



OSCE Centre in Ashgabad supports training on use of X-ray detection systems

ASHGABAD, 28 September 2007 - Border security officials were trained to use x-ray detection systems and metal detectors as well as conduct physical searches at courses organized by the OSCE Centre which concluded today.

Twenty-five officers of Turkmenistan's State Customs Service, Interior Ministry and State Border Service took part in the two one-week courses, organized by the OSCE Centre in Ashgabad in co-operation with the Foreign Ministry and the State Customs Service.

"This time of increased terrorist and criminal activity across international borders demands heightened security," said Stewart Hanson of Smart Approach, a global provider of leading high-tech security training solutions, who delivered the training courses.

"It is vitally important that officers are conversant with International Civil Aviation Organization and European Civil Aviation Conference security recommendations, and are capable of using the best techniques and technologies to counter those threats."

The courses, which were held at the Customs Training Centre, included computer simulation and interactive search exercises, as well as lectures on relevant standards and procedures. Participants learned how to detect contraband, interpret images and conduct physical searches.

"These courses form an integral part of the Centre's ongoing programme for strengthening border management in Turkmenistan," said Ambassador Ibrahim Djikic, Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabad. "Technical training events, exercises on Turkmenistan's borders, and trips to border posts of other participating states all combine to reinforce OSCE's comprehensive Border Management Concept and build co-operation that is vital at both the local and regional levels."

The training courses were a follow-up to classes held in March and April 2006, and the Centre plans to continue its support in this area in 2008.

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