

**Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority
Board Action/Information Summary** Action
 InformationMEAD Number:
99899Resolution:
 Yes No**PURPOSE**

To obtain the Board's approval for international travel for Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) Captain Erhart Olson to participate in an Anti-Terrorism Assistance (ATA) Program Workshop on transit security and counterterrorism as a subject matter expert. The United States Department of State, in conjunction with the Thai transit, police, military, and other ranking government officials will host this workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on November 8-17, 2007.

DESCRIPTION

Shortly after 9/11, the Kingdom of Thailand asked the Office of Anti-Terrorism Assistance of the United States Department of State to send a team of experts on transit security operations to Bangkok to meet with Thai transit, police, military, and other ranking government officials. WMATA and Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) were chosen by ATA as the transit agencies that would provide the subject experts.

Since the initial consultation to Thailand in January 2002, there have been two ATA missions on transit security and counterterrorism: in 2004 (again) in Thailand: and in 2005 in Malaysia. The Malaysian government has since asked to host a second ATA-sponsored transit-security workshop. Attendees would include representatives from Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore. ATA has agreed to the request and has set November 8 through 17 of this year as the travel dates for the U.S. team members. Captain Olson was chosen for his tactical-command experience, which includes contacts with the Malaysian national police. The experiences and knowledge that Captain Olson will bring to these issues will be a great asset to the workshop.

FUNDING IMPACT

No impact on funding. The Department of State will pay expenses incurred while traveling. These expenses include, but are not limited to, airfare, lodging accommodations, and meals.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approves the international travel for MTPD Captain Erhart Olson to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on November 8-17, 2007, as per Board policy governing International Travel by WMATA staff.