

# ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

cicad

**THIRTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION**  
**November 17-20, 2003**  
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Overview of proposed seminars

## **OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED SEMINARS**

### **SOURCE WITNESS PROTECTION SEMINAR**

One of the most serious difficulties in addressing criminal organizations is dealing with the impunity with which these criminals shield themselves. Because of the inability of many states to provide adequate protection to witnesses who would dare to testify against members of criminal organizations, many criminal trials are compromised, and thus many criminals are never brought to justice.

The protection and management of key witnesses is crucial to organized crime investigations. As trans-national crime becomes the focus of law enforcement operations across the world, the use of informants and witnesses across jurisdictions brings about many concerns: physical protection, payments and rewards to informants, civil liability, risk due to corruption and other security breach, human rights issues, etc. The protection of witnesses and informants and their family is also a state responsibility and brings about serious human rights issues.

The RCMP has developed a comprehensive source witness protection program that includes appropriate financial and psychological support, security, and compensation.

The project consists of a 4-day workshop on witness protection programs during the first semester of 2004. Approximately 26 participants from the English-speaking member states in the Caribbean would be invited to participate. Each country will be invited to nominate two participants. The costs (travel, per diem etc) will be shared with the workshop organizers covering one participant and the member state covering the cost of its second participant.

This workshop will examine the many aspects of witness protection, including legislation, program management, physical security, training, personal security and support, as well as international cooperation. Regional issues will be discussed to facilitate cross-border cooperation. Since the presentations will be based on the Canadian experience, the participants will be invited to share their best practices and experience in order to best address regional considerations.

### **PRIORITY SETTING: TARGETING SPECIFIC ORGANIZED CRIME GROUPS - PROJECT SLEIPNIR**

In combating organized crime, law enforcement agencies can no longer afford simply to react to event but it must strategically decide, based on available intelligence, where to allocate its resources. One key element of intelligence led policing is the capability to identify operational priorities and to strategically allocate resources to these priorities. Project Sleipnir is an analytical threat-measurement technique, developed by the RCMP, which uses a rank-ordered set of attributes to compare organized groups of criminals to assess the relative threat posed by these groups to society. This, in turn, fulfills an integral role in setting the RCMP's national

priorities through its Criminal Operations Model. This workshop will introduce the participants to Project Sleipnir and its applications on a national and regional basis.

CICAD, with assistance from the RCMP, proposes to deliver a 4-day training seminar during the first semester of 2004 in a location to be determined. Each member state will be invited to nominate two participants. The costs (travel, per diem etc) will be shared with the workshop organizers covering one participant and the member state covering the cost of its second participant.

## **UNDERCOVER OPERATIONS TRAINING COURSES**

One of the most effective tools available to law enforcement is the Undercover Technique. This technique is a highly effective method used to infiltrate criminal organizations in order to gather and corroborate evidence. This technique is also a highly productive method of intelligence gathering, even without immediate prosecution. Criminal organizations and their activities would go largely undetected, if not for use of the undercover technique.

The RCMP has developed a comprehensive undercover program that includes extensive training, monitoring, and support. By assisting countries to establish similar undercover programs, the security and skills of those conducting these operations will be enhanced, as will the quality of evidence gathered. Proper training and management will also help to ensure a transparent program which will ensure the respect of the basic human rights of individuals as well as a high level of credibility in judicial prosecutions.

The project consists of a 4-5 day workshop on the RCMP undercover program during the first semester of 2004 in a location to be determined. Approximately 36 participants from the 18 Spanish speaking CICAD member states will be invited to participate. Each country will be invited to nominate two participants. The costs (travel, per diem etc) will be shared with the workshop organizers covering one participant and the member state covering the cost of its second participant.

The workshop will be aimed at law enforcement officials in a position to develop and implement an undercover program within their country or agency. The set-up and management of an undercover program will be thoroughly discussed, as well as an overview of the benefits and dangers in conducting undercover operations. An explanation of the undercover training program will also be given, as well as the selection process for potential undercover personnel. The workshop will focus on program support, legislation, and policy.

## **CROSS-BORDER CRIME REGIONAL FORA**

Canada and the US have had great success in addressing trans-border crime issues through the annual Cross-Border Crime Forum (CBCF). The Cross-Border Crime Forum was initially created in response to the increased trafficking of tobacco and alcohol across the Canada-US border, and is evolving by broadening the range of subjects and by creating more sub-groups,

which work on issues during the year. The format of the CBCF provides an opportunity for information sharing and joint endeavors for both countries.

The objectives of the project are to introduce the concept of the cross-border crime forum as vehicle for cooperation, highlight the benefits and share best practices as to how to introduce the CBCF approach. The project includes a training seminar for the Spanish-speaking member states of CICAD. The Executive Secretariat will work with the RCMP and other organizations such as the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE) to organize and deliver this training seminar.

Approximately 36 participants from the 18 Spanish speaking CICAD member states will be invited to participate. The workshop will take place during the first quarter of 2004 in a site to be determined. Each country will be invited to nominate two participants. The costs (travel, per diem etc) will be shared with the workshop organizers covering one participant and the member state covering the cost of its second participant.

### **HEALTH, EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT IN PARTNERSHIP (HEP):**

Health, Education and Enforcement in Partnership (HEP) is an eight-year-old network of partners representing diverse perspectives committed to working together to create innovative ways to address substance use and abuse issues. HEP is informed, in part, by epidemiological studies that enable partners to respond effectively to identified trends. It functions at the municipal, provincial and federal levels encouraging multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral policy and program initiatives to accomplish what they could not otherwise accomplish alone. The National Steering Committee is co-chaired by the Canadian Center on Substance Abuse (CCSA) and the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. Members include the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, Alcohol and Drug Concerns, Correctional Services Canada, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Health Canada, Justice Canada, National Crime Prevention Centre, RCMP, Solicitor General Canada, Student Life Education Company, Canadian Association of Principals and the National Parole Board.

The proposed project includes a two-day workshop to be held in the first quarter of 2004 in a site to be determined. Approximately 26 participants from the 13 English-speaking CICAD member states in the Caribbean will be invited to participate. Each country will be invited to nominate two participants. The costs (travel, per diem etc) will be shared with the workshop organizers covering one participant and the member state covering the cost of its second participant.

The purpose of the workshop is to introduce the HEP approach, highlighting the potential of the approach and steps needed to develop multi-sectoral partnerships in the region. The goal of the workshop is to assess the readiness of HEP-like approaches that are and can be developed in the Caribbean. Further, participants will explore the feasibility of a pilot site in the Caribbean to implement HEP with a view of identifying a Regional HEP “champion” and integrating the HEP approach into a larger strategy for CICAD.

## **Seminars**

The schedule for the seminars is as follows:

February 9-13 - Priority Setting: Targeting Specific Organized Crime Groups - Project Sleipnir  
- (Site to be determined)  
- all member states

February 23 – 27 – Undercover operations training seminar (Site to be determined)  
- Spanish speaking member states

March 15 - 19 - Witness protection (Site to be determined)  
- English-speaking member states in the Caribbean

March 29 – April 1 - Cross border co-operation regional forum (Site to be determined)  
- Spanish speaking member states

Date to be determined - Integrated Health, Education and Enforcement in Partnership (HEP) –  
(Site to be determined)  
- English-speaking member states in the Caribbean

Member states are invited to submit the names of their nominees for each of the relevant workshops noted above. The timing of the seminars relative to the holidays make it **necessary to ask that nominations be submitted to Mr. Rafael Parada by December 22, 2003**. His contact information is as follows: phone 202-458-3614, [rparada@oas.org](mailto:rparada@oas.org), fax: 202-458-3658. Nominations must be received by this date in order to make the necessary administrative arrangements in time for the seminars.