trump-era public health edict the Biden administration has maintained.

The number of unaccompanied migrant children taken into U.S. border custody in August also decreased slightly from a monthly record high in July. More than 18,800 unaccompanied minors, most of them from Central America, entered U.S. custody in August.

Ethiopia, Kenya sign Moyale – Moyale One Stop Border Post operational procedure manual



The government of Ethiopia and Kenya yesterday signed the Moyale – Moyale One Stop Border Post (OSBP) operational procedure

manual on a ceremony held in Addis Abeba. Ethiopia, through the Ethiopia Customs Commission and the Border Control, and Kenya through Operation Coordination Committee, signed the operational procedure manual at an event attended by key private and public sector players from both countries.

The Moyale – Moyale One Stop Border Post (OSBP) was inaugurated in December last year. One Stop Border Post (OSBP) started operations in June 2021. With the OSBP operations manual, border clearance processes will be easier, faster and cheaper for traders, transporters and travelers, while maintaining the border regulatory requirements of both countries through coordinated border management operations.

More than 120 arrests made in Ireland's first six months of Schengen Information System



Ireland's first six months of involvement in the Europe-wide Schengen Information sharing system (SIS II) has seen more than 120 arrests.

The figures for this year have doubled on the corresponding figures for the same time period last year. There have been 74 arrests on SIS Article 26 which posts alerts on people wanted for arrest, surrender, or extradition purposes.

A further 52 arrests were made on

already endorsed European arrest warrants for offences such as drug trafficking, sexual assault, robbery, burglary, theft, assault causing harm, fraud and property offences.

Minister for Justice Heather Humphreys has said Ireland has made “good progress” since joining the centralised European database.

Hong Kong, mainland Chinese police arrest 22 in cross-border crackdown on money-laundering syndicate

Police in Hong Kong and mainland China have arrested 22 people in a joint operation against a cross-border syndicate suspected of using 85 local bank accounts to launder HK\$740 million (US\$95.2 million) in criminal proceeds over 17 months.

A little over a third of the money was stolen from Hong Kong residents in 43 separate phone scams, online romance cons and investment fraud cases between April 2020 and August 2021, according to the force. Of the 43 victims, the worst hit was a 76-year-old woman who was conned into parting with HK\$82 million over four months.

Superintendent Chow Cheung-yau of the force’s financial intelligence and investigation bureau said police were still looking into the potentially illegal sources of the remaining HK\$468 million.

Estonia fortifies its border with Russia

Estonia is constructing a new steel fence on its southeast border facing Russia, following steps other Baltic



countries and Poland have already taken to ‘fortify’ their borders.

In a secretive project, Estonia is close to finishing the first 23 kilometres of a 2.5-metre high fence made of steel and equipped with barbed wire – the first step in a long process to modernise the whole border control apparatus.

According to a report published by the Finnish Broadcasting Company (YLE), another 35 kilometres will be built in a similar fashion before 2025.

14 Myanmar nationals arrested on Malaysian border

Fourteen Myanmar nationals were arrested in two groups on the Thai side of the border opposite Malaysia’s Kedah State in Sadao district, police said.

The first group was arrested when a Toyota Rivo pickup was intercepted on a road along the border at Rai Tok village in tambon Samnak Kham. Found in the pick-up were seven Myanmar migrants.

The pick-up driver told the authorities he picked up the migrants as he was hired to transport the migrants to the border with Malaysia for 1,000 baht per passenger.

At the border, the authorities found another seven Myanmar migrants hiding in the bush, waiting to be taken

across the border. They had been transported in another vehicle from Songkhla to the border.

The 14 migrants had each paid 3,500 Malaysian ringits, about 45,000 baht, to brokers for jobs in Malaysia. An investigation was underway into the human smuggling ring.

More than 2 tonnes of cocaine seized in British and Australian operation



Six men including a Briton have been arrested off the coast of Plymouth after authorities seized more than two tonnes of cocaine worth about £160m.

Britain’s National Crime Agency (NCA) said an operation involving its personnel as well as the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Border Force arrested the British man from Stockton-on-Tees and five Nicaraguans aboard a Jamaican-flagged yacht 80 miles out to sea.

The luxury yacht Kahu, which was sailing from the Caribbean, was escorted back to an undisclosed location on the UK mainland where a team carried out a deep rummage search and discovered the enormous haul of class A drugs.

Operation Ironside has opened the door to unprecedented collaboration across law enforcement agencies around the globe.

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NEW EES TECHNOLOGIES AT BULGARIA'S AVIATION HUBS

*An interview with Nikolay Dimchev,
Managing Director of SSARM*



SSARM is Bulgaria's largest IT systems integrator and was awarded a major contract to equip Bulgaria's aviation hubs with EES-compliant border control solutions following a tender by the Bulgarian Ministry of Interior last year.

In the meantime, SSARM has fully installed a turnkey solution at Sofia, Varna and Burgas airports in cooperation with its German partner secunet. Bulgaria has thus become

one of the first European countries to comprehensively prepare its busiest air borders for the EU-wide Entry/Exit System, long before its expected launch in May 2022.

Nikolay Dimchev - Managing Director of SSARM - about the project, his most interesting findings and the added value for passengers, border control and airports.



What exactly did you install at the airports in Varna, Burgas and Sofia and why?

The reason for implementing new border control systems is closely related to the EU's decision to introduce the Entry/Exit System throughout the Schengen area in 2022. By taking facial images and fingerprints, all member states will in future know better which third-country nationals are entering the EU and ensure that individual passengers do not overstay. This enhances the security for all of us.

However, the integration of these additional process steps at primary border control threatens to cause a collapse if infrastructures remain unchanged, because clearance takes an average of 40-45 seconds longer - per passenger! Therefore, process automation at all possible steps, i.e. also at stationary border control counters, is inevitable. The Ministry of the Interior therefore decided

to comprehensively modernise the border control technology and commissioned us with the implementation. We installed - in collaboration with our project partner secunet - ABC gates, self-service kiosks as well as camera systems and fingerprint readers for the stationary counters at the three aviation hubs in Bulgaria. The technologies fulfil different functions and are sometimes intended for different passenger groups – but all technologies together noticeably speed up the border control process and greatly reduce the workload of the responsible officers.

Why did you decide to bring secunet on board as a partner for the EES implementation? SSARM is a well-positioned IT system integrator itself.

We have been working with secunet in the area of high-security technologies for a long time and they have consistently proven to us that the quality of their

products comprehensively meets the requirements of our customers. That's why we also contacted secunet for the EES project. Although we are in an excellent position ourselves as system integrator who is very familiar with the Bulgarian market, we don't have our own product portfolio in this area.

The EES solutions from secunet also convinced us: they deliver EES-compliant biometric solutions, assuring the best possible quality of the biometric capture and are designed to be highly resistant to circumvention and forgery. This is extremely important, especially for unattended systems where the officer is not standing right next to them monitoring each passenger. And last but not least, all products have a very eye-catching, modern design - not to be underestimated considering today's innovative airport architectures.

In your view, what are the benefits of modernising the border control infrastructure for passengers, airports and border controls?

The benefits are quickly summed up: passengers - wherever they come from - now have access to automation technologies at the Bulgarian airports in Sofia, Varna and Burgas. Thanks to intuitive user guidance and innovative security mechanisms, passengers can be sure that their data will be captured quickly and is processed securely and in accordance with

data protection regulations. The high-quality biometric acquisition is of course especially important for the border police. The officers are also ideally supported by the technologies and not put under additional strain. Airports benefit from the fact that despite more extensive border control processes, which actually take more time, there are no significantly longer queues and missed connecting flights.

What are your most important insights from this EES project?

Actually, we were confronted with the same challenges in the EES project as in almost every IT project: When things become more concrete than a description on paper, it is not uncommon that new or changed requirements arise from the customer side that have to be implemented in the running project at short notice. This is completely normal and we can deal with it very well.

In the case of the EES installations, for example, we installed the most modern, secure products and had

to realise that this alone was not enough. Border control projects are about more than installing technologies. The products should optimise passenger processes and fit perfectly into the respective environment and infrastructure, which is different at every airport and at every land border. This was an important and new insight for us. The installation of glass walls between stationary and automated border control or the construction of racks for the fingerprint scanners, which otherwise would not be perfectly positioned for the passengers, are small examples. Fortunately, together with secunet, we were able to offer all new customer requirements, integrated them into the project implementation and still delivered on time.

Another important insight yet certainly not new is: You have to react flexibly right up to the end and remain focused on details if you want perfectly fitting installations that are also visually attractive.

Are there further points you would like to particularly highlight?

The EES installation was our first border control project, our premiere, so to speak. Having secunet's experienced people on board was of course an enormous advantage for us. In times of this pandemic, we supported each other in the best possible way, even if we were forced to do so "remotely" for most of the project. Through this perfect collaboration, we succeeded in implementing the installations on time and achieving the customer's declared goal: Bulgaria is one of the first countries in the EU to be equipped with an EES-compliant overall solution at the three aviation hubs, long before the official launch of the Entry/Exit System. This makes us happy.



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Multi-agency Taskforce Sentry targets drug and firearm traffickers

Australian Police have released the six-month results of a multi-agency taskforce dismantling criminal networks attempting to import illicit drugs and firearms into Queensland.

Taskforce Sentry comprises of members of QPS' Crime and Intelligence Command, the Australian Federal Police (AFP), the Australian Border Force (ABF) and the Department of Home Affairs, collaborating to gather intelligence, implement investigative strategies and take action against syndicates smuggling and distributing illicit items including through postal and cargo streams.

Established in February 2021, the taskforce has achieved a series of operational results, charging a total of 90 people on 414 offences, including drug trafficking, production and possession charges. Significant quantities of drugs have been seized through taskforce tactical action including over six kilograms of cocaine, two kilograms of methylamphetamine, one kilogram of MDMA, 67 litres of GHB and 391kg of cannabis.

These seizures are in addition to over \$19 million in drug border seizures referred to Taskforce Sentry for investigation, including border seizures of heroin, methylamphetamine, cocaine, MDMA and GHB.

Assistant Commissioner Katherine Innes, Crime and Intelligence Command, said the co-location of taskforce members at Queensland Police headquarters was an important measure in disrupting criminal syndicates and stopping the distribution of drugs and weapons into the Queensland community.

"As a result of excellent cooperation and investigative work, Taskforce Sentry has seized ten firearms, \$2.6 million cash and \$10.7 million worth of drugs, bringing the total value of drugs seized from criminal networks operating in Queensland to close to \$30 million," Assistant Commissioner Innes said.

"Organised crime syndicates use their networks across the country, and across the world, to facilitate a range of criminal activities including the activities linked to the illicit drug and firearm trades.

"By working together across national and international

borders we gather important intelligence to assist with targeted disruption activities and build our intelligence holdings to support current and future investigations," Assistant Commissioner Innes said.

AFP Assistant Commissioner Lesa Gale said Taskforce Sentry was a testament to the AFP's determination to work with partners to stop the importation of drugs into Australia.

"The Australian public can rest assured that the AFP and its partner agencies are committed to keeping the community safe. This taskforce aims to disrupt criminals who seek to profit from bringing illicit substances into Australia and protect Australians from the terrible social damage caused by drug abuse and addiction," Assistant Commissioner Gale said.

ABF Assistant Commissioner Tim Fitzgerald noted the significant outcomes were closely related to excellent cross-agency cooperation.

"We often talk about working together with law enforcement partners, and Taskforce Sentry has really allowed us to supercharge this cooperation on top of our already excellent work in this space, and the results speak for themselves," Assistant Commissioner Fitzgerald said.

"The ABF's border detection capabilities play a significant role in generating referrals to the taskforce. Since the taskforce's inception, there have been over 200 referrals of narcotic detections comprising cocaine, MDMA, GHB and heroin."

The taskforce has also provided tactical support to major multi-agency drug operations, including AFP-led Operation Ironside.

During the course of Operation Ironside, Taskforce Sentry assisted in dismantling a Brisbane-based drug syndicate that was allegedly hiding drugs inside computer hard drives mailed from the United States. Police removed the illicit drugs before delivering the packages to a Woolloongabba address on May 17, where a criminal safehouse was discovered and following investigations, three alleged syndicate members arrested.

AFGHANISTAN, PRESIDENT BIDEN AND THE URGENCY OF AFRICAN EXAMPLE

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Afghanistan has always been a strategically important location in the world history. The land served as a gateway to India sitting on the ancient silk road which carried trade from the Mediterranean to China. Afghanistan may be called the central Asian Roundabout. Global concern on the state of the Border Security, in both Europe and Asia have been heightened with taking over of Afghanistan by Taliban.

France and Germany have already spoken about a potential influx of refugees desperate to move and flee from conflict. Uzbekistan which Borders the north of Afghanistan has closed their borders to ensure security, and Pakistan, which has the longest border with Afghanistan has refused to accept Afghan refugees. There are unconfirmed reports of refugees being killed on the Pakistan Border, others trying to



cross the Western Border with Iran without success. This development must be a cause for global concern as the world gathers in Athens for World Border Security Congress.

Regardless of the effort by some European countries, an American and European solution will not achieve the desired global response, capable of answering the present nagging border security questions. Fleeing Afghans may naturally engage in a negative survival strategies in the name of overcoming the present horrible situation, and so are a natural standby mercenary and threat to International Security.

The government of Uganda have made appropriate diplomatic move by accepting 51 evacuees from Afghanistan.

Rwanda Ministry of Education has confirmed that they will receive 250 students from the Afghanistan leadership school. There is an urgency for other governments to follow these African countries examples of strategically accommodating refugees that they have the financial capacity to host.

Border Security Network must not watch the global efforts made over the years to protect borders from illegal movement of people, drugs and weapons, which is critical to sustainable development, to safeguard territorial integrity and sovereignty, get destroyed by this diplomatic decision of American President, which is seen to be long overdue. Part of the burden is on the World Border Security Congress is to produce a frame work capable

of engaging relevant global authorities to minimize the negative effect of Afghanistan conflict to global Border security.

America, China, Russian and other world powers must rally their global partners in developed countries, to follow the African countries example (Uganda and Rwanda). The world has become a global village, a threat to peace anywhere can be a source of conflict somewhere else and threat to development. Whilst we battle with the fall out, hardships, micro & macro-economic shocks of the post Covid19 global situation. The United Nation must halt an impending illegal migration catastrophe and its negative consequences to global economy.

CBP Announces Facial Biometric Pilot for Inbound Vehicle Travelers at Anzalduas International Bridge

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced the start of an innovative facial biometric pilot in select vehicle lanes at the Anzalduas International Bridge Port of Entry (POE), Texas for travelers arriving in the United States. This enhanced process for international travel, known as Simplified Arrival, uses facial biometrics to automate the manual document checks that are already required for admission into the United States and provides travelers with a secure, touchless travel experience.

“CBP has successfully expanded Simplified Arrival to select airports, seaports, and pedestrian lanes at the U.S. land borders,” said Diane J. Sabatino, Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner of Field Operations, CBP. “The next step to transform travel at the land borders includes the addition of facial biometrics to further secure and enhance the vehicle entry process.”

The new technology will be deployed at two inbound

vehicle lanes at the Anzalduas POE.

As travelers approach the vehicle lanes with the facial biometric system, the camera will attempt to take a photo of each occupant in the vehicle and match it to their corresponding traveler photos already in government holdings (images such as passport, visa, or prior encounters). Travelers who wish to opt out of the biometric testing can simply use the “opt out” lanes, which will be clearly marked for those who prefer to have the standard document check.

CBP has a Congressional mandate to biometrically record all foreign nationals who enter and exit the United States. The addition of facial biometrics to verify an individual's identity and authenticate travel documents will strengthen security by providing CBP officers greater assurance to make an informed decision about a traveler's admissibility.

New Gateway Clearance measures to benefit importers and transport providers

Australia's Gateway Clearance for sea cargo will be available from 1 October 2021.

This important change will allow the release of cleared sea cargo from customs control in the Port of Discharge, regardless of the final delivery destination.

Australian Border Force Commissioner and Comptroller General of Customs Michael Outram said this change brings customs and biosecurity release requirements for sea cargo in line with those for air cargo, and simplifies 'last-mile' logistics.

“Gateway Clearance for sea cargo will provide simplified options for traders to clear their goods into Australia. I am pleased to announce these new measures, which will cut red tape and reduce costs for importers and transport providers” Commissioner Outram said.

Previously, the ABF required even cleared consignments that listed different locations for the Port of Discharge and Port of Destination (on the Sea

Cargo Report) to move under customs control to the Port of Destination prior to release. This unnecessarily complicated logistics and increased costs for the 'last-mile' of a consignment's journey.

From 1 October 2021, importers, in consultation with their logistics provider, can legally nominate the same port as both the Port of Discharge and the Port of Destination – regardless of the consignment's final destination. With this change, a consignment with customs and biosecurity clearance can be released into home consumption from the nominated port, and movement to any final destination can be via less costly domestic freight services.

“Gateway Clearance will especially benefit those importers that are distant from our major international sea ports, and importers or logistics providers importing less than a container load consignments. It will provide noticeable transport and time savings for many small businesses,” Commissioner Outram said.

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BOC-NAIA intercepts 827 spiders in air postal parcel declared as figurines, medicines”



The Bureau of Customs Port of NAIA with the Environmental Protection Compliance Division (EPCD) intercepted a total of 809 spiderlings and 17 adult spiders in three (3) air postal parcels in Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC).

Records show that the subject postal parcels all came from Poland and consigned to certain residents of Pasay City, Parañaque City and Batangas. Upon physical examination, surreptitiously concealed small plastic vials wrapped in foil with cotton containing spiderlings and spiders were found.

The spiderlings and spiders were immediately turned

over to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Unit (DENR WTMU) pursuant to Customs Administrative Order No. 10-2020.

Aside from the instituted seizure and forfeiture proceedings against the subject seized wildlife species for violation of Section 1113 in relation to Section 117 and RA 9147, the DENR is currently conducting case building for possible prosecution of the importer and co-conspirators for violation of RA 9147, while the Bureau Action Team Against Smugglers (BATAS), Legal Service of the Bureau of Customs shall conduct parallel case build-up for possible prosecution of violation of Section 1401 of the CMTA.

As consistently mandated by Customs Commissioner, Rey Leonardo Guerrero, the Bureau of Customs-NAIA, under the leadership of District Collector Carmelita M. Talusan, shall continue to strengthen coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and be vigilant against illegal wildlife trade and trafficking.

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Tony Kingham talks to Kevin Davies, Global Director – Ports & Borders at Smiths Detection on the role of centralised screening in border security.

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Travizory set to launch world-first maritime API/PNR system in the Seychelles

In a world-first, Swiss border security firm, Travizory, in partnership with the Republic of Seychelles, has installed a new computer system to support a maritime API/PNR system. The new system will secure the island nation's waters and reduce risks from incoming vessels and has already started to ingest data from boats.



The industry-leading maritime border management system will approve cruise ships, private yachts and other marine vessels for entry into Seychelles waters. Fully integrated with the existing Seychelles Islands Travel Authorization and aviation API/PNR systems, the addition of maritime passengers will give Seychelles Authorities a fully-comprehensive view of people entering, travelling within and leaving their borders.

Using geolocation technology, the new system will pick up any vessel that has entered Seychelles

waters, while all passengers and crew will be required to pre-apply for entry into the country.

Ship Captains will now be required to scan passengers' passports and faces - to allow for biometric matching. Similar to the existing air passenger authorization system, the submitted data will be validated against watchlist and Interpol databases, while individual travellers will be assessed for risks. The electronic platform will also enable vessels to make a customs declaration and pay relevant fees and taxes, remotely online.

CNIM Air Space and in-innovative navigation GmbH have deployed two maritime airborne surveillance aerostat systems for Frontex innovation Pilot Project in Greece

The project, for which both companies have joined forces in a consortium, with in-innovative navigation GmbH taking the lead, involves the delivery to Frontex of an integrated turn-key solution that comprises two tethered aerostats, for the purpose of testing the performance and cost-efficiency of these innovative solutions to maritime surveillance and awareness.

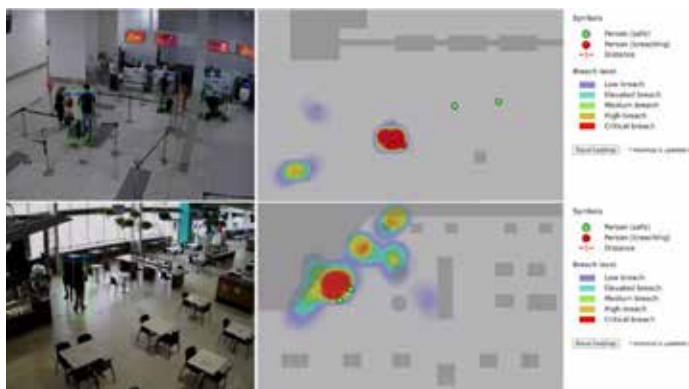


Each system is composed of a 450 m³ Eagle Owl tethered aerostat, equipped with a Hensoldt ARGOS II HD EO/IR optronic gimbal, a Diades Marine maritime radar, and an AIS receiver. The systems are contributing to the monitoring of maritime areas, and provide Frontex with the ability to detect, recognize and identify activities of interest. Each aerostat is accompanied by a ground station which is equipped with a C2

(Command and Control) workstation. The ground station thus controls the sensors, analyses the collected data, and transmits the most relevant information to Frontex operation centres. The system also allows the distribution of the maritime surveillance picture to any remote user through the use of web-based or mobile applications connected to the C2 system.

Researchers design AI system for social distance breach detection

Griffith University researchers have developed an AI video surveillance system to detect social distancing breaches in an airport without compromising privacy.



By keeping image processing gated to a local network of cameras, the team bypassed the traditional need to store sensitive data on a central system.

Professor Dian Tjondronegoro from Griffith Business School says data privacy is one of the biggest concerns with this technology because the system has to constantly observe people's activities to be effective.

"With our system, the central machine only needs to periodically call on local nodes to send updates they've made to their decision-making models without needing to see the images they've captured."

"These adjustments are added to the central decision-making model to

improve accuracy."

Published in Information, Technology & People, the case study was completed at an airport which, pre-COVID-19 had 6.5 million passengers annually with 17,000 passengers on-site daily. Hundreds of cameras cover 290,000 square metres with hundreds of shops and more than 40 check-in points.

Researchers tested several cutting-edge algorithms, lightweight enough for local computation, across nine cameras in three related case studies testing automatic people detection, automatic crowd counting and social distance breach detection to find the best balance of performance without sacrificing accuracy and reliability.

HENSOLDT to support Frontex maritime surveillance project – ARGOS-II HD thermal imaging camera to be deployed on aerostats

Leading-edge sensor technology developed by HENSOLDT will strengthen Frontex maritime surveillance in the Mediterranean Sea and contribute to the protection of Europe's strategic south-eastern border.



In the frame of a technology pilot programme, HENSOLDT's ARGOS-II HD electro-optical infra-red (eoir) system will be deployed on two tethered aerostats and deliver extensive security surveillance.

The project is operated by Frontex – the European Border and Coast Guard Agency – which has the mandate to safeguard the external borders of the European Union and ensure the freedom and territorial integrity of member states.

Andreas Huelle, Head of HENSOLDT's Optronics Division, says: "This innovative technology offers Frontex the ability

to monitor a very strategic maritime coastline and collect critical data. This is a capability that has been identified as a strategic priority by both the EU and the United Nations."

The ARGOS-II HD forms part of an integrated turn-key solution that consists of advanced sensors that are fitted on two aerostats, provided by CNIM Air Space, tethered on Greek islands in the Aegean Sea. At altitudes of several hundred metres above the host islands the ARGOS-II covers a range of up to 40 km and can detect both large and small vessels and monitor activities with exceptional clarity and detail.

Construction of the Druskininkai border barrier in Lithuania begins

The Department of Property Management and Economy under the Ministry of the Interior will soon announce a public procurement aimed at purchasing more materials. Both Lithuanian and foreign companies will be able to submit their bids.



"Lithuania received part of the material as support from Estonia, part of it was purchased, and other purchases are made in parallel in order to purchase not only the material, but also the installation works. The governments of Ukraine and Estonia are being consulted on the supply of the material. The barrier will be installed on a new, more modern principle, the aim is to make it stronger and more reliable," says the Minister of the Interior Agnė Bilotaitė.

A physical barrier as a preventive measure against illegal migration will be introduced in those sections that are most often chosen by migrants. Since the beginning of

the illegal migration crisis, the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) has strengthened border protection with Belarus. In addition to various organizational measures, officials from other SBGS units were seconded to this section and additional technical resources were allocated. Border guards are also assisted by forces from other Lithuanian institutions, including the army, as well as officials from the European Border and Coast Guard Agency FRONTEX, Estonia and Austria. More than 100 officials from different European Union member states help to protect the Lithuanian border, as well as Frontex cars, helicopters and thermal imaging equipment.

Smiths Detection supports donation of mobile inspection system to Beirut Port to increase safety

Smiths Detection announced the commissioning of an HCVM scanner by the Lebanese Customs at the Port of Beirut as part of a collaboration with the Embassy of France in Lebanon, the French Ministry of Economy and Finance, Expertise France and the CMA CGM Group, a world leader in shipping and logistics.



This mobile X-ray inspection system will increase the security of the port by providing it with improved detection of hazardous materials and illicit substances.

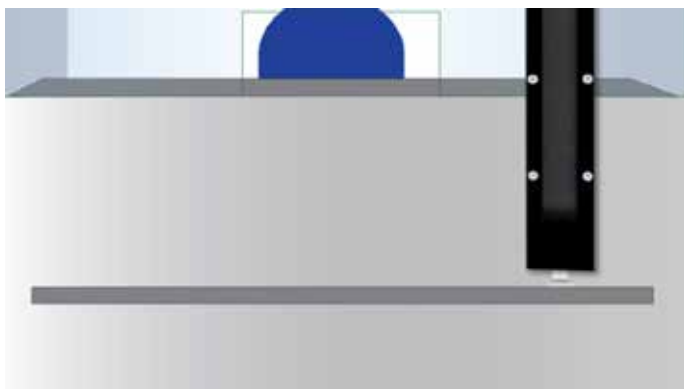
This equipment, financed by the General Directorate of the Treasury, will play a critical role in the fight against smuggling. It also includes two years of maintenance of this scanner provided weekly by Smiths Detection, technical assistance for its installation and training of Lebanese Customs officers in charge of its operation. Transport of the

scanner, from Vitry, France to Beirut, was carried out with the support of Smiths Detection's partner, CMA CGM, as part of its continued support in Lebanon since the devastating explosion of 4 August 2020.

The HCVM was welcomed at the port by Anne Grillo, Ambassador of France to Lebanon, who said: "This new scanner [HCVM] will improve the detection of dangerous goods and the fight against smuggling. It will thus contribute to Lebanon's economic recovery by restoring to Lebanese Customs its full capacity to act."

Cognitec Technologies to Capture Facial Images at German Borders

Technologies from Cognitec Systems will capture biometric facial images of all relevant travelers from third countries as part of the European Entry/Exit System (EES). Cognitec was awarded the contract for the delivery of the capturing devices in Germany.



Cognitec's technology will be installed at border check points in all international airports and seaports in Germany. The contract initially spans four years and includes the delivery of more than 1700 FaceVACS-Entry CS devices, followed by installation and maintenance.

"We feel proud and excited to be working with the German authorities on this major project," says Managing Director Alfredo Herrera. "In the past 20 years, Cognitec has contributed many pioneering products to automate airport and border control processes.

This profound technical expertise, combined with our experience in working on government projects, will serve well to ready Germany's borders for the EU entry/exit system." FaceVACS-Entry CS offers highly innovative features to quickly capture standards-compliant portrait images: instant camera positioning according to body height, active lighting, and interactive user guidance. In addition, its light-weight, slim design and flexible mounting methods enable installations on Germany's varied border check booths.

DHS S&T Funds Washington Startup to Test Metamaterial-Based Radar

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) awarded \$454,099 to Echodyne Corporation of Kirkland, Washington, to continue critical research and development on new radar systems using metamaterials. DHS awarded the funds through a Phase 5 Other Transaction Agreement with S&T's Silicon Valley Innovation Program (SVIP).



Previous Echodyne efforts with SVIP have focused on the development of an innovative Metamaterials Electronically Scanning Array (MESA®) radar for use in a variety of border security applications. MESA uses metamaterials to build a new architecture for fully electronic scanning radar systems with high fidelity and fast directional changes—with much lower cost, size, weight, and power. "The Echodyne radar was a key sensor in the successful U.S. Customs and Border Protection Autonomous Surveillance

Towers Program," said SVIP Transition Director Ron McNeal. "This Phase 5 award will allow S&T and DHS to explore new use cases for the MESA radar in Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems scenarios. This is a great opportunity to explore new applications of this proven technology and increase the impact of SVIP's investment to reach more DHS users." S&T will begin integrating the radar with other sensors into a system-of-systems that will be tested later this year to evaluate its ability to detect and track small unmanned aircraft systems.

DroneShield Enters C-UAS Training and Simulation Market

DroneShield announce the release of DroneSim, a lightweight and rapidly deployable UAS/drone simulator that is able to mimic common drone signals for the purpose of C-UAS system testing and validation. The device is capable of generating aerial (UAV), ground (UGV) and water surface (USV) drone signals.



Constructed within a ruggedized hard case with MIL-SPEC connectors, DroneSim is durable and requires minimal training to install and operate. When connected to a network, DroneSim can be operated remotely. This allows for faster system testing and system testing

in environments where drones may be unable to fly. An easy-to-use GUI allows the user to select between different drone/UAS protocols and requires minimal training to use. The product was developed in response to customer demand.

SmartTravel from Veridos implements new ICAO recommendations for digital travel authorizations

In its new technical report, the ICAO makes recommendations for the design of digital travel authorizations.



This approach reduces the use of paper-based forms and processes and, for instance, speeds up the verification of visa-exempt foreign nationals who have to provide certain information when entering

specific countries.

With SmartTravel from Veridos public authorities can adopt the ICAO guidelines through a quick and flexible implementation process.

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Portugal has a highly developed economy and is a much-visited tourist destination. Portugal's geographical position makes it the gateway to the Mediterranean and a stopover for many foreign airlines at several airports within the country.

Portugal is also part of the Schengen area and has been an early adopter of biometrics and eGate technology.

With their experience of being in the frontline of the smuggling of drugs and illicit goods from the Atlantic, THB and economic migration challenges from Africa, Portugal is the perfect place re-convene for the next meeting of the World Border Security Congress.

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