

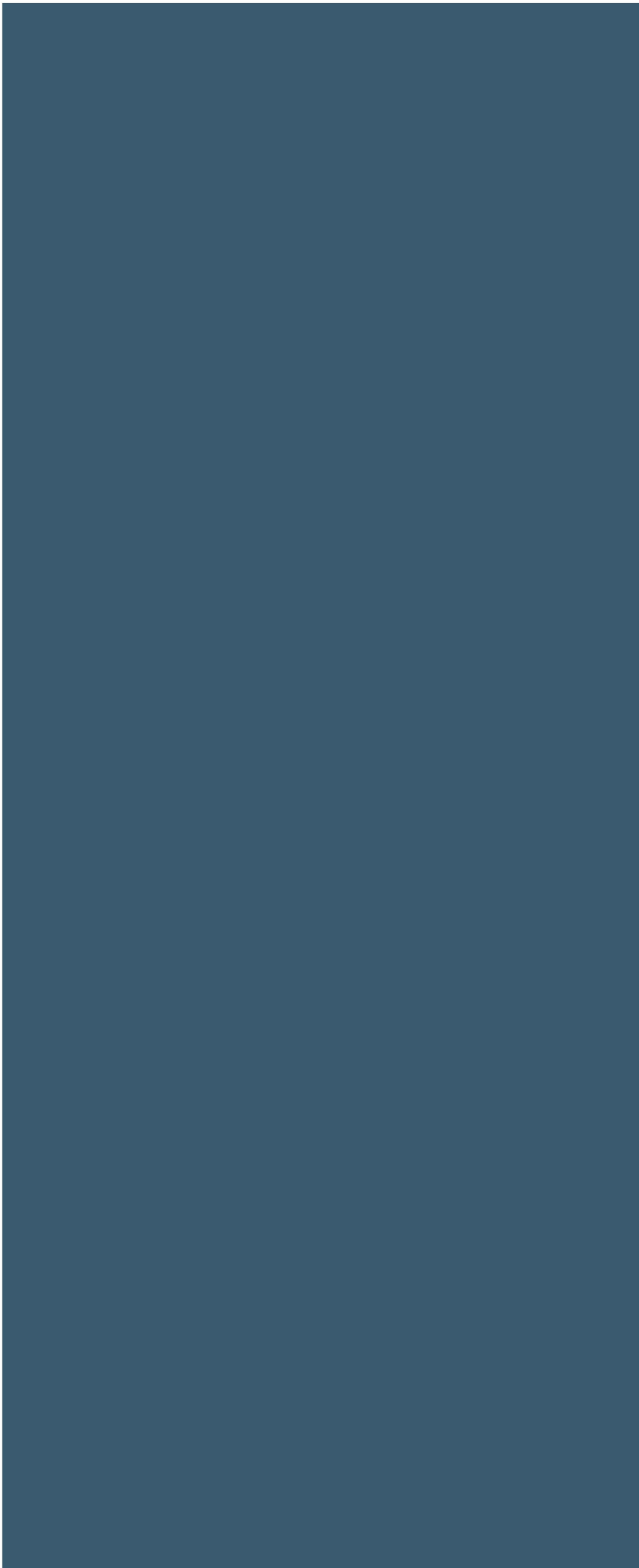


ANTITERRORISM ASSISTANCE **RETROSPECTIVE**

2020-2021



U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE





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INTRODUCTION

In 2020 and 2021, the State Department's Antiterrorism Assistance Program (ATA) played an integral role in improving global security capabilities for civilian counterterrorism practitioners. ATA serves as the primary provider of U.S. government antiterrorism training and equipment to law enforcement agencies of partner nations throughout the world, while emphasizing the importance of human-rights awareness as a fundamental part of any law enforcement or security mission. In nation after nation, ATA-trained personnel are recognized and respected within their communities for their professional conduct.

The ATA program is implemented by the Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DSS) in partnership with the Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT), which provides program funding, strategic direction, and policy guidance for ATA activities. This report highlights some of ATA's major successes in 2020-2021 and lays out the path ahead for the U.S. Government's flagship civilian capacity building program.

The United States is transitioning from a military-led counterterrorism approach that dominated the previous two decades to one that is more civilian-led, U.S.-enabled, and more deeply rooted in multilateral diplomacy and non-kinetic counterterrorism practices and tools. ATA is integral to this shift and continues to evolve and adapt to meet today's challenges. Long-range success in the counterterrorism effort will require sustained investment in building and improving the effectiveness of foreign partners' civilian counterterrorism capabilities to address ongoing threats to U.S. interests – including U.S. citizens and diplomatic facilities – around the world.

Terrorist threats continue to evolve and transform, and ATA strives to keep pace with these ever-changing environments. Traditional threats by militant groups have not subsided, but evolving security patterns include cyber threats, pandemics, growing competition among global powers, and increased emphasis on critical infrastructure. In addition, the United States

finds itself in an era of sustaining rather than expanding resources, and U.S. national leadership is prioritizing resources to match a range of evolving national security challenges. This means adapting our approaches to fully balance diplomacy, development, and prevention efforts, all in a manner tailored to the threats we face and the local contexts in which they arise. As a result, our counterterrorism efforts increasingly are being integrated into regional strategies as part of a wider set of initiatives.

Bottom line: We must be positioned to detect threats as they evolve, be prepared to adapt to changing threats, and be flexible enough that we can tailor our approach to the threats we face in real time.

ATA is rapidly adapting to this new, ever-flexible world. As a premier provider of training and equipment for nations on the frontlines of the fight against terrorism, our programs offer more than 50 unique, carefully constructed courses. But, increasingly, ATA also conducts hundreds of rapidly customizable workshops.



Wearing an ATA-provided personal protective mask, a member of Kenya's Border Police Unit prepares to participate in a U.S. Embassy security exercise in October 2021. (U.S. Department of State photo)

Working as part of sustained whole-of-government strategies, ATA offers vital assistance on topics that include cybersecurity, crisis-response training, investigations and evidence collection, aviation security, protecting critical infrastructure, border security, and



bomb disposal, among many others. By delivering training, mentoring, and equipment to law enforcement partners in more than three dozen nations, ATA builds critical capabilities to detect, deter, and disrupt terrorist activities through knowledge-enhancing training courses, tactical skills development, and on-the-ground mentorship.

ATA also continues to increase efforts with our partner nations to promote gender parity. This includes growing levels of female participation in our programs, as well as proactive partnerships with nations that recognize the unique capabilities that women in law enforcement

leadership regularly contribute to the counterterrorism mission.

In sum, ATA is an invaluable tool to combat terrorism. Throughout 2020 and 2021, despite widespread challenges, partner nations' counterterrorism activities demonstrated how ATA training, equipment, and mentorship enhanced their capacity to counter real world threats. This report highlights those successes and emphasizes ATA's ability to save lives, protect U.S. officials and interests abroad, and contribute to closer relationships with partner nations in the shared fight against global terrorism.

ABOUT ATA

The Antiterrorism Assistance Program (ATA) is the U.S. government's premier provider of counterterrorism training and equipment grants to foreign law enforcement. ATA was created by the U.S. Congress in 1983 and has delivered counterterrorism training to well over 150,000 law enforcement officials and first responders from more than 150 countries.

All ATA courses emphasize the importance of the rule of law and respect for human rights.

Under U.S. law, ATA's goal is to:

1. Enhance the antiterrorism abilities of partner countries by providing training and equipment to deter and counter terrorism;
2. Strengthen bilateral ties with partner nations by offering assistance; and
3. Increase respect for human rights by sharing modern, humane, and effective antiterrorism techniques with foreign civil authorities.

ATA Background

The U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) administers the training program and conducts equipment deliveries in each country, while the Department's Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT) funds the program and provides strategic guidance and oversight.

ATA helps partner nations build critical counterterrorism skills through:

- Training courses
- Workshops and consultations
- Mentorships
- Equipment donations

In topics relating to:

- Border security
- Protection of critical infrastructure
- Protection of national leadership
- Law enforcement leadership and management
- Investigation best-practices
- Regional coordination and cooperation
- Critical incident response and management
- Cybersecurity
- Respect for human rights

ATA By the Numbers

ATA By the Numbers 2020-2021

330
ATA Courses Delivered

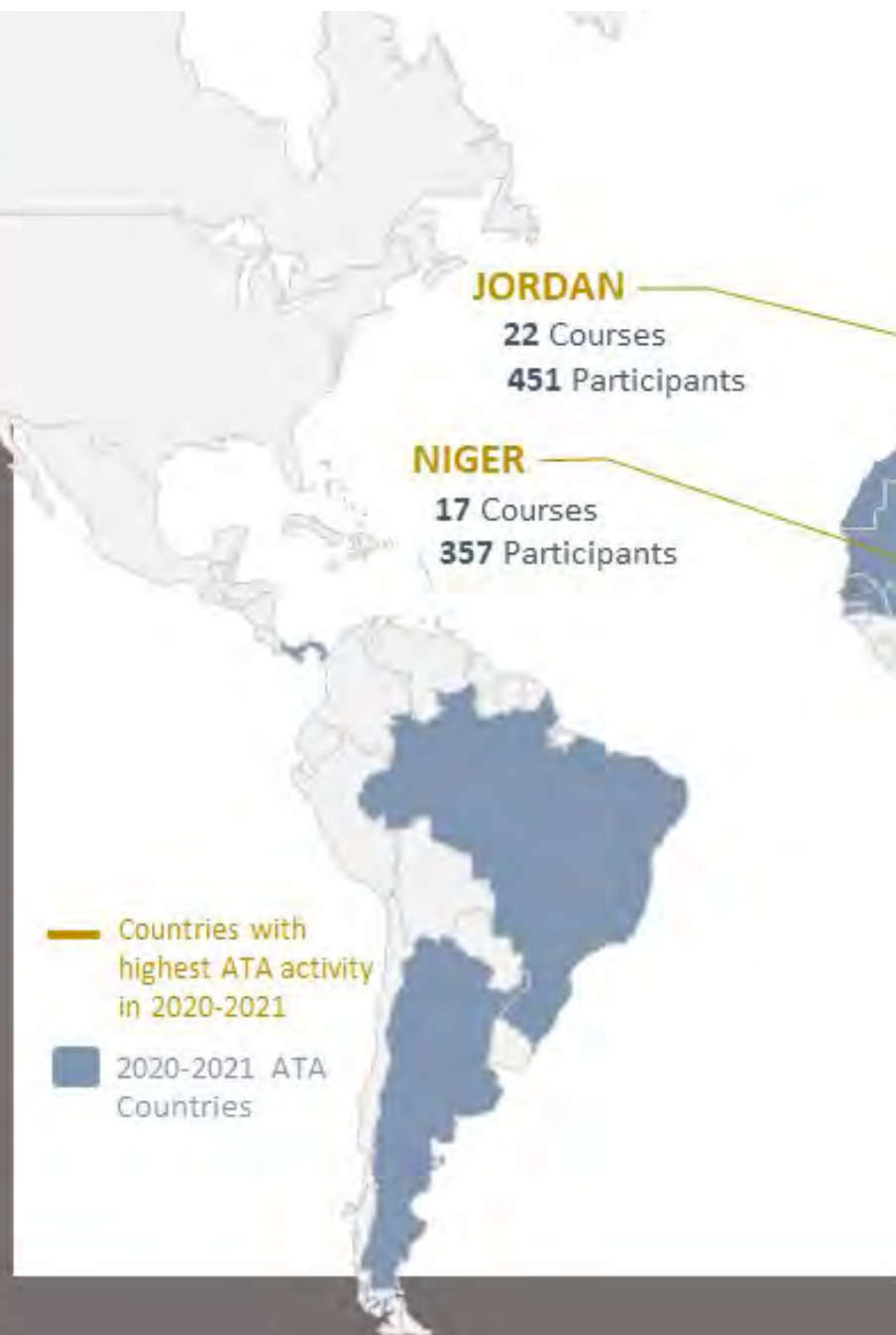
6,191
Participants
in ATA Courses

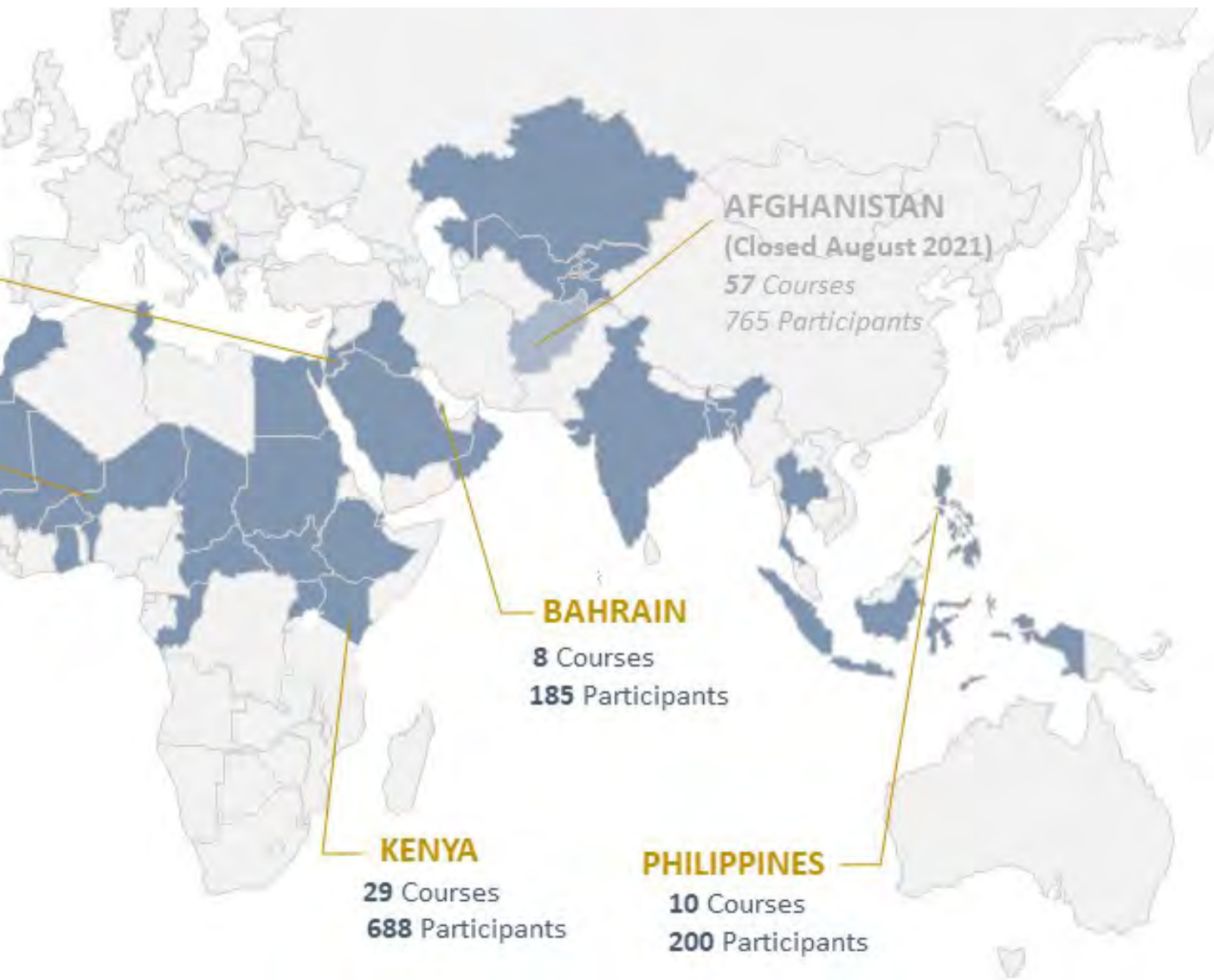
388
Female Participants

504
Partner Nation
Instructors Developed

43
Nations Received
ATA Courses

12
SPEAR Teams Assigned
to U.S. Embassies or
Consulates





1983
The Year ATA
Was Established
by U.S. Congress

150,000+
Law Enforcement
Professionals
Trained Since 1983

ATA Courses

As of June 2022

CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, AND NUCLEAR & MASS CASUALTY

- First Response to Terrorist Incidents (FRTI)
- Hospital-Based Management of Mass Casualty Incidents (HBMMCI)
- Tactical Medical (TACMED)

SENIOR INVESTIGATIVE & CRISIS MANAGEMENT

- Crisis Management Exercise Design (CMED)
- Critical Incident Management (CIM)
- Management of Terrorist Investigations (MTI)
- Terrorist Crime Scene Investigation (TCSI)

EXPLOSIVES

- Advanced Explosives Incident Countermeasures (AEIC)
- Explosives Incident Countermeasures (EIC)
- Methods of Entry Mechanical and Ballistic (MOE-MB)
- Methods of Entry Mechanical, Ballistic and Explosives (MOE-MBE)
- Post Blast Investigations (PBI)

HOMELAND SECURITY

- Advanced Travel Document Examination (ATDE)
- Airport Security Management (ASM)
- Border Control Management (BCM)
- Fraudulent Document Recognition & Behavioral Analysis (FDR&BA)
- Rural Border Patrol Operations (RBPO)

POLICE OPERATIONS

- Behavioral Observation Skills (BOS)
- Foreign Terrorist Fighter: Operator and Investigator (FTFOI)
- Hostage Negotiations (HN)
- Interdicting Terrorist Activities (ITA)
- Interviewing Terrorist Suspects (ITS)
- Police and Media Relations (PMR)

MARITIME & TRAINING

- Instructor Development Course (IDC)
- Managing an Antiterrorism Training Program (MATP)
- Maritime Interdiction of Terrorism (MIT)
- Maritime Port and Harbor Security Management (MPHSM)

LAW ENFORCEMENT MANAGEMENT

- Combating Domestic and Transnational Terrorism (CDTT)
- Identifying and Developing Investigative Information (IDII)
- Investigative Information Management (IIM)
- Police Leader's Role in Combating Terrorism (PLRCT)

PROTECTION OF NATIONAL LEADERS

- Protection of National Leadership (PNL)
- Protection of National Leadership- Designated Defensive Marksman (PNL-DDM)
- Protection of National Leadership – Site Advances (PNL-SA)
- Protection of National Leadership- Tactical Support Team (PNL-TST)
- Surveillance Detection (SD)



POLICE TACTICAL

- Advanced Crisis Response Team (ACRT)
- Crisis Response Team (CRT)
- Crisis Response Team Sharpshooter Observer (CRT-S/O)
- Response to an Active Terrorist Incident (RATI)
- Rural Enforcement Operations (REO)
- Tactical Commander's Course (TCC)
- Tactical Management of Special Events (TMSE)

INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY

- Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience (CISR)
- Protecting Soft Targets (PST)
- Preventing Terrorist Attacks on Bus and Rail Systems (PTABRS)

SPECIAL PROGRAM for EMBASSY AUGMENTATION RESPONSE (SPEAR)

- Quick Reactionary Force (QRF)
- Advanced Quick Reactionary Force (AQRF)
- Quick Reactionary Force-Observer Support Team (QRF-OST)
- Quick Reactionary Force-Leadership Training Course (QRF-LTC)
- Facilities Protection Training Course (FPTC)
- SPEAR – Human Rights

MODULES

- *Community Engagement and Human Rights Module (CEHR)*
- *Terrorist Trends and Tactics Module (Trends)*

CONSULTATIONS AND EXERCISES

- Armorer Workshop
- Border Security Assessment and Mentorship
- Executive Forum for the Study of Terrorism
- Exercise Development
- Explosive Detection Canine Handlers Course
- Explosive Detection Canine Handlers Course Train the Trainer
- Explosive Detection Canine Testing and Validation
- Major Event Security Management
- Regional Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Awareness Seminar
- Suicide Bomber Prevention Workshop
- Terrorism Public Awareness Consultation

CYBER CONSULTATIONS

- Basic/Fundamentals of Digital Forensic Training
- Cyber Awareness for Prosecutors
- Digital Forensics Equipment Grant Consultation
- Digital Forensics Lab Mentor Consultation
- First Responder Digital Forensics Training
- Introduction to Internet Investigations
- Investigating the Dark Web
- Mobile Device Forensics Training
- Advanced Mobile Device Forensics Training
- Social Media Investigations Consultations
- Advanced Social Media Investigations
- Terrorist Use of Technology Workshop

ATA Adapts to COVID-19



ATA conducts a virtual mentorship with Philippine National Police in June 2021. (Philippine National Police photo)

ATA Continues Global Successes During COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic deeply affected global commerce and travel, but the widespread virus did not halt terrorism or threats against America's diplomatic partners. Tens of thousands of law enforcement professionals trained by the Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) program remained on duty in their home countries around the world throughout 2020 and 2021, apprehending suspects, conducting investigations, and protecting U.S. diplomatic communities.

Since its creation in 1983, ATA has relied on specialized in-person training to help improve skills, build foreign assistance partnerships, and heighten awareness of human rights, reaching over 150,000 police and security officers around the globe.

The coronavirus pandemic interrupted plans that would have trained more than 10,000 partners in 2020 and that many again in 2021, but ATA adapted to the new environment. After a shutdown in early 2020, training with key strategic partner nations resumed in late 2020, using special precautions to limit disease risk.

Throughout 2020 and 2021, ATA continued fielding dozens of mentors overseas who live and work in partner nations, maintaining ongoing person-to-person relationships. Also, the Special Program for Embassy Augmentation and Response (SPEAR) continued to field local security forces dedicated to protecting U.S. diplomats and facilities.

Back in the Washington, D.C., area, ATA experts continued developing distance-training strategies and used the pandemic as an opportunity to thoroughly examine and revalidate programs – the kind of vital top-to-bottom oversight work that is often difficult



An ATA instructor checks the temperature of a participant in Kenya in February 2021. (U.S. Department of State photo)



to undertake when day-to-day operations are at their hectic steady state tempo.

“The units that we’ve trained are continuing to succeed,” said an ATA official. “The mission is not impeded, and the ATA team is constantly reevaluating how training deliveries can be conducted during these truly challenging times.”

The reduced in-person meetings had an unexpected benefit of letting ATA program managers see how partners would fare in the absence of regular in-person engagement. In nearly all instances, the results showed that partner nations continued performing critical law enforcement missions, demonstrating a solid return on investment for ATA programs.

ATA Cyber Programs

The goal of the ATA Cyber Training Program is to provide technical training, mentoring, and software and equipment to international law enforcement agencies and government institutions, so they can detect, prevent, investigate, and prosecute incidents related to the use of information technology by terrorists.

Areas of training include computer forensics, mobile device forensics, online investigations, and training for prosecutors in preparing and presenting digital evidence in court.

The ATA Cyber Training Program has had success throughout the world building and developing cybercrime units by providing the hardware and software along with the training to empower a partner nation to immediately begin cyber investigations into terrorist-related crimes.



Police officers from the Cyber Crime Division within the Jordanian Public Security Directorate participate in an ATA Advanced Mobile Forensics Consultation in Amman in July 2021. (U.S. Department of State photo)

In 2021, the ATA Cyber Training Program delivered a total of 62 cyber consultations to 14 partner nations. Of these, 34 training deliveries were in-person, and 28 were virtual or online trainings and mentorships. Along with each training delivery, the ATA Cyber Training Program procures and ships forensics equipment and software licenses to the partner nation to be granted at the conclusion of training.

Some notable successes for the ATA Cyber Training Program during 2021 include:

In Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH):

Using ATA cyber training and ATA-supplied equipment, the BiH State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) and local police worked jointly in early 2021 to arrest four terrorism suspects connected to an ongoing investigation. Authorities also seized weapons and explosives.

The arrest took place during the second week of an ATA virtual mentorship, with the ATA cyber mentor assisting SIPA with continued guidance on digital evidence seizure and collection. This was the first time SIPA used ATA-granted equipment in the field to find actionable intelligence.

In Kosovo:

In 2020, the DOJ-ICITAP mentored and trained Kosovo Correctional Service, Corrections Intelligence Unit seized 21 Sony PlayStations from foreign terrorist fighters incarcerated in the country's prison system. The ATA-trained Kosovo Police Counter Terrorism Directorate (KP-CTD) analyzed two of the devices and discovered Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) propaganda videos and other files of interest on them.

In Bangladesh:

In the summer of 2021, Bangladesh authorities conducted at least three successful law-enforcement operations in and around Dhaka based on evidence provided by the ATA-trained and equipped Cyber Unit of Bangladesh's Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit. A total of five suspects were taken into custody, with several suspects linked to earlier attacks, and at least three explosive devices were defused.

In the Philippines:

The program's cyber training and classroom equipment has been fully incorporated into the Philippines National Police (PNP) academy. As a result, ATA-trained PNP investigators have been instrumental in identifying and neutralizing terrorists throughout the southern Philippines.

In Colombia:

ATA-trained cyber investigators have been able to assist antiterrorism forces in capturing former members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP) by extracting evidence from recovered laptops.

Examples of ATA Cyber-Related Courses

Investigating the Dark Web: This hands-on course is designed to enhance participants' understanding of how terrorists use the Dark Web. Exercises include reporting findings in a judicial environment and developing information-sharing practices with partner nations.

Social Media Investigations: This course is designed to enhance understanding of how terrorists and terrorist organizations use social media for operations, including recruiting, disseminating propaganda, and coordinating activities. Participants learn how to monitor and engage in social media to further investigations and to effectively report their findings in a collaborative and judicial environment.

Cyber Awareness for Prosecutors: This course is designed to give prosecutors and judges the opportunity to discuss the various issues involving the investigation and prosecution of digital evidence, with presentations conducted by subject matter experts in the prosecutorial and digital forensics fields.



ATA Medical Skills Save Lives

ATA provides tactical medical training programs in numerous countries, and ATA partners regularly call upon these medical skills when they respond to traffic accidents and other emergencies.



Kenyan Border Police Unit officer Boniface Wanyama (right photo) used his ATA medical training to oversee emergency treatment at a traffic accident in October 2021, organizing his colleagues to render assistance until an ambulance arrived 30 minutes later. (Photos courtesy Kenya Border Police Unit)

Kenya:

In October 2021, Kenyan law enforcement officer Boniface Wanyama, a Border Police Unit medical instructor, was driving to the town of Emali, southwest of Nairobi, to conduct training.

At the Tana Athi Bridge about 1.5 miles (2 kilometers) outside of town, Wanyama and his colleagues encountered a vehicle that had veered off the road and rolled.

Wanyama immediately put his training to work and assessed the situation. He found two occupants in the rolled vehicle, both of whom were complaining of neck pain. The driver also had a fractured right leg, and the other occupant had a deep cut in his head. Wanyama splinted the broken leg and used compressed gauze to stop the bleeding of the man with the head injury. A local hospital was contacted, and Wanyama monitored the patients until the ambulance arrived 30 minutes later.

“Personally, I give thanks to the ATA organization,” Wanyama said afterward, “for equipping us with the knowledge and equipment to help our officers on operational duties and the entire community at large.”

Two years earlier, Wanyama had used his ATA training to save his own toddler son’s life by clearing the choking child’s airway.

Niger:

On June 3, 2021, an ATA-trained member of the National Guard of Niger Security Intervention Group (GNN/GIS), who is also a local assistant ATA instructor, witnessed a severe traffic accident in Niamey. A boy approximately 15 years old was bleeding profusely from a leg injury.

The GNN/GIS member applied a tourniquet successfully to the injured teenager. He stopped the bleeding, elevated the victim’s legs, wrote the time the tourniquet was applied with the marker in the medical kit, and then talked to the boy to calm him until medical personnel arrived. When Nigerien EMTs arrived, they reportedly were surprised that a GNN/GIS responder was able to provide such a capable level of care.

The next day, the guardsman followed up on the boy in the hospital to find that his leg was eventually amputated but that his family was extremely grateful for the guardsman’s lifesaving actions.

The guardsman was trained in 2018 on tactical medical procedures during his Advanced Tactical Operations-Urban Rural (ATOURL) class. He received sustainment training from both the ATA Rural Border Patrol Unit Mentor and another recent ATOURL course.

ATA and Women in Law Enforcement



Officers at the Women’s Police Academy in Amman, Jordan, practice with an ATA-donated firearms simulator known as MILO (multiple interactive learning/training objectives) in July 2021. The simulator has trained more than 1,000 female officers since being installed in 2018. Plans are being discussed to make it the primary MILO training facility for all officers within Jordan’s Public Security Directorate. (U.S. Department of State photo)

Women in Law Enforcement Make Up a Small but Growing Part of ATA Participants

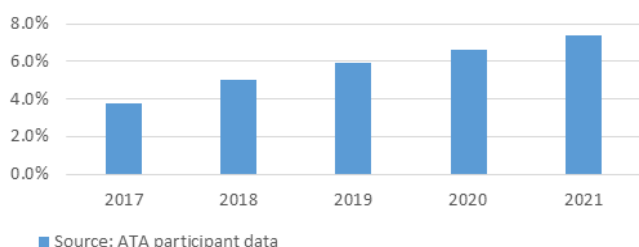
ATA has been a leader in providing female police officers in partner nations with the skills and equipment to help them earn the respect of male peers and to succeed and advance in their law enforcement and counterterrorism careers.

In some instances, ATA has trained male and female officers together in the same course. In other instances, ATA has delivered training to classes of female officers only. ATA also has provided equipment to enhance training at Jordan’s Policewomen’s Academy. This ATA training and support has enhanced the female officers’ investigative, collaborative, and



leadership skills, and contributed to empowering, inspiring, and educating female law enforcement professionals in U.S. partner nations worldwide.

ATA Foreign Assistance Programs: Percentage of Female Participants Calendar Years 2017 to 2021



Partner nations remain relatively autonomous in choosing participants for ATA courses, and the relatively small numbers of female participants often reflect host-nation cultures. Still, the percentage of women attending courses has increased steadily in recent years. ATA bolstered this trend in early 2021 by adding new language to invitation documents sent to partner nations, stating that “diversity (gender, race, ethnicity, etc.) is encouraged in the selection of participants among qualified candidates.”

In the Central African Republic (CAR), two CAR Gendarmerie officers in 2019 became and remain the first women to serve on an ATA-trained and equipped quick response force known as a Special Program for Embassy Augmentation and Response (SPEAR) team. The 48-member SPEAR team directly supports U.S. Embassy Bangui. Embassy officials report that the women help serve as role models for other women in law enforcement throughout the country.

In Kenya, ATA is expanding support for the nation’s recently organized All-Female SWAT unit, whose commander credits years of ATA courses in helping her to develop the leadership abilities to build a successful unit from the ground up.



A Kenyan police officer conducts an explosive ordnance exercise in March 2021. (U.S. Department of State photo)

In Jordan, an ATA-supported emergency call center has led to male and female police officers working side by side as equals.

Representation of women serving in law enforcement varies from country to country due to cultural and historical circumstances. In the United States, for example, women comprise 12.8 percent of the nearly 700,000 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers, according to FBI data from 2019, the most recent year available.

ATA Support for Women in Peace, and Security

ATA’s growing support for the empowerment of women in law enforcement supports wider U.S. policies that promote women in peace and security (WPS).

With the passage of the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017, the United States became the first nation with a comprehensive law on this agenda, reaffirming our strong, bipartisan recognition that when women fully participate in civic and economic life, nations

are more prosperous and peaceful. Following up on this law, the White House in 2019 released the U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security, seeking to increase women's meaningful participation in peace and security by ensuring they are empowered to lead and contribute; equipped with the necessary skills and support to succeed; and supported to participate through access to opportunities and resources.

The WPS Strategy directed the Department of State and other national security agencies to develop implementation plans in order to make demonstrable progress toward the following three interrelated strategic objectives by 2023:

1. Women are more prepared and increasingly able to participate in efforts that promote stable and lasting peace;
2. Women and girls are safer, better protected, and have equal access to government and private assistance programs, including from the United States, international partners, and host nations;
3. The United States and partner governments have improved institutionalization and capacity to ensure WPS efforts are sustainable and long-lasting.

The Department of State's Implementation Plan, released in 2020, outlines and commits Department talents and resources to advance this foreign policy and national security priority to empower women globally.

These objectives, which provide the Department with long-term goals to guide its implementation over time, are to be accomplished through four lines of effort:

1. Seek and support the preparation and meaningful participation of women around the world in decision-making processes related to conflict and crises;
2. Promote the protection of women and girls' human rights; access to humanitarian assistance; and safety from violence, abuse and exploitation around the world;

3. Adjust United States international programs to improve outcomes in equality for, and the empowerment of, women; and
4. Encourage partner governments to adopt policies, plans, and capacity to improve the meaningful participation of women in processes connected to peace and security and decision-making institutions.



A member of the ATA-trained SPEAR team (right) in Bangui speaks with U.S. Ambassador Lucy Tamlyn in February 2021 in the Central African Republic. SPEAR teams are local police who augment security for U.S. diplomats. (U.S. Department of State photo)



ATA Explosive Detection Canine Program



A partner nation canine handler practices explosives detection at the DS Global Canine Center in Virginia in February 2022. (U.S. Department of State photo)

Overseas Protective Operations also deploys numerous GCC-certified dogs to protect U.S. diplomatic posts overseas. These working dogs are separate from ATA programs.

ATA works closely with the GCC and the Department of State's CT Bureau to provide partner nations with explosives detection dogs and the training required to properly deploy the animals in support of counterterrorism missions.

Current ATA partner nations with CT-funded dogs include Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Nepal, Oman, Thailand, and the Dominican Republic, with plans to grant GCC-certified explosives detection canines to the Maldives.



A canine instructor (right) watches as a partner nation canine handler practices explosives detection at the DS Global Canine Center in Virginia in February 2022. (U.S. Department of State photo)



A partner nation veterinarian, (left in the black shirt) conducts oral surgery on an ATA-granted canine at the DS Global Canine Center in Virginia in February 2022. (U.S. Department of State photo)

ATA Working Dogs Perform Critical Duties for Strategic Partners

The DSS Global Canine Center (GCC) in Winchester, Virginia, is a world-class facility that procures and trains highly reliable explosives detection dogs. Once fully certified, the explosives detection dogs are granted to ATA partner nations to bolster their explosive detection and counterterrorism capabilities. The DSS Office of

Explosives-detection dog training is critical to U.S. strategic partners working to secure their borders. For example, ATA dogs have had more than 50 successful identifications of explosive-related materials attempting to cross the Jordanian border since 2017.

The four-to-six-week ATA program trains each handler and dog as a team. DSS trainers return with participants to their countries for another two weeks of onsite training, intending to make them self-sufficient.

“The GCC procures and trains ATA dogs, then pairs them with their partner nation handlers to be trained as a team and provides ongoing quality control and medical support for the programs,” said DSS Deputy Assistant Secretary and Assistant Director for Training Julie Cabus.

In 2020 and 2021, ATA and the GCC expanded medical oversight, mentor coverage, and staffing to ensure the dogs are well cared for in partner nations. A travel team—two mentors and one veterinarian—visits each nation with an active ATA dog program to monitor the dogs’ progress, status, and health. The goal is to visit all partner nations on a routine, semi-annual basis. After-action reports by the GCC travel teams, with input from ATA, record and measure the program’s effectiveness.

REGIONS

AF: Africa



ATA-trained officers with Mauritanian National Police and Gendarmerie conduct a vehicle interdiction in Nouakchott in February 2020 during the Flintlock 2020 counterterrorism exercise. Military and law enforcement personnel from more than two dozen African and Western nations participated in Flintlock, held February 17-28, 2020, in Mauritania and Senegal. (U.S. Department of State photo)

West Africa Joint Operations Exercise (WAJO)

Police investigators and their judicial counterparts in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger participated in ATA’s first-ever West Africa Joint Operations (WAJO) regional exercise in March 2021.

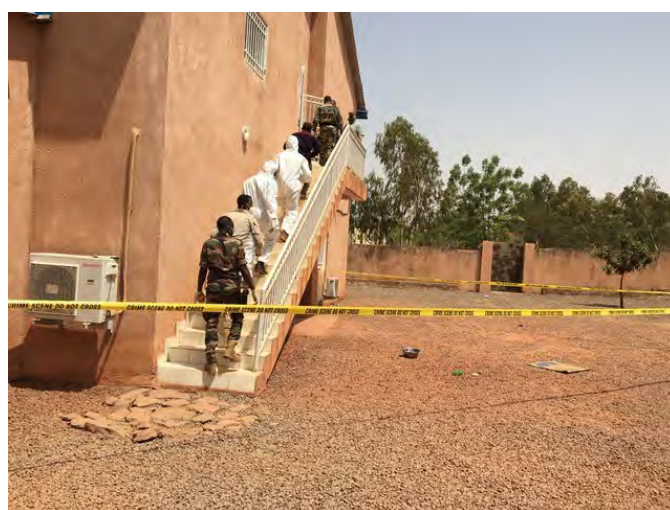


Members of the Burkina Faso National Police and judiciary attend a three-week program for information collection analysis reporting in March 2021. (U.S. Department of State photo)



In Mali (left photo), an ATA instructor conducts a mid-level terrorist investigators course in March 2021 with members of Mali's security investigators and judiciary. (U.S. Department of State photos)

In Niger (right photo), law enforcement officers participate in a simultaneous mid-level terrorist investigators course.



In Mali (left) U.S. Ambassador Dennis Hankins speaks with media in March 2021 after members of Mali's National Gendarmerie and National Police attend ATA training in preparation for the WAJO exercise. As part of the exercise, investigators (right) enter a building to collect evidence after a simulated terrorist attack. (U.S. Department of State photos)

First-Ever West Africa Joint Ops Exercise Links Counterterrorism Investigators in Three Nations

In March 2021, ATA organized the first-ever West Africa Joint Operations (WAJO) regional exercise to connect counterterrorism investigators with their judicial counterparts in three nations: Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger.

Approximately 80 law enforcement and judiciary officers took part.

CT provided ATA with funding and policy guidance; DSS conducted the training and equipment deliveries in each country. The Department of Justice's Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance, and Training was also a key contributor to the success of this training and exercise.

The WAJO regional exercise was partly modeled on successful East Africa Joint Operations (EAJO) exercises that have taken place since 2014.

The WAJO exercise focused on gathering timely, accurate evidence while working with judicial authorities to ensure adherence to local laws.

Goals of the exercise included:

- Enhancing the investigative capability of units focused on terrorism cases in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger;
- Ensuring investigations adhere to the rule of law and the principles of human rights; and
- Facilitating regional cross-border cooperation by sharing best practices.

The exercise was originally designed as a more comprehensive multinational exercise. However, plans were modified due to travel restrictions created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Feedback was encouraging, especially with the coordination between law enforcement professionals and their judicial counterparts.

Addressing terrorist threats requires a holistic approach. All three countries have experienced increasing numbers of terrorist cases and suspects in their custody and have all taken multiple steps to improve their ability to adjudicate and prosecute those cases.

BURKINA FASO

Special Police Terrorism Investigative Unit Supports Arrest of Two Terrorism Suspects Linked to Deadly Attacks

At the request of the newly appointed chief prosecutor, Burkina Faso's Special Police Terrorism Investigations Unit (*Brigade Spéciale des Investigations Antiterroristes – BSIAT*) deployed in June 2021 to the village of Solhan, near the Niger border, to investigate the country's deadliest attack on civilians, an overnight massacre on June 5-6 that resulted in more than 130 casualties.

The ATA-trained BSIAT successfully collaborated with Gendarmerie and Army counterparts to deploy just one day after the attack. BSIAT collected and analyzed hundreds of weapons' shell casings, as well as interviewed numerous suspects and survivors of the attack.

The investigation culminated in the arrest of two individuals belonging to a close affiliate of Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM), a foreign terrorist organization active in the Sahel. Both suspects admitted to contributing to previous JNIM attacks in both Niger and Benin.

BSIAT's investigation also established that this same group was responsible for the November 2019 attack on a Canadian mining firm convoy that killed 37 and wounded more than 60 people. Burkina Faso officials expressed their appreciation for numerous ATA trainings that contributed to BSIAT's overall success and overcoming longstanding challenges, such as inter-ministerial coordination, logistics, and the ability to react to incidents quickly.



Members of the Burkina Faso National Police practice triangulation as part of gathering evidence at a crime scene during a three-week ATA program on information collection analysis reporting in March 2021. (U.S. Department of State photo)



Lending interagency assistance to TSA colleagues who could not travel due to COVID-19, an official from U.S. Embassy Accra demonstrates an explosives trace detector in February 2021 to Ghanaian airport security officers as part of an ATA equipment grant. (U.S. Department of State photo)

GHANA

ATA-Granted Airport Screening Equipment Helps Safeguard U.S.- Bound Flights

Passenger air travel from a busy western Africa aviation hub to the United States became more secure in 2021 with ATA's donation of aviation security screening equipment at Ghana's Kotoka International Airport.

Embassy Accra delivered an advanced imaging passenger scanner and nine explosives trace detectors to Ghanaian airport officials in February 2021. The equipment was granted as part of the Aviation Security Enhancement Program in Ghana: a program managed by ATA in close coordination with the CT Bureau, U.S. Embassy Accra, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

ATA arranged for engineers from the manufacturer of the advanced imaging technology to travel to Accra to install and commission the equipment and to provide operator training.

When TSA representatives were unable to travel to Ghana due to COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions,



Ghana's Minister of Transport Kwaku Ofori Asiamah tests a body scanner, which is part of aviation security equipment presented to authorities of the Kotoka International Airport on March 23, 2021, as part of an ATA equipment grant. (U.S. Department of State photo)



U.S. Ambassador Stephanie S. Sullivan presents new aviation security screening equipment to the government of Ghana on March 23, 2021. The equipment was donated as part of an ATA equipment grant. (U.S. Department of State photo)

Embassy Accra's DSS Engineering Services Office stepped in to facilitate training for the airport screeners from the Ghanaian Civil Aviation Authority. After familiarizing himself with the new explosives trace detectors, Security Engineering Officer (SEO) Lukas Fried coordinated with TSA trainers remotely in Washington, D.C., to provide in-person, hands-on support, as well as equipment demonstrations and moderated question-and-answer sessions.

"The trainees' enthusiasm for learning the new systems was palpable," SEO Fried said. "Technology and adaptability allowed us to overcome pandemic-related complications and impart the critical knowledge they will need to keep the skies safe."

On March 23, U.S. Ambassador Stephanie S. Sullivan formally presented the screening equipment to Ghanaian authorities.

"The airport security training and equipment program underscores the robust security cooperation between the United States and Ghana," Ambassador Sullivan said during a ceremony at Kotoka International Airport. In her remarks, Ambassador Sullivan highlighted that the growth of the aviation sector in Ghana has increased the importance of aviation security, screening, and information sharing.

Ghana's growing aviation industry includes daily flights to New York and Washington, D.C., as well as numerous destinations throughout Europe, the Middle East, and across Africa, making it a notable hub for Africa.

KENYA

Kenya shares a 423-mile border with Somalia and in recent years has experienced numerous attacks by Somali-based al-Shabaab terrorists.

ATA continued its partnerships with several Kenyan law enforcement organizations, including the Administration Police Service's Border Police Unit in Kanyonyo, the National Police Service General Services Unit (GSU) Recce Crisis Response Team, and the Criminal Investigations Directorate Bomb Disposal Unit (BDU).



Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta waves his national flag during a \$1.2 million ATA donation of vehicles and equipment to Kenya's Border Police Unit in November 2020. (Government of Kenya photo)

U.S. Embassy Kenya also continued to host a Kenyan police Special Program for Embassy Augmentation and Response (SPEAR) team assigned to help protect U.S. diplomats, a program that began in 2017.



Significant Terrorist Attacks In Kenya

August 7, 1998	U.S. Embassy	Nairobi, Kenya
September 21, 2013	Westgate Mall	Nairobi, Kenya
April 2, 2015	Garissa University College	Garissa, Kenya
January 15, 2019	DusitD2 Hotel	Nairobi, Kenya



During a training exercise, members the ATA-trained Special Program for Embassy Augmentation and Response (SPEAR) team in Nairobi, Kenya, respond to threats at the U.S. Embassy and at a nearby international event. The Joint Readiness Exercise took place on October 30, 2021. (U.S. Department of State photo)



During a training exercise, a member of the ATA-trained SPEAR team in Nairobi, Kenya, detains two suspected attackers near the U.S. Embassy while a third role-player portrays a wounded attack victim during a U.S. Embassy Joint Readiness Exercise on October 30, 2021. (U.S. Department of State photo)

Nairobi Embassy Exercise Tests Crisis Response at High-Threat Post

In the autumn of 2021, the U.S. Embassy's Regional Security Office in Nairobi, Kenya, conducted its sixth Joint Readiness Exercise since 2017, with the goal of helping Kenyan and U.S. response teams better coordinate during an emergency.

The daylong exercise involved more than 300 people and included simulated attacks, emergency response vehicles, and dozens of role-players portraying hostages and injured personnel.

The scenario involved two simultaneous security incidents, based on numerous real-world terrorist attacks, including several in and around Nairobi. Security in Kenya is significant because the country has experienced multiple terrorist attacks in the past quarter century and includes the largest U.S. diplomatic presence in sub-Saharan Africa. The city also has a major international diplomatic community, with the U.S. Embassy adjacent to a regional United Nations headquarters compound.

More than 120 Kenyan law enforcement officers took part in the exercise, with the majority trained and mentored by DSS and the ATA program. The main law enforcement participants in the exercise were members

of the U.S. Embassy's SPEAR team, in which specially trained hand-picked host-nation officers are assigned to defend U.S. diplomats. The SPEAR program was created by DSS in the aftermath of the 2012 attacks against U.S. facilities in Benghazi, Libya. The Kenya SPEAR team was created in 2017, and SPEAR members along with other ATA-trained crisis responders were tested under fire in responding to a January 2019 terrorist attack at the DusitD2 Hotel in Nairobi.

The most recent Joint Readiness Exercise took place in late October 2021, with a simulated armed attack at an international school during an event attended by senior diplomats. The school attack was closely followed by a second attack on the grounds of the nearby U.S. Embassy in Nairobi.

"We thought that, obviously, Al-Shabaab is watching, that they would hit a target and then simultaneously hit another target as everyone else responded," said a DSS mentor for the Kenya SPEAR team, referring to the Somalia-based terrorist group. Therefore, he explained, the "crux of the exercise was a complex attack at two multiple sites to stretch not only the SPEAR team but also the [other] Kenyan responders."

ATA has been partnering with Kenya since 1987. In August 1998, al-Qaeda terrorists conducted near-simultaneous bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, killing more than 200 people in Kenya, including 12 Americans. The attacks had a significant impact on how the State Department manages security at overseas posts and resulted in a global expansion of both DSS and the ATA programs.

Alongside Teta and the DSS-funded SPEAR team, ATA manages several ongoing mentorships with Kenyan law enforcement, including with Kenya's Bomb Disposal Unit, the Border Police Unit, and the Crisis Response Team with Kenya's General Services Unit.

"As you know, readiness is absolutely critical to Kenya, to the United States," Charge d'Affaires Eric Kneidler told Kenyan media following the October 30 exercise. ***"In many ways our counterterrorism partnership, our security relationship, is the bedrock of this relationship."***

The exercise was observed by U.S. and international diplomats, as well as representatives of Kenya's government. Participants included, Kenyan law enforcement, U.S. Embassy Marine Security Guards and DSS special agents from the Regional Security Office, personnel and role-players from the U.S. Embassy staff, educators from one of several international schools in Nairobi, representatives of the British High Commission, and Kenya medical first-responders, to include 15 ambulances and the staffs of two Nairobi hospitals.

Eight DSS-contracted instructors served as observers and safety monitors.



As part of the ATA partnership with Kenya's Border Police Unit, ATA in 2020-2021 installed training facilities co-located with the Border Police Unit Training Centre in Kanyonyo, northeast of Nairobi. (U.S. Department of State photo)

Kenya Border Police Unit (BPU)

Kenya's Border Police Unit (BPU) maintains a network of camps, mainly along the country's border with Somalia. Since units began receiving ATA training, no single BPU camp has been overrun by militants. Instead, every camp has been successfully defended while delivering



Members of Kenya's Border Police Unit demonstrate ATA-donated unmanned aerial systems at the conclusion of training in September 2021. (U.S. Department of State photo)

a heavy strategic blow to al-Shabaab operatives. The reputation that BPU developed as a formidable and capable service has been attributed to both the ATA operational-level courses and consultations, as well as the tactical skills and modern equipment that ATA has delivered.

Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)

The ATA Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) program has served as a massive force multiplier not only for border security operations, but also for support of the government of Kenya's multiagency team approach to security. The best UAS pilots are often seconded to numerous operations while assisting the Kenya Defence Forces and other services. The tools are deployed as reconnaissance measures, in many cases detecting and preventing enemy ambushes. For example, a deployment in late 2021 prevented an ambush by cattle rustlers in the Laikipia region where multiple police officers have been killed. Earlier, when Kenya limited



Members of Kenya's Crisis Response Team take part in a U.S. Embassy readiness exercise in October 2021. (Photo courtesy Capital News Nairobi)

travel during the surge in COVID-19 cases, the BPU was deployed as part of a multiagency approach to limit the spread of infections. Deployment of unmanned aircraft helped to monitor potential travel routes during the lockdowns.

GSU/Recce Crisis Response Team (CRT)

Out of four highly trained tactical units under the Recce company, the Crisis Response Team (CRT) was chosen to protect U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken during his November 2021 visit to Kenya. While observing the U.S. Embassy Joint Readiness Exercise in late October 2021, the chairman of Kenya's National Security Advisory Committee commented on the CRT's superior appearance, aggressive deployment, and communication skills. Its deployment in support of the SPEAR team made an impact on the observers who included senior officials as well as subject matter experts.



Kenyan police practice crimping nonelectrical blasting caps in March 2021 as part of an Explosives Incident Countermeasures course conducted by the ATA program at Kenya's Border Police Training Centre in Kanyonyo. ATA and Kenyan instructors were training participants from Kenya's Directorate of Criminal Investigation Bomb Disposal Unit. (U.S. Department of State photo)

Bomb Disposal Unit (BDU)

The small Bomb Disposal Unit (BDU) regularly saves lives and protects critical infrastructure by responding regularly to improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and unexploded ordnance (UXO) calls. ATA continues to provide force-generation capability through Explosives

Incident Countermeasures courses. Each course produces 16 new operators who continue to expand coverage across Kenya's vast landscape. The BDU provided direct support to the U.S. Secretary of State's visit to Kenya in late 2021 and regularly deployed in support of Kenya's president in local and international events.



ATA workshops on homemade explosive devices (left) and the Kenya Bomb Database Development consultation in June 2021. (U.S. Department of State photos)



National Bomb Database and Terrorist Incident Tracking

In 2021, ATA delivered the first platform for creating a national bomb database and terrorist incident tracking system. The INDURE (International Distributed Unified Reporting Environment) platform will help the Kenya Defence Forces and law enforcement to synchronize disparate services operating in a crowded information space. The platform helps to solve problems of information hoarding and simultaneous investigations by capturing and sharing the information among stakeholders. ATA is supporting the establishment of the database at the Kenyan National Counterterrorism Center, at the Director of Criminal Investigations, and at the Humanitarian Peace Support School.

MALI

Although the U.S. Department of State limited most foreign assistance to Mali in 2020-21, ATA was authorized to continue its partnership with Mali's counterterrorism unit, the National Gendarmerie Security and Intervention Group (French acronym GSIGN).



ATA mentors and Malian instructors conduct nighttime live-fire weapons practice at a GSIGN range near Bamako in November 2021.(U.S. Department of State photo)



GSIGN recruits conduct building-clearing drills in October 2021 while ATA mentors assist. (U.S. Department of State photo)



U.S. Ambassador to Mali Dennis Hankins and U.S. Embassy Bamako security personnel, including ATA-trained SPEAR team members (in helmets), hold a moment of silence to honor Malian forces who have given their lives in the trans-Saharan country's long battle against terrorism, March 18, 2021. (U.S. Department of State photo)

The flag at U.S. Embassy Bamako flew at half-staff on March 18, 2021, as U.S. Ambassador to Mali Dennis Hankins and DSS security personnel held a moment of silence for Malian personnel killed in a terrorist attack earlier that week. Taking part were U.S. Embassy Marine Security Guards, the Embassy Defense Attaché Office, and members of the U.S. Embassy SPEAR team, who are ATA-trained Malian police assigned to protect American diplomats. In 2020 and 2021, terrorist groups conducted numerous attacks against Malian security forces and civilians, predominately near Mali's border with Niger. The Sahel region is where the Sahara Desert transitions into sparsely inhabited arid lands that

have been traversed by nomadic groups for countless generations, and national borders are often unmarked except on major roads. Bandits, militants, and terrorist groups, such as the al-Qa'ida-linked JNIM, are able to travel through these areas relatively freely.

Mali also suffered political unrest in 2020-2021, limiting ATA's assistance to the SPEAR team and to the Gendarmerie's Security and Intervention Group (French acronym GSIGN), an ATA-trained and equipped advanced intervention unit that has experienced high casualties as its officers undertook numerous counterterrorism operations.

EAP: East Asia Pacific

PHILIPPINES

ATA-trained Philippine National Police (PNP) have been active and successful in conducting counterterrorism operations in the Philippines. Most of the counterterrorism operations there have been the result of joint task force operations conducted with the PNP and the Philippine military. ATA-trained units from the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)/Canine (K9) Group, the Special Action Force, and the Intelligence Group have all contributed to successful operations.

Some examples of successes include:

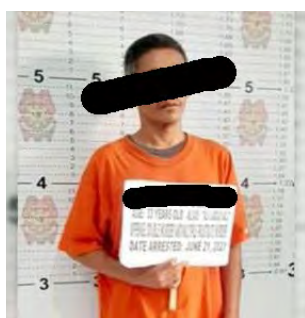
On May 29, 2021, ATA-trained and equipped members of the PNP Special Action Force (SAF), SAF-EOD, and the Philippine military attempted to serve an arrest warrant on ISIS-Philippines Maute Group sub-leaders Farahufon Hadji Satar and Muna Kali in Pagayawan, Mindanao, Philippines. The arrest warrants were for kidnapping, serious illegal detention, and frustrated murder.



Photo courtesy Philippine National Police

Security forces approaching the location were fired upon by other Maute Group members. Although Satar and Kali escaped, nine other Maute Group members were arrested. Authorities recovered two M-16 rifles with loaded magazines, one carbine, two .45-caliber pistols with loaded magazines, one improvised explosive device (IED), electronic communication equipment, and a record book indicating finances and personalities, as well as sketches of suspected plans.

On June 21, 2021, ATA-trained PNP and the Philippine Army conducted a joint counterterrorism operation to arrest a known bomb maker, Ali Akbar. PNP Explosive Ordnance Disposal/K9 Group (EOD/K9) assisted in the arrest of Ali Akbar in Mindanao's Kidapawan City. A suspected IED was discovered during the operation and rendered safe by members of the EOD/K9 Group. Akbar was wanted for two separate bus bombings on January 27 and June 3, which together claimed four lives and injured several others. Members of the PNP EOD/K9 Group safely recovered other IED components during the arrest. CNN Philippines reported that a pro-ISIS flag also was found in Akbar's possessions.



Photos courtesy Philippine National Police

On July 30, 2021, ATA-trained PNP Special Action Force (PNP-SAF) and Intelligence Group (PNP-IG) officers took part in a joint counterterrorism operation to arrest one of their own employees, Masckur Adoh Patarasa, an active non-uniformed personnel officer of the PNP, for suspected kidnapping and serious illegal detention. Patarasa is believed to have worked as a logistics officer for the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) terrorist organization in Sulu, Philippines.



Arrest one of their own employees, Masckur Adoh Patarasa. (Photo courtesy Philippine National Police)

ATA-Trained Philippine Police Negotiators Help Bring Manila Mall Hostage Crisis to Peaceful End

Philippine National Police (PNP) trained by ATA responded to a hostage situation on March 2, 2020, at an upscale shopping center just outside of Manila and negotiated with the gunman a peaceful end to the crisis.

The suspect, a recently dismissed security guard at the V-Mall, shot and wounded a mall security guard before barricading himself and dozens of hostages in a second-floor office. The assailant was also armed with a grenade, authorities said. Some 70 individuals, including some who were hiding from the gunman, were trapped inside the mall during the crisis.

Heavily armed police SWAT commandos in ballistic-resistant helmets and vests entered the mall as other officers took up positions outside the building.



On March 2, 2020, ATA-trained Philippine National Police (PNP) negotiated a peaceful resolution to a hostage situation at a Manila shopping mall. The PNP Eastern Police District's deputy director for administration, whom ATA trained in hostage negotiation, led the operation with ATA-trained hostage negotiators from the PNP Anti-Kidnapping Group. (AP/WideWorld photos)

The deputy district director for administration of the PNP Eastern Police District, who received ATA training in hostage negotiation, led the operation, which included ATA-trained hostage negotiators from the PNP Anti-Kidnapping Group.

Over the course of 10 hours, negotiators, including San Juan Mayor Francis Zamora, maintained a dialogue with the gunman. Police agreed to some of the gunman's demands, including his request to address mall guards via his mobile phone about alleged corruption of his supervisors at the mall security firm and another demand that six officers who oversaw the mall's security apologize to the suspect at a news conference. The officers did so and also tendered their resignations.

In the authorities' final concession to the gunman, he was permitted to leave the building peacefully with his hostages and hold a short press conference with journalists who had gathered outside the mall.

After several minutes of airing his work-related grievances to the assembled TV new crews, police swarmed him and took him into custody. The officers also removed a pistol he had been carrying in his pants pocket.

ATA-Trained Philippine Police Foil Suspected Suicide Bombers

Philippine counterterrorism police trained by ATA arrested three women suspected of planning terrorist attacks and confiscated bomb-making materials, including a suicide vest rigged with pipe bombs, in a pre-dawn raid October 10, 2020.

One of the arrested suspects—the daughter of a husband-wife suicide-bomber couple—was believed to be planning a suicide attack after the recent death of her husband, a militant fighter with the ISIS-affiliated ASG.

The actions were part of ongoing operations in the Philippines conducted by personnel trained by ATA program, co-managed by the DSS and CT. The counterterror actions followed a series of ongoing Abu Sayyaf attacks in the region.

In the early morning hours of Saturday, October 10, 2020, counterterrorism officials from Joint Task Force Sulu executed a search warrant on a house in Jolo, capital of the Sulu province in the southwestern Philippines. Task force members arrested three women who were believed to be part of a terrorist bombing plot.

Authorities identified one of the suspects as Rezky Fantasya Rullie, an Indonesian woman in her late teens. Rullie is believed to be the daughter of an Indonesian married couple who blew themselves up during a Roman Catholic Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Jolo on January 27, 2019, killing at least 18 people and injuring scores of others. Rullie

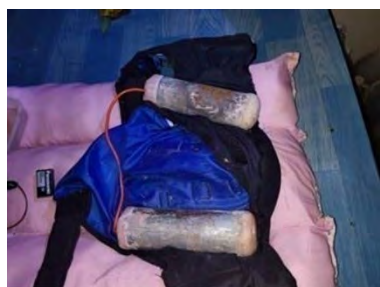


recently married an Abu Sayyaf recruiter who was killed by Philippine Army commandos in August 2020, five days after two bomb attacks in Jolo killed 14 people plus a bomber.



Rezky Fantasia Rullie.
(Philippines National
Police photo)

Rullie was reportedly five months pregnant and allegedly planned to conduct a suicide bombing following the birth of her child. During the arrest, authorities recovered a vest rigged with two pipe bombs and other bomb making materials. The other two women arrested were also married to Abu Sayyaf militants.



Two photos of bomb-making materials and a bomb vest found during the October 10, 2020, law enforcement operation.
(Philippines National Police photos)

ATA-trained personnel from the Philippines National Police (PNP) Intelligence Group and EOD/K9 Group, along with members of the Philippine military and local police, comprise the Joint Task Force Sulu. The explosive materials at the arrest site were rendered safe by the ATA-trained and equipped EOD/K9 personnel.

ATA-trained personnel with the PNP Intelligence Group are using investigative software provided by ATA to analyze the links between regional Malaysian, Indonesian, and Philippine terrorist members associated with Abu Sayyaf.

Philippine security personnel report that they have been pursuing foreign terrorist suicide bombers in Sulu after the twin bombing in August, stating that “Rullie was first on our list, since we have received intelligence reports that she is going to conduct a suicide bombing after the death of her husband.”

The twin bombings in Jolo in August targeted Philippine military personnel and police assisting in COVID-19 humanitarian efforts.

THAILAND

Royal Thai Police (RTP) trained by ATA responded to numerous attacks and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), including discovering weapons and explosives in suspicious vehicles, and investigating roadside bombings.

ATA-Trained Police Spot Potential Threats: One Near U.S. Embassy, Another a Hidden Truck Bomb in Residential Area

In March 2021, ATA-trained RTP responded to two separate explosives incidents, foiling potential attacks.

In the first incident, on March 5, 2021, RTP traffic officers observed an SUV moving erratically through central Bangkok traffic and performed a traffic stop in a busy area approximately one mile from the U.S. Embassy. During a vehicle search, officers discovered what appeared to be homemade pistols and suspected explosive devices.



(Royal Thai Police photo)

Members of the RTP Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Forensic Science Unit rendered the devices safe and forensically processed the crime scene. Police bomb techs confirmed the suspicious devices were homemade handguns and black powder pipe bombs.

The responding bomb technicians received their EOD training from ATA-trained master EOD trainers who were trained during multiple ATA courses to include the EAP Master EOD Workshop in Jakarta, Indonesia, in December 2019. This type of regional bomb tech training demonstrates the benefits derived from bringing senior ATA-trained bomb technicians together from Thailand, the Philippines, and Indonesia to share their experiences and learn new procedures that they can share with colleagues. Police bomb techs who examined the suspected explosive devices confirmed the presence of 18 IEDs (black powder pipe bombs) and three homemade pistols.

In the second incident, on March 12, 2021, RTP reported that it foiled a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) attack in the Raman district of the deep Southern Yala Province. The bombs were discovered after RTP officers located a pickup truck reported stolen hours earlier. The first IED was disguised within a household spray can and located in a garbage can near the stolen car. Two other IEDs were located on the floor on the passenger side of the vehicle. The pickup truck was parked in a residential area housing government officials.

The original driver of the stolen truck said he was delivering packages in the area when several young men held him at gunpoint, tied him to a tree, and stole the vehicle. The victim freed himself and reported the theft to police.



(Royal Thai Police photo)



The RTP incident commander was a graduate of the ATA Post-Blast Investigation course. The two bomb technicians who rendered the suspected IEDs safe were recipients of ATA Unit Mentoring and graduates of the Homemade Explosive Workshop.

The individuals who stole the vehicle and planted the explosives were suspected of being members of the Runda Kumpulan Kecil (RKK) insurgent group. RKK is a violent and secretive extremist group operating in southern Thailand. Members have received military training in Indonesia and are believed to be able to slip across the Malaysian border when fleeing from Thai security forces.



Albanian police escort Komron Zuhurov, who was extradited to Germany in August 2020 on charges related to suspected ties with ISIS. (Photo courtesy Exit News)



Headquarters of Albania's State Police, whose ATA-trained counterterrorism unit tracked and arrested the ISIS suspect after his arrival in Tirana. (Albanian State Police photos)

EUR: Europe

ALBANIA

ATA-trained Police Arrest Suspected ISIS Terrorist Wanted in Germany

Albanian State Police (ASP), trained and equipped by ATA, in early 2020 arrested a suspected terrorist whom German authorities accuse of belonging to an ISIS cell in Germany.

Officers with the ASP Counterterrorism Directorate detained 24-year-old Komron Zuhurov on the evening of April 29, 2020. The suspect, a citizen of Tajikistan, had been staying with relatives in Tirana.

Two weeks earlier, on April 15, police in Germany arrested four other Tajiks who allegedly were part of the same terrorist cell and who had joined ISIS in January 2019. A fifth Tajik, their alleged leader, was already in police custody in Germany.



German police said the ISIS cell had obtained firearms and ammunition, as well as precursor chemicals and directions for making explosive devices. According to German police, to finance their terrorist activities, the Tajiks had agreed to a murder-for-hire plot targeting a businessman in Albania for \$40,000, but that the murder scheme failed.

On April 21, 2020, a federal court in Karlsruhe, Germany, issued an international warrant for Zuhurov's arrest, alleging that he had participated in a foreign terrorist organization. Zuhurov reportedly had

lived in Germany for two years before returning to his home country. But on February 17, 2020, he departed Tajikistan again and flew to Tirana International Airport. Ten days later, German authorities alerted their Albanian counterparts that they believed Zuhurov had entered Albania.

In what ASP dubbed “Operation Visitor,” members of the Investigational and Coordinating Unit, Counterterrorism Special Operations Unit, Financial Investigational Unit, and Terrorism Screening and Security Unit—all sub-units of the ASP Counterterrorism Directorate trained by ATA—began their search for the suspect.

The investigators confirmed that Zuhurov had entered the country, and they identified a family member in Tirana who was hosting him. Officers with the Financial Investigational Unit identified locations where Zuhurov had conducted financial transactions. Through open-source research and analysis, the Terrorism Screening and Security Unit discovered photographic evidence that Zuhurov was in the country and identified a location in Kukes, some 90 miles northeast of Tirana, where he might be staying.

ATA-trained members of the Counterterrorism Operational Unit placed the villa in Kukes as well as another home in the capital under surveillance and waited.

On April 29, the counterterrorism police observed a car with multiple individuals depart the villa in Kukes and kept it under surveillance as it drove to the capital. Officers observed the vehicle entering the garage of the building where Zuhurov’s relatives reside. Several hours later, police saw Zuhurov and two other individuals leave the building and walk down the street. After making a positive identification of the wanted suspect, officers moved in and apprehended Zuhurov without incident. An Albanian court ruled that Zuhurov should remain in provisional detention until judicial authorities complete the paperwork for his extradition to Germany.

The ASP units involved in the arrest used skills acquired through CT through the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund (CTPF). Assistance included topics such as investigation techniques on foreign terrorist fighters, surveillance and counter surveillance, open-source monitoring, management of terrorist investigations, identification and seizure of digital evidence, and digital forensics investigations. The investigating units also have received ATA equipment grants, such as computer forensics equipment and software.

Zuhurov was extradited to Germany in August 2020.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Within Days of ATA Training: An Investigative Breakthrough and an Arrest

A week after an ATA cyber training course began in January 2021, the Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) and local police worked jointly to arrest four suspects connected to a decade-old terrorism investigation.

Authorities discovered and seized weapons, explosives, and mines during their searches, and the BiH Prosecutor’s Office said the weapons appeared to be connected to international smuggling. The SIPA lead case agent and the agent conducting the seizures and cell phone examinations were both trained by ATA.

The arrest took place during the second week of a virtual mentorship with the ATA cyber mentor assisting SIPA with continued guidance on digital evidence seizure and collection. This was the first time SIPA used ATA-granted equipment in the field to find actionable intelligence.

The cyber mentorship, conducted online, lasted more than two months. The ATA mentor later was able to guide the SIPA Cyber Crime Unit through successful forensic examination of cell phone evidence in another ongoing terrorism case.

Additionally, the remote mentorship sessions allowed for collaboration with other SIPA directors and personnel, as the online sessions brought different



departments together without leaving their assigned workspaces. These persons likely would not have directly benefited from traditional in-country training sessions, because the personnel were assigned to remote locations.

KOSOVO

ATA-Trained Kosovo Police Arrest Five Suspected of Planning Terrorist Attacks

Using ATA training, Kosovo Police (KP) arrested five individuals on October 10, 2021, suspected of planning terrorist attacks in the county.



Evidence seized on October 10, 2021. (Photos courtesy Kosovo Police)

Police seized a significant amount of weapons, unmanned aerial vehicles, anti-tank weapons, explosives, hand grenades, cash, and electronic devices. The five suspects were believed to be part of a radical Islamist group in communication with ISIS, and two had been previously arrested.

The investigation was carried out over several months by implementing specialized investigation and surveillance techniques provided through the ATA training program. The ATA program has provided focused training on investigative techniques through formal training, as well as mentorships from subject

matter experts. ATA also has granted cyber forensics equipment to Kosovo Police to support training and counterterrorism operations.

The investigation represents strong teamwork. The U.S. Embassy Pristina Regional Security Office implements the ATA program and continues to provide exceptional support for the robust training schedule and equipment grants. CT funds training programs in Kosovo conducted by ATA and by the Department of Justice. The strong partnerships developed in-country between advisors have forged significant relationships between the KP Counterterrorism Directorate (CTD), Kosovo Correctional Service, and the Special Prosecutors. The director of the CTD said the ongoing partnership was critical in this investigation.

The Office of Antiterrorism Assistance's Training Curriculum Division created an Advanced Interview Techniques Workshop that was key to the interview of one of the suspects in the case, as well as discovery of the evidence. The workshop outline was developed by the Kosovo Senior Counterterrorism Advisor (SCTA) and a retired FBI special agent. The workshop was a specific request of the KP and SCTA to enhance officer skills and tactics during difficult interviews. The workshop was piloted in Kosovo in January 2020 and was scheduled for three other Balkan countries, as well as India and Central Asia.

NORTH MACEDONIA

Cyber Workshop via Zoom

ATA's Cyber Standard Operating Procedure Workshop (CSOPW) consultation for Skopje, North Macedonia, took place in May 2021.

This five-day consultation was held online using Zoom and Viber for outside-of-class communications and was attended by a dozen participants from the cybercrime and digital forensic sector. Participants were able to draft and adapt cyber SOPs by the end of the workshop.



U.S. Department of State photo

NEA: Near Eastern Affairs

JORDAN

Jordan has been a partner with the ATA program since 1987, receiving premier counterterrorism training, mentorship, and equipment for its various law enforcement agencies. For 30 years, Jordanian police, including officers from the Public Security Directorate and the General Directorate of the Gendarmerie, have proven steadfast partners of the ATA program in Jordan and have contributed significantly to U.S. efforts to advance the counterterrorism capabilities of other



law enforcement agencies in the region. ATA-trained Jordanian law enforcement officers have disrupted various terrorist plots and discovered and seized explosives at Jordan's borders.



Over the years, Jordan has become a regional training hub where the ATA program trains not only Jordanian police but also police from 57 other ATA partner nations. The ATA program has a long history of using Jordanian facilities, such as the Jordanian International Police Training Center to host regional hard-skills training courses in topics such as crisis response, explosives detection, post-blast investigations, and tactical medicine.

The ATA program has increased its capacity to provide technical assistance and has transitioned nearly all its counterterrorism training from domestic U.S. facilities to overseas partner facilities. The transition to Jordan not only results in cost savings for the U.S. government, but also promotes Jordan's leadership role in the region and strengthens the U.S.-Jordan partnership.

Jordan – ATA Pioneers Law Enforcement Distance Training

In June 2021, police and military law enforcement in Jordan attended ATA's first-ever virtual remote course overseas on a non-cyber topic, Critical Incident Management.

Participants followed COVID-19 prevention protocols, including social distancing, via classrooms at ATA's Jordanian International Police Training Center in Amman, with the course led by three ATA instructors who taught from offices in the Washington, D.C., area.

Because of time differences, the U.S.-based instructors worked from 1:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. so that participants in Amman could attend courses from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This course marked the first delivery for Jordan since the start of the COVID pandemic, over a year prior, and provided ATA headquarters with confirmation that non-cyber courses can be successfully delivered via the virtual format.



With an interpreter inside the booth in the background, Jordanian policewomen take notes during a weeklong Critical Incident Management course taught via video teleconference by instructors in the Washington, D.C., area. The course, in May and June 2021, allowed ATA to conduct overseas training despite travel restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. (U.S. Department of State photo)



Police officers with the newly established Jordan Tactical Bike Unit conduct one of their first public patrols in July 2021. The police bicycles and equipment were provided by ATA, coordinated by U.S. Embassy Amman's Regional Security Office. (U.S. Department of State photo)

ATA-equipped Jordan Police Tactical Bicycle Unit Rolls into Action

The U.S. Department of State partnered with Jordan's Public Security Directorate (PSD) in 2021 to support a newly established police unit that places uniformed officers on bicycles, providing community friendly high-visibility security, overwatch, and maneuverable response in crowded vulnerable public locations, events, and tourist sites.

With an ATA-grant of bicycles and protective equipment, the Jordanian Tactical Bike Unit's (TBU) first patrols in early July 2021, at a soccer match, were reportedly well received. Members of the public were taking pictures with the bicycle officer, supporting the bike unit on social media, and requesting patrols in other areas. Since that time, the TBU has also been deployed at the Jerrash Cultural Festival, and it is now regularly deployed to a large outdoor mall that is visited by thousands of Jordanians and tourists.

SCA: South and Central Asia

AFGHANISTAN

2002 to 2021

ATA Programs Supported U.S. Policy in Afghanistan for Two Decades

The ATA program played a significant role in supporting U.S. policy in Afghanistan for nearly two decades by assisting the nation's law enforcement and security forces in protecting their citizens, leaders, and international diplomats from militant attacks.

ATA trained and equipped more than 20,000 Afghan law enforcement and security professionals from 2002 until the U.S. withdrawal in 2021. This included counterterrorism training for multiple specialized police units, crisis response teams, and border police.



An exercise with an ATA-trained crisis response team in 2019 near Kabul, Afghanistan. (U.S. Department of State photo)



This memorial with names of fallen Afghan security forces stood in the ATA Joint Afghan Training Center near Kabul. The inscription read: "Every day, Agents courageously place themselves as living shields between the public and danger. We especially honor and commemorate those Agents who have suffered injury or death while protecting us from harm, upholding our laws, and preserving the peace of our society. — With valor there is hope." (U.S. Department of State photo)



ATA-trained law enforcement officers in Kabul hold a girl rescued in early August 2021 during a four-hour firefight when terrorists killed five people and held more than 70 hostages in a residential building. Less than two weeks later, the Taliban took control of Kabul and the ATA-Joint Afghan Training Center. ATA-trained units disbanded. (U.S. Department of State photo)



Afghan policewomen undergo ATA training in this undated photograph. (U.S. Department of State photo)

BANGLADESH

Both 2020 and 2021 were challenging but effective years for the Bangladesh police units trained and equipped by ATA.

Focus areas for ATA included: assisting the Bangladesh Police to develop, enhance, and expand their three-district crisis response teams (CRTs) and bomb disposal units (BDUs) located in Chattogram, Sylhet, and Rajshahi.

Additionally, ATA has continued to work with and provide assistance to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Bomb Disposal Unit and Cyber Unit. By using formalized basic-through-advanced training, grants of equipment, and the deployment of four CRT and four BDU mentors, ATA has endeavored to assist the Bangladesh Police's efforts in the deterrence, detection, and response to terrorism throughout the country.

Suspicious Device Outside U.S. Diplomatic Compound

One Wednesday afternoon in early December 2020, a mysterious backpack was reported lying on an access road near the perimeter fence of the U.S. Embassy Annex compound in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

U.S.-trained and equipped officers from the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Bomb Disposal Unit (BDU) deployed to the site to investigate. A robot-controlled x-ray inspection determined the contents were suspicious, and BDU officers safely performed a controlled detonation. As a precaution, local firefighters were on the scene but were not needed.

The incident was among the 144 times the BDU was called in 2020, resulting in the unit diffusing or neutralizing hundreds of explosives in and around Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka. The BDU, part of the police Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit, is trained and equipped by the ATA program.

The Dhaka-based BDU includes 34 bomb technicians trained by the ATA program, covering all the country except the main port city, Chattogram, which is home to a smaller team of ATA-trained bomb technicians. A February 2020 bombing of a Chattogram neighborhood police box injured five people, including two police officers, and was investigated by ATA-trained-and-equipped officers. In several law-enforcement raids throughout 2020, the ATA-trained Chattogram police crisis response team arrested at least 10 suspects in the blast who had ties to the ISIS-affiliated Neo-Jamaat-ul Mujahideen, also known as Neo-JMB.

The ATA program amplifies its work by encouraging train-the-trainer practices. In Dhaka, BDU officers in 2020 trained approximately 600 Bangladesh police for U.N. Peacekeeping deployments to Mali, Sudan, and Congo. During the year, BDU bomb technicians also trained hundreds of Bangladesh police serving around the country.



The scene of a February 2020 bombing of a police site in Chattogram, Bangladesh, that injured two officers. ATA-trained and equipped bomb technicians responded, and ATA-trained law enforcement investigated and conducted multiple arrests related to the bombing. (U.S. Department of State photo)

Two Suspects Arrested, Three IEDs Diffused by ATA-Trained Units



(Photo courtesy Bangladesh CTTC)



An ATA-trained bomb disposal technician responds to a suspicious backpack near a U.S. diplomatic compound in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in December 2020. (U.S. Department of State photo)

Two suspects were arrested July 11, 2021, by members of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit (CTTC), who were carrying out arrest and search warrants on a suspected terrorist location outside of Dhaka, Bangladesh.



In addition, the CTTC Bomb Disposal Unit, also trained and equipped by ATA, took part in the raid and neutralized three IEDs.

Information that led to the law enforcement operation was developed through investigations provided by the ATA-trained-and-equipped CTTC Cyber Unit.

Counter Terrorism Police Arrest 2 Bomb-Making Suspects

On August 2, 2021, members of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit (CTTC) raided a site in the Jatrabari area of Dhaka. Two suspects were taken into custody, and bomb-making materials were discovered and neutralized. The subsequent investigation indicated that the suspects received their bomb-making knowledge during online training from a Neo-JMB terrorist. Local news reports said those arrested were suspected of links to a May 16 bomb attack that targeted traffic police.

Police Track Down Online Recruiter

Ongoing investigations led by ATA-trained Bangladesh police contributed to the arrest on June 17, 2021, of an online recruiter for the Ansar al-Islam (AAI) terrorist organization. Sarwar Hossain, alias Alif, age 25, of the Naogaon border region, was taken into custody by the Bangladesh Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU) after investigators found him posting militant information online and seeking recruits for AAI.

A week earlier, ATA-trained Chattogram Metro Police Crisis Response Team (CRT) members arrested Shakhawat Ali Lalu, an IT expert, who had undergone weapons and tactics training in Syria. Shakhawat is also linked to uploading of videos, audio, and other online material for AAI recruiting efforts.



Controlled detonation in Dhaka in May 2021.1 (Photo courtesy Bangladesh CTTC)

Bomb Disposal Unit Performs Controlled Detonation of IED that Targeted Dhaka Police Location

ATA-trained Dhaka Metro Police Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Bomb Disposal Unit (CTTC BDU) defused an IED found at a Dhaka-area police traffic booth on May 17, 2021.

The BDU members used ATA-provided equipment, including a bomb technician protective suit and EOD robot used during the operation.

Upon arrival, the unit examined the device using ATA-donated equipment to determine that the IED was a remote-controlled device composed of gas canisters and shrapnel-filled containers. The BDU's efforts were complicated by the location of the IED in a congested thoroughfare connecting Dhaka and Narayanganj amid heavy traffic at the end of the Eid holidays as travelers were returning to Dhaka from family gatherings.

After taking appropriate precautions, the BDU performed a controlled detonation using an ATA-provided robot and subsequently sent the explosive remains for forensic analysis. Although no one claimed responsibility, ATA-trained experts determined that the device was like IEDs found last year in Dhaka and Chattogram, which targeted local police.

KAZAKHSTAN



The ATA Foreign Terrorist Fighters: Operators and Investigators course took place in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, in October 2021, at the Prosecutor General's Office Academy, a state-of-the-art facility. Pictured is one of the team's final presentations during the course capstone exercise. The presentation highlights evidence against the subjects of a mock terrorist attack. (U.S. Department of State photos)

TAJIKISTAN

The Tajikistan program is focused on counterterrorism investigations, border security operations, and emerging threats. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic no programming took place from spring 2020 through April 2021. Funding for the Tajikistan program is expanding as part of regional Central Asia funding initiatives, with an emphasis on border security operations.

Strong coordination between ATA traditional programs and Department of Defense (DoD)-funded programs is made to ensure collaboration or deconfliction where appropriate to meet training objectives. ATA's traditionally funded programs are coordinated through CT. The DoD funding, commonly known as Section 333 after a section of U.S. law, is part of a 2017 DoD authorization that allows DoD to conduct or support training and equipment deliveries for national security forces of partner nations.

DoD-Funded Crisis Response Team Course



Tajik police officers practice using a ballistic shield for protection while preparing to engage a threat during ATA crisis response team training in 2021. (U.S. Department of State photo)

In the spring of 2021, U.S. Embassy Dushanbe reopened for ATA training after a yearlong COVID-19 pandemic shutdown.



The reopening started with the delivery of a Crisis Response Team (CRT) course, conducted in April and May in support of the ATA program's implementation of the DoD initiative to train officers of Tajikistan's Ministry of Interior Affairs, and to assist the unit with the conduct of counterterrorism operations. The goals include supporting Tajikistan in strengthening its border security and contributing to regional security, stability, and cooperation.

The CRT course is a highly interactive, physically demanding, five-week training program designed for 24 tactical officers and team leaders who plan and conduct tactical operations in response to terrorist-related incidents. ATA has a long historical training relationship with Tajikistan and was therefore an ideal implementing partner for U.S. Central Command, also known as CENTCOM.

WHA: Western Hemisphere Affairs

BRAZIL



Brazil equipment donation, October 23, 2021. (U.S. Department of State photos)

ATA Donates Six Tons of Equipment for Law Enforcement in Tri-Border Region

In October 2021, members of the U.S. Consulate General Sao Paulo Regional Security Office received, organized, and distributed 43 pallets (more than 6 tons) of ATA-provided protective, training, and medical equipment to Brazilian police units responsible for patrolling Brazil's porous tri-border region separating Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina. Brazil's tri-border region is a major transit hub for both legal and illicit

travel due to its geography, its proximity to several cities, and because of Brazil's permissive immigration and asylum policies. The tri-border area is a key focus area of U.S. federal law enforcement and is central to several U.S. agencies' strategies to counter terrorism, narcotics trafficking, weapons smuggling, human trafficking, money laundering, intellectual property theft, and other illicit network activity. The equipment directly supports the Brazilian federal, civil, and military police tasked with patrolling this challenging terrain.

ATA SPECIAL PROGRAMS

ATA SPEAR Teams and Mentors Supporting U.S. Diplomatic Missions In:

Abuja (Nigeria)	Erbil (Iraq)	N'Djamena (Chad)
Bamako (Mali)	Juba (South Sudan)	Nairobi (Kenya)
Bangui (Central African Republic)	Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo)	Niamey (Niger)
Cotonou (Benin)	Lagos (Nigeria)	Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)

Tunis (Temporarily on hold in 2021, scheduled to re-staff in 2022)

Addis Ababa (in the process of implementation for 2022)

Khartoum (in the process of implementation for 2022)

Kabul SPEAR team ceased operations in August 2021 – All SPEAR members successfully evacuated unless they chose to remain home



An assistant regional security officer (right) confers with a member of the ATA-trained Special Program for Embassy Augmentation and Response (SPEAR) team in Nairobi, Kenya, during a U.S. Embassy Joint Readiness Exercise on October 30, 2021. (U.S. Department of State photo)

SPEAR: Protecting U.S. Embassies

In response to the 2012 attack on U.S. diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, Libya, ATA developed the Special Program for Embassy Augmentation and Response (SPEAR) to train and equip host-nation security units dedicated to providing an immediate quick response force, mobile security support, or protective operations supporting U.S. personnel and facilities.

SPEAR enhances the security of U.S. diplomatic posts in high-threat or high-risk environments by training specially chosen law enforcement officers of host nations to better respond to emergencies involving U.S. diplomatic personnel or facilities. These quick-response forces can respond within minutes to emergencies and threats and provide additional security support for a U.S. mission overseas.



ATA-trained SPEAR teams have successfully responded to terrorist attacks, stopped crimes in progress near diplomatic residences, and helped save lives in numerous countries.

Beyond keeping U.S. diplomatic facilities open during civil and political unrest, SPEAR teams routinely accompany U.S. diplomatic convoys to unstable regions, provide security during election monitoring, and enhance security for major diplomatic events.

As a component of embassy security rather than bilateral foreign assistance, SPEAR is funded and managed by DSS. SPEAR funding varies based on the training courses and equipment required for participating units.

In fiscal year 2021, ATA invested approximately \$42 million in the SPEAR program. ATA training provides SPEAR members with skills and equipment loans needed to become a quick response force. These teams also receive training to protect individuals proactively in transit from one location to another. SPEAR teams also participate in national and multinational joint readiness exercises and training events with U.S. security assets at diplomatic facilities, such as U.S. Marine Security Guards, embassy bodyguards, and local guard forces.

Since its inception, SPEAR has trained more than 700 police officers in participating countries. This number continues to grow as new partner countries are identified to participate in SPEAR.

SPEAR Develops Human Rights Course for Quick Response Forces

In the autumn of 2021, ATA's SPEAR program piloted the newly developed QRF (Quick Response Force) Human Rights course in Nairobi, Kenya, with a class of 30 law enforcement officers. Participants in the five-day course included mostly SPEAR team members and, at the request of U.S. Embassy Nairobi, members from numerous Kenyan law enforcement organizations, including the Kenya National Police Crisis Response Team (CRT), the Border Police Unit (BPU), and the All-Female SWAT Team (AFSWAT).

The human rights course focuses on understanding universal human rights and identifying human rights violations and abuses when serving as a member of a tactical response unit, specifically SPEAR members working in and around U.S. diplomatic personnel and facilities.

Course topics include threat comprehension (physical, legal, and mental), human rights violations and abuses, national legal framework (taught by a SPEAR team instructor in conjunction with a U.S. instructor), professionalism, use of force, detention, and leading human rights. The course involves various practical exercises and group discussions, as well as a capstone exercise. The course was well received by the participants who are requesting more deliveries throughout ATA programs. Several commented they had never participated in discussions of this depth on the

topics of human rights and the related stresses of maintaining the highest professional conduct, standards, and ethics while serving in a tactical unit.

ATA has embarked on a comprehensive program to conduct the course in every nation with an active SPEAR team.



Kenyan law enforcement participants discuss case studies and scenarios during the human rights course in October 2021. (U.S. Department of State photos)



Nigerian police assigned to protect U.S. diplomatic facilities and personnel operate one of their patrol boats in the coastal city of Lagos in November 2020. The police are part of a SPEAR team. SPEAR teams are quick-response forces trained and funded by ATA. (U.S. Department of State photo)

Nigeria SPEAR Team Protects U.S. Diplomats During Unrest in Lagos

Thousands of Nigerians began protesting in early October 2020 after a video was widely shared on social media showing police officers with Lagos' Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) allegedly killing a man. The Nigerian government disbanded the SARS unit on October 11. However, protests and the associated government response continued, and this led to violence in several instances, involving property destruction, and deaths. Local government curfews and roadblocks made it difficult—even dangerous—for diplomatic personnel to travel within Lagos, the most populous urban area in Africa.

When protests in Lagos escalated, a team of Nigerian police specially trained by DSS provided continuous security to U.S. diplomatic sites and personnel, keeping consulate personnel safe and mitigating the need for reinforcements from outside the country.

Throughout the unrest, the Consulate General Lagos' regional security officer relied on a local police unit specifically trained under SPEAR to protect U.S. diplomats and facilities.

SPEAR teams, administered by ATA, enhance the security of U.S. diplomatic posts in high-threat, high-risk environments by training specially chosen law enforcement officers of host nations to better respond to emergencies. The Lagos SPEAR team includes 47 members from the Nigerian mobile police plus an American mentor. The Lagos team is unique in that it includes a maritime component, with team members using boats to navigate around the coastal city's notorious traffic congestion.

As protests and government responses continued, DoD officials monitoring the situation contacted the Department of State to determine if DoD deployments were necessary. However, Embassy Abuja and Consulate General Lagos officials determined the SPEAR team was providing adequate security without the need for a costly deployment of American troops or additional DSS personnel. Additionally, lacking local knowledge or contacts, U.S.-based security augmentation forces would have had difficulty operating in this environment.

"That's one of the benefits of using local police as part of SPEAR," said a SPEAR program manager. "They have the authorities to move around, and they have the authorities to make arrests."



Members of the Chad SPEAR team and members of a DSS Mobile Security Deployments team practice moving and shooting at a firing range in N'Djamena, Chad, in May 2021. (U.S. Department of State photos)



SPEAR team in Chad protects U.S. Embassy staff during national crisis

The SPEAR team in N'Djamena, Chad, protected U.S. diplomats and emergency essential embassy staff during military unrest in April and early May 2021 that included the death of the nation's longtime president.

On April 11, 2021, the day of Chad's presidential election, anti-government forces attacked Chad's military near the country's northwestern border with Libya and Niger, with the stated intent of overthrowing Chad's government. As convoys of anti-government forces headed toward the capital, the U.S. Embassy in N'Djamena on April 17 announced an ordered departure of families and non-emergency essential personnel.

While the embassy was crafting its ordered departure plans, embassy security officials also requested a Mobile Security Deployments (MSD) team, the Department's tactical response team of DSS special agents and support staff deploying from the United States, to augment security. While the MSD team was in transit, the 48 members of the Chad SPEAR team remained the primary security augmentation, along with the U.S. Marine Security Guard force.



Members of the DSS-trained SPEAR team in Chad participate in an exercise at the U.S. Embassy compound in N'Djamena in May 2021. (U.S. Department of State photos)

The Chad SPEAR team members positioned themselves at a pre-designated location, oversaw the safe movement of U.S. diplomats, and supported the security of those departing as part of the ordered evacuation.

When anti-government forces were reported within 160 kilometers (100 miles) of the capital, leadership of Chad's police contacted the U.S. Embassy regional security officer (RSO) to request support from the SPEAR team, which comprises highly trained local police, to help secure key police facilities. However, the RSO and the SPEAR team mentor both recommended that the SPEAR team members all remain on duty in support of the U.S. Embassy. Chad police leadership honored the U.S. recommendation.

A day later, numerous residents began evacuating N'Djamena, and the RSO requested that the SPEAR team remain on site at the embassy compound until further notice. At least one SPEAR team member had

close relatives killed in fighting with anti-government forces but continued to serve on duty in support of the embassy. Plans were made for a possible embassy evacuation, with SPEAR team members providing integral security. However, these plans did not need to be carried out.

Chad's President, Idriss Déby, who first took power in a 1990 coup and had just been reelected, reportedly went to the frontlines to oversee the fighting. On April 19, he was reported killed in combat, and a transitional military government then was formed. SPEAR team members were part of the security plan as the embassy's Chargé d'Affaires David Gilmour attended the funeral for President Déby.

Security remained unsettled. Back-and-forth fighting well outside the capital continued for several more days. The MSD team arrived from the United States to bolster embassy security while Chad's military drove the anti-government forces to the country's northwest border region deep within the Sahara Desert. A week

after President Déby's death, demonstrations against the government took place in the capital city, and several protestors were killed, an action condemned by the U.S. Embassy.

The SPEAR team members were integral to embassy protection until the ordered departure was lifted on May 14. Upon arrival of the MSD team, SPEAR and MSD team members spent much of the time coordinating closely and training together. The predominately Muslim region marked the end of the Ramadan holiday at this time with Eid al-Fitr festivals, but SPEAR team members understood the importance of remaining on security duty fully alert and so limited or postponed their gatherings.

"The N'Djamena SPEAR team remained on duty and mission-focused, protecting U.S. personnel throughout a major military action and national political crisis," said Special Agent Chris Pae, RSO at U.S. Embassy N'Djamena. "SPEAR was on-site before, during and after the crisis, and SPEAR blended in smoothly once the MSD team deployed to post."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS



U.S. Marine Security Guards assigned to U.S. Embassy Dushanbe, Tajikistan, conduct drills at an ATA-supported indoor training site. Through ATA's traditional programs and DoD-funded programs, the Regional Security Office has a well-established relationship with Tajikistan's Ministry of Internal Affairs. (U.S. Department of State photo)

Partnering with DoD to Strengthen Law Enforcement Abroad

The State Department and DoD launched a new partnership in 2018, leveraging State's ATA program training expertise to advance interagency counterterrorism objectives. With funding from DoD, ATA has extended its ability to train and equip even more law enforcement and security agencies in designated partner nations.

The ATA-DoD partnership is the product of legislation enacted in December 2017, which established Section 333 under Title 10 of the United States Code. Section 333 provided the U.S. Secretary of Defense a new authority to conduct or support the delivery of training and equipment to the national security forces of partner nations.



The new authority expanded DoD's scope to build the capacity of both military and nonmilitary foreign national security forces to conduct counterterrorism, maritime and border security operations, and other national security activities.

Recognizing ATA's decades-long history of delivering premiere counterterrorism training and equipment to law enforcement partners worldwide, DoD worked with Department of State planners to develop an initiative by which DoD would fund, and ATA would implement, counterterrorism training assistance to law enforcement forces of designated partner nations.

Under this initiative, State and DoD jointly formulate and concur on all Section 333-funded proposals to ensure that U.S. foreign policy and defense policy objectives are aligned. The ATA training is then tailored to the needs of each partner nation's national-level law enforcement security forces.

The ATA training aggressively promotes the observance of, and respect for, the law of armed conflict, human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, and respect for civilian control of the military.



In a program funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, security officers in Tajikistan participate in ATA Crisis Response Team training in May 2021. (U.S. Department of State photo)

GLOSSARY

Abbreviation/Acronym | Description

A	
AAI	Ansar al-Islam
AF	Bureau of African Affairs
AFSWAT	All Female Special Weapons and Tactics (Kenya)
ASP	Albanian State Police
ASG	Abu Sayyaf Group
ATA	Office of Antiterrorism Assistance/Antiterrorism Assistance Program
ATOUR	Advanced Tactical Operations-Urban Rural
ATU	Bangladesh Anti-terrorism Unit
B	
BDU	Bomb Disposal Unit
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BPU	Border Police Unit
BSIAT	Brigade Spéciale des Investigations Antiterroristes/Special Police Terrorism Investigation Unit (Burkina Faso)
C	
CENTCOM	U.S. Central Command
CRT	Crisis Response Team
CSOPW	Cyber Standard Operating Procedure Workshop
CT	Bureau of Counterterrorism
CTPF	Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund
CTTC	Dhaka Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit
D	
DoD	Department of Defense
DoS	Department of State
DS	Bureau of Diplomatic Security
DSS	Diplomatic Security Service

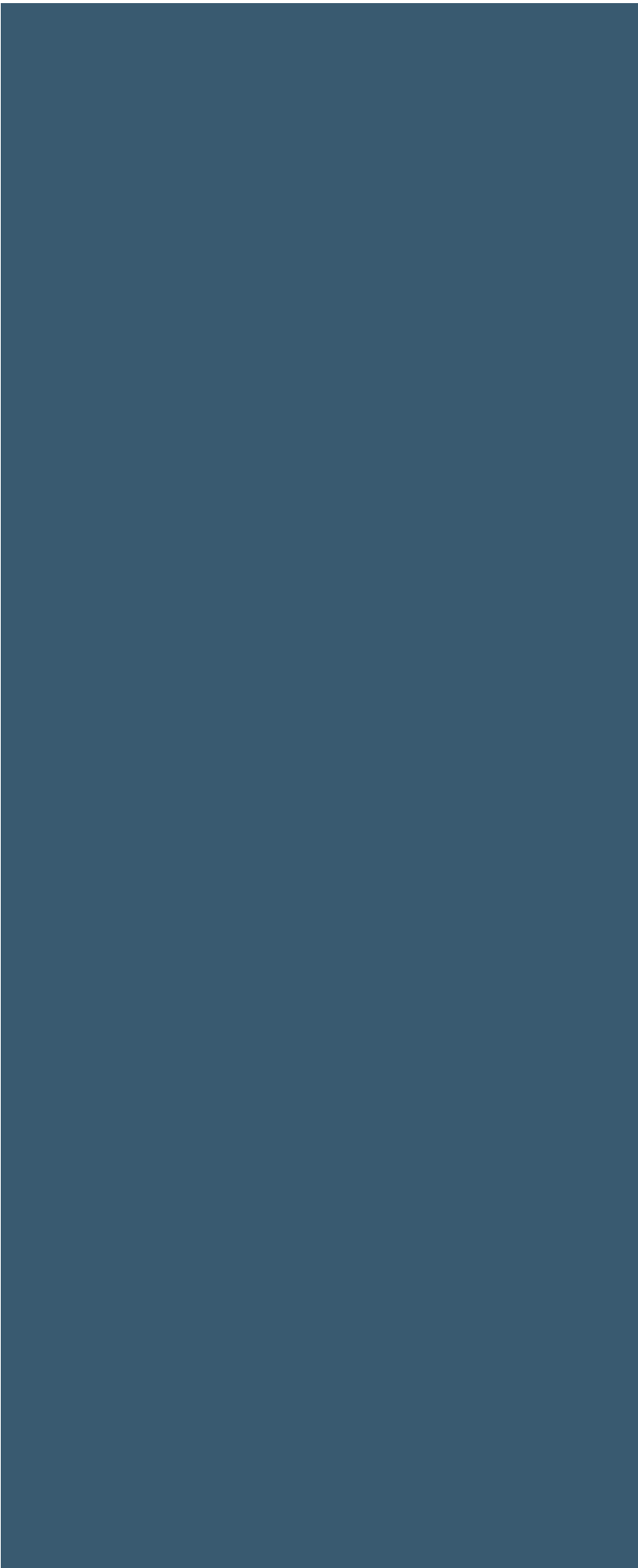


Abbreviation/Acronym	Description
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E	
EAJO	East Africa Joint Operations
EAP	Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
EUR	Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs
F	
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
G	
GCC	Global Canine Center
GNN/GIS	National Guard of Niger Security Intervention Group
GSIGN	Gendarmerie's Security and Intervention Group
GSU	General Services Unit
I	
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IG	Intelligence Group
INDURE	International Distributed Unified Reporting Environment
ISIS	Islamic State in Iraq and Syria
J	
JNIM	Jama'at Nasrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin
K	
KP	Kosovo Police
KP-CTD	Kosovo Police Counter Terrorism Directorate
K9	Canine
M	
MILO	Multiple Interactive Learning Objectives
MSD	Mobile Security Deployments
N	
NEA	Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
Neo-JMB	Neo-Jamaat-ul Mujahideen

Abbreviation/Acronym	Description
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O	
OMON	Tajikistan Ministry of Interior Affairs Militia Detachment for Special Purposes
P	
PNP	Philippine National Police
PSD	Jordan Public Security Directorate
Q	
QRF	Quick Response Force
R	
RKK	Runda Kumpulan Kecil (Thailand)
RSO	Regional Security Office/Officer
RTP	Royal Thai Police
S	
SAF	Special Action Force
SARS	Lagos Special Anti-Robbery Squad
SCA	Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs
SCTA	Senior Counterterrorism Advisor
SEO	Security Engineering Officer
SIPA	State Investigation and Protection Agency
SPEAR	Special Program for Embassy Augmentation and Response
T	
TSA	Transportation Security Administration
U	
UAS	Unmanned Aerial System
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
V	
VBIED	Vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Device
W	
WAJO	West Africa Joint Operations
WHA	Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs





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<https://state.gov/antiterrorism-assistance-program/>