

Appendix D

US Programs and Policy

Antiterrorism Assistance Program

Congress authorized the Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) Program in 1983 as part of a major initiative against international terrorism. Since that time ATA has provided training for over 31,000 students from 127 countries. The ATA Program provides training and related assistance to law-enforcement and security services of selected friendly foreign governments. Assistance to the qualified countries focuses on the following objectives:

- Enhancing the antiterrorism skills of friendly countries by providing training and equipment to deter and counter the threats of terrorism.
- Strengthening the bilateral ties of the United States with friendly, foreign governments by offering concrete assistance in areas of mutual concern.
- Increasing respect for human rights by sharing with civilian authorities modern, humane, and effective antiterrorism techniques.

ATA courses are developed and customized in response to terrorism trends and patterns. The training can be categorized into four functional areas: Crisis Prevention, Crisis Management, Crisis Resolution, and Investigation. Countries needing assistance are identified on the basis of the threat, or actual level of terrorist activity they face.

Antiterrorist assistance and training, which begins with a comprehensive, in-country assessment, can take many forms, including airport security, crime-scene investigations, chemical and biological attacks, and courses for first responders. Most of this training is conducted overseas to maximize its effectiveness, and even more courses are being conducted in country under ATA's new "Fly-Away" concept.

ATA programs may also take the form of advisory assistance, such as police administration and management of police departments, how to train police instructors or develop a police academy, and modern interview and investigative techniques. Equipment or bomb-sniffing dogs may also be included in the assistance package.

The post-September 11 era has shifted the focus of ATA outreach to the newly identified frontline nations. These include Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Egypt, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Uzbekistan, and Yemen. The United States delivered 80 courses to these frontline nations in 2002.

ATA has also identified specific areas in which courses will be added or expanded to enhance the antiterrorism capabilities in frontline and other countries. These include medical response to mass casualties, advanced police tactical intervention, physical security, border controls, and operations to deal with weapons of mass destruction such as mail security, customs/immigration inspection, disaster response, and urban search and rescue.

