



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES OFFICERS RECEIVE TRAINING ON IDENTIFYING SYNTHETIC DRUGS

Port of Spain: The National Drug Council of the Ministry of National Security, working in collaboration with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission of the Organization of American States (CICAD/OAS), today, (August 22 2022), held the opening ceremony for the National Training Seminar for the Detection and Identification of Synthetic Drugs, including New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and their Precursor Chemicals at the Caribbean Counterdrug Intelligence Training School located at the Trinidad and Tobago Police Academy, St James.

This training programme takes place between August 22 to August 26, 2022 and is being hosted within the framework of activities of the Caribbean Counterdrug Intelligence Training School (CCITS). A total of twenty-eight (28) officers from across several Law Enforcement and Protective Services agencies, will benefit from it.

Delivering the feature address at the opening ceremony for the training programme was Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Security, Mr. Gary Joseph, who took the opportunity to welcome the visiting lecturers and coordinators to Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. Joseph thanked them for being here to deliver the much needed training programme to officers in law enforcement and the protective services agencies of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Joseph stated that the Ministry of National Security saw this initiative as a capacity building tool for the various agencies and organisations that were represented in the room, so that they can better identify and cope with existing and emerging transnational drug challenges.

Permanent Secretary Joseph went on to cite how important this training programme was to the officers, who may encounter these substances while carrying out their duties on a daily basis.

He said: "*New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), pose increasing risks to public health and safety and add another layer of complexity to an already challenging environment. Where there is a demand, there is supply and therefore we have to understand not only the trend of these substances but also the contents. With officers from various divisions having responsibility to encounter these NPS's, it is important that we ensure the safety of the men and women who have to assist in protecting our citizenry.*"

Also attending the opening ceremony today were, Foreign Affairs Officer, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), Counter-Narcotics Team, Office of Global Programs and Policy (INL/GPP), U.S Department of State , Mr. Jonathan Earles; Chief, Supply Reduction Unit, Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), Organization of American States (OAS)- Mr. Rafael Parada; representative from the Organization of American States, Office in Trinidad and Tobago, Ms. Marina Piper; Manager, National Drug Council, Ministry of National Security, Mrs. Cheryl St. Louis Felix and Provost, Trinidad and Tobago Police Academy, Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, Dr Simon Alexis.

Over the next few days participants will receive training on multiple topics, including an overview of how synthetic drugs and NPSs are illicitly produced (especially methamphetamine, MDMA and synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl and its analogues). The activity will also encompass recent drug trafficking trends and market developments, as well as the main techniques and challenges to investigate and interdict them.

Participating agencies include officers attached to the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service (TTFS), Trinidad and Tobago Forensic Science Centre (TTFSC); Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS); Ministry of Health; Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (TTDF); Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service (TTPrS); the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago; the Trinidad and Tobago Port Authority; the Transnational Organized Crime Unit (TOCU); the National Security Council, Integrated Threat Assessment Centre (ITAC) and the Custom and Excise Division, Ministry of Finance.

PHOTO AND CAPTION:



Caption: (From Left to Right) Administrator, Advance Programmes, Trinidad and Tobago Police Academy, Ms. Melissa Moreau; Representative from OAS/CICAD, Ms. Deborah Maestre; Interim Dean of the Faculty of Advance Law Enforcement Education and Training, Ms. Joanna Rocke-Collymore; Lecturer of the Training Programme, Mr. Wayne Jeffery; Foreign Affairs Officer, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL), Counter-Narcotics Team, Office of Global Programs and Policy (INL/GPP), U.S Department of State , Mr. Jonathan Earles; Chief, Supply Reduction Unit, Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), Organization of American States (OAS)- Mr. Rafael Parada; Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Security, Mr. Gary Joseph; Provost, Trinidad and Tobago Police Academy, Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, Dr Simon Alexis; Manager, National Drug Council, Ministry of National Security, Mrs. Cheryl St. Louis Felix; Lecturer of the Training Programme, Mr. Ihor Malynisky; Representative from the Organization of American States, Office in Trinidad and Tobago, Ms. Marina Piper; and course participants at the opening ceremony of the **National Training Seminar for the Detection and Identification of Synthetic Drugs, including New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and their Precursor Chemicals** at the Caribbean Counterdrug Intelligence Training School located at the Trinidad and Tobago Police Academy, St James, on August 22, 2022.

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