



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
BUREAU OF COUNTERTERRORISM

# ANTITERRORISM ASSISTANCE RETROSPECTIVE 2013-2015





**ATA**  
2013  
2014  
2015

# Executive Message



From the inception of the Department of State's Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) program in 1983, the Bureau of Diplomatic Security and the Bureau of Counterterrorism have partnered in managing the planning and delivery of critical training and equipment services to law enforcement agencies in countries friendly to the United States in the worldwide fight against terrorism.

The mission of the ATA program has always been clear and focused: to enhance the capabilities of partner nations in the detection, deterrence, and prevention of acts of terrorism, the resolution of terrorism incidents when they do occur, and the apprehension and prosecution of those involved in such acts.

Fiscal year 2013 marked two important milestones for the program: the celebration of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the Department and to the international counterterrorism and law enforcement communities, as well as

the graduation of its 100,000<sup>th</sup> participant from more than 150 countries around the world.

President Obama has emphasized repeatedly that we need to bring strong, capable, and diverse partners to the forefront and enlist their help in the mutually important endeavor of global counterterrorism. We recognize that we cannot succeed in the long term with military force alone and that civilian law enforcement tools are equally critical. We need partners who can investigate, arrest, prosecute, incarcerate, and rehabilitate terrorists. Addressing terrorism in a rule of law framework, with respect for human rights, is critical both for ensuring the sustainability of our efforts and for preventing the rise of new forms of violent extremism. The ATA program will continue to play a key role in this strategy of building partner nation law enforcement capacity and ensuring that our partners are prepared to handle the terrorism challenges they face.



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# ATA by the Numbers

## IN FY 2013

- 53 PARTNER NATIONS RECEIVED ATA ASSISTANCE
- 516 DELIVERIES OF TRAINING COURSES, CONSULTATIONS, EQUIPMENT, ETC.
- 11,273 PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED ATA TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE

## IN FY 2014

- 49 PARTNER NATIONS RECEIVED ATA ASSISTANCE
- 531 DELIVERIES OF TRAINING COURSES, CONSULTATIONS, EQUIPMENT, ETC.
- 11,293 PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED ATA TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE

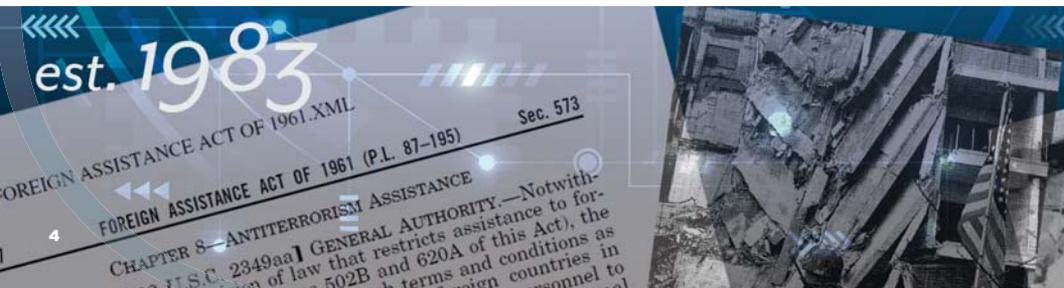
## IN FY 2015

- 51 PARTNER NATIONS RECEIVED ATA ASSISTANCE
- 588 DELIVERIES OF TRAINING COURSES, CONSULTATIONS, EQUIPMENT, ETC.
- 11,772 PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED ATA TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE

# ATA Origins ▶▶▶



In 1983, Congress amended Part II of the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA) of 1961 and created an antiterrorism assistance program to help U.S. partner nations develop the capabilities needed to detect, deter, and investigate terrorism. The need for such a program came about as a result of escalating terrorist acts around the world targeting U.S. and partner nation interests, including the 1979 seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran, and the 1983 terrorist attack on the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. The initiative, which started as a pilot program, expanded in scope as many American lives were lost from subsequent terrorist attacks, including the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya and the September 11, 2001, attacks on the U.S. homeland.



The FAA legislation authorized the President to

**“ PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO DETER TERRORISTS AND TERRORIST GROUPS FROM ENGAGING IN INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS SUCH AS BOMBING, KIDNAPPING, ASSASSINATION, HOSTAGE TAKING, AND HIJACKING. ”**

The law authorized this assistance to be delivered to partner nations in the form of “training, commodities and equipment that would help to detect, deter and prevent acts of terrorism and manage such incidents if they occur.”

The Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) program continues with this mandate and is a successful partnership between the Bureau of Counterterrorism, which is responsible for policy formulation, strategic guidance, and oversight, and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, which administers and implements the program.

Since 1983, the ATA program has helped our partner nations overcome security challenges within their borders, defend against threats to national and regional stability, and deter terrorist operations across borders and regions. ATA provides assistance in the form of training and consultations on topics such as cyber security and computer forensics, crisis management and response, travel document fraud, dignitary protection, bomb detection and disposal, airport security, border security, response to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction, interdiction of terrorist organizations, and hostage negotiation and rescue. Assistance also includes equipment grants, such as cyber forensic technology, computers and monitors, bomb-disposal robots, and other course-related equipment.





# Afghanistan



Afghanistan remains an important partner in the ATA program, which focused on building broader, self-sustaining Afghan security force capacity to protect national leadership, government buildings, and diplomatic facilities. ATA training also aimed to improve Afghan security agencies' coordination and cooperation in response to terrorism-related crisis incidents. In addition to a suite of tactical response courses, the ATA program provided instructor development and mentorship to Afghan officers to build and institutionalize a sustained capacity in antiterrorism skills so they could share lessons learned with law-enforcement colleagues tasked with counterterrorism response.

In fiscal year 2014, ATA provided training to four Afghan law enforcement agencies in preparation for that nation's 2014 presidential elections. ATA delivered explosive incident countermeasures, crisis response, and canine explosives-detection training to Afghanistan's Directorate of Protection of Government High-Ranking Officials (D10), the Afghan Border Police (ABP) at Kabul International Airport, the Kabul City Police, and the Presidential Protective Service.

D10 and Border Police units provided bomb-disposal and Special Weapons and Tactics services for presidential candidates Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah during the 2014 presidential campaign.

**Afghan security personnel secure the site of a suicide bomb attack that struck the convoy of presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah in Kabul, Afghanistan, June 6, 2014. The candidate's ATA-trained security team evacuated him rapidly and unharmed from the attack scene. (AP/Wide World Photos)**





ATA also provided D10 with courses in the protection of national leadership. These trainees subsequently conducted protective details for both presidential candidates.

This training paid dividends when assailants launched an attack on the motorcade of frontrunner Abdullah Abdullah in Kabul on June 6, 2014, just eight days before the final

runoff vote. The blasts from a roadside bomb and a suicide vehicle bomb just minutes apart killed five civilians and one police officer and wounded 22 others. But due to their training, professionalism, and pre-planning, none of the ATA-trained D10 personnel protecting the candidate were injured and the protectee was safely evacuated.

**An ATA instructor (right) explains how to identify potential improvised explosive devices to a member of Afghanistan's Directorate of Protection of Government High-Ranking Officials during a live exercise with a metal detector, April 8, 2014, at an ATA training facility outside of Kabul. (U.S. Department of State photo)**

## **Afghan Law Enforcement Trains Its Own**

For more than a decade, ATA has been delivering training to Afghan police and security forces. But in recent years, ATA has been training and certifying Afghan law enforcement personnel to deliver ATA-certified training to their Afghan peers, thus serving as a force multiplier for ATA training efforts.

The ATA program marked a significant milestone in 2013

**D10's Lt. Col. Nabila Hamdi Wahab (rear left) oversees female D10 Afghan agents during an exercise in how to form a protective diamond around the "protectee" in an ATA course on protection of national leadership. (U.S. Department of State photo).**



when Lt. Col. Nabila Hamdi Wahab, a D10 instructor, completed all the requisites to become a certified instructor of ATA's Protection of National Leadership (PNL) course and became the first female instructor to do so.

Lt. Col. Nabila, who has worked with the ATA instructional staff since 2012, is also the first Afghan woman to meet the rigorous standards necessary to become a certified designated defensive marksman for D10 and now serves as a firearms instructor to both male and female officers in Afghanistan's law enforcement community.



**An ATA-trained bomb-disposal officer with Afghanistan's Directorate of Protection of Government High-Ranking Officials disables a mock explosive device during a night-time exercise at an ATA training facility outside of Kabul. (U.S. Department of State photo)**

## ATA-trained Bomb Tech Disarms Suicide Vests in Faryab Province

After completing explosives training with ATA, Lt. Col. Abdul Alim was assigned as a bomb technician to the protective security detail of Afghanistan's first vice president, Gen. Abdul Rasheed Dostom.

In August 2015, Lt. Col. Alim traveled to Faryab Province in northern Afghanistan to prepare for a visit to the province by the vice president. Working with other explosive ordinance disposal teams in the area, he encountered and disposed of multiple roadside improvised explosive devices to ensure Gen. Dostom's safe passage to the region.

On August 24, 2015, Afghan security officials interdicted four Taliban insurgents in the vicinity of the vice president's residence in Qaisar District, Faryab Province. Armed with suicide vests, the insurgents had intended to assassinate the vice president. Once the assailants were apprehended, security officials contacted Lt. Col. Alim for assistance.

Lt. Col. Alim carefully dismantled the vests with precision by using basic hand tools in a slow, deliberate, and methodical manner. The entire operation took more than four hours to complete.

Lt. Col. Alim performed exemplary work and upheld the standards of an ATA-trained bomb technician.



**TOP:** ATA-trained Lt. Col. Alim inventories inactive materials from suicide vests that he disarmed after security forces captured four Taliban assailants August 24, 2015, near First Vice President Gen. Abdul Rasheed Dostom's residence in Faryab Province. (U.S. Department of State photo)

**BOTTOM:** Afghan security forces apprehended these Taliban would-be suicide bombers August 24, 2015, before they could launch their planned attack on First Vice President Gen. Abdul Rasheed Dostom, who was visiting Faryab Province. (U.S. Department of State photo)

# Brazil

From June 12 through July 13, 2014, Brazil hosted the 2014 FIFA World Cup soccer championship. National teams from 32 nations competed at venues in 12 different Brazilian cities across two time zones. More than 3.4 million fans poured into Brazil to attend, and an additional 700 million viewers worldwide watched via television or the Internet.

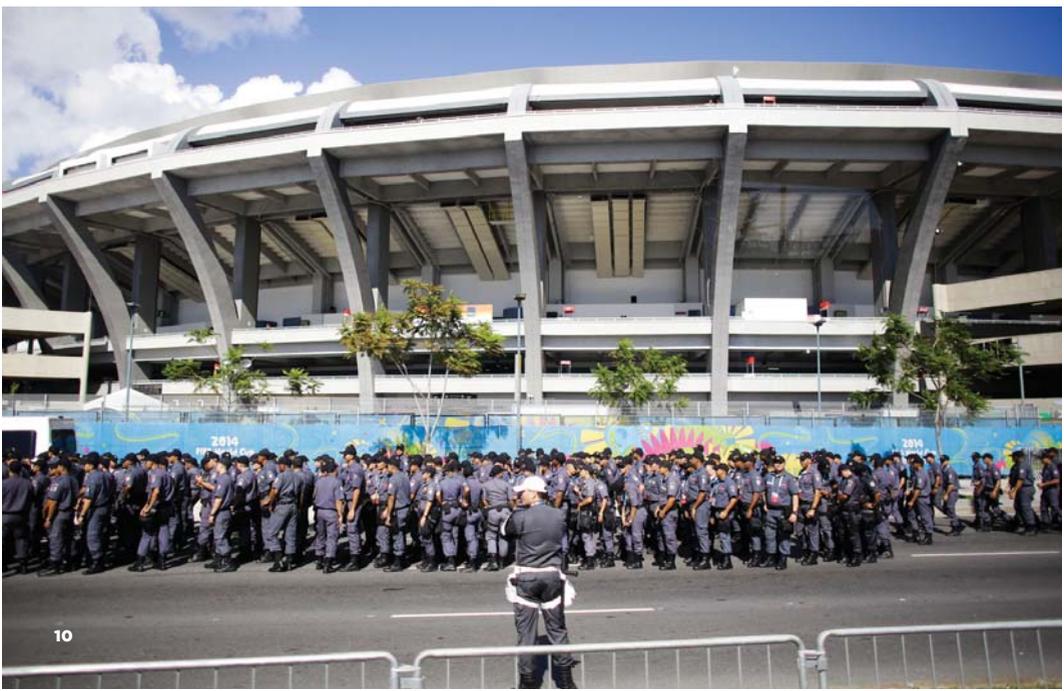
The United States had a significant presence at the World Cup, including the U.S. Men's National Soccer Team and some 200 friends and family members, U.S. corporate sponsors, visits by three official U.S. government delegations, and thousands of private U.S. citizens.

To support Brazilian efforts to prevent terrorist attacks

against a sporting event of such magnitude, ATA began providing training to Brazilian law enforcement and security agencies in the spring of 2013. The training had been stipulated in a March 2011 memorandum of understanding that the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia signed with Brazil's Special Secretariat of Security for Major Event (SESSE) in which both nations agreed to cooperate on preparing for and supporting major global sporting events.

In the year leading up to the international competition, ATA delivered 10 courses, including training on critical incident management, preventing terrorist attacks on bus and rail systems, responding to threats from seaborne attackers, vital infrastructure security, and network security and forensics.

**Hundreds of police officers gather outside Maracana Stadium before the World Cup final soccer match between Germany and Argentina at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday, July 13, 2014. (AP/Wide World Photos)**





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Participants in these ATA training sessions included law enforcement officers from each of the 12 states hosting the FIFA World Cup, civil defense professionals from the states and municipalities, and federal police.

Despite well-publicized concerns over threats, crimes, violent demonstrations, and infrastructure vulnerabilities, and in spite of the more than 130 street protests launched in 10 of the host cities during the competition, the World Cup concluded without any significant security incidents.

In addition to assisting the Government of Brazil in maintaining a safer environment for this international sporting event, the ATA training also helped to strengthen critical relationships between U.S.

and Brazilian federal law enforcement officials for future engagement.

In 2015, ATA collaborated with the Brazilian government to formulate a major event security management strategy to prepare Brazilian security officials for the 2016 Olympics and Paralympic Games.

ATA delivered 20 courses in both Brasilia and Rio de Janeiro for more than 400 security personnel from multiple law enforcement agencies. These courses span the entire spectrum of the ATA curricula and included Police Media Relations, Critical Incident Management, and Maritime Interdiction of Terrorists to Airport Security Management, Quality Control in Civil Aviation Security, and Tactical Management of Special Events.

**During an ATA maritime exercise simulating a hostage situation aboard a ship in Rio de Janeiro in June 2015, Brazilian police:**

- 1) Board the ship and apprehend an “assailant”;**
- 2) Execute a dynamic entry to gain access to the ship’s cabin;**
- 3) Take a “suspect” into custody,**
- 4) Restrain another “assailant” while his “co-conspirators” (background) lie on the deck under the watchful eye of a police officer.**

**(U.S. Department of State photo)**

# Colombia

Philippine National Police Chief Alan Purisima (second from left) presents a token of appreciation to Colombian National Police Anti-Kidnapping/Anti-Extortion School Director Juan Eduardo Arcos (right), on September 23, 2014, as Philippines Department of Justice Undersecretary Francisco Baraan III (left) and Philippines Office of the President Undersecretary Nabil Tan (second from right) look on. (U.S. Department of State photo)

ATA provided Colombian law enforcement agencies with instruction and resources in fiscal year 2013 and fiscal year 2014 as part of a multi-year plan to assist Colombia in building advanced, self-sustaining border security capabilities, to investigate terrorists and terrorist incidents, and to protect critical infrastructure.

As a result of continued ATA support, Colombia has established itself as a provider of counterterrorism training to other nations, particularly in the areas of anti-kidnapping and protection-of-national-leadership operations.

In September 2014, ATA conducted a six-day seminar in Bogota with law enforcement officials from Colombia and the Philippines on anti-kidnapping

and anti-extortion strategies. This event provided Colombian law-enforcement officials the opportunity to share with their Philippine counterparts information on their successes against terrorist kidnappings and extortion. From the year 2000 to 2014, ATA-trained Colombian anti-kidnap units reduced the number of kidnappings from 3,500 per year to fewer than 250 per year.

During this seminar, Colombian officials offered valuable lessons learned to the Philippine National Police participants, who have been working to counter and disrupt kidnapping and extortion by terrorists in their own country. Representatives from the Colombian National Police anti-kidnapping/anti-extortion unit known as GAULA discussed





the Colombian legal framework for prosecuting such crimes and presented examples of how Colombian police and military personnel within their specialized units have dealt with various kidnapping groups. The Philippine police also observed live exercises at the Colombian National Police anti-kidnapping training facility in Sibate, just outside of Bogota.

**Philippine National Police Chief Alan Purisima (second from right) and National Bureau of Investigation Assistant Director Luigi de Lemos (right) review tactical equipment used in live exercises at the Colombian National Police anti-kidnapping training facility on September 23, 2014. (U.S. Department of State photo)**

# Pakistan

Pakistani police officers and local residents gather at the site of a bomb blast that targeted paramilitary soldiers in a commercial area in Quetta, Pakistan, January 10, 2013. The bomb killed at least 12 people and injured more than 40. Police bomb technicians trained by Diplomatic Security's Antiterrorism Assistance program collected forensic evidence from the crime scene for further investigation. (AP/Wide World Photos)

Delivery of ATA training and equipment grants to Pakistan focused on building the capacity of our law enforcement partners to respond to terrorism-related critical events and to conduct counterterrorism investigations. This assistance permitted Pakistani police to successfully disrupt terrorist incidents, prevent loss of life, and investigate those responsible for attacks.

ATA training has generated successful results in Pakistani police response to explosives-related incidents. ATA-trained Bomb Disposal Squad technicians from the Ministry of the Interior responded to several such attacks in fiscal year 2013 and fiscal year 2014, in some cases identifying and disarming explosive devices before they could do harm,

and in other cases gathering forensic evidence at the scene of bomb blasts for further analysis and investigation.

On November 20, 2012, Peshawar police foiled a potential suicide bombing when they arrested a 13-year old boy wearing an explosives-laden vest and his "operator" at a gas station. An ATA-trained bomb-disposal team responded, assessed the situation, and successfully defused the vest strapped around the teenager. Other members of the bomb-disposal team inspected the explosives and delivered the vest to investigators to use as evidence.

Also in November 2012, ATA-trained bomb-disposal teams in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province seized 600 kilograms of explosives and a non-electric





detonator in one operation and defused an improvised explosive device (IED) planted under an overpass of a road in Peshawar in another operation.

On December 21, 2012, an ATA-trained bomb-disposal expert defused an IED in the Lyari portion of Karachi after his bomb-disposal team was summoned to assist Sindh provincial investigators. The remote-controlled IED, which was planted near a shop selling liquid propane gas, consisted of a cement block filled with explosives laced with ball bearings, nuts, bolts, and pieces of razor blades. The ATA-trained bomb-disposal team gathered

forensic evidence from the crime scene and provided it to Sindh police for further investigation.

ATA-trained bomb-disposal officers responded on April 23, 2013, to the scene of a suicide car bombing in Quetta that killed seven people, including the attacker, and injured more than 45 others. The ATA-trained inspectors gathered forensic evidence from the scene and determined that the vehicle was packed with some 90 kilograms of high explosives. The bombing was one of eight terrorist attacks in Quetta in a 24-hour period.

**An ATA-trained bomb technician and other Pakistani security forces examine weapons and explosives recovered from attackers who stormed Jinnah International Airport in Karachi, Pakistan the night of June 8, 2014. (AP/Wide World Photos)**



**Pakistani police officers display ammunition confiscated from attackers at the Jinnah International Airport, Monday, June 9, 2014, in Karachi, Pakistan. The previous evening, gunmen disguised as police guards attacked a terminal at Pakistan's busiest airport with machine guns and a rocket launcher during a five-hour siege that killed over a dozen people. (AP/Wide World Photos)**

In Karachi, ATA-trained bomb-disposal technicians defused suicide vests and other explosive devices recovered from 10 Tehrik e-Taliban Pakistan terrorists who attacked Jinnah International Airport, the nation's largest, on the night of June 8, 2014. An ATA-trained police crisis-response team also responded and helped end the attack after a five-hour firefight. The attack left 36 people dead, including the terrorists, and 18 others wounded.

The next day, on June 9, 2014, ATA-trained bomb technicians in Karachi defused two bombs thrown at the Mominabad police station that failed to explode.

## Superintendent Masood



Pakistan has more than 20 terrorist groups operating within its borders and was second only to Iraq for the number of terrorist attacks recorded in 2013, with 1,920 attacks that resulted in more than 2,300 deaths.

To counter these security challenges, ATA has trained more than 140 members of the Ministry of the Interior's Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) in explosives-incident response and ordnance disposal. The members of Pakistan's BDS are highly skilled, dedicated, and courageous law-enforcement professionals who place their lives on the line every day they go to work. One such individual is Quetta Senior Superintendent of Police Security Khalid Masood.

Superintendent Masood received ATA training in explosive incident countermeasures in 2011 and supervised the Bomb Disposal Squad in Quetta.

On the afternoon of January 10, 2013, a bomb exploded near a parked police vehicle at a crowded outdoor market, killing 12 people. Superintendent Masood and his bomb-disposal technicians responded to the blast site and determined that as much as 25 kilograms of explosives with a timed fuse had been planted inside a bag close to a vehicle of the paramilitary Frontier Corps.

Later that same day, a suicide bomber entered a crowded snooker club in Quetta and detonated his explosives-packed vest. Masood and his bomb-disposal team rushed to the scene.

Minutes later, as emergency medical workers, police, and members of the news media combed through the rubble, an explosives-laden car parked nearby detonated, partially collapsing the three-story building in which the club was located and killing 84 people, including at least nine law enforcement personnel.

Among the more than 120 injured was Superintendent Masood, who had been examining the scene of the first blast and gathering forensic evidence. As a result of his injuries, he suffered the loss of his lower right leg. But the injury did not stop Khalid Masood. After recovering from his injury, he returned to work and retired in October 2013 when he reached mandatory retirement age. Setting a proud example for his family, Masood's son is now a law enforcement officer and currently serves as an assistant superintendent of police.



Khalid Masood seen here in his protective gear during ATA explosive incident countermeasures training, April 21, 2011, at King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Center near Amman, Jordan. (U.S. Department of State photo)



# Philippines

The Philippines is among the top recipients of ATA cyber training and cyber-related equipment and technology grants. Since 2003, when ATA delivered its first cyber training to the Philippines, ATA support has helped the Philippine National Police to build a successful counter-terrorism-related cyber investigations program that is considered the best in the region.

Starting out as a small cybercrime unit with no computers, computer forensic equipment, trained cybercrime investigators, or computer forensics lab, ATA has helped the Philippine National Police Anti-Cybercrime Group develop into a fully accredited, fully staffed, and fully funded

investigative division with its own budget and policy directive.

The Anti-Cybercrime Group's growth and achievements led to its designation under the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 as the nation's primary agency for enforcing cybercrime laws and overseeing anti-cybercrime campaigns. The Philippine National Police officially activated the new cyber division on March 20, 2013.

In 2014, Anti-Cybercrime Group personnel used their ATA-provided training and technology to identify suspects involved in the kidnapping of two foreign citizens by a terrorist organization. The

Police and military ordnance disposal experts examine the wreckage of a passenger bus on September 21, 2013, in Zamboanga City, Philippines. The vehicle exploded the previous day amid fighting between government forces and Muslim rebels. (AP/Wide World Photos)





**A member of the Philippine National Police bomb squad measures the hole created by a mortar round that hit a two-story house and killed one resident in Zamboanga City, Philippines during an exchange of gunfire between government forces and Muslim rebels. (AP/Wide World Photos)**

cyber investigators identified the masked individuals seen in a proof-of-life photo posted online by the kidnapers as members of the separatist Abu Sayaff Group.

ATA also has provided Philippine law enforcement with training and equipment that has helped them to save lives in zones that have experienced violent conflict.

For example, in September 2013, the ATA-trained Philippine National Police Explosive Ordnance Mobile Unit was deployed to Zamboanga City to recover and render safe unexploded ordnance after three weeks of fighting between government forces and the Moro National Liberation Front.

More than 200 people were killed and more than 100,000 residents from nearby villages were displaced by the violence.

While the fighting was still ongoing, members of the mobile unit used ATA-donated equipment to safely disable and remove unexploded ordnance, such as hand grenades, rifle grenades, ammunition, and mortars. Over the course of the 22-day operation, the ATA-trained unit recovered more than 400 unexploded ordnance items, 46 of which were armed but rendered safe by the bomb technicians.

# Tunisia

ATA provided \$2 million in training and equipment grants to Tunisian law enforcement partners in fiscal year 2013 and \$1 million in such assistance in fiscal year 2014 for use in antiterrorism investigations and operations. ATA delivered crisis-response and tactical and command training to personnel from the Tunisian National Police's Antiterrorism Brigade and the Tunisian National Guard's Special Unit to help build their capacity to manage and respond to terrorist incidents and crisis situations, enhance their ability to conduct terrorist investigations, and improve operations to prevent and respond to improvised explosive device attacks.

The equipment grant included the February 2014 delivery of a state-of-the-art mobile crime lab and a mobile command unit, as well as training and additional equipment for both vehicles.

The mobile lab extends the range of the National Police Forensic Lab throughout the country and strengthens Tunisian law enforcement agencies' ability to properly

collect and store evidence for use in terrorism prosecutions. The mobile command center permits Tunisian police to establish a command and communications hub near the scene of critical incidents and enables law enforcement leaders to better manage such emergency situations.

ATA training and equipment grants have assisted Tunisian law enforcement personnel in conducting significant and proactive disruptions, arrests, and prosecutions related to counterterrorism activities, including:

- On February 20, 2013, the Tunisian National Guard Special Unit seized a large weapons cache in the Ariana Governorate in northeastern Tunisia, including rocket-propelled grenades and Kalashnikov assault rifles.
- On September 10, 2013, security forces located and arrested Ansar al-Shari'a in Tunisia (AAS-T) leaders Mohamed Aouadi and Mohamed Khiari, both of whom were allegedly involved in the assassinations

In February 2014, ATA provided Tunisia's Ministry of the Interior with a mobile command post (left) and crime laboratory (right), seen here outside the U.S. Embassy in Tunis, for use in responding to and investigating incidents of terrorism. (U.S. Department of State photo)





of opposition politicians Chokri Belaid and Mohamed Brahmi.

- On September 28, 2013, the National Guard Special Unit participated in a raid in the town of Mornaguia, arrested two terrorists allegedly affiliated with AAS-T, and seized home-made bombs, explosives, and tasers.
- Following an October 17, 2013, terrorist attack that left

two National Guard officers dead and one wounded, security forces arrested AAS-T leaders Abdelouehed Alargoubi in Jendouba and Adel Hanachi in Beja on October 19, 2013.

- On November 30, 2013, the Ministry of the Interior announced special security forces had arrested 10 members of AAS-T in El Kef, in Tunisia's northwest.

**Tunisian gendarmes carry the coffin of one of the two slain National Guard officers during their funeral on October 18, 2013, outside Tunis. The two police officers were killed and a third was wounded the previous day in an ambush by suspected terrorists. (AP/Wide World Photos)**



**A Tunisian gendarme bids farewell to his two colleagues who were slain in an October 17, 2013, terrorist attack. (AP/Wide World Photos)**

# Featured Training

## East Africa Joint Operations Exercise



**Kenyan, Tanzanian, and Ugandan officials at the tactical operations center provide guidance to crisis response teams on the scene under the watchful eye of an ATA facilitator (right) during ATA's EAJO Capstone training exercise in Nairobi, September 29, 2014. (U.S. Department of State photo)**

In close collaboration with the U.S. Department of State's Counterterrorism and African Affairs bureaus, and with funding from the Partnership for Regional East Africa Counterterrorism, ATA conducted its first and second

annual series of training and exercises known collectively as the East Africa Joint Operations (EAJO).

EAJO provides several weeks of intensive senior policy, operational command, and tactical training to strengthen the capacity of regional law enforcement to respond effectively to simulated terrorist attacks.

In September 2014, ATA organized the first multi-country field training exercise for Kenyan, Tanzanian, and Ugandan law enforcement partners. The exercise took place just after the one-year anniversary of al-Shabaab's attack on the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, which claimed the lives of 71 victims and injured hundreds. The 2014 EAJO Capstone exercise involved 108 participants from

these three East African partner nations, featuring several weeks of intensive training on skills that are essential to effective response, including incident command and control, operational planning, first responder procedures, medical stabilization, and improvised explosive device countermeasures. These vital skills were then applied and tested in a live, 24-hour exercise simulating a Westgate-style urban attack.

During the live exercise, members of the EAJO crisis-response teams responded to the scene of the "attack" under the operational command of law enforcement officials staffing a tactical operations center. For this complex field exercise, ATA planners added simulated homemade explosives and non-lethal training ammunition that provided a heightened level of realism for crisis response teams when firing their weapons. ATA-trained bomb disposal personnel also accompanied the crisis response teams, allowing bomb-unit personnel to render safe mock-explosive devices while the tactical teams safely conducted rescue and response operations.

**A crisis response team hunts for "terrorists" who have taken "hostages" inside a building during ATA's EAJO Capstone exercise in Nairobi, September 29, 2014. (U.S. Department of State photo)**



In addition to the law enforcement officers from the three nations, the live 2014 exercise in Nairobi also included hostage and terrorist role players,



volunteers and participants from the Kenya Red Cross and St. John Ambulance of Kenya, senior leaders from the Kenyan, Ugandan, and Tanzanian security forces, and U.S. Embassy observers.

The second annual EAJO exercise, held September 6-7, 2015, in Kanyonyo, Kenya, also featured a multilateral, 24-hour exercise, this time simulating cross-border attacks by al-Shabaab similar to the April 2, 2015, massacre at Garissa University College in which nearly 150 people were killed and scores were wounded. The 2015 EAJO exercise tested strategic, operational, and tactical skills attained by the officials leading up to the event. During the exercise, the senior leaders provided national-level coordination functions and observed the tactical operations center and rural border patrol tactical operation scenarios. The Tactical Command Operations Center participants performed the role and functions of a tactical operations center staff during the exercise. The participating countries' rural border patrol teams responded to tactical scenarios and then combined efforts in a multi-national joint operation scenario. Of special significance to the 2015 event was the fact that successful completion of the capstone exercise scenarios depended

upon the proper application of human rights and community engagement practices.

While the 2014 and 2015 EAJO exercises provided the participants from Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda the opportunity to put weeks' worth of instruction into practice and improve their tactical proficiencies, EAJO also helped law enforcement personnel from these three nations to develop vital relationships that will enhance regional counterterrorism cooperation.

In partnership with the State Department's Counterterrorism and African Affairs bureaus, ATA plans to institutionalize EAJO in future years by expanding the number of participating countries, empowering participants to shape and own the exercise, and ultimately elevating the exercise to a signature annual event for East African counterterrorism law enforcement professionals.



**LEFT: Kenyan border patrol officers carry a "victim" to a casualty-control point during the September 2015 EAJO capstone exercise in Kanyonyo, Kenya.**

**RIGHT: Kenyan border patrol officers secure the scene of a simulated terrorist attack on a village and help a "wounded" civilian to a casualty-control point for triage and medical assistance during the EAJO live exercise. (U.S. Department of State photos)**

# Featured Training

## ATA Fraudulent Document Recognition Courses Help Latin American Partners Combat Terrorism and Organized Crime



ATA training has helped Peruvian officials at Lima's Jorge Chavez International Airport to detect fraudulent travel documents. (Shutterstock)

A Peruvian immigration officer reviews a traveler's paperwork. (Peruvian National Immigration Administration photo)

### PERU

During the week of September 14, 2015, ATA-trained Peruvian immigration officials arrested several human traffickers at the Jorge Chavez International Airport in

Lima. These traffickers were identified and taken into custody after attempting to move undocumented migrants through the airport using falsified foreign travel documents.

The arresting officials credited the training and equipment provided to them by ATA as major reasons why they were able to discern that the

documents presented by the traffickers were fraudulent.

ATA delivered several courses in Peru on airport security management and the identification of fraudulent documents in 2015. These courses included ATA's Basic Fraudulent Document Course, the Advanced Travel Document Examination course, and Airport Security Management. The courses were held in Tacna, a major entry point for Peru, and in Lima, where the majority of participants were immigration officials from the international airports in both cities.



## MEXICO

ATA instructors partnered with Mexican immigration officials to jointly deliver courses on fraudulent travel document identification and to create training materials based on the ATA courses for training law enforcement partners from other countries in the region.

ATA delivered six courses on Fraudulent Document Recognition and two on Advanced Travel Document Examination in 2015 in Mexico. Through an 18-month-long mentoring program, ATA also trained Mexican immigration officers to deliver these courses to other immigration officials. From October 2014 through May 2015, these Mexican instructors trained more than 500 immigration officers from Belize, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, and Peru.

These ATA-trained Mexican security officials were planning to increase the number of document-fraud courses delivered to international law enforcement partners in the region by the end of 2015.

As a result of the ATA training and mentoring, Mexico's immigration agency, the National Immigration Institute, is formulating a standard operating procedure for the identification, seizure, and handling of fraudulent documents.

**Mexican immigration official and instructor Gabino Castillo helps students review sample passports for fraud indicators during a fraudulent document recognition course in Mexico City, May 2015. (U.S. Department of State photo)**



As a follow-up to their ATA training, three Mexican Immigration officials were to tour three U.S. ports of entry to observe U.S. immigration policies and procedures.

**ATA-trained instructors from Mexico's National Immigration Institute delivered ATA-based fraudulent document identification training to hundreds of immigration officials from several Latin American nations. (Mexican National Immigration Institute photos)**



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FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ANTITERRORISM  
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