



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Criminal Division  
*International Criminal Investigative  
Training Assistance Program (ICITAP)*

*"Strengthening U.S. National Security by  
Developing Sustainable Law Enforcement  
Institutions Based Upon the Rule of Law in  
Emerging Democracies Throughout the  
World."*

*ICITAP - Established in 1986*

## **ICITAP**

### **Benin Law Enforcement Development Program**

#### **Program Summary**

Since 2002 ICITAP has provided training to members of the Beninese National Police (BNP) and the Beninese Gendarmerie. ICITAP's training has focused on civil aviation security, executive case management, criminal investigations, and questioned documents.

Prior to ICITAP training, fraudulent documents were not identified on a regular basis by Beninese authorities. Since receiving training, gendarmes at the airport in Cotonou have detained several people traveling with fraudulent documents.

The U.S. Embassy in Cotonou provided the funding for ICITAP's development activities in Benin, which, along with program development, has been allocated and administered in coordination with the State department's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

#### **Program Activities**

Two special agents from the Transportation Safety Administration conducted an assessment of Benin's Civil Aviation Security Program in March 2002 in cooperation with ICITAP. The assessment concluded that the Government of Benin has a higher probability of success in improving its civil aviation security program if it first formulates a strategic plan based on a low-technology, procedurally dependent approach.

In October 2002 an ICITAP consultant conducted a training needs assessment of the Beninese National Police and Gendarmerie. As a result, in October and November 2002, two ICITAP consultants presented a two-pronged, five-week training program to officers from the BNP and Gendarmerie in French.

One ICITAP consultant presented a criminal investigative development program for 13 Beninese senior law enforcement executives that focused on providing them with the skills necessary to deal with major criminal and/or public order events, and a general overview of the major threats posed by transnational

organized crime. The other ICITAP consultant presented a major criminal investigation management course and a drug investigation management course to 19 mid-level police and gendarmes.

ICITAP incorporated practical exercises into all training, including scenarios involving an airplane crash, the conduct of an international drug trafficking investigation, and a kidnapping investigation.

In 2003 ICITAP presented six iterations of its first police responder course to Beninese police and gendarmes. This two-day course covers the basics of crime scene management and interviewing techniques for victims, witnesses, and suspects, and introduces the concepts of latent fingerprint evidence.

ICITAP presented a questioned documents course to selected members of the Beninese National Police and Gendarmerie, including many who work at the International Airport in Cotonou, Benin.

#### **Future Objectives**

- Develop the plan to provide academy-oriented, skills-based training initiatives tied to the Women's Justice and Empowerment Initiative.
- Provide instructor development and skills-based training to instructors at the academy in Cotonou.
- Enhance efforts to combat trafficking-in-persons by providing training and technical assistance, and by establishing a criminal intelligence database.

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