



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

November 17, 2022

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY MEETS WITH REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL OFFICIALS FOLLOWING LAUNCH OF THE CARICOM CRIME GUN INTELLIGENCE UNIT

Port of Spain: On Monday November 14, 2022, Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P., received a courtesy call from officials of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI); U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP); and the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS).

This visit followed the launch of the CARICOM Crime Gun Intelligence Unit (CGIU), held earlier in the day at the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security Headquarters in Port of Spain.

Minister Hinds welcomed all officials present and noted Government's concern regarding recent increases in gun-related violence in Trinidad and Tobago. He expressed his appreciation for the work being done by the respective local, regional and international agencies, to combat the trafficking of arms and ammunition. The Minister gave the assurance of Government's commitment to treating with reducing gun-related crimes in the country, through an integrated approach by all law enforcement stakeholders; and encouraged additional initiatives aimed at making Trinidad and Tobago, and the wider Caribbean region, a safer place.

Executive Director, CARICOM IMPACS, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Jones, thanked the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for its continued support to CARICOM IMPACS over the years, and indicated that the CARICOM GCIU is one of four top priority areas identified by Member States for implementation.

Representatives of the ATF, HSI and CBP underscored the strong relationship that has been established with local law enforcement agencies, and expressed optimism that the collaborative efforts would lead to successful outcomes.

Also present at the courtesy call were Chief of Defence Staff, Air Vice Marshal Darryl Daniel along with Vice Chief of Defence Staff Brigadier General Dexter Francis and other representatives of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force;

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Acting Commissioner of Police Mr. Mc Donald Jacob and Deputy Commissioner of Police Ms. Erla Christopher of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service; Executive Director, CARICOM IMPACS, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Jones; Executive Director, Regional Security System, Commodore Errington Shurland; Acting Chief of the ATF, Mr. Jason Tortorici; Regional Attaché of the HSI, Mr. Jeffrey Grimming; Attaché of the CBP, Mr. Jonathon Mardo; Deputy Director of the International Affairs Unit, Ministry of National Security Major (Ret'd) Richard Lynch; as well as representatives of Trinidad and Tobago's Transnational Organized Crime Unit (TOCU) and National Operations Fusion Centre.

Photos and captions:



1. Minister of National Security the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. (fifth from left) held discussions with local, regional and international security stakeholders on Monday November 14, 2022 at the Ministry of National Security, Temple Court I, Abercromby Street, Port of Spain.

Front row seated left to right: Programme Coordinator, CARICOM IMPACS, Ms. Danielle Jemmott; Attaché, CBP, Mr. Jonathon Mardo; Acting Chief, ATF, Mr. Jason Tortorici; Regional Attaché, HSI, Mr. Jeffrey Grimming; Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P.; Executive Director, CARICOM IMPACS, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Jones; Executive Director, Regional Security System, Commodore Errington Shurland; and Deputy Commissioner of Police, Ms. Erla Christopher.

Back row standing: Head, National Operations Fusion Centre, Lieutenant Colonel Dexter Metivier; Deputy Director, International Affairs Unit, Ministry of National Security, Major (Ret'd) Richard Lynch; Chief of Defence Staff, Air Vice Marshal Darryl Daniel; Vice Chief of Defence Staff, Brigadier General Dexter Francis; and Director of Operations, Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, Lieutenant Colonel Ashook Singh.



2. Minister of National Security the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. (centre) held discussions with local, regional and international security stakeholders on Monday November 14, 2022 at the Ministry of National Security, Temple Court I, Abercromby Street, Port of Spain.

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