

Influential parliamentary committee calls for shake up in UK counter terror strategy

London, 3 February 2010 – United Kingdom counter terrorism strategy has been called into question, just two months before London plays host to a high level gathering of counter terrorism officials and specialists from around the world. In a damning report published by the influential Home Affairs Committee, the government has been accused of institutional inertia over terrorism.

“This prescient report underscores a fundamental issue that has bedevilled counter terrorism professionals for many a long year; that capability to meet current and future threats dissipates with the passage of time from the last major incident,” comments Peter Jones, Event Director, Counter Terror Expo 2010.

The report states that while the structures now in place may be suitable for combating the terrorist threat as currently constituted, Home Affairs Committee members are not confident that government institutions have the desire to constantly adapt to meet ever-changing threats.

It goes on to say that a lack of political will has hindered the institution of valuable reforms such as regional policing counter-terrorism units; and that those involved in counter-terrorism may be willing to settle for existing sub-optimal solutions, rather than pro-actively reforming to meet those ever-changing threats.

“The concerns raised in the report mirror hard experience gained elsewhere and emphasise the need for constant evolution in counter terrorism strategy,” adds Mr. Jones. “This is a key theme in the forthcoming Counter Terror Expo 2010, which brings the world's leading experts together with governmental and private sector specialists in the field, for two days of informed debate and private deliberation on the principal issues facing us today.”

Counter Terror Expo 2010 will be held at London Olympia. 14-15 April 2010.

Governmental agency inertia has been identified as one in a number reasons why alleged airline bomber Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab succeeded in boarding Northwest Airlines flight NWA 253 on Christmas Day and attempted to detonate an improvised explosive device as the aircraft descended toward Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula later claimed responsibility for the attack.

The device Abdulmutallab carried was similar to that used by Abdullah Hasan Tali al-Asiri, in the attempted assassination of Saudi Interior Minister, Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, in August of last year.

Subsequent to the attempted airliner downing, multiple countries have stepped up their intelligence sharing effort and begun to deploy additional countermeasures to protect the aviation industry against potential future attacks.

“The resurgence in Al-Qaeda attacks against key personnel and assets, highlights the fact

this terrorist organisation remains nimble and is by no means a spent force. Terrorist events over the past twelve months emphasise the continued need for effective sharing of expertise and Counter Terror Expo 2010 delivers the ideal forum in which to foster the necessary enabling links,” concludes Peter Jones.

Counter Terror Expo 2010 will bring over 4000 delegates from 77 countries together for this key event and against a backdrop of one of the most extensive technology exhibitions of its kind in the world today.

Ends.

Note to Editors

Counter Terror Expo 2010 will be held in the National Hall at London Olympia, 14-15 April. The event brings the world's leading experts in the counter terrorism field together with governmental agencies and those at the point of delivery, to debate the issues faced and solutions to such issues. Conference is held against a backdrop of multiple specialist workshops and one of the most extensive exhibitions of its kind in the world.

For more information on this mission critical and prestigious event, please contact Marketing Director Nicola Greenaway-Fuller at ngreenaway@niche-events.com or via telephone on +44 (0)208 542 9090.

The Home Affairs Committee published its report, “The Home Office's Response to Terrorist Attacks” on 2 February 2010.

The full Home Affairs Committee report can be found at:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmhaff/117-ii/117ii.pdf>