ANTITERRORISM ASSISTANCE
RETROSPECTIVE
2018-2019

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2019 ATA BY THE NUMBERS

526
ATA COURSES DELIVERED
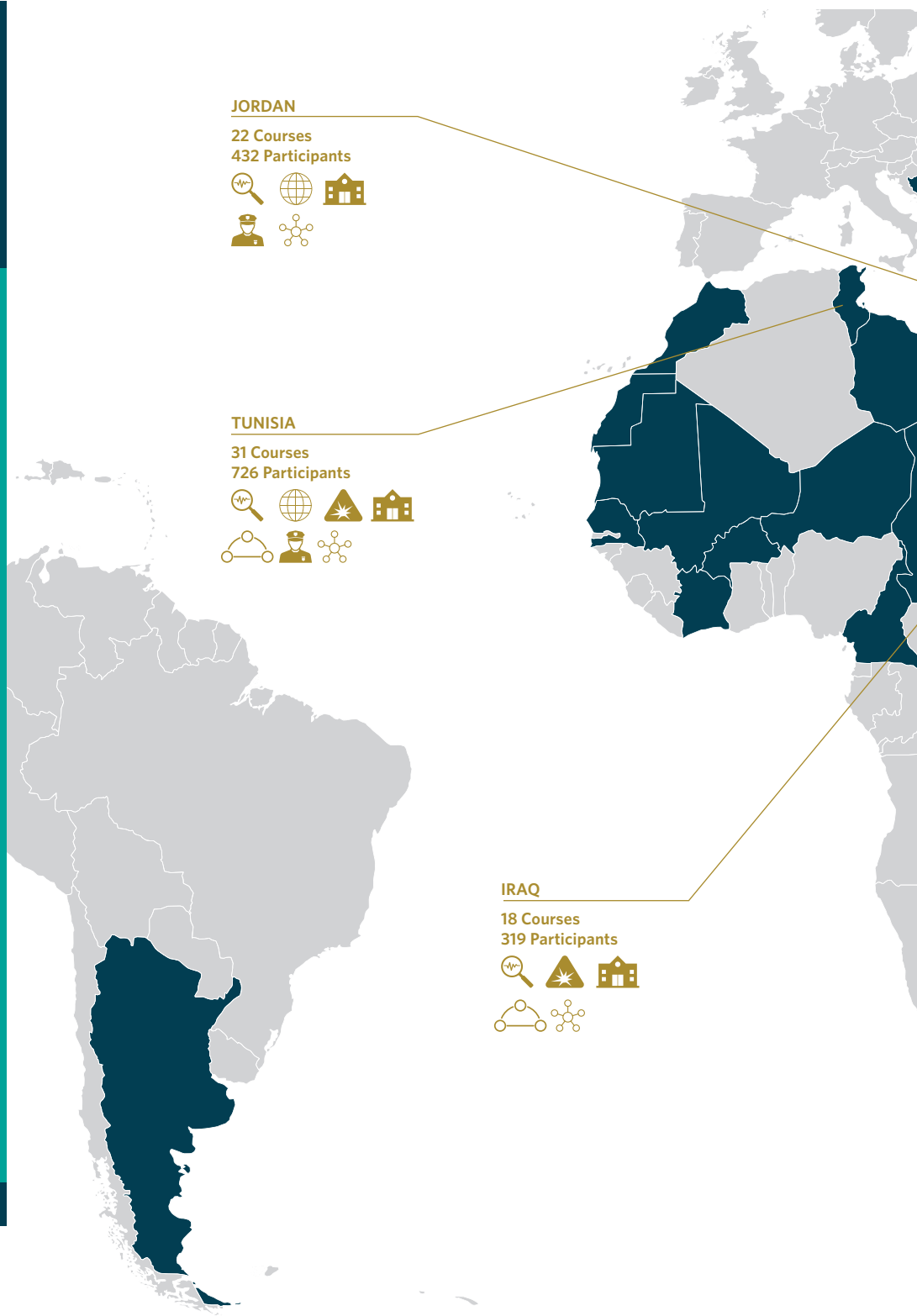
10,251
PARTICIPANTS IN ATA COURSES

687
FEMALE PARTICIPANTS

190
PARTNER NATION INSTRUCTORS DEVELOPED

44
COUNTRIES RECEIVED ATA COURSES

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JORDAN

22 Courses
432 Participants

TUNISIA

31 Courses
726 Participants

IRAQ

18 Courses
319 Participants

2019 ATA Countries

Countries with highest ATA activity in 2019

INDONESIA

21 Courses
480 Participants

BANGLADESH

22 Courses
375 Participants

AFGHANISTAN

121 Courses
2,220 Participants

PHILIPPINES

51 Courses
1,008 Participants

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Investigations
Courses

Institutionalization
Courses

LE Management
Courses

Critical Infrastructure
Security and Resilience
Courses

Border Security
Courses

Crisis Response
Courses

Bomb Disposal
Unit Courses

Protection of
National Leadership
Courses

INTRODUCTION

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Over the past two years, the State Department's Antiterrorism Assistance Program (ATA) played an integral role in improving global security capabilities for 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. The ATA program is implemented by the Bureau of Diplomatic Security in partnership with the Bureau of Counterterrorism, which provides program funding, strategic direction, and policy guidance for ATA activities. This report highlights some of ATA's major successes in 2018-2019 and lays out the path ahead for the U.S. Government's flagship civilian capacity building program.

Offering more than 50 unique courses and hundreds of customized consultations, ATA provides vital assistance on topics including cybersecurity, SWAT training, protecting critical infrastructure, and bomb disposal, among others. By delivering training, mentoring, and equipment to law enforcement partners abroad, ATA builds critical capabilities to detect, deter, and disrupt terrorist activities through knowledge-enhancing training courses and tactical skills development.

In 2018 and 2019, the ATA program implemented a sustainable model of education through executive leadership training and train-the-trainer programs. This model ensures that recipients can independently employ and teach

vital counterterrorism skills within a rule-of-law framework that promotes respect for human rights. ATA-trained and equipped teams have been on the front lines of the counterterrorism fight. The ATA critical incident response and counter IED training has proven particularly valuable, resulting in multiple successful interventions globally. In 2018, ATA-trained Egyptian law enforcement officials responded to a detonated IED near U.S. Embassy Cairo. The following year, at the 2019 ASEAN Summit, ATA-trained Royal Thai Police personnel immediately responded to and investigated multiple IED explosions in Bangkok. Both nations' law enforcement professionals displayed skills learned through ATA training in their effective response.

Additionally, the program improved partner border and aviation security, ensuring that terrorist movements and resources are disrupted. After receiving ATA airport security training, security screeners in the Ivory Coast identified baggage containing cash from a suspected Lebanese Hizballah courier. In Brazil, ATA-trained border security officials seized smuggled goods on numerous occasions, highlighting their capability to address transborder threats. ATA also bolstered airport security in Senegal by providing scanning equipment and training to the Blaise Diagne International Airport. Building border and aviation security with training and equipment is increasingly important as we anticipate the movement of foreign terrorist fighters through both licit and illicit means.

Finally, we increased efforts to promote gender parity through the ATA program worldwide. This included the first co-ed training for police officers in Afghanistan and the first female Special Program for Embassy Augmentation Response (SPEAR) team officers in the Central African Republic. By encouraging female participation and leadership in the security sector, partner nations expand their ability to counter threats.

Through the ATA program we will continue to address the terrorist threats of the future. For example, ATA has been active in preparing law enforcement agencies to conduct cyber investigations, building a cyber-lab and providing training and equipment in Bangladesh, enabling law enforcement officials to combat terrorism through internet investigations, mobile device forensics, and advanced social media investigations.

In sum, ATA is an invaluable tool to combat terrorism. Throughout 2018 and 2019, partner nations' counterterrorism activities demonstrated how ATA training and equipment 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.

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MICHAEL EVANOFF
Assistant Secretary for the
Bureau of Diplomatic Security

NATHAN SALES
Ambassador-at-Large and
Coordinator for Counterterrorism

AFGHANISTAN:

ATA Enhances NATO's Resolute Support Security Mission

SPU-01 police officers practice personnel and vehicle search procedures during ATA training at the Joint Afghan Training Center (JATC), outside of Kabul, July 4, 2018. (U.S. Department of State photo)

To help address specific security concerns in Kabul's International Zone, NATO's Resolute Support (RS) leadership requested ATA expertise to fill a capability gap in Afghanistan's newly formed Special Police Unit (SPU-01).

SPU personnel are a component of the NATO-led RS Mission initiative to help Afghan security forces bolster the security of population centers and interdict high-profile attacks in Kabul. In January 2015, the Resolute Support Mission began providing training, advice, and other assistance to Afghan security forces and institutions to build their capacity to defend Afghanistan and counter extremist groups.

In June 2018, the ATA staff from the Joint Afghan Training Center (JATC) outside of Kabul and ATA-certified Afghan instructors supplemented the RS-led effort by training more than 1,100 SPU personnel in soft skills, such as behavioral observations, suicide bomber prevention, and facility protection.

NATO provided logistical support and vetted police trainees for the new program, and ATA delivered counterterrorism law enforcement training unavailable through NATO's RS Mission.

A would-be suicide bomber is restrained on the ground in Kabul, July 3, 2019, after two police officers used nonlethal force to quickly subdue him before he could detonate his explosives-laden vest. Both police officers had graduated from the U.S. Department of State's Antiterrorism Assistance program's courses on facilities protection and behavioral observation skills at the JATC. (Courtesy of Afghan SPU-01)

One year later, on the evening of July 3, 2019, two SPU-01 officers assigned to an entrance of Kabul's International Zone used their ATA training to identify a suspicious individual approaching their Zanbaq Square checkpoint. Both officers had attended ATA's Behavior Observation and Facilities Protection courses at the JATC in 2018.

On closer scrutiny, the officers realized the individual was wearing an explosives-laden suicide vest beneath his clothing. One of the officers ordered the individual to stop, but he refused to comply. The ATA-trained officers then acted swiftly to overpower the suspect and take him into custody.

A Kabul City Police bomb team then removed the suicide vest from the suspect and rendered it safe.

The ATA training and quick action of the two SPU-01 officers saved countless lives and resulted in the capture of a terrorist suspect.

This is just one of many instances in 2019 in which ATA-trained SPU officers used their ATA-acquired skills to identify and intercept would-be attackers and criminals, seize illegal weapons and fraudulent documents, and save lives.

BANGLADESH:

ATA's Growing Partnership

An ATA instructor closely monitors handgun presentation of a crisis response team member during live-fire training in Rajshahi, Bangladesh, November 13, 2019. (U.S. Department of State photo)

In 2018, ATA began a multiyear program to assist the Bangladesh National Police with the creation of crisis response teams and the enhancement of its cyber and digital investigations capability.

At the ATA-funded Jordan International Police Training Center in Jordan, ATA instructors delivered a five-week basic crisis response team (CRT) course for officers from the provincial police departments of Chittagong, Rajshahi, and Sylhet. That course was followed by more specialized ATA training in advanced CRT, CRT shooter observer, methods of entry, tactical commanders, armorers' workshop, and instructor development.

The training has been supplemented and reinforced back in Bangladesh by ATA mentors who deliver additional guidance and instruction to the crisis response teams on the ground in their respective cities.

The training will culminate with CRT train-the-trainer courses to ensure that Bangladeshi police instructors can sustain the program once the ATA program terminates.

ATA provided the Dhaka Metropolitan Police an equipment grant of hardware and software worth more than $700,000 for its new Digital Forensics Lab. The lab is used by police analysts investigating cyber- and digital-related crimes. (U.S. Department of State photo)

ATA Equips New Bangladesh Cyber Lab

In June 2018, ATA launched an initiative to help the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit (CTTCU) build its cyber and digital investigative capabilities.

The ATA efforts involved an extensive equipment grant program and delivery of a series of cyber and digital training courses and consultations to CTTCU investigators.

The training began with basic courses on how to seize digital evidence and culminated with advanced investigative courses about social media and the Dark Web. ATA also provided CTTCU investigators with 13 customized consultations on advanced digital collection, software certification, cyber unit management and standard operating procedures, as well as train-the-trainer courses to help ensure that the program is sustained after ATA assistance ends.

To cement the training, ATA deployed mentors to work with and assist the unit's investigators in honing their skills after completion of the classroom training.

To house the new operation and staff of cyber investigators, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police constructed a two-room Digital Forensics Lab, which U.S. and Bangladeshi officials formally opened at a ribbon cutting ceremony on November 15, 2018.

Equipped with an ATA grant of hardware and software worth more than $700,000, the lab supports 28 cyber and digital forensic analysts and investigators, all of whom graduated from ATA's suite of in-depth cyber trainings.

Analysts assigned to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Digital Forensics Lab receive instruction at ATA training on investigations involving the Dark Web, March 3, 2019. (U.S. Department of State photo)

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BRAZIL:

Improving Border-Security Capacity

Working closely with the Regional Security Office at the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia, ATA delivered multiple training courses as well as equipment to Brazilian law enforcement partners to help them improve the security of Brazil's borders.

Securing Brazil's borders is a daunting mission, as Brazil—the largest country in South America—shares open borders with 10 neighboring countries. However, the mission is viewed by U.S. officials as critical to helping protect the U.S. homeland.

U.S. law enforcement agencies have long-standing concerns over the possible convergence of terrorism and transnational crime in Brazil. For example,

Officers with the Mato Grosso State Military Police/Special Frontier Police disembark from a police helicopter during high-risk raid training in Cáceres, along the state's border with Bolivia, September 14, 2018. The training was part of a five-week ATA course in rural border patrol operations. (U.S. Department of State photo)

Lebanese Hizballah operates in the Argentine-Brazil-Paraguay tri-border area and uses the funds it generates from both licit and illicit activities, including transnational contraband smuggling and trade-based money laundering, to finance its activities throughout the world. Brazil is also home to one of the most insidious transnational criminal organizations in the hemisphere, Primeiro Comando da Capital, which has pushed beyond Brazil's borders into Paraguay and Argentina.

One Officer's First Hand Account

ONE MEMBER OF THE PARANÁ STATE MILITARY POLICE/BORDER POLICE BATTALION PROVIDED THIS FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT OF A BORDER SECURITY OPERATION SUCCESS IN WHICH OFFICERS ARRESTED ONE SMUGGLER AND SEIZED A HUGE SHIPMENT OF CONTRABAND CIGARETTES WORTH ABOUT A QUARTER MILLION U.S. DOLLARS.

THE OFFICER ATTRIBUTED THE SUCCESS DIRECTLY TO HIS UNIT'S ATA TRAINING IN RURAL BORDER PATROL OPERATIONS.

September 29, 2018

Just barely one week after the rural border patrol course, Paraná Military Police members from the course used the tactics they had learned to seize more than $1 million reales [Editor's Note: about $250,000 US] in illegal cigarettes headed for Sao Paulo.

I was one of the students from the Rural Border Patrol Operations course. So, last week, we did an operation, with the planning and the execution as we learned in the classes.

After we did a RECON report in a region called Cafezal do Sul, Paraná, Brazil, we managed to observe a group of known

smugglers' vehicles traveling from Paraguay across the border to the city of Umuarama, Paraná. When we got the information, we then conducted the SMEAC [Editor's Note: Situation, Mission, Execution, Administration/Logistics, Command/Signal] process and after this, we started the mission.

Our mission was to use camouflage and wait near the coordinates ..., a known location that is a chokepoint. We waited for the convoy to come, hiding ourselves behind the bushes near the road, and monitoring the road with our binoculars.

When the convoy came in, we managed to perform a traffic checkpoint with a regular patrol car in the coordinates ..., keeping

our observation point. When the convoy passed our observation point, they saw our checkpoint ahead and tried to drive back in the opposite direction, heading to Paraguay.

So we exited our observation point and performed a vehicle raid on one truck that was with the convoy. Our police dog checked the back of the truck and indicated illegal cigarettes in the vehicle. So we arrested the truck driver and seized the cargo of contraband, which was worth approximately $1 million reales in the black market of Brazil.

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During a border security operation near Umuarama, Brazil, on September 29, 2018, ATA-trained Brazilian police discovered this tandem tractor trailer rig was carrying approximately $250,000 worth of contraband cigarettes smuggled into Brazil from Paraguay. Police arrested the driver and seized the contraband and vehicle. (Photo courtesy of Paraná State Military Police/Border Police Battalion)

Mato Grosso State Military Police/Special Frontier Police officers order a "suspect" to show his hands during training in high-risk vehicle stops in Cáceres, near the border with Bolivia, September 14, 2018. The training was part of a five-week ATA course in rural border patrol operations. (U.S. Department of State photo)

ATA training and equipment grants have helped improve Brazilian border security forces' capacity to detect and interdict along its borders such transnational criminal activities, which can support terrorism.

From September 2018 through June 2019, ATA conducted three classes in rural border patrol operations for 76 officers from the Paraná State Military Police/Border Police Battalion (which patrols along the Brazil-Paraguay border) and the Mato Grosso State Military Police/Special Border Security Group (which patrols along the Brazil/Bolivia border). Despite its agency name, the military police are state-level civilian law enforcement agencies charged with securing the border in Brazil's rural regions.

ATA also provided the students with grants for equipment, including binoculars, rifle slings, GPS devices, tactical first-aid kits, flashlights, and other tactical gear needed for their border security operations.

One year after receiving ATA training, the Paraná State Military Police/Border Police Battalion recorded measurable results in its security operations, which they attributed to their ATA training. From September 2018 through August 2019, the battalion arrested 185 smuggling suspects and seized 10,120 tons of marijuana, 1.19 million packs of contraband cigarettes, 89 stolen vehicles, as compared with the previous year's 114 arrests, 10 tons of marijuana, 871,000 packs of illegal cigarettes, and 65 stolen vehicles.

Where emergency medical response services are often not readily available in patrolled rural areas, the border police have used their ATA tactical medical training to treat and save the lives of civilians hurt in roadside accidents.

Some of the ATA graduates even started community engagement projects based on the human rights component that ATA instructors deliver with every ATA course.

The Paraná-based Border Police Battalion unit found the ATA courses so useful that they have replicated the border security courses with fellow officers in other Brazilian states. The unit has even offered to share border patrol tactics and techniques learned during the ATA courses with law enforcement counterparts across the border in the Argentine province of Misiones.

ATA continues working with Brazilian law enforcement on a project to improve Brazil's complement of border security tools, especially technological ones, to identify suspicious travelers at Brazil's major ports of entry, including at airports and land-border crossings.

ATA also committed to delivering $767,000 worth of interactive video technology to Brazil's new law enforcement fusion center in Foz do Iguaçu, on Brazil's side of tri-border region. The center will serve as a platform from which Brazilian police, military, and other partners can conduct integrated operations to disrupt transnational criminal organizations, including terrorist organizations, operating in the region.

U.S. Diplomats Witness ATA-trained Brazilian Border Police in Action

U.S. Consul General Sao Paulo Adam Shub (left) and U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security Wendy Bashnan (right) review dozens of packages of contraband electronics seized by ATA-trained Paraná State Military Police from a Paraguayan passenger taxi on the Friendship Bridge, Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, August 13, 2019. Police arrested the taxi driver on smuggling charges. (U.S. Department of State photo)

Rarely do American diplomats visiting overseas posts see the results of State Department-provided antiterrorism police training in real time. But on August 13, 2019, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security Wendy Bashnan and U.S. Consul General Sao Paulo Adam Shub experienced such an opportunity in Brazil.

The diplomats were visiting Brazilian law enforcement officials at the Brazilian end of the international bridge that connects Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, with Ciudad del Este, Paraguay. While there, ATA-trained officers with the Paraná State Military Police/ Border Police Battalion spotted a suspicious driver entering Brazil in a taxi service van with Paraguayan license plates.

The officers instructed the driver to pull his van over for inspection. The officers noticed the vehicle had been modified to enable the transport of contraband. The border security officers directed the driver and passengers to step out of the van and then searched the vehicle. In just minutes, the officers began to pull dozens of small bubble-wrapped packages of contraband electronic devices from hidden compartments inside the van, under the chassis, and inside the engine compartment. The driver was arrested and his passengers had to find other transportation. Police seized both the contraband electronics and the vehicle.

An officer monitoring the operation explained that transnational criminal organizations can turn a healthy profit in Brazil on the sale of smuggled electronic products at below-market prices. The officer estimated the seized electronic merchandise would have generated several thousand dollars of profit at black market prices.

Officers on the scene said they could identify and disrupt only a small percentage of the illicit goods crossing the bridge each day, but the unit's ATA training, including instruction in behavioral observation, has helped them better identify suspicious individuals—who often turn out to be smugglers—among the approximately 30,000 vehicles crossing the bridge each day.

In fact, so many smugglers are intercepted at the bridge on a regular basis that Brazilian authorities have set up a table with a large sign reading "Operation Integrated Border" to display and photograph evidence every time they make a seizure of contraband.

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U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security Wendy Bashnan (left) gets a close look as ATA-trained Paraná State Military Police officers pull contraband electronics from hidden compartments inside a Paraguayan passenger taxi on the Friendship Bridge, Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, August 13, 2019. Police arrested the taxi driver on smuggling charges. (U.S. Department of State photo)

CÔTE D'IVOIRE:

Counter-Hizballah Training Pays Dividends — Suspected Hizballah Courier Arrested, Foreign Currency Seized

On May 30, 2019, ATA-trained security personnel at Felix Houphouet Boigny International Airport arrested a suspected courier for the terrorist group Lebanese Hizballah after identifying a load of foreign currency in his baggage that he was attempting to smuggle out of Côte d'Ivoire.

Security screeners with AviSecure, the private-sector entity responsible for screening airport passengers, luggage, and cargo, were alerted on the suspect's bags as they passed through x-ray scanners. AviSecure, some of whose personnel had participated in ATA security training nine months earlier, determined the bags were suspicious and then contacted Customs and the National Police for a secondary physical inspection.

Customs officials and officers with the National Police Anti-Trafficking Airport Unit then opened the two suitcases in the presence of the owner and discovered the baggage was loaded with some $5 million in undeclared U.S. dollars and euro notes.

The security officials also discovered that the suspect, a French citizen of Lebanese origin, was using a fraudulent identity document and took him into custody. His arrest came as he was about to board a Turkish Airlines flight to Beirut via Istanbul.

Less than a year earlier, ATA instructors had delivered a suite of courses on airport security to 32 officers from Côte d'Ivoire's Customs Directorate, National Police, and AviSecure. The participants represented most of the agencies that provide security functions at the international airport.

During the summer of 2018, ATA instructors provided the students with training and tools on airport security management, fraudulent document recognition and behavioral analysis, behavioral observation skills, and advanced travel documents examination. The instruction was part of a Department of State-funded counter-Hizballah initiative for Côte d'Ivoire's law enforcement personnel.

In follow-up interviews with ATA staff, Ivoirian security personnel indicated that the skills they learned and knowledge about Hizballah's method of operation that they acquired in the ATA courses contributed to the arrest.

In fact, one of the officers from the Anti-Trafficking Airport Unit who made the arrest had attended the ATA training on airport security techniques of investigations and airport security management.

The ATA training continues to pay dividends in Côte d'Ivoire.

Some ATA students also reported that the skills learned in the ATA courses on detecting suspicious behavior and detection of fraudulent documents had helped them identify a large illicit network involved in the trafficking of French and Ivoirian passports. From February through July 2019, these ATA-trained officers had identified 28 fraudulent Ivoirian passports used primarily by Nigerians for trafficking purposes. Now, they are using their ATA training and ATA-granted equipment (loupes, microscopes, and ultraviolet lamps) to detect persons using fraudulent documents at the airport on a daily basis.

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Ivoirian police hold a passport in the name of suspected Lebanese Hizballah courier Ahmad Hachem, whom they arrested May 30, 2019, at Felix Houphouet Boigny International Airport, Côte d'Ivoire, for using a fraudulent identity document and trying to smuggle nearly $5 million worth of undeclared euros and U.S. dollars. (Photo courtesy of Ivoirian National Police)

Ivoirian security personnel unwrap millions of dollars' worth of euros and U.S. dollars hidden in two suitcases of a suspected Lebanese Hizballah courier, May 30, 2019, at Felix Houphouet Boigny International Airport, Côte d'Ivoire. (Photo courtesy of Ivoirian National Police)

EAST AFRICA:

Building Transborder Cooperation and Coordination in East Africa

A Kenyan Border Police officer views a video image of a bridge in the distance taken from a surveillance drone during ATA's advanced border patrol operations training, July 18, 2019, at Kenya's Border Police Training Campus, about 75 miles southeast of Nairobi. The course helped prepare Kenyan Border Police officers for the EAJO, held several weeks later. (U.S. Department of State photo)

In the pre-dawn hours of September 26, 2019, sensors installed around a Kenyan Border Police base camp sounded. Minutes later, role players acting as "terrorists" attacked the camp and a nearby cell phone mast. Kenyan officers in the field communicated their situation to a joint multinational headquarters, where Kenyan, Somali, and Tanzanian law enforcement personnel monitored events on the ground and provided tactical guidance to border security forces responding to the attackers.

This realistic scenario was all part of the capstone exercise for ATA's 2019 East Africa Joint Operation (EAJO) training event. The 2019 EAJO focused

on border-security training and coordination and involved more than 120 law enforcement personnel from Kenya, Somalia, and Tanzania. The live exercise was preceded by six weeks of intensive courses and consultations conducted by ATA instructors.

Later that morning, Tanzanian Border Police officers moved from their camp to a nearby simulated village in response to reports of terrorists nearby. En route
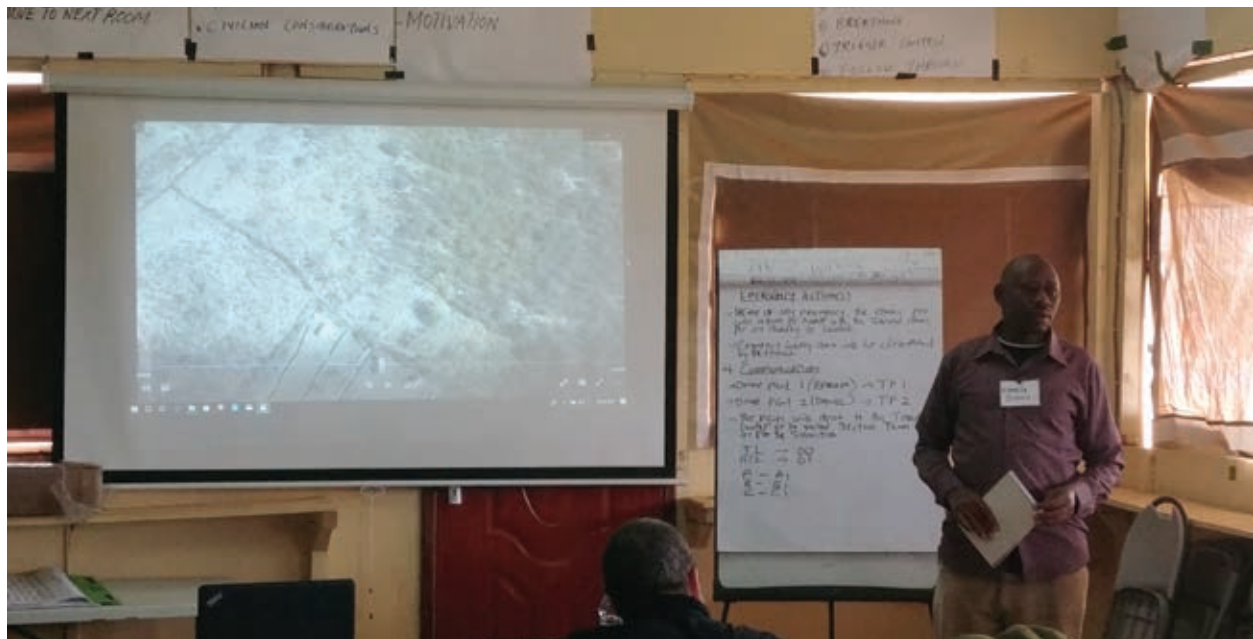
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Kenyan Border Police prepare to launch a surveillance drone to scan the road ahead of their patrol during ATA's advanced border patrol operations training, July 18, 2019, at Kenya's Border Police Training Campus. The course helped prepare Kenyan Border Police officers for the EAJO, held several weeks later. (U.S. Department of State photo)

to the village, role players attacked the Tanzanians with simulated IEDs and gunfire. Eventually, the Kenyan police linked up with their Tanzanian counterparts to recapture the village from a terrorist cell. Investigators then used their ATA training to gather evidence and develop information from the villagers that led the two nation's border police units to the location and capture of the terrorists at a terrorist base in the countryside. After more than 12 hours of mock terrorist attacks, tactical law enforcement responses, investigation, and tracking of terrorists through the hot arid, Kenyan bush, EAJO 2019 concluded.

The capstone exercise, held on the 250-acre training site of Kenya's Border Police, simulated small-scale

Kenyan and Tanzanian border police stand guard over "terrorist" role players during the EAJO capstone exercise at the Kenyan Border Police Training Campus, September 26, 2019. (U.S. Department of State)

In preparation for the capstone exercise, a Kenyan Border Police Unit commander briefs Kenyan, Somali, and Tanzanian commanders at the EAJO joint multinational headquarters on the exercise's unmanned aerial systems operations, September 24, 2019. (U.S. Department of State photo)

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Kenyan, Somali, and Tanzanian law enforcement officers celebrate together after completing the EAJO capstone exercise at the Kenyan Border Police Training Campus, September 26, 2019. (U.S. Department of State photo)

attacks by terrorists in the rural border areas of northern Kenya. The exercise provided participating law enforcement officers an opportunity to demonstrate and refine their capabilities in tactical response to a terrorist event and in the conduct of a terrorism investigation.

Although the training event was scripted like an action movie, the storyline was based on real events and terrorist tactics witnessed in Kenya's rural border areas.

The complex exercise assisted law enforcement and security forces of the three participating nations to better secure their semi-porous borders and respond to attacks in rural border areas by improving cross-border communication and coordination at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels.

By helping our regional partners to strengthen their critical law enforcement capacities of effectively and appropriately respond to terrorist attacks within the rule of law, ATA helps foreign law enforcement agencies protect Americans and U.S. interests in the region, as well as their own citizens, against the threat of terrorism.

The Department of State organized the first EAJO counterterrorism training event in 2014 to strengthen East African partner capacity to respond to the evolving terrorist threats and tactics in the region. The pilot exercise took place just after the one-year anniversary of the attack by al-Shabaab terrorists on Nairobi's Westgate Mall in which 71 people were killed and hundreds more injured. Since then, ATA has supported the EAJO event on an annual basis with a thematic focus that alternates each year between urban crisis response and rural border security.

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During the EAJO, ATA instructors provide law enforcement and security agencies from East African partner nations with several weeks of intensive training that culminates in a capstone exercise simulating a terrorist attack. The participating law enforcement officers must respond on both a tactical and command level to the changing events of the simulated, day-long terrorist attack.

EGYPT:

ATA-Trained Bomb Techs Respond to Explosion Near Cairo Embassy

A nearby security camera catches the moment an IED inside a backpack explodes with a small cloud of smoke and knocks the would-be attacker to the ground, September 4, 2018, near the U.S. Embassy in Cairo. (Images courtesy of Regional Security Office, U.S. Embassy)

An ATA-trained bomb technician with Egypt's Civil Protection Division calls out to his colleagues as he prepares to inspect a suspected IED remotely using an ATA-provided robot (rear background, center of street) near the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, September 4, 2018. (U.S. Department of State photo)

On September 4, 2018, a small explosion occurred near the U.S. Embassy in Cairo.

Police responded immediately and found that a plastic bottle filled with explosive chemicals and packed inside the backpack of a would-be attacker had ignited and detonated prematurely as he was walking near the embassy.

Police arrested the suspect, who appeared to "embrace extremist ideas" and had planned to use the improvised explosive device (IED) for "hostile action," according to a statement from the Ministry of the Interior (MOI).

A police sweep of the area between the U.S. and British embassies located a suspicious bag that bomb technicians from the MOI's Civil Protection Division identified as a possible secondary IED.

An Egyptian Ministry of Interior bomb-disposal team responded to the scene using ATA-provided equipment and training. One of the responding bomb techs was a police lieutenant colonel who had graduated from an ATA explosive incident countermeasures (EIC) course just 10 months earlier. When on the scene, he donned an ATA-granted protective bomb suit and deployed an MK3 Caliber bomb-disposal robot that had been provided to the Civil Protection Division as part of ATA's EIC course.

The bomb tech was able to remotely inspect the suspected IED using the robot, which has color cameras that sent him live video of the device that he reviewed at a safe distance. The officer eventually aimed and activated the robot's disruptors, which hit the suspected IED with a high-pressure blast of water and ensured that it was rendered safe.

In the end, the suspicious package was determined to contain no explosives. But the incident demonstrated the capabilities and preparedness of the MOI's bomb team thanks to its ATA-provided counter-IED training and equipment.

The embassy resumed normal operations about an hour after it had warned U.S. citizens to avoid the area around the diplomatic mission.

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Egyptian security officials stand near the scene of the explosion after arresting a would-be terrorist carrying an IED that exploded prematurely near the U.S. and British embassies in Cairo, September 4, 2018. (AP/Wide World Photos)

INDIA:

ATA Program Builds Police Counterterrorism Capacity

As two ATA instructors (left and second from left) observe, an Indian police officer (second from right) debriefs his team after an ATA room-clearing exercise, May 10, 2018, at the National Security Guard academy in Manesar, India. (U.S. Department of State photo)

A team of Indian counterterrorism police advanced quickly and cautiously in tactical formation across the open ground toward a long, low-roofed building. Once they reached the structure, they would have to make a quick entry, locate their terrorist target, and neutralize the threat.

The officers, who were armed with mock training weapons, were participating in a May 2018 exercise as part of a law-enforcement course taught by ATA instructors. ATA has delivered training to Indian law enforcement personnel since 1995.

For this course, the ATA instructors trained nearly two dozen Indian law enforcement officers from several agencies in quick reaction force techniques at the National Security Guard Academy in Manesar, India. The course familiarized participants with advanced tactics and techniques in a variety of environments and included practical exercises conducted during the day and night. The course also

emphasized community relations and leadership command skills to enhance the safety of responding officers and the general public.

The course included topics such as night operations, enhanced open-air and close-quarter battle techniques, rapid-deployment strategies, advanced shooting drills, advanced observation techniques, situational exercises, vehicle assaults, and community policing.

The same day the officers were going through their tactical exercise, ATA personnel were conducting an executive forum on foreign terrorist fighters at the Central Detective Training Institute some 40 miles away in Ghaziabad, India.

More than a dozen senior police officials attended the five-day strategic-level forum, which focused on the foreign terrorist fighter radicalization process, violence impacting communities, international transit and border security, role of social media, and the need for information sharing and collaboration between countries.

Both the officer training and the law enforcement executive forum underscore the strong U.S.-Indian commitment to fighting terrorism. Having experienced attacks on its homeland in recent years, India continues to seek increased counterterrorism cooperation and information with the United States, and both nations have pledged to strengthen collaboration against terrorist threats from groups including al-Qa'ida, ISIS, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Lashkar eTayyiba, and D-Company.

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Indian police officers advance on a building during a tactical training course delivered by ATA instructors at the National Security Guard academy in Manesar, India, May 10, 2018. (U.S. Department of State photo)

Under the watchful eye of an ATA trainer (rear center), Indian law enforcement officers practice room clearing on May 10, 2018, during the final exercise of a three-week advanced quick reaction force course in Manesar, India. (U.S. Department of State photo)

JORDAN:

ATA Doubles Training Capacity in Jordan with New Regional Training Center

ATA doubled its regional hard-skills training capacity in Jordan with the March 2018 opening of a new, state-of-the-art, regional counterterrorism training facility.

At the new Jordan Gendarmerie Training Academy, co-located within a larger Gendarmerie training campus some 40 miles south of Amman, ATA delivers multiple hard-skills trainings in a variety of topics simultaneously, including crisis response team operations, methods of entry using explosive breaching, designated marksman, explosives incident countermeasures, and post-blast investigation.

An ATA instructor directs members of a Tunisian police commando unit preparing to storm a room during a drill at the Jordan Gendarmerie Training Academy. The ATA-funded center, which formally opened March 22, 2018, doubles ATA regional law enforcement training capacity in Jordan. (AP Photo/Raad Adayleh)

Inset: A Tunisian police officer leads the rescued "hostage" to safety at the conclusion of an ATA training exercise at the new Jordan Gendarmerie Training Academy in Jordan, March 22, 2018. (U.S. Department of State photo)

On March 22, 2018, officials from ATA, the U.S. Department of State's Counterterrorism Bureau, the U.S. Embassy in Amman, and the Government of Jordan formally dedicated the new regional training center with a real bang.

As the U.S. and Jordanian dignitaries observed from the elevated walkways of the facility's new "shoot house," a flash-bang grenade exploded below with blinding light, the room filled with smoke, and a police crisis-response team quickly entered, swept the room, and rescued a hostage.

The officers, members of a Tunisian police crisis-response team, demonstrated safe room-entry and hostage-rescue techniques they had learned at the new $5 million center, funded, constructed, and equipped by the ATA program.

The regional training facility includes the state-of-the-art shoot house, three multipurpose firing ranges, a simulated urban environment, and upgraded student barracks, among other improvements.

The students coming from Tunisia underscored the fact that Jordan is a regional hub for ATA training. The fact that this new tactical training facility was in Jordan demonstrated that the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is one of the United States' strongest partners in combating global terrorism and is home to one of its largest counterterrorism training programs.

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.

As a result of the growing global terrorism threat and the increased demand for specialized tactical law enforcement training, the ATA program increased its capacity to provide technical assistance and transitioned the majority of its counterterrorism trainings from domestic U.S. facilities to overseas regional training centers. 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.

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U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Henry Wooster (center), His Royal Highness Prince Rashid Bin Hassan (third from right), Gendarmerie Major General Hussein Hawatmeh (second from right), Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security Michael T. Evanoff (right), and other U.S. diplomats and Jordanian security service officials stand during the Jordanian and U.S. national anthems at the dedication ceremony of the new Jordan Gendarmerie Training Academy in Jordan, March 22, 2018. (U.S. Department of State photo).

KENYA:

ATA-Trained Police Save Lives in Nairobi Hotel Terrorist Attack

A private security officer helps civilians flee gunmen and burning cars during a terrorist attack at the DusitD2 Hotel complex in Nairobi, January 15, 2019. (AP/WideWorld Photos)

On January 15, 2019, Kenyan police responded to an attack on the DusitD2 Hotel complex in downtown Nairobi. Among the Kenyan law enforcement units that participated in the counterassault on the terrorists were three police tactical teams that had been professionally equipped and trained by ATA.

The assault began at approximately 3 p.m. local time, when gunmen associated with the Somalia-based al-Shabaab terrorist organization set fire to three vehicles in a parking lot outside the hotel complex, which includes six buildings containing shops and offices that host a number of international companies and visitors. The attackers

then moved from the parking lot to a courtyard where a suicide bomber self-detonated outside of a restaurant, injuring an unknown number of civilians.

The attackers, armed with AK-47 assault rifles and wearing load-bearing vests containing grenades and ammunition, moved into the hotel and ascended toward the top floor of the hotel, intent on killing as many innocent bystanders as they could. By 11 p.m., Kenyan security forces had contained the attackers

to the upper floors of the hotel and rescued scores of civilians. At the same time, an unknown number of individuals were still trapped on the hotel's top floors.
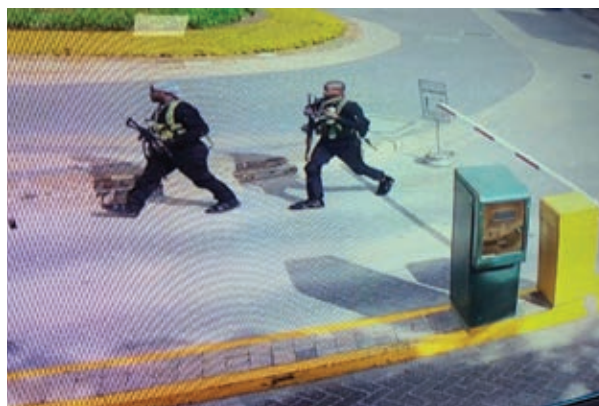
Two ATA-trained and -equipped tactical counterterrorism teams from the Kenyan General Service Unit's RECCE Company (RECCE) responded to the hotel. ATA has provided tactical training to the General Service Unit since 2014. The RECCE units served as the lead forces in the counterassault and were credited with saving many lives. In all, RECCE officers safely escorted more than 700 individuals—including more than 70 U.S. citizens—out of the complex during the attack.

The U.S. Embassy's ATA-trained Special Program for Embassy Augmentation Response (SPEAR) team also responded to the hotel, coordinated with the tactical units, and assisted in the clearing operations.

The SPEAR program is funded and managed by the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service. A SPEAR team consists of specially selected host nation police officers who are trained and equipped to respond within minutes to crises involving U.S. diplomatic facilities or personnel. Although assigned to provide security support to the U.S. Embassy, the SPEAR team members remain law enforcement officers and are able to respond to other emergencies as they arise, as was the case in the attack on the DusitD2 Hotel complex.

Security camera video shows one of the attackers armed with an automatic rifle and wearing a vest loaded with grenades and ammunition as he entered the DusitD2 Hotel complex, January 15, 2019, Nairobi. (Photo courtesy of DusitD2 Hotel)

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Security camera video shows two of the al-Shabaab terrorists entering the parking area of the hotel complex, January 15, 2019, Nairobi. (Photo courtesy of DusitD2 Hotel)

Members of the Embassy Nairobi SPEAR team engaged and killed at least two of the five terrorists. Two SPEAR team members were seriously injured during one of the firefights when the terrorists hurled hand grenades at them. A third SPEAR team member used his ATA-provided tactical medical training and equipment to render first aid to his wounded colleagues until they could be evacuated from the attack site.

In addition, the ATA-equipped Kenyan Bomb Disposal Unit responded to the hotel and conducted a controlled detonation of an explosive device outside of the building. ATA has provided the Kenyan police bomb disposal officers with training since 2013.

The following morning, some 18 hours after the attack began, Kenyan government spokesmen announced that the hotel was secure and all the attackers had been killed.

At least 21 people, including one U.S. citizen, were killed in the assault.

The loss of life could have been much greater had it not been for the Kenyan police units' ATA training and the live exercises planned, prepared, and conducted during the previous year by the U.S. Embassy's Regional Security Office. Those exercises, the latest having been completed just one month before the attack, brought together the Embassy SPEAR team and Kenyan counterterrorism tactical forces in real-time simulated attack scenarios, not unlike that experienced at the DusitD2 Hotel. (See "Friendly Competition At SPEAR 'Summit Challenge'" on page 37.)

Members of the Kenyan National Police Crisis Response Team, trained by ATA, advance in tactical formation to the attack scene in Nairobi, January 15, 2019. Behind the shattered glass door lies an unexploded grenade. (AP/WideWorld Photos)

Officer Uses ATA Training to Save Toddler Son's Life

Bonface Wafula Wanyama is a Border Police officer with the Kenya Administration Police Service and an instructor at their Border Police Training Campus in Kanyonyo, about 75 miles southeast of Nairobi. Through the ATA program, he has been trained in advanced urban and rural tactical operations.

But it was another type of ATA training that he says helped save his child's life.

On the evening of May 8, 2019, Wanyama's wife, Mwanahamisi Ghamaloku Kakawa, who is a Border Police corporal and instructor, noticed their young son having serious difficulty breathing. She rushed the child, who was not even two years old, to the nearby dispensary and called her husband to meet her there.

At the dispensary, the medical staff placed the toddler on his back to examine him with a stethoscope. But once on his back, the child's eyes rolled back and he stopped breathing. Kakawa said she panicked, as the staff did not seem to know what to do.

At that moment, her husband arrived, saw what was happening, picked up their son and calmly performed a procedure he had learned in an ATA tactical medicine course for clearing the airway of a choking victim.

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Wanyama had learned well, for in a few short moments he cleared the boy's throat of a large object that had blocked his airway and the child began breathing again.

The medical staff praised her husband for deploying his life-saving skills and declared the child's revival a miracle, Kakawa said.

Both she and Wanyama credit the ATA tactical medicine training for empowering him to save their son's life, and they added that all staff and instructors at the Border Police Training Campus should receive ATA tactical medical training.

Several other Border Police officers who have gone through the ATA tactical medicine course informed the ATA officials that the training

Left to right: Mother Mwanahamisi Kakawa, son, and father Bonface Wanyama pose for the camera in Kanyonyo, Kenya, June 13, 2019. (U.S. Department of State photo)

has helped them with community engagement, because they often are able to provide basic medical assistance in rural communities where medical services often are not available.

Using their tactical medicine training has helped the officers build trust and rapport with communities in the region, which leads to increased tips and information from the community that helps counter terrorism and reduce attacks on police personnel.

SPECIAL FOCUS:
POLICEWOMEN

Enhancing Women's Role in Counterterrorism Law Enforcement

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 a policewomen's academy in a partner nation.

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 our partner nations worldwide.

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Women police officers receive live-fire range instruction at the JATC, April 4, 2019. (U.S. Department of State photo)

ATA HOLDS FIRST CO-ED TRAINING IN AFGHANISTAN

In 2018, The ATA program increased its training capacity at the Joint Afghan Training Center (JATC) outside of Kabul and began shifting some of its training focus to address emerging security requirements for Afghanistan.

To counter emerging threats posed by increased recruitment and use of female terrorists, the General Command Police Special Unit (GCPSU) requested that ATA train more female law enforcement officers for deployment with the GCPSU's elite crisis response police teams that respond to attacks and make high-risk arrests of terrorist suspects.

Previously, female members of the crisis response teams provided support without being armed. The GCPSU wanted ATA to provide female officers with training that would make them fully certified crisis response team (CRT) members, trained to carry weapons for self-protection and for performing critical tasks as needed.

A female Afghan police officer (right) and a male colleague take up a defensive position during ATA-provided tactical training at the JATC, April 10, 2019. (U.S. Department of State photo)

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To meet this need, ATA relied on its American female CRT mentor, an Afghan female police colonel mentor, and a group of Afghan female police instructors who have been certified by ATA to provide instruction in various skill sets.

In a first for Afghan law enforcement, the first group of four policewomen received instruction with their male counterparts in a coeducational special weapons and tactics operators course—five weeks of tactical CRT training and one week of tactical medic training. The tactical training included heavy emphasis on weapons systems proficiency, trauma care, advanced assault techniques, close-quarters battle, room clearing, and threat neutralization.

By April 2019, ATA marked another first when the four policewomen completed their training and became the first women officers assigned as fully trained and armed CRT operators working alongside their male counterparts. These female operators are now capable of protecting themselves and fellow officers and providing overwatch for their crisis response teams during response to high-profile attacks or high-risk arrests.

ATA subsequently completed two additional CRT and weapons trainings in 2019 for female police candidates, boosting to 24 the total number of fully trained and armed female tactical operators serving on Afghanistan's elite crisis response teams.

Female and male Afghan police students clean their Glock handguns during ATA weapons training at the JATC, March 19, 2019. (U.S. Department of State photo)

SPECIAL FOCUS: POLICEWOMEN *(Continued)*

A female officer (right) takes aim under the watchful eye of an ATA-certified instructor (center) during weapons training as part of a protection of national leadership course at the JATC in Afghanistan. (U.S. Department of State photo)

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In the face of an increased number of female terrorists and male terrorists disguised as women in Afghanistan, these female police operators and investigators fill a critical professional role that their male colleagues cannot. In Afghan culture, women police officers are better able to interview female suspects and witnesses, screen female combatants as well as family members of combatants for threats, and perform site exploitation (crime-scene processing and investigation, forensic evidence collection and preservation) following high-profile attacks and during the execution of high-threat arrest warrants.

TRAINING MORE FEMALE OFFICERS TO PROTECT AFGHAN ELECTED LEADERS

ATA provides training and equipment to more than half a dozen Afghan law enforcement agencies and in 2019 delivered instruction to an additional 108 policewomen from several of those law enforcement organizations at the Joint Afghan Training Center (JATC) near Kabul.

Eighty-eight of those policewomen received training from an ATA-certified female police officer/instructor from the Directorate of Protection and Security of Government Officials (DPS). The DPS instructor delivered courses in the protection of national leadership and advanced female tactical search. The training was held after the DPS identified a need to train more female officers to help protect elected female officials, as Afghanistan has seen increased recruitment and use of female terrorists to breach controlled entries and security checkpoints,

ATA instructors also provided female Afghan officers with training in advanced investigative and antiterrorism law enforcement techniques including terrorist crime scene investigation, terrorist incident investigation, terrorist activities interdiction, terrorist suspect interviewing, combating domestic and transnational terrorism, behavior observation, facility protection, suicide bomber prevention, and fraudulent document recognition.

Increasing the presence of highly trained female police officers throughout the Afghan law enforcement community ensures that encounters with suspected female terrorists in the high-threat environment of Afghanistan are immediately addressed during a tactical law enforcement operation without interrupting the mission.

As U.S. and Afghan officials look on, GCPSU's gender advisor, Col. Nafisa Saba Sahar (second from left) catches one end of the red ribbon as Deputy Interior Minister of Policy and Strategy Col. Hosna Jalil, (center left) and acting U.S. Chief of Mission Donna Welton (center right) cut the ribbon at the opening of the new ATA funded and -built residential facility for policewomen at the Joint Afghan Training Center, September 25, 2019, outside of Kabul. (U.S. Department of State photo)

ATA OPENS NEW FEMALE RESIDENTIAL FACILITY AT JOINT AFGHAN TRAINING CENTER

To assist with recruitment and professionalization of female police officers, ATA built a women's residential facility at the Joint Afghan Training Center (JATC).

Formally inaugurated by Afghan and U.S. officials on September 25, 2019, the $104,000 structure can house up to 24 female instructors and female recruits from Afghanistan's outer provinces during their ATA training.

In addition to the women's residential facility, the Afghan Ministry of the Interior has offered a variety of incentives to female police candidates, including recruitment bonuses; referral bonuses; retention incentives; instructor incentives; childcare allowances, relocation, and housing allowances; training and education allowances.

The new barracks is another demonstration of ATA's commitment to work with its Afghan partners to provide enhanced training and broaden career options for female Afghan law enforcement officers while simultaneously improving Afghanistan's capacity to respond to, investigate, and mitigate the threat of terrorism within its borders.

ADVANCED FIREARMS SIMULATOR ADVANCES POLICEWOMEN TRAINING IN JORDAN

On December 17, 2018, representatives from ATA, the U.S. Embassy in Jordan, and the Jordanian Public Security Directorate (PSD) unveiled an advanced firearms simulator system in a ceremony at the Jordanian Policewomen's Department in Amman.

The state-of-the-art, interactive firearms simulator, valued at $492,882, can project various video scenarios onto a wall-sized screen. Students stand at a designated distance from the projected image and must make tactical decisions about the situation displayed before them and whether or when to use deadly force. The system's handguns have the same look, weight, and recoil of the students' officially issued service weapons, but much like a commercial video game, the weapons are connected digitally to the system, which can record hits and misses should the students "fire" their weapon during a scenario.

The technology allows the female PSD police officers to immerse themselves in a range of simulated scenarios, training them to think quickly about critical situations that confront police officers on a daily basis, such as whether or not to use deadly force and how to de-escalate tense encounters. A camera records video of trainees using the system, so they can review each scenario and learn from mistakes.

The simulator also supports a range of marksmanship training and can be used to train students on a variety of targets.

ATA granted a second iteration of the firearms training system to PSD headquarters, ensuring that both male and female law enforcement officers in Jordan benefit from the training technology.

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SPECIAL FOCUS: POLICEWOMEN *(Continued)*

For more than 32 years, the Government of Jordan has proven itself a steadfast partner of the ATA program, which has provided advanced law enforcement and counterterrorism training to more than 7,000 Jordanian law enforcement officials in tactical, cyber, investigative, and forensic fields.

ATA TRAINS WOMEN OFFICERS FOR CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC'S FIRST SPEAR TEAM

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On May 24, 2019, two officers with the Central African Republic (CAR) Gendarmerie became the first women anywhere in the world to become members of an ATA-trained and -equipped Special Program for Embassy Augmentation Response (SPEAR) team.

The CAR team's graduation also marked the first ATA trained SPEAR team deployed in the Central African Republic, which the U.S. Department of State has rated as having a high risk of violent crime, civil unrest, and unpredictable mob violence.

SPEAR teams, funded and managed by the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service, are quick response forces trained to react within minutes to crises involving U.S. diplomatic personnel or facilities. The CAR SPEAR team provides an

A Jordanian police officer hits at a video-projected moving target, similar to digital skeet shooting, during training on the ATA-granted digital firearms simulator at the Jordanian Policewomen's Department in Amman, December 17, 2018. (U.S. Department of State image)

ATA instructors (left and second from left) look on and provide guidance as a female CAR Gendarmerie officer (center, with battering ram) and a male SPEAR team partner prepare to breach a door during an exercise at a regional training center in Jordan, May 2019. (U.S. Department of State photo)

added layer of security in the event that the U.S. Embassy or U.S. government personnel in Bangui should experience any threats requiring an immediate response.

The two female officers graduated with 22 other law enforcement officers from the CAR Gendarmerie and National Police who completed the ATA s quick response force training on May 23, 2019, at the Jordan International Police Training Center near Amman, Jordan. All SPEAR members are required to graduate the course to prove they have the hard and soft skills necessary to be part of the SPEAR quick response force.

The CAR law enforcement officers spent five weeks at the Jordanian regional training center honing their tactical hard skills, such as marksmanship, tactical medicine, close-quarters battle techniques, safe room-entry and search operations, and suspect-arrest techniques. Normally, each host nation's SPEAR teams receive 25 to 30 training courses over the course of three to five years. This instruction is in addition to

the refresher training that ATA delivers to each SPEAR team every year.

The CAR SPEAR team was trained and stood up just six months after the U.S. Embassy's regional security officer and the CAR interior minister signed a memorandum of understanding in November 2018 formally establishing SPEAR for the U.S. Embassy in Bangui.

ATA GRADUATES FIRST ALL FEMALE IRAQI POLICE CLASS

On July 26, 2018, the ATA program graduated its first all-female class of Iraqi law enforcement officers at a training facility in Jordan.

U.S. representatives from the U.S. embassies in Amman and Baghdad joined Jordanian and Iraqi officials for the graduation of the 20 Iraqi female police officers at the Jordanian Policewomen's Department.

Through the ATA program, Jordan has become a regional training hub where ATA trains not only Jordanian police but

also law enforcement officers from more than 50 other nations.

Most female police officers in Iraq are typically assigned to domestic violence investigations. But the female ATA graduates, all from Iraqi Ministry of the Interior police units, were trained in terrorist crime-scene investigation techniques.

The ATA training was aimed at enhancing the officers' investigative, collaborative, and leadership skills as part of a larger program to build Iraqi civilian counterterrorism capabilities.

After training, the officers returned to their units in Iraq, which included the Women's Police Training Institute, Federal Intelligence and Investigative Agency, Police Affairs Agency, and explosive ordnance disposal unit.

The new skills acquired through the ATA course will assist these female officers to succeed and advance in their law enforcement and counterterrorism careers in Iraq, where fewer than 11,000 of the 500,000 law enforcement officers are women.

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Iraqi police officers review a simulated crime scene during ATA training at the Jordanian Policewomen's Department in Amman, July 25, 2018. (U.S. Department of State photo)

SPECIAL FOCUS:
SPEAR

Protecting U.S. Diplomatic Facilities with SPEAR

In response to the 2012 attack on U.S. diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, Libya, ATA launched the Special Program for Embassy Augmentation Response (SPEAR) in 2014 to train and equip host-nation security units dedicated to providing an immediate quick response force, mobile security support, or bodyguard capability to protect U.S. personnel and facilities.

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Funded and managed by the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service, SPEAR enhances 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 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

ATA SPEAR TEAMS AND MENTORS SUPPORT U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN:

- Burkina Faso
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Iraq (Erbil)
- Kenya
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Niger
- Nigeria (Abuja and Lagos)
- South Sudan
- Tunisia

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 the Diplomatic Security Service, the law enforcement and security arm of the U.S. Department of State. SPEAR funding varies based on the training courses selected for participating countries. In fiscal year 2019, ATA invested approximately $33.7 million for all training courses provided to the SPEAR teams.

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 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 500 police officers in participating high-threat countries. This number continues to grow as new partner countries are identified to participate in SPEAR.

FRIENDLY COMPETITION AT SPEAR 'SUMMIT CHALLENGE'

To maintain and test the skills of SPEAR teams in a competitive yet collegial environment, in December 2018 ATA held its first annual SPEAR Summit Challenge, a tactical training and competitive event for ATA trained U.S. Embassy quick response forces.

Hosted by the Government of Kenya, law enforcement officers from SPEAR teams in Kenya, Mali, Niger, and Tunisia competed in this inaugural SPEAR event along with a crisis response unit from the Kenyan National Police Service and a security team from the U.S. Embassy's Regional Security Office. The Kenyan National Police team had also been trained by ATA in counterterrorism response tactics.

The Summit Challenge consisted of five days of tactical security refresher training each morning in a particular topic—firearms proficiency, tactical medicine, explosive incident identification and response, personnel recovery and evacuation, and physical fitness—followed by competition in the afternoon in which the teams demonstrated their proficiency in those areas.

The Summit Challenge instruction, based on ATA s basic quick response force course, focused on the skills and techniques required to protect U.S. diplomatic facilities from terrorist attacks.

The competition portion of the course tested each team's skill level in a head-to-head competition on the range as well as their capabilities in rapid decision-making, teamwork under extreme stress, and physical fitness levels. The friendly competition also helped build camaraderie and cooperation among the law enforcement teams from the participating nations.

(One month after the first SPEAR Summit Challenge, the members of the U.S. Embassy Nairobi SPEAR team proved their effectiveness when they responded with other ATA-trained Kenyan law enforcement units to the terrorist attack on Nairobi's DusitD2 Hotel on January 15, 2018. (See "ATA Trained Police Save Lives in Nairobi Hotel Terrorist Attack" on page 26.)

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A mentor (left) with the Diplomatic Security Service s ATA program hands out preloaded magazines as law enforcement officers with the Kenyan SPEAR team prepare to demonstrate their firearms skills during the SPEAR Summit Challenge, December 10, 2018, in Nairobi. (51 Seconds photo)

SPECIAL FOCUS: SPEAR *(Continued)*

NEW SPEAR TEAM IN BURKINA FASO

In 2018, ATA stood up Burkina Faso's first SPEAR team to provide a quick response force (QRF) and other security support for the U.S. Embassy in Ouagadougou.

ATA began training Burkinabe National Gendarmerie officers for the SPEAR team in November 2017. The first team of 24 GSIGN officers went fully operational on July 4, 2018, and provided security support for the Embassy's annual U.S. Independence Day celebration that same day.

The SPEAR unit now routinely provides security and tactical support for the U.S. ambassador, U.S. chargé d'affaires, and other chief of mission personnel during official and unofficial events within and outside the Ouagadougou city limits. The Burkinabe SPEAR unit also has provided tactical support teams for visiting high-ranking U.S. officials and for German Chancellor Angela Merkel during her May 1, 2020, trip to Burkina Faso.

By June 2019, the Burkinabe SPEAR team formally expanded to a 49-man quick response force, after 25 additional team members successfully completed their QRF training at the Jordan International Police Training Centre, an ATA-funded regional training facility outside of Amman.

Working with the Embassy's Regional Security Office and the SPEAR commander in Ouagadougou, ATA also has established a cadre of qualified trainers from among current SPEAR team members to promote team self-sustainment.

In September 2019, the SPEAR team held its first joint readiness training exercise in which SPEAR members, U.S. Embassy personnel, and Burkinabe security forces practiced communications and coordinated tactical response during live scenarios simulating terrorist attacks in Ouagadougou.

Officers with Burkina Faso s National Gendarmerie Special Intervention Unit (in brown camouflage clothing), the embassy SPEAR team (in grey clothing), and National Police (in black clothing) discuss their tactical plan outside the mock U.S. Embassy during final day of the joint readiness exercise in Ouagadougou, September 6, 2019. (U.S. Department of State photo)

On the first day of the three-day exercise, SPEAR officers demonstrated safe weapons handling and shooting proficiency during live-fire exercises on a shooting range. The next day, SPEAR team members used their tactical skills to respond to a simulated terrorist attack at an abandoned

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hotel at Ouagadougou. On the final day of the exercise, the SPEAR team worked with U.S. Embassy Marine Security Guards and members of the Embassy's local guard force, as well other Burkinabe security units to respond to a simulated attack on a mock U.S. Embassy, which was actually part of Ouagadougou's Sports Palace.

The training exercise enhanced the ability of the SPEAR team members and other security units to react effectively to extreme situations, such as terrorist attacks against the U.S. Embassy, U.S. vital infrastructures, and other soft-targets.

The live exercise also confirmed that the Burkinabe SPEAR unit is operationally ready and highly proficient in communications, command and control, and equipment and facility management.

ATA ADDS SHIELD TO SPEAR

In 2019, ATA launched the SPEAR High Intensity Exercise Liaison Development (SHIELD) initiative. SHIELD delivers a short-term training solution for U.S. diplomatic posts that are not located in high-threat environments but that would still benefit from enhanced crisis response readiness.

The SHIELD program provides tailored training to host-nation crisis response teams and first responder agencies based specifically on their unique capabilities and local laws. The program incorporates classroom instruction and live exercises to reinforce best practices

between host-nation security forces and the U.S.-managed security assets at diplomatic facilities such as U.S. Marine Security Guards, local police, and local guard forces.

SHIELD training promotes coordination between police, fire, and EMS first response teams. The training and drills offer an opportunity to hone skills and network between agencies that respond to crisis events. The incident command models presented are based on tried U.S. models customized for host-nation conditions.

ATA held its first SHIELD training exercise on August 16, 2019, at the U.S. Consulate General in Guadalajara, Mexico. The goal of the exercise was to improve coordination of operations, communications, and decision-making between U.S. and Mexican first responder resources in the event of a real crisis.

The seminar portion of the SHIELD course included 65 Mexican officials from the police

departments of the State of Jalisco and the Municipality of Guadalajara, administrators of local hospitals, fire departments, and emergency medical services. The week concluded with a joint readiness exercise in which those agencies responded to a simulated attack against the U.S. Consulate General.

The attack scenario consisted of four gunmen assaulting the diplomatic facility with gunfire and explosives. Local first responder agencies were alerted and responded to the attack site, where they coordinated with U.S. Consulate General security personnel to suppress the attack and provide medical assistance to the role-playing "victims.

With lessons learned from this pilot training and live exercise, ATA will be conducting similar exercises at several U.S. diplomatic facilities around the world.

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ATA instructors (in orange vests) observe as SWAT teams from the Jalisco State Police and the Guadalajara Municipal Police enter the U.S. Consulate General compound during a SHIELD training exercise, August 16, 2019. (U.S. Department of State photo)

MALI:

ATA Builds New Facilities at Gendarmerie Training Center in Bamako

GSIGN officers prepare to search a room during a training exercise at the new ATA funded shoot house, November 15, 2018, located at the Gendarmerie Training Academy in Bamako. (U.S. Department of State photo)

A Malian Gendarmerie officer takes aim during a live-fire exercise, July 23, 2019, at the Gendarmerie Training Academy in Bamako. (U.S. Department of State photo)

On September 7, 2018, U.S. and Malian officials held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the official opening of a new ATA-built training center for Mali's National Gendarmerie Special Intervention Group (GSIGN).

Located on the grounds of the Gendarmerie Training Academy in Bamako, the new facilities include a modular shoot house with configurable walls and hallways; a warehouse with armory support and vehicle maintenance; a multipurpose building for daily meetings, training classes, and operational support; a barracks for the active and on-call teams; and a food preparation site and covered outdoor dining and meeting pavilion. In addition to the newly constructed infrastructure, an additional $660,000 was provided for the purchase of two command-and-control vehicles with associated supplies.

The $2 million enhancement project was part of a three-year, $20.5 million training investment aimed at building the critical-incident response capabilities of the GSIGN.

The training program is developing self-sustaining GSIGN crisis response teams capable of responding to terrorist threats throughout Mali. The training plan was developed shortly after the deadly November 2015 terrorist attack at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Bamako and formally launched in December 2016.

Originally, the training program was intended to enhance the capabilities of the GSIGN forces in and around the capital of Bamako. However, because terrorist groups have expanded their operations and launched a growing number of attacks into Mali's largely ungoverned northern and central

A Malian Gendarmerie officer tosses a flash-bang device into a room before his team enters it during safe search-and-entry training at the ATA-funded shoot house, June 24, 2019, built at the Gendarmerie Training Academy in Bamako. (U.S. Department of State photo)

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regions, and because Mali has unsecured borders with seven countries, Gendarmerie officials requested ATA assistance in building the GSIGN's capacity to deploy to these other regions to support law enforcement and military security missions.

Since 2016, ATA has provided Malian law enforcement partners with tactical skills courses that include crisis response teams, methods of entry, and tactical medicine. To prepare GSIGN units for deployment to remote regions, ATA also provided training in rural border patrol operations.

In addition to these courses, by September 2019, ATA mentors had provided ongoing crisis response-related sustainment training to 134 GSIGN officers. ATA also provides Malian partners with customized consultations on senior law enforcement management, command center operations, and incident command and control.

As a result of the increased tempo of training and the growth of the Malian GSIGN, ATA identified a need to build out and improve the Gendarmerie's physical training facilities. To meet that need for increased training capacity, ATA began its infrastructure enhancements at the academy in December 2017.

By the opening day of the new center some 10 months later, ATA had already trained 96 Gendarmerie officers in a full suite of crisis-response tactical skills. Just a few weeks later, ATA began training an additional 32-man crisis response team of GSIGN officers at the new ATA-funded facilities. ATA also assigned a full-time senior counterterrorism advisor and four part-time mentors to the Gendarmerie academy who provide sustainment training in advanced techniques.

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A Malian GSIGN officer observes the technique of a fellow officer during a live-fire exercise, July 1, 2019, at the Gendarmerie Training Academy in Bamako. (U.S. Department of State photo)

Malian Gendarmerie officers practice counter-assault techniques on a passenger bus during ATA training, December 3, 2018, at the Gendarmerie Training Academy in Bamako. (U.S. Department of State photo)

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PHILIPPINES:

ATA-trained Police Bomb Units Respond to Significant Terrorist Incidents

ATA-trained police bomb technicians gather evidence from a crater left by the blast of an explosives-laden vehicle near Lamitan City on the island province of Basilan, Philippines, July 31, 2018. (Philippines National Police photo)

In the pre-dawn hours of July 16, 2018, Philippine National Police (PNP) officers joined Philippine Army troops on a high-risk operation as part of a joint task force in General Santos City, Mindanao. Their mission was to serve an arrest warrant for Najib Calimba Pundug on charges of murder, kidnapping, and illegal detention.

Also known as Najib Hussein, Pundug was an explosives expert who had built improvised explosive devices for the terrorist Maute Group since 2015.

During the arrest operation at the suspect's home, individuals inside the building opened fire on members of the interagency task force, wounding a PNP officer. Task force members returned fire, subdued the assailants, and secured the building.

Authorities said Pundug, who was wounded during the gun battle, was found inside the house with a .45 caliber automatic handgun and hand grenade. He was transported to a local hospital and declared dead. Police took six other terrorist suspects into custody, including Pundug's brother who was

captured with a hand grenade and charged with illegal possession of explosives.

Inside the home, police investigators and officers with an ATA-trained and -equipped PNP explosive-detecting canine unit found numerous weapons, an ISIS flag, and explosives-making material. An ATA-trained bomb technician rendered safe the bomb-making materials recovered at the scene.

PNP Officers Use ATA Training in Post-Blast Investigation

Two weeks after the raid against Pundug, on July 31, 2018, a white van laden with explosives exploded at a checkpoint near Lamitan City on the island province of Basilan, Philippines. The blast reportedly occurred when soldiers and militia members at the checkpoint asked the driver to step out of the vehicle after the troops saw that the van was carrying large containers with wires extending out of them.

The explosion killed 10 people, including a mother and child, and wounded at least seven others.

The blast obliterated the vehicle, left a deep crater in the roadbed, and destroyed power lines, a concrete wall, and other structures within a 50-meter radius. One local Army commander told journalists the explosion was "like a 500-pound bomb that was rigged in the van."

ATA-trained Philippine National Police officers and Philippine Armed Forces killed bomb-maker Najib Pundug and seized weapons and explosives in an operation to arrest him on July 16, 2018, in General Santos City. Authorities arrested six other terrorist suspects. (Armed Forces of the Philippines photo)

The government initially attributed the attack to the ISIS-linked Abu Sayyaf Group. ISIS later announced that one of its foreign fighters from Morocco had carried out the suicide bombing.

Soon after the explosion, Philippine National Police (PNP) officers trained by ATA in post-blast investigations, arrived on the scene to gather evidence and begin the investigation with personnel from the PNP's forensics arm.

ATA-trained police bomb technicians examine evidence at the site of a suicide vehicle blast near Lamitan City on the island province of Basilan, Philippines, July 31, 2018. (Philippines National Police photo)

Philippines and Indonesian Launch First Joint Investigation by ATA-trained Bomb Techs

Less than a week after voters on the southern island of Jolo voted down a proposal to include Jolo in an autonomous self-governing Muslim region of the Philippines, a man and woman each detonated explosives-packed suicide vests at the Catholic cathedral in Jolo City on January 27, 2019.

The twin blasts killed 23 people and injured more than 100 others in the attack as worshippers were gathering for morning mass. Police attributed the attack to the ISIS-affiliated Abu Sayyaf Group.

On February 1, Philippine authorities indicated that the bombers had been from Indonesia. Soon, Philippine and Indonesian police joined forces to investigate the attack. The joint investigation marked the first time that ATA-trained bomb technicians from two major ATA programs united to jointly investigate a major terrorist attack using their ATA-taught bomb technician skills.

This partnership is seen as a result of the ATA-sponsored East Asia Pacific Regional Bomb Technician Workshops conducted in recent years. The workshops provide an opportunity for ATA-trained bomb technicians from Indonesia, Philippines, and Thailand to meet their counterparts, share information, and expand their knowledge and skills.

One week after the bombing, as security forces launched an intense search for suspects in the attack, a key suspect and four other accomplices surrendered to the authorities. In July 2019, the Indonesian National Police confirmed that the bombers had been an Indonesian husband and wife team.

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Police remove the body of a victim following the January 27, 2019, twin suicide bomb attack at the Roman Catholic cathedral in Jolo in the southern Philippines. (AP/Wide World photos)

PNP Bomb Team Recover Explosive Material after Battle with Terrorist Gunman-for-Hire

On the evening of January 28, 2019, Philippine National Police (PNP) in Zamboanga City conducted an operation to apprehend 35-year-old Admar Asilon, a local resident and suspected terrorist.

Following up on previously developed information, PNP officers located the suspect walking along a neighborhood road. Realizing he was under police observation, Asilon drew his .45-caliber pistol and shot several times toward the PNP officers. The PNP team pursued him to an abandoned building, where the suspect again opened fire on the officers. The PNP team returned fire and killed the supsect.

An ATA-trained and -equipped explosives-detecting canine unit and a bomb tech team then identified and safely recovered assorted explosives and bomb-making materials from a bag that the suspect had been carrying , including a 1-liter bottle containing

This photo provided by Philippine National Police (PNP), shows militant Abu Sayyaf Group leader Hatib Hajan Sawadjaan, who is blamed for orchestrating the suicide bombing at the cathedral in Jolo. (AP/Wide World photos)

the industrial explosive ammonium nitrate fuel oil (ANFO), detonation cord, an electric time fuse, a cellphone, and an M26 Hand Grenade.

In addition to allegedly belonging to the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group, Asilon was also a member of a group called City Hunter, a gang of gunmen-for-hire.

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Philippine National Police Chief Dir. Gen. Oscar Albayalde points to a diagram of suspects in the cathedral bombing during a February 4, 2019, news conference at which he announced that five suspected Abu Sayyaf Group militants had surrendered to authorities. (AP/Wide World photos)

SENEGAL:
ATA Builds First Regional Training Center in West Africa

On September 26, 2018, U.S. Ambassador to Senegal Tulinabo Mushingi joined leaders from Senegal's armed forces and law enforcement agencies to inaugurate a new ATA regional training facility located within a Senegalese military base in Thiès, about 40 miles east of the capital of Dakar.

The new facility was completed and ready to train law enforcement personnel from Senegal and other West African nations just nine months after U.S. and Senegalese officials broke ground for the new training center. Funded, constructed, and equipped through ATA, the $1.5 million center is the ATA program's first regional training facility in West Africa.

U.S. Ambassador Tulinabo Mushingi (left forefront) and Army Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Cheikh Guèye (center) apply mortar to bind the two cornerstones, decorated with the U.S. and Senegalese flags, at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new ATA regional training facility in Thiès, Senegal, January 9, 2018. (U.S. Department of State photo)

The regional training center, co-located at a preexisting Senegalese training facility, expands ATA's capacity to deliver counterterrorism training to Senegalese and other West African law enforcement officers. The new construction combined with the tactical capabilities of the preexisting facility provides a modern regional training facility capable of conducting up to four ATA training programs simultaneously and in a more cost-efficient manner.

As ATA instructors and mentors observe from elevated catwalks above, Nigerian police officers demonstrate their skills during a safe room-entry-and-search exercise at the shoot house, part of the ATA regional training center in Thiès, Senegal, December 11, 2019. (U.S. Department of State photo)

The new regional training center includes a 100-person-capacity conference room, two classrooms, and an adjacent 900-square-foot warehouse with a secured armory, storage and staging rooms, a workshop area, office space, and a modular shoot house with movable and interchangeable walls for tactical room entry-and-search training.

The location of the new training center at the military base affords ATA the use of the preexisting, on-site tactical training and life-support facilities, including a simulated urban village, pistol and rifle ranges, more than 25 kilometers of terrain for land navigation and tracking, and a demolition range.

ATA Training, Equipment Boost Security at Senegal's Newest Airport

ATA continued to provide training and equipment to Senegal in 2019 with delivery of a $1.6 million

aviation security-enhancement program for Senegal's Blaise Diagne International Airport, a last-point-of-departure airport servicing direct flights to the United States.

Blaise Diagne, one of Africa's newest and highest-passenger-capacity airports, opened in December 2017 with an initial capacity to handle three million passengers per year. But that capacity is expected to rise eventually to 10 million passengers per year. That high capacity, and the fact that it is the closest airport on the African continent to the Americas, is expected to make the airport a major international transit hub for West Africa.

To enhance security at Blaise Diagne, in the spring of 2019, ATA delivered mentoring and training in airport security management and airport patrol management to 81 participants from the seven civil and law enforcement agencies responsible for Senegal's airport and aviation security. Conducted

in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the ATA training focused on maintaining and improving the airport's security in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organization and TSA standards.

ATA followed up the training with delivery and installation in July 2019 of new scanning equipment at the passenger checkpoint for outbound flights at the airport.

The ATA equipment grant, worth $800,000, consisted of two passenger scanners and four explosives trace detectors and included TSA training on the technology for airport staff.

On August 1, 2019, U.S. Ambassador Mushingi joined Senegalese Tourism and Air Transport Minister Alioune Sarr to officially dedicate the new security equipment.

"I would like to take this opportunity to warmly congratulate our friends from the United States Embassy who... do not limit themselves to preserving only their own security, but who also provide for the security of the Senegalese people and all users of our airport," Sarr told the audience.

The ATA program has been delivering counterterrorism training in Senegal since 1985. ATA's regional training center and aviation security-enhancement program further cement the U.S.-Senegalese relationship and underscores the continued close partnership that the United States has with Senegal in advancing the counterterrorism capacities of law enforcement agencies in the region.

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Top: The U.S. and Senegalese flags highlight one of two new U.S.-provided passenger scanners before the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Blaise Diagne International Airport, outside Dakar, August 1, 2019. (U.S. Department of State photo)

Bottom: U.S. Ambassador to Senegal Tulinabo S. Mushingi demonstrates how passengers are scanned with new, U.S.-provided, security equipment unveiled August 1, 2019, at Blaise Diagne International Airport, outside of Dakar. (U.S. Department of State photo)

TAJIKISTAN:

Joint Training Builds Trust and Cooperation with Kazakh and Tajik Law Enforcement

An ATA instructor (left, in sunglasses) drills Kazakh and Tajik police officers in tactical movement as part of their initial training in safe entry and clearing of buildings during an ATA course on rural border patrol operations held in Dushanbe, May 2019. (U.S. Department of State photo)

For five weeks in early 2019, 22 law enforcement officers from Tajikistan and Kazakhstan trained together and participated in a joint exercise in and around Dushanbe as part of an ATA rural border patrol operations course.

The ATA training was held from April 24 to May 31, 2019, at Tajikistan's Militia Detachment for Special Purposes (OMON) in Dushanbe.

Tajikistan and Kazakhstan have both participated in the ATA program since 2001, when they were designated partner nations by the Department. These and other nations in Central Asia face a potential threat of foreign terrorist fighters returning to the region from zones of conflicts, such as those in Syria or Afghanistan, who might seek to conduct terrorist planning, fund-raising, recruitment, and operations. Through the ATA program, instructors work with partner nations in the region to build their capacities—on a bilateral and regional basis—to confront the terrorist threat.

ATA's training in rural border patrol operations provided Kazakh and Tajik police and security agencies with enhanced skills to deter, detect, monitor, and interdict—within a rule-of-law framework—the transit of terrorists into and out of the Central Asia region, and across national borders within the region.

During the training, officers from the Tajikistan's OMON and Border Guards and Kazakhstan's Border Guards Service learned and practiced a series of tactical skills, including emergency medical aid, rural patrol techniques, firearms handling, building entry and clearing, observation, criminal intelligence gathering and analysis, and tactical communications.

With a Kazakh officer leading the students from both countries in their final exercise, perhaps the most important lesson participants learned was to trust and work with their law enforcement partners across the border.

A Tajik law enforcement officer applies a tourniquet during the tactical medicine portion of ATA's joint rural border patrol operations training, May 2019, in Dushanbe, as an instructor looks on. ATA delivered the training to Kazakh and Tajik law enforcement personnel who provide border security for their respective nations. (U.S. Department of State photo)

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The Kazakh team leader delivers final directions to the joint vehicle assault team as they prepare to intercept "suspects" during ATA rural border patrol operations training for Kazakh and Tajik law enforcement officers, May 2019, Dushanbe. (U.S. Department of State photo)

THAILAND:

ATA-Trained Thai Police Respond to Multiple Explosions During ASEAN Meetings

An ATA-trained bomb tech with the Royal Thai Police Metropolitan Police Bureau uses a nonlinear junction detector to scan for components of a detonated IED at a blast site in Bangkok on August 2, 2019. (Photo courtesy of Royal Thai Police)

On August 1 and 2, 2019, while U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo was attending the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministerial Meetings in Bangkok, Thailand, several small improvised explosive devices (IEDs) detonated throughout the city. One of the bombs was near the 77-story King Power Mahanakhon skyscraper where Secretary Pompeo was delivering his remarks.

Police recorded nine incidents involving the small improvised explosive devices—dubbed "ping-pong bombs" due to their size—and 10 incidents involving improvised incendiary devices at several locations in Bangkok and neighboring Nonthaburi Province. Targeted sites included a commuter train station, the side of a busy main road near the King Power Mahanakhon skyscraper, and Royal Thai Police Headquarters.

ATA-trained Thai investigators, bomb techs, and forensic science officers remotely examine circuitry of an IED via a video camera attached to an x-ray device in Bangkok on August 2, 2019. Multiple small bombs exploded in Bangkok as Thailand was hosting a high-level meeting attended by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his counterparts from China and several Asia-Pacific countries. (Photo courtesy of Royal Thai Police)

ATA-trained bomb techs with the Royal Thai Police Metropolitan Police Bureau collect evidence after rendering safe an IED outside the Royal Thai Police headquarters in Bangkok on August 2, 2019. Multiple small bombs exploded at five locations in and around Bangkok as Thailand was hosting a high-level meeting attended by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his counterparts from China and several Asia-Pacific countries. (Photo courtesy of Royal Thai Police)

Royal Thai Police responded immediately. More than half of the officers from the response team as well as the deputy commander of the Special Operations Division, who led the investigation, had received ATA training in explosive incident countermeasures.

Established in 1994, the ATA program in Thailand has help build a strong partnership between the U.S. and Thai law enforcement communities.

ATA was planning to expand its collaboration with Thai police by introducing new bomb-tech and cyber investigation programs.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE:

Partnering with DoD to Strengthen Law Enforcement Abroad

Kenyan Border Police teams demonstrate their skills piloting Matrice 210 surveillance drones at the Border Police Training Academy in Kenya, May 2019. The training and technology were provided through a partnership between the U.S. departments of State and Defense. (U.S. Department of State photo)

The U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Defense (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.

ATA's First Section 333-Funded Project Delivers Drone Training to Kenyan Border Police

In April and May of 2019, ATA delivered to Kenya's Border Police Unit two courses on unmanned aerial systems (UAS)—aircraft commonly referred to as "drones."

With the goal of enhancing the Border Police Unit's tactical capabilities, ATA trained a total of 16 officers as pilots and image analysts and equipped them with quadcopters outfitted with advanced optics.

The three-week training was the first drone training delivered by ATA anywhere in the world, the first drone training delivered to Kenyan law enforcement officers, and the first ATA-DoD partnership project to employ UAS to counter an active border threat.

With mission scope that includes counterterrorism, anti-theft and anti-poaching operations, as well as securing Kenya's borders—a mostly rural 1,000-kilometer frontier with Somalia—the Border Police face formidable operational challenges in the detection, identification, and arrest of cross-border smugglers, human traffickers, poachers, and the terrorists with the extremist group al-Shabaab.

But UAS technology provides the Border Police with a valuable defensive tool against a committed and aggressive enemy. Al-Shabaab members regularly fly drones over Border Police base camps in Kenya's rural border areas and attack those camps at night.

The ATA UAS course taught Border Police officers techniques to defend against such attacks through aerial route reconnaissance, IED and ambush detection, perimeter security, checkpoint avoidance detection, remote-area monitoring, and tracking operations.

By using UAS technology, the Border Police Unit is capable of the elevated, long-range visibility needed to determine not only the location of terrorist combatants, but also of the Kenyan Defence Forces with whom they can better coordinate tactical responses to threats. UAS allows officers to coordinate and communicate, reducing the potential for friendly fire and increasing survivability.

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ATA's delivery of UAS training and equipment also expanded Kenya law enforcement's self-sufficiency. The first iteration of the training was provided to Border Police Unit officer/trainers and Border Police Training Campus instructors who all went on to assist in the second delivery of the training. The Border Police subsequently created a special UAS unit, and its instructors have replicated ATA's UAS training for officers in the field. The drones have become an integral element in all Border Police Unit training, exercises, and scenarios.

The UAS training was just one component of a more comprehensive Section 333-funded counterterrorism training portfolio for Kenyan law enforcement partners. Other Section 333-funded ATA deliveries included training in joint border security operations with Tanzanian counterparts, tactical medicine, sharpshooter/observer, and explosive breaching operations.

WEST AFRICA:

Coordinating Civilian and Military CT Response at Flintlock 2019

From February 18 to March 1, 2019, ATA instructors provided training to 34 civilian law enforcement officers from Burkina Faso's National Police and National Gendarmerie and Niger's National Gendarmerie as part of a coordinated counterterrorism training exercise with more than 2,000 military service members from West Africa, the United States, and Western partner nations.

The training was part of Flintlock 2019, an African-led, integrated military and civilian law enforcement exercise that has strengthened security forces from nations in North and West

An ATA instructor (right) discusses incident command post operations with officers from the Burkinabe Gendarmerie (left) and National Police (rear center), on the first day of live scenarios at the Flintlock multinational counterterrorism exercise, February 24, 2019, in Burkina Faso. (U.S. Army photo)

Africa, as well as Western partner nations, since 2005. Flintlock is the largest annual special operations forces exercise held by the U.S. Department of Defense's Africa Command.

The exercise is designed to strengthen the ability of key partner nations in the region to counter violent extremist organizations, protect their borders, and provide security for their people.

Additionally, the exercise provides a venue to increase cooperation and interoperability between the security officials of the participating countries, as well as between their law enforcement and military leaders, each tasked with supporting counterterrorism operations. Improved cooperation and interoperability increases their ability to work together during ongoing multinational operations and in response to crises.

Flintlock 2019 marked the fourth time that ATA had trained law enforcement elements in this multinational civilian-military counterterrorism exercise.

In recent years, Burkina Faso and Niger have both faced growing challenges from extremist groups in the region, including an increase in the frequency and intensity of terrorist attacks along their shared border. ATA instructors provided to the Burkinabe and Nigerien law enforcement participants several weeks of training in rural border patrol operations, command and communication management, human rights, and tactical crisis response, as well as cross-border, crime-scene, and counterterrorism investigations. ATA personnel also worked with U.S. and Western military partner units on interoperability and scenario planning at the exercise's Joint Military Headquarters Command in Camp Zagre, Burkina Faso.

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An ATA-trained Burkinabe National Police investigator from the Unified Crisis Command Center in Ouagadougou places an evidence tag near a "victim" role player following a simulated terrorist attack, February 27, 2019, at the Flintlock multinational counterterrorism exercise at the Palais du Sport in Ouagadougou. (U.S. Army photo)

A Burkinabe gendarme assigned to U.S. Embassy/ Ouagadougou's Special Program for Embassy Augmentation Response (SPEAR) unit takes a "terrorist suspect" into custody and searches him during a simulated attack in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, February 27, 2019, during Flintlock 2019. A SPEAR team is an ATA-trained quick-response force of officers selected from a partner nation's law enforcement agency and is capable of responding within minutes to emergencies involving U.S. diplomatic facilities or personnel. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Alcantar)

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Burkinabe gendarmes assigned to U.S. Embassy/Ouagadougou's Special Program for Embassy Augmentation Response (SPEAR) unit take up a secure position during a simulated terrorist attack in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, February 27, 2019, during Flintlock 2019. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Anthony Alcantar)

During the five-day live portion of the exercise, military and ATA-trained police commanders at the Joint Military Headquarters Command shared reports from the field and provided coordinated intelligence and tactical guidance to their forces on the ground as the exercise's simulated terrorist activities played out in outstations at Bobo-Dioulasso and Loumbila, Burkina Faso.

Burkinabe and Nigerien law enforcement officers assigned to the outstations were integrated with designated military units and were responsible for executing their instructions and reporting the results back to the exercise's Joint Military Headquarters Command.

The live scenario simulated a raid on a suspected terrorist planning cell. Through a series of mock terrorist attacks, Burkinabe and Nigerien security and law enforcement agencies initiated a simulated counterterrorism operation using skills developed during their ATA training in crime-scene exploitation, investigative techniques, command and control, community engagement, cross-border coordination, and crisis response.

The live exercise demonstrated the importance of information sharing and integrating civilian law enforcement with the military entities in furtherance of developing interoperability and interagency cooperation in the fight against terrorism.