



FIRST AIRCOP TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED IN THE MENA REGION

AIRCOP, in coordination with INTERCOPS, delivered a training on “Frontline identification of suspicious passengers” from 2 to 6 September 2018 to the future JAITF established at Queen Alia International Airport, in Amman, Jordan, followed by a mentoring. In the coming weeks, the task force will be operational, becoming the 25th JAITF in the global AIRCOP network.

FBI/INTERPOL WANTED PASSENGER IDENTIFIED IN EL SALVADOR

The AIRCOP Joint Airport Task Force (JAITF) in El Salvador detected a passenger wanted for 12 years by the FBI and INTERPOL on terrorism charges for arson and the destruction of an electric tower. The investigation, coordinated between the Salvadorian JAITF, the government of the United States and the Cuban authorities, led to the interception of the passenger at La Havana International Airport, Cuba.

DISRUPTION OF A MIGRANT SMUGGLING NETWORK

On 11 September 2018, the JAITF in Punta Cana International Airport, Dominican Republic, participated in the disruption of a migrant smuggling network operating between Central America, the Caribbean and Europe. A long-term investigation and identification process, coordinated between AIRCOP task force, the Dominican authorities and the Spanish police, led to the interception of dozens of passengers travelling with fraudulent documents over several months, and to the arrest of accomplices within the airport.



EU POLICY CYCLE FOR ORGANISED AND SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL CRIME FOR THE PERIOD 2018-2021

An Expert Meeting on Drugs organized by the European Commission was held on 11 and 12 September 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting promoted the exchange of information, best practices and challenges in addressing serious crimes, in particular drug trafficking. Several UNODC programmes contributed to the thematic sessions, including AIRCOP, CRIMJUST and the Container Control Programme.



AIRCOP STEPS UP COOPERATION WITH COLOMBIA

On 21 September 2018, AIRCOP Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean met with the director of the Anti-Narcotics Directorate of the Colombian National Police (DIRAN), and agreed to strengthen AIRCOP implementation in Colombia, both through the existing task force at the El Dorado airport in Bogota, as well as through possible expansion to Cartagena, Rio Negro or Cali. The Coordinator also discussed a future partnership with the Regional School of the American Community of Anti-Drug Intelligence (ERCAIAD) in terms of capacity building.

COCAINE SEIZED AT COTONOU AIRPORT, BENIN

AIRCOP task force in Cotonou, Benin, intercepted 21 kg of cocaine on 15 September 2018. The cocaine was trafficked using a new modus operandi: the passenger arrived a couple of days before, and the luggage arrival was postponed. The task force officers detected the suspicious luggage during its scan, and arrested the passenger when he came to pick it up.

INTERCEPTION OF A PASSENGER HAVING INGESTED 95 PELLETS OF COCAINE

The JAITF of Bissau intercepted on 18 September 2018 a passenger travelling from Sao Paulo to Bissau with a layover in Lisbon. The passenger had ingested 95 pellets of cocaine, equivalent to 1 kg.