



INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH AN ASSET RECOVERY INTER-AGENCY NETWORK (ARIN) IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION

PRACTITIONERS MEETING

**NOVEMBER 15-16, 2016
BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS**

INFORMATION BULLETIN

This Practitioners Meeting is a collaborative effort of the Secretariat for Multi-Dimensional Security of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Regional Security Systems (RSS), and the Government of Barbados.

Along with this bulletin you will find the agenda for the meeting. Please bring both documents with you to the meeting.

Please take careful note of the following information regarding your travel to Barbados and participation in the meeting.

1. Contacts

For general information or enquiries regarding the Practitioner Meeting, please contact:

John Grajales, Technical Specialist, Department against Transnational Organized Crime (DTCO), Organization of American States
Tel: +1 (202) 370-4736 / Cell.: +1 (240) 938-1053
Email: jgrajales@oas.org

If your air ticket has been booked by RSS and you require any assistance, please contact:

Simone Graham, Programme Administrator, Regional Security System - Asset Recovery Unit (RSS-ARU)
Tel: +1 (246) 428-1488
Email: paaru@rss.org.bb



2. Dates and Venue

The Practitioner Meeting will be held from **Tuesday, November 15 to Wednesday, November 16, 2016** at:

Radisson Aquatica Resort
Aquatic Gap, Carlisle Bay
Bridgetown, St. Michael
BARBADOS

Tel: +1 (246) 426-4000

Fax: +1 (246) 4292400

Email: RH_BBDS@Radisson.com

Web: <http://www.radisson.com/st-michael-hotel-bb/brbbbds>

3. Air Tickets

Participants who will be travelling should have already received a round trip air ticket issued through the General Secretariat of the OAS or RSS. In this regard, you will need to submit your boarding passes for out-bound flights to John Grajales on the morning of the first day. Please be sure to bring them with you to the Practitioner Meeting. Boarding passes for in-bound flights should be scanned and submitted by email to John Grajales as soon as possible following your return home.

Participants should also have received an invitation letter from Jill Thomas, OAS consultant for the ARIN-CA project. We recommend that you print and travel with a copy of this letter, should you need to present it to Immigration Officials as evidence of the purpose of your trip.

4. Visas

Document requirements or visas vary depending on the country of origin in accordance with the migratory agreements. Therefore, it is suggested to verify these requirements by contacting the embassy or consulate of Barbados in your country. For more information, please consult the following link: <https://www.visitbarbados.org/plan-your-trip/visa-and-entry-requirements>



In countries or jurisdictions in which there is not an embassy or consulate of Barbados, you can apply for a visa in the closest Barbadian embassy to your country. Please note that the expiration date of your passport should be at least 6 months from the date of travel and must contain at least two blank pages.

5. Arrival and Departure

All participants will arrive at and depart from Barbados' Grantley Adams International Airport, which is a 20-minute drive to/from the accommodation.

The Government of Barbados through the office of the Director of Public Prosecution has gratefully offered to provide transportation for all participants on arrival and departure. On arrival, please look out for signage referring to the "ARIN-CA", which may be located either inside the arrivals hall or at the exit from the Customs area. Arrangements for your departure will be shared during the Practitioner Meeting.

6. Accommodation

All participants travelling to Barbados will stay at the venue of the Practitioner Meeting – the **Radisson Aquatica Resort** (see hotel details above). The OAS will book a **Single, Standard Room** for each participant financed by the OAS at the Radisson and will settle the bill for these rooms directly with the hotel.

If you are part of the group financed by the RSS, please contact Ms. Simone Graham who will provide specific information on the topic.

Any additional room charges incurred by participants (*room upgrades, room service, minibar, laundry, telephone calls, etc.*) **must** be settled by participants directly with the hotel prior to leaving Barbados. Payments should be made at the Reception Desk in the hotel's lobby utilizing any payment method which the hotel accepts.



7. Meals

The Practitioner Meeting organizers have purchased a meal plan to cover all meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) for participants staying at the Radisson Aquatica. Participants living in Barbados will be included in the arrangements for lunch on the days of the Seminar.

Any additional meal charges incurred by participants (extra meals, room service, alcoholic beverages, etc) **must** be settled by participants directly with the hotel prior to leaving Barbados. Payments should be made at the reception desk in the hotel's lobby utilizing any payment method which the hotel accepts.

8. Per Diem

All participant costs associated with the meeting (accommodation, meals, airport transfers in Barbados) will be paid directly by the meeting organizers. Participants funded by the OAS will therefore receive per diem and terminal expenses at the OAS office in their respective countries.

If you are part of the group financed by the RSS, please contact Ms. Simone Graham who will provide specific information on the topic.

9. Currency

The official currency is the Barbados dollar (BBD) and the exchange rate is fixed at BBD \$1.98 = USD \$1. Major credit cards and traveler's checks are widely accepted, along with US cash. ATMs can be found at the airport, gas stations, most supermarkets and at all banks, which include, but are not limited to, the CIBC First Caribbean International Bank, Republic Bank (Barbados) Ltd., Scotiabank and the RBC Royal Bank.

10. Time

Barbados keeps Atlantic Standard Time – UTC/GMT -4 hours.

11. Weather

The weather in Barbados is generally warm all year round with an average daytime high of 30°C / 86°F. The nights are slightly cooler.



While Barbados lies outside of the principal Atlantic hurricane belt, it can be affected by hurricanes and severe weather events. The hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30 every year, so you should remain aware of weather conditions while you are in the country.

Local and international weather updates from the World Meteorological Organizations can be found at: <http://www.wunderground.com/cgi-bin/findweather/getForecast?query=barbados>.

Advisories on storms in the Atlantic basin are available from the National Hurricane Center at: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

12. Health

As the Caribbean is prone to vector borne diseases, we encourage you to visit the websites of the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) – <http://carpha.org/> - and the Pan-American Health Organisation www.paho.org – for the latest updates and travel advice prior to your travel.

It is recommended that all participants travel with international medical insurance.

13. Electricity

Electricity in Barbados is 110 volts / 50 cycles. If you are using a U.S. or Canadian 120 volt appliance, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need. Most hotels in Barbados can provide adapters and transformers for hair dryers and other appliances.

14. Emergency Contacts

Emergency Telephone Numbers:

Fire: 311
Police: 211 or (246) 430-7100
Ambulance: 511



Medical Facilities:

Queen Elizabeth Hospital
Martindales Road, St. Michael
Tel: (246) 436-6450

Bayview Hospital (Private)
St. Paul's Avenue
St. Michael
Tel: (246) 436-5446

15. Personal Safety

Generally speaking, Barbados is a safe and peaceful country. Nevertheless, crime does exist so you are advised to maintain at least the same level of personal security awareness as you would anywhere else. Avoid walking alone in isolated areas, including beaches, particularly after dark.

Do not carry large amounts of cash or jewelry. Valuables and travel documents should be left in safe keeping at the hotel.

There is a low threat from terrorism in Barbados. Still, you should be aware of the global risk of indiscriminate terrorist attacks which could be in public areas, including those frequented by expatriates and foreign travelers.

16. Local Laws and Customs

There are severe penalties for all drug offences, including possession of illegal narcotics. It is also against the law for anyone, even children, to dress in camouflage clothing or carry items made with camouflage material.

There is a no smoking law in Barbados. Barbadians and visitors stand to be prosecuted if found smoking in public areas. The legislation is designed to protect vulnerable individuals and groups from the harmful effects of second-hand tobacco smoke. A public place is defined as a building, place, structure, or facility that is owned or occupied by the Crown or a statutory board; a place, site, building, factory, plant, workplace or other



structure that is fully or substantially enclosed; and a hotel lobby, hotel room, restaurant, library, museum, auditorium, historic or other site of archaeological or national significance.

Persons in violation of this law is subject to a fine, imprisonment or both.

17. Things to do in Barbados

While a combination of the Practitioner Meeting agenda and travel arrangements will not allow much time for traditional tourist activities, the website of the Barbados Tourism Board – <https://www.visitbarbados.org/> - provides helpful information on things to do in Barbados.

18. Duty-Free Shopping

Visitors to Barbados can enjoy shopping duty-free, with prices typically being 30 to 50% less than in Europe and North America. When making duty-free purchases be sure to have your travel documents with you to receive discounts on items such as jewelry, fashion accessories, electronics, cameras, watches and of course Barbados' own rum. Some stores will even deliver your packages to the airport or sea port for your convenience.

Bridgetown, the capital city is the heart of shopping in Barbados. There are several large department stores and duty free shops, in addition to the specialty stores and shopping malls offering a wide variety of products and services.

There are also several smaller towns that offer exciting shopping opportunities like Holetown and Speightstown. These feature a number of smaller craft and gift shops.