

# Emergency Preparedness and Response & CBRNE Counter-Terrorism Response

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## Development and execution of exercise BIOSHIELD AMERICAS 2010

INTERPOL, with cooperation from the NCTb, recently requested that ISR assist in the development and delivery of an international bioterrorism table-top exercise. Held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 14-16 June, the BIOSHIELD AMERICAS 2010 international bioterrorism tabletop exercise was designed to help focus on, and foster, a joint understanding of the roles and responsibilities of police, health care professionals and crisis management experts in response to an international bioterrorism incident. The exercise was also designed to identify possible gaps or redundancies.

The three-day event brought together 42 senior representatives of public health authorities, law enforcement (police and customs) and national crisis centres from 14 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, Uruguay). The exercise focused on increasing the understanding of the interoperability and communications issues and requirements between participating national and international organizations and government authorities, in response to a bioterrorism threat. Participants in the workshop were faced with a fictional bio-terrorism scenario developed and delivered by ISR to assist them in identifying critical co-operation and co-ordination issues necessary to respond to such an attack.

The scenario was truly international in scope, with various components of the threat organization located in several countries, spread across three continents with the intention of executing an attack at a major event somewhere in South America.

Following the success of this exercise, ISR has been retained by the NCTb to develop and deliver exercise BIOSHIELD GLOBAL 2010, to be held in the Netherlands in November 2010.

