

# OFFICE OF ANTITERRORISM ASSISTANCE



**FISCAL YEAR 2009 YEAR IN REVIEW**



# MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

The Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) program is one of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's most successful training initiatives.

In 1983, Congress created the legal authority for the program in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, to enhance the antiterrorism skills of partner nations by providing them with training and equipment to deter and counter terrorism. Through ATA, DS has improved security for U.S. diplomatic activity abroad, built closer relationships between the U.S. Government and its allied nations, and increased participating nations' respect for human rights.

The program has grown rapidly and substantially since the attacks of September 11, 2001. In fiscal year 2009, ATA delivered 412 training events to 6,015 participants from 75 countries. Since the inception of the program, ATA has delivered training to more than 67,000 students from 159 countries. Currently, the office is operating with 32 Foreign Service and Civil Service managers and supervisors, and with 159 contractors. In fiscal year 2010, the program will administer a budget of \$215 million.

ATA delivers more than 90 percent of its training at venues overseas. This practice delivers sophisticated training to our partners in the most cost-efficient manner. It also promotes the participant nations' self-sustainability through use of their own facilities and teaming with their training cadres.

By helping our civilian law enforcement and security partners detect, investigate, and disrupt terrorist activity during 2009, ATA has contributed significantly to the security of our nation, our partner nations, and international diplomacy.



Eric J. Boswell  
Assistant Secretary of State  
Bureau of Diplomatic Security  
Director, Office of Foreign Missions

## FEATURED SUCCESS STORY: ANTI-KIDNAPPING

In Colombia, ATA concluded a six-year, in-country program that delivered anti-kidnapping training and equipment. The final phase of the program emphasized the establishment of a self-sustained training capability using fully qualified Colombian instructors. In the formal ceremony concluding the program, the Director of the Colombian National Police training facility attributed to the ATA program much of his country's success in the almost 90 percent reduction in kidnappings. He cited the knowledge, techniques, and equipment that ATA provided to Colombia as crucial elements in the successful campaign against kidnapping that had been carried out throughout the country by both criminal and subversive groups.



*Above: An ATA-trained Colombian tactical officer escorts from captivity a kidnap victim who had been held for ransom in a cave.  
Photo courtesy Colombian National Police*

# ORGANIZATION AND FISCAL YEAR 2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## ASSESSMENT, REVIEW, AND EVALUATION

Members of ATA's Assessment, Review, and Evaluation staff conduct on-site capabilities assessments of each participating nation, quantify their counterterrorism critical capabilities, produce reports used as a basis for Country Assistance Plans, and evaluate their subsequent progress. In fiscal year 2009, the unit:

- Completed 23 capabilities-assessment and program-review visits with subsequent reporting to examine, measure, and periodically re-evaluate the counterterrorism capabilities of participating nations.
- Began developing in-depth assessments of the terrorism environment in each participating nation; program managers will use these in developing more focused and effective Country Assistance Plans that link U.S. Government national strategic guidance to bilateral program objectives.



## TRAINING CURRICULUM

The Training Curriculum Division designs, develops, evaluates, and periodically updates all counterterrorism training provided to participating nations. The division worked on several new initiatives in fiscal year 2009, including:

- Initiating development of four new courses: Hostage Negotiations; Identification and Seizure of Digital Information: Train-the-Trainer; Emergency Management Exercise Design; and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Operations Refresher, the latter of which was developed entirely in-house.
- Developing a Fraudulent Document Recognition course to supplement the highly popular Fraudulent Travel Document course. This new course enhances the capability of immigration officers and secondary document examiners at immigration and transit-control points.
- Responding to the terrorist bombings of two international hotels in Jakarta, Indonesia, by updating and expanding the Suicide Bomber Workshop. This workshop addresses increasingly sophisticated trends of hotel attacks.



## RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

ATA's Resources and Support personnel provide support in human resources, financial management, and logistical services for the entire program. During fiscal year 2009, they:

- Revised and restructured the requirements of a comprehensive contract for more efficient training delivery and related services at both domestic and overseas venues.
- Managed a worldwide warehouse operation that shipped 506 pallets, weighing 131 tons, of training and grant equipment valued at over \$8.5 million.



## TRAINING DELIVERY

ATA's Training Delivery Division ensures the delivery of high quality training activities by vetting the instructor teams, managing the delivery of support equipment, coordinating local support, and conducting quality assurance. In fiscal year 2009, the division:

- Accomplished a number of "firsts", including course offerings for personnel from Libya and Somalia; a multilateral forum under the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership initiative; and a consultation in the field of audio/video forensics.
- In response to the terrorist attack in Mumbai, India, delivered to the Government of India a new training program, Response to an Active Shooting Incident. This training provided police first responders with essential tactical skills to mitigate the loss of life in rapidly escalating terrorist incidents.
- Initiated a major program in Iraq, with an assessment and initially three courses, to train and equip up to 400 Iraqi National Police personnel to be integrated into U.S. Embassy Baghdad Protective Security Details in Baghdad, Erbil, and other Iraqi cities.
- Presented cyber training for Indonesia, the Philippines, and Malaysia at the "Tri-Border Terrorists' Use of the Internet" conference. The training examined how terrorists use the Internet to influence public perceptions of extremism and conduct radicalization online.



## TRAINING MANAGEMENT

ATA's Training Management Division identifies the counterterrorism training and related equipment needs of each participating nation, and coordinates with U.S. embassies and the U.S. Department of State in planning and budgeting program activities. The division:

- Hosted subcabinet-level Indian officials for a Senior Crisis Management Seminar tailored to their specific circumstances in the wake of the November 2008 coordinated attack in Mumbai.
- Negotiated the transfer to the Indonesian government of the modern, in-country, counterterrorism training facility built, equipped, and utilized by ATA in the development of Detachment 88, Indonesia's elite tactical counterterrorism unit.
- Successfully negotiated the use of the modern, secure facilities and experienced trainers at the Jordanian International Police Training Center as a regional hub for training law enforcement personnel from 40 other participating governments, including Iraq, Lebanon, and the Palestinian Authority.
- Partnered with the U.S. Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program in Pakistan to train 30 explosives-incident first responders and 15 bomb disposal technicians.



# IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM

## PAKISTAN

On September 26, 2009, terrorists rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into the Askari Commercial Bank in Peshawar owned by the Pakistani military and located near the U.S. Consulate. During the ensuing investigation, the ATA-trained Peshawar Police Anti-Terrorist Squad conducted raids on several locations and arrested three suspects.

Additionally, in April 2009, a Pakistani graduate of ATA's Explosives Incident Countermeasures course assigned to the North West Frontier Province Police rendered safe an improvised explosive device (IED). The IED had been hidden in a box disguised as a copy of the Koran. Using techniques and equipment provided by ATA, the officer remotely neutralized the cell phone-activated device without approaching it.



## AFGHANISTAN

A terrorist attack in downtown Kabul targeted the United Nations guest house next to the residence of President Hamid Karzai's brother-in-law, Malak Jan Quraishi. Two of Quraishi's protective detail members were killed in the fighting. The Presidential Protective Service, which had been organized, trained and equipped by ATA, dispatched its Counter-Assault Team and successfully extracted Quraishi and his family under direct, hostile fire.

ATA continues to mentor the 340-person detail and the supporting tactical elements of the Afghan Presidential Protective Service, which has become renowned regionally for its professionalism.



## PHILIPPINES

In August 2009, a bomb disposal unit trained and equipped by ATA responded to a call about three live hand grenades discovered next to a children's playground in Central Mindanao. After clearing and securing the area, the team made a controlled detonation of the hazardous items.

ATA's explosives security program provides training and equipment not only in basic and advanced bomb disposal operations, but also in underwater explosives security for ships, as well as post-blast investigations for the collection of forensic evidence.



## INDONESIA



In September 2009, the Indonesian National Police's Detachment 88, a specialized counterterrorism unit trained and equipped by ATA, raided a suspected terrorist safe house in Central Java. During an exchange of gunfire, tactical officers killed Noordin M. Top, a member of the al-Qaida-affiliated Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist organization who had eluded capture for nine years. Top was believed to be the mastermind behind the July 17, 2009, hotel bombings of the J.W. Marriott and Ritz-Carlton hotels in Jakarta. During this raid, police arrested other extremists and seized 200 kilograms of explosives.

In addition, ATA-trained canine handlers and their U.S. Government-supplied explosive-detection canines provided security for the U.S. Embassy's Presidential inauguration event and for the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

## THAILAND



Utilizing the counterterrorism training and equipment received from ATA in the cyber Advanced Digital Forensics course, the Thai Department of Special Investigations collected electronic evidence and arrested 34 cyber criminals for fraudulently inducing victims to make \$32 million in investments through an Internet Web site.

ATA delivers training and equipment in its cyber security program to assist participating nations in protecting their information systems infrastructure, investigating and prosecuting cyber crimes, and denying terrorist exploitation of the Internet for propaganda and recruitment purposes.



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