Border Management and People Clearance

The Singapore Experience

Interpol - 5th Special Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee

29 to 31 October 2007
SCOPE OF PRESENTATION

- Brief Facts about Singapore
- Overview of ICA
- Checkpoints Clearance Framework
- Integrated Border Control and use of technology for People Clearance
- Challenges in Border Control
Singapore – a city-state

- Population – 4.7 million
- Land Area – 704 sq km
Formed on 1 April 2003 as integral part of Singapore Government’s approach against global security threats

Under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

Merger of Singapore Immigration & Registration (MHA) and Customs & Excise Department (MOF), bringing together 2,400 Immigration officers & 1,000 Customs officers

ICA is also the national registration and passport issuing authority

ICA is not part of the National Police
ICA’s Mission

“We ensure that the movement of people, goods and conveyances through our checkpoints is legitimate & lawful.

We administer and uphold our laws on immigration, citizenship and national registration fairly and effectively.”

ICA’s Vision

Inspiring Confidence in All
ICA is more than just the merger of a Customs Service with an Immigration Authority.

ICA is a border protection agency which is responsible for the inspection and clearance of:

- People (travellers and crew)
- Cargo (containers and conventional cargo)
- Conveyances (aircraft, vessels and vehicles)
Checkpoints Operations

- Checkpoints are categorized into:
  - Ports Command
  - Coastal Command
  - Tuas Command
  - Woodlands Command
  - Airport Command
  - Air Cargo Command
Sea Checkpoints

- Sembawang Gate
- Changi Station
- Keppel Distripark
- Jurong FTZ Gate
- Jurong West Gate
- SCC
- WCFT
- JFP
- PPT
- TPG
- Brani Gate
- Clifford Pier
- Western Anchorage
- TMFT
- Eastern Anchorage
Land Checkpoints

Woodlands Checkpoint / Train Checkpoint

Tuas Checkpoint
In 2006, our checkpoints cleared:

- 135 million travellers
- 1,450,000 containers
- 5,000,000 consignments
- 1,100,000 parcels
Checkpoint Clearance Framework

People

- Without Visa
- With Visa

Goods/Vehicles

- Pre-Clearance
  - Document checks, Blacklists
  - Interviews, Inspection

Secondary Clearance

Singapore
People Clearance – 3 Key Factors

- **Identity**: establish that the traveler is indeed who he/she claims to be.

- **Documentation**: determine that the document is genuine and not tampered with.

- **Intent**: establish the purpose of travel.
Establishing Identity

- Visa Electronic Transmission System (VETS) provides on-line retrieval of visa records including photos for verification especially at the points of entry
- Visa stickers includes anti-Tamper security features
Establishing Identity

• Information Management System maintains records of travellers arriving and departing Singapore

• On-line access to Watch List and in future to Interpol LSP database
Secure Documentation

Biometric Passport

[Image of a Singaporean passport with biometric details and images, alongside a fingerprint enrolment process and tokenization interface.]
Establishing Intent

Equip officers with required skill sets – e.g. targeting and questioning techniques, cross-examination of documents and traveller behaviour.

Professional Officers - who embodies the qualities of Integrity, Commitment and Accountability.
Establishing Identity and Intent – APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) Scheme

Facilitates bona-fide business travellers
Technology in People Clearance

• **Sentinel** – an enhanced people screening system which:
  
  - Capture images of passport bio-data page and relevant data for processing
  
  - Has counter forgery, photo-substitution & impersonation detection capabilities
Technology in People Clearance

- **Immigration Automated Clearance System (IACS)** – a frequent traveler scheme which:
  - Uses a photo ID card with a smart chip containing the biometric (thumbprint) of the registered traveler
  - Unmanned automated gates with smart readers to process these frequent travelers

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**Immigration & Checkpoints Authority**

*Inspiring Confidence in All*
Technology in People Clearance

- Enhanced Immigration Automated Clearance System (eIACS) – no need for pre-registration

- Unmanned automated gates with smart readers to process pre-identified travelers
- Uses Singapore International Passport as a token
- Biometrics retrieved from local server instead of from any chip in card or passport
Technology in People Clearance

- Biometrics Identification of Motorbikers System (BIKES)
  - Like eIACS, BIKES leverages on fingerprint biometrics technology
  - Automated immigration clearance
  - Pre-registration is presently required
Technology in People Clearance

Biometrics Technology

eIACS

BIKES

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Technology in People Clearance

- **Biometric Database for Immigration Clearance (BDIC)**
  - Photo and fingerprint records of immigration offenders and persons of security interest
  - Linked to other databases such as Police and Ministry of Manpower
Technology in People Clearance

- **Immigration Facial Screening System (iFACE)**
  - Employs facial recognition technology
  - Aims to detect travelers assuming multiple identities & trying to evade traditional name based screening
  - Can be deployed for both primary and secondary checks

**Blacklist Facial Screening**

Traveler’s live or passport photo is captured

screened against

Electronic Photo Blacklist
Technology in People Clearance

Walk Through Metal Detectors

X-ray Machines

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Technology in People Clearance

Integrated Screening System which screens both traveller as well as vehicle

Vehicle No. & Driver / Passenger Information

Vehicle toll collection system

Traveller clearance and screening

Vehicle Screening System

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Challenges in Border Control

• Security measures cannot be absolute and must be tempered by other considerations
• No magic elixir or one size fits all solution
• Police, customs, immigration, security agency, and even military.......who is ultimately responsible for border security?
Challenges in Border Control

- Real time decisions required at the border
- Realities on the ground
- Stolen & Lost Travel Documents
- Lack of 24x7 response or even contact points
Conclusion

• Effective people clearance is essential in ensuring border security.

• Biometric identifiers and technology enable us to achieve both security and facilitating travel at the same time.

• Need for integrated approach to border security at both national and international levels to combat the movement of terrorists.
THANK YOU