

delays in OMB's receipt and processing of mail sent through the U.S. Postal Service, respondents are encouraged to submit comments by fax to: (202) 395-6974.

Dated: January 13, 2005.

Anna Marsh,

Executive Officer, SAMHSA.

[FR Doc. 05-1217 Filed 1-21-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4162-20-M

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Security of Aircraft and Safety of Passengers Transiting Port-au-Prince, Haiti

AGENCY: Transportation Security Administration, DHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice informs the public that the Department of Homeland Security has determined that Port-au-Prince International Airport in Port-au-Prince, Haiti does not maintain and carry out effective security measures. Pursuant to this Notice, all United States and foreign air carriers (and their agents) providing service between the United States and Port-au-Prince International Airport are directed to provide written notice of this determination to any passenger purchasing a ticket for transportation between the United States and Haiti and to post notice of the determination at United States airports in accordance with statutory requirements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Tiedge, Director, International Affairs, Transportation Security Administration, 601 South 12th Street, Arlington, VA, 22202, Telephone: (571) 227-2257, E-mail: David.Tiedge@dhs.gov.

Notice: Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 44907(a), the Secretary of Homeland Security is authorized to assess periodically the effectiveness of the security measures maintained by foreign airports that handle air carriers that serve the United States or that may pose a "high risk of introducing danger to international air travel." If the Secretary determines that a foreign airport does not maintain and carry out effective security measures, the Secretary is required to "notify the appropriate authorities of the government of the foreign country of the decision and recommend the steps necessary to bring the security measures up to the standard used * * * in making the assessment." 49 U.S.C. 44907(c).

Further, the Secretary must: (a) Publish the identity of the foreign

airport in the **Federal Register**, (b) post the identity of such airport at all United States airports at which scheduled air carrier operations are provided regularly, and (c) notify the news media of the identity of the airport. 49 U.S.C. 44907(d). In addition, the statute requires all air carriers providing service between the United States and the foreign airport in question to provide written notice of the determination, either on or with the ticket, to all passengers purchasing transportation between the United States and the airport. 49 U.S.C. 44907(d)(1)(B).

On December 22, 2004, the Secretary of Homeland Security notified the Government of Haiti that, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 44907, he had determined that Port-au-Prince International Airport, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, does not maintain and carry out effective security measures. This determination is based on Transportation Security Administration (TSA) assessments that reveal that security measures used at Port-au-Prince International Airport do not meet the standards established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is issuing this Notice pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 44907(d)(1) to inform the public of this determination. DHS directs that notice of the determination be displayed prominently in all United States airports with regularly scheduled air carrier operations. Further, DHS will notify the news media of this determination. In addition, as a result of this determination, 49 U.S.C. 44907(d)(1)(B) requires that each United States and foreign air carrier (and their agents) providing transportation between the United States and Port-au-Prince International Airport shall provide notice of DHS's determination to each passenger buying a ticket for transportation between the United States and Port-au-Prince International Airport, with such notice to be made by written material included on or with such ticket.

Dated: January 13, 2005.

Tom Ridge,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 05-1244 Filed 1-21-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Directorate of Science and Technology; Notice Designating Homeland Security Centers of Excellence

AGENCY: Science and Technology Directorate, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Homeland Security is designating lead universities as Department of Homeland Security Centers of Excellence.

DATES: The designation made in this Notice is effective on January 24, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Petonito, Deputy Director, University Programs, Science and Technology Directorate, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC 20528; telephone 202-254-5840, facsimile 202-254-6165; e-mail laura.petonito@dhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 308 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2170 (Nov. 26, 2002) (HSA) (6 U.S.C. 188), as amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003, Pub. L. 108-7, div. L, § 101(1), 117 Stat. 526 (Feb. 20, 2003), directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to sponsor extramural research, development, demonstration, testing and evaluation programs relating to homeland security. As part of this program, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is to establish a university-based center or centers for homeland security (Homeland Security Centers of Excellence or Centers).

The Centers are envisioned to be an integral and critical component of the Department's capability to anticipate, prevent, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks. The Centers will leverage multidisciplinary capabilities of universities and fill gaps in current knowledge.

Section 308(b)(2)(B) of the HSA lists fourteen areas of substantive expertise that, if demonstrated, might qualify universities for designation as university-based centers. The listed areas of expertise include, among others, food safety, first responders, multi-modal transportation, and responding to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction. However, the list is not exclusive. Section 308(b)(2)(C) of the HSA gives the Secretary discretion to consider additional criteria beyond those