

Previous Developments in AVSEC – Guyana

IDB/MIF Programmes - Backdrop

The Inter-American Development Bank/Multilateral Investment Funding Security Strengthening Project was initially developed by the IDB to ensure that countries within the Caribbean and Latin American region enhance security measures associated with civil aviation operation within their borders. Many acts of unlawful interference (AUI) and terrorist attacks were directed against civil aviation operations across the world, in particular, the industrialized countries for political or ideological reasons. Developing countries were most vulnerable as air transport was not restricted to the developed world, but included a complex network of civil aviation operations amongst 200 sovereign territories.

Many acts of unlawful interference came in the form of hijacking, sabotage to aircraft or to the avionics of aircraft, damage to air navigation facilities, attacks against civil airports, attack against passengers on-board an aircraft; and since the wake of 9-11, it was considered critical that countries focus their attention towards implementing security controls that will prevent similar occurrences of acts of terrorism. However, lesser developed countries hadn't the appropriate support system in place to allow the implementation of stringent security measures to domestic and international civil aviation operations. Hence, the need for the Inter-American Development Bank/Multilateral Investment Funding Security Strengthening Programme was seen as critical in assisting States to achieve this end.

IDB/MIF Security Strengthening – Guyana

The IDB/MIF Security Strengthening project was aimed at enhancing aviation security in Guyana in order to better satisfy the international requirements of ICAO. The IDB Multilateral Investment Funding Security Strengthening Programme's approach to enhancing aviation security in Guyana followed specific criteria stipulated in its terms of reference (TOR) developed by the IDB in consultation with the Air Transport Reform Unit within the Ministry of Public Works & Communication.

The amount committed to this project by IDB was US\$500,000.00 and was executed during 2007 and 2008. More importantly, the overarching objective of the project was to improve the capability of small developing States to implement measures to counter threats of terrorism as air transport worldwide faced many new and emerging threats.

The objective of the IDB/MIF project was to be achieved through strengthen of the existing aviation security structure at the National and Airport levels. This was approached through the use of three core components specified in the Terms of Reference of the MIF project – (1) the Regulatory Strengthening component, (2) New Administrative Services, and (3) the Training component. The regulatory component provided the opportunity to enhance aviation security policies (NCASP) and supporting sub-programmes which is generally used by GCAA to ensure stakeholders' compliance. Much collaborative work on the NCASP documents and sub-programmes were done between the project team/consultants and the GCAA.

The “New Administrative Services” component saw the provision and supply of key aviation security equipment, communication equipment, training manuals, and IT equipment to stakeholders namely, the GCAA, the CJIA and OAI. The third and final component – Training, provided extensive exposure on aviation security for stakeholders' employees. Approximately 400 persons taken from law enforcement agencies, airline operator, airport security units, cargo companies, security service providers and the GCAA were trained over a three month period in areas such as hostage negotiation, cargo security, fraudulent documentation, basic aviation security course, incident command system, and bomb recognition and customer service. The MIF programme also intended to impart specialized skills to a small cadre of persons so that they could support the regulatory arm of the civil aviation or airport authority.