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

OFFICE OF ANTITERRORISM ASSISTANCE

2012 FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW
Since its creation in 1983, the Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) program has served as the primary provider of U.S. government antiterrorism training and equipment to law-enforcement agencies of partner nations throughout the world, and has delivered counterterrorism training to more than 90,000 law enforcement personnel from 154 countries.
The ATA program helps our partners deal effectively with security challenges within their borders, to defend against threats to national and regional stability, and to deter terrorist operations across borders and regions. It provides cutting-edge training and consultations on topics such as cyber-security and computer forensics; crisis management and response; travel document fraud; dignitary protection; bomb detection and disposal; airport security; border security; response to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction; interdiction of terrorist organizations; and hostage negotiation and rescue. Through training and the delivery of equipment grants, ATA helps its law-enforcement partners build their capacity to detect, deter, disrupt, and investigate terrorist activities and suspects.

The ATA program’s policy formulation, strategic guidance, and oversight are managed by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT), while implementation and program administration are the responsibility of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS). CT and DS work with the Department’s regional bureaus and overseas posts to ensure that ATA activities are focused in areas that face a nexus of terrorism threats, address our partner nations’ operational needs, and are important to U.S. interests. The ATA program is most effective in countries whose governments have the political will as well as the basic law-enforcement capabilities to effectively use and ultimately sustain the advanced training that ATA provides.

In fiscal year (FY) 2012, the ATA program delivered training, workshops, technical consultations, and other services such as equipment grants to law enforcement partners in 64 countries. In all, ATA provided services and equipment with a program budget of almost $200 million to its law-enforcement partners in FY 2012.

ATA also completed capabilities-assessment and program-review visits of 20 partner nations. These on-site capability assessments quantified those nations’ current counterterrorism critical capabilities and were used as a basis for country assistance plans and to evaluate subsequent progress.

As required by law, all foreign participants receiving ATA training and equipment are vetted to ensure that they have not been involved in human-rights violations.
Inspector General of Police Mwema says the ATA relationship with the Tanzanian Police Force (TPF) is longstanding, but was cemented with the August 7, 1998, simultaneous bombings of the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Those attacks killed more than 200 and wounded some 4,000 people in Kenya and killed 11 persons and wounded 85 in Tanzania. After those horrific incidents, the United States and Tanzania “saw the importance of renewed, strengthened cooperation in the safety and security aspect, in general, and antiterrorism, in particular,” says Mwema.

Mwema believes ATA has contributed much to the TPF’s current reform initiative through modernization, professionalism, and community-oriented policing. After the embassy bombings, ATA provided training, equipment, logistics, and assistance in improving the TPF’s systems and processes. ATA assistance has helped develop capabilities to detect and counter terrorists and to be better prepared for responding to major incidents.

“Since the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam in 1998, the TPF has been privileged to benefit from ATA’s significant investments in training and equipment,” said Mwema. As an example, he cites an ATA grant of seven boats used for “preventing and combating major crimes, including terrorist activities, in sea and inland waters” throughout Tanzania.

To help the TPF build its technical and institutional capabilities, ATA has provided TPF officers both soft- and hard-skills training in various formats—classroom training, seminars, workshops, and conferences—at venues in and outside Tanzania. Training focuses on developing self-sustaining skills to detect, deter, investigate, and arrest terrorists. By holding some sessions in other countries, TPF officials have reaped the added benefit of networking and forming new relationships with their law-enforcement counterparts from other nations.

While all the courses have helped build skills, Mwema believes the ones that help the most are the train-the-trainer courses, because they have what he calls a
“force-multiplier effect” that enables the knowledge and competencies gained through the courses to “trickle down to police officers of all ranks, from the Inspector General to a police constable.”

The TPF has sent its officers through ATA’s special weapons and tactics (SWAT)/crisis response team training, both in its entirety and with some modification to fit local conditions, thus ensuring that the force is prepared to “prevent and combat major incidents and increase the level of preparedness,” says Mwema.

The courses and equipment provided by ATA to support the reform program have contributed to members of the force—both police officers and civilian staff—taking greater pride in the program and feeling that they are agents of positive change, he adds.

As part of its reform program, the TPF hopes to enable its personnel to move up through the organization by

- strengthening its human resources processes and systems
- strengthening the management of human resources information
- developing TPF leadership
- combating HIV/AIDS in the police force
- addressing gender inequality in the police force

By working toward these goals, Mwema and other senior TPF leaders hope to enhance the career opportunities and build institutional loyalty among its personnel.

The TPF has relied on ATA support and training to achieve these goals and implement its reform program. For example, the TPF’s senior leadership management training curriculum at the Kidatu Police Staff College draws upon material from ATA’s police executive leadership forum. The TPF also is integrating ATA’s maritime interdiction course into its own maritime security management curriculum, which the TPF is developing for its Mwanza Marine Police College.

Through ATA support, the TPF has established crisis-response teams throughout the country, an accomplishment unparalleled in Africa and of which the TPF is very proud. As of July 2012, the TPF had trained more than 5,200 police officers in preparedness, rapid response to incidents, and crowd-control management.

ATA also has delivered grants of law-enforcement equipment, including ballistic vests, shields, weapons and ammunition, tactical ladders, explosives-disposal materials, dynamic-entry equipment, and emergency generators.

Information sharing and analysis is one of the critical capabilities which ATA works with partner nations to enhance. Through its good working relationships with Interpol, the Eastern African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization, and the East African Community, the TPF has demonstrated this capacity by working closely with its international partners to share investigative information and intelligence.

Through these connections, and by using techniques learned in ATA training courses, the TPF provided investigative assistance to Ugandan authorities that led to the arrests of some key individuals responsible for the July 2010 terrorist attacks that killed 76 people who had gathered at a restaurant and a rugby club in Kampala to watch the 2010 World Cup soccer finals.

In another example of its close coordination with Interpol and neighboring countries, in June 2012, the TPF arrested and later deported a German national wanted in connection with a bombing in Kenya that killed one person and injured more than 30 others.

The Antiterrorism Assistance program will continue to play a significant role in advancing the professionalism of the Tanzania Police Force. Mwema says his agency is looking to ATA for assistance and support in institutionalizing the training it has received and in establishing a new training center in the Dodoma region of Tanzania that will serve as a one-stop shop for training of Tanzanian police officers in that area of the country.
Lt. Col. Fredy Bautista was always interested in technology, and his personal drive and self-taught skills primed him to play a key role in Colombia’s evolving cyber investigations force. “I have always had an appetite for computers and the desire to introduce their use into traditional police investigations,” he says.

In 2003, as a newly-promoted captain in the Colombian National Police’s (CNP’s) Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigation (DIJIN), he was tasked with exploring the use of digital investigative techniques by CNP investigators. At the time, he neither anticipated the outcome of his research nor how he would secure the resources needed by the CNP to achieve this capability and expertise. As with other leaders in this nascent field, he first sought to identify how computers were used to perpetrate crimes. Next, he focused on developing a vision for DIJIN’s approach to cyber investigations. In 2005, he took his first ATA cyber training and immediately realized the potential benefits of collaborating with ATA.

Lt. Col. Fredy Bautista is an avid ATA cyber alumnus. In his role as primary founder and head of the cyber unit within Colombia’s Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigation (DIJIN), he has attended about 20 of the 38 ATA-sponsored cyber courses since 2005. Once his unit was equipped and functional, he ensured that his investigators developed their skills by sending them to ATA cyber training, both in-country and in the United States. Bautista credits the Directorate’s prowess in digital investigations to ATA’s assistance to his cyber unit during its infancy. From lessons learned, skills acquired, and acquisition of equipment, to Bautista’s forward-leaning management, the DIJIN cyber unit’s capabilities have grown significantly in a few short years.

Bautista praises the ATA cyber program for its adherence to a logical methodology. For example, as Colombian investigators became aware of the extent to which terrorist groups and transnational drug organizations were using Internet and cellular-telephone technology to communicate, they did not know how to address the challenge. But by enlightening senior police officials through executive-level briefings about the growing threats as well as about available resources to meet the challenges, ATA achieved in a commitment from police leadership, and a road map for enhancing Colombia’s cyber investigation capabilities began to emerge.

Once ATA trained DIJIN’s cyber investigators and provided them with investigative hardware and software tools, they began to tackle cases that had threatened Colombian national security. For example, in the aftermath of a Colombian military strike on a jungle encampment of insurgents from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in March 2008, police officers searched the camp, recovered digital media used by FARC leader Raul Reyes, and sent this evidence to the DIJIN’s cyber unit. Bautista’s investigators recovered and analyzed more than 37,000 documents and 210,000 images. The fruits of this cyber investigation led to several successive operations that began dismantling the previously impenetrable infrastructure of the FARC.

ATA has worked to ensure the continuity of its curriculum and methodology in Colombia’s cyber program through ATA’s instructor-development course and train-the-trainer program. Utilizing training and equipment from ATA, as well as resources from the DIJIN, the cyber unit increased its investigative core. By adopting ATA’s train-the-trainer methodology, members of the cyber unit have trained frontline investigators in the techniques...
of identifying and collecting digital evidence. Through ATA-based in-house training, the Directorate’s instructors have honed their knowledge and identified other police officers who might be good candidates for the cyber investigative unit—a process Bautista calls “a methodology multiplier.”

Bautista strives to expand the breadth and depth of the investigative capabilities of his Bogotá-based digital forensics laboratory. ATA assistance enabled the Directorate to create four regional labs with the basic equipment needed to support low-level local investigations. Bautista successfully leveraged these facilities to expand the scope of services to other regions in Colombia requiring cyber investigative services. His staff also was able to have a small van converted to a fully-equipped mobile forensic triage unit, an initiative that ensures timely processing of critical cases in outlying regions.

Besides developing his investigators’ skills through training, Bautista has groomed his subordinate supervisors, who now manage the daily operations of the cyber units, and he has encouraged their participation in ATA executive management training and other professional-development activities.

Bautista attributes his success to good communication with his U.S. counterparts. The DIJIN has maintained an open dialogue with ATA cyber trainers and private-sector experts, both to ensure its cyber investigators adhere to best practices and to streamline the agency’s methodologies. The DIJIN and its cyber investigators, in turn, are now recognized experts in digital investigations and analysis in Latin America. On several occasions, personnel from Bautista’s office have delivered presentations at law-enforcement conferences and have provided technical and procedural assistance to law-enforcement agencies in neighboring countries. Members of Bautista’s staff also have trained cyber investigators from police agencies in Chile, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Panama. ATA’s cyber training in Colombia provides a clear example of how the program’s success in one country can become a force multiplier for antiterrorism police training throughout an entire region.
Since the expansion of the ATA program in Jordan in 2007, Maj. Gen. Mohammad Abdulla al-Raggad has had constant contact with his counterparts in ATA and is keenly aware of the intricacies of presenting ATA training courses. He considers the partnership between Jordan’s Public Security Directorate (PSD) and ATA a success for both countries.

The variety of training offered by ATA has played a key role in the directorate’s successes, providing the knowledge and expertise that have enabled police investigators to locate and apprehend high-risk terrorist suspects. Through ATA training, Jordanian police have gained new skills and experience in combating terrorism and addressing other crimes. ATA has also provided technical assistance and equipment, including new analytical equipment for the Directorate’s forensic labs.

In addition to coordinating with international organizations to combat terrorism, PSD personnel have taught the ATA curriculum to personnel from throughout the region, including law-enforcement officers from Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, Pakistan, and Yemen. With continued ATA assistance, the Government of Jordan is striving for the PSD to achieve accreditation as not only a regional training resource, but also an international training center providing antiterrorism courses to law-enforcement officials from around the world.

Al-Raggad says his government is grateful for ATA’s continued cooperation and support and hopes the two countries can enhance their mutual cooperation and partnership. Maj. Gen. al-Raggad notes that ATA’s commitment to improving the awareness and skills of foreign law-enforcement and security officials is compatible with the PSD’s counterterrorism philosophy. ATA’s training provides his agency with an important tool for combating terrorism. This training, and the sharing of information and best practices that such training engenders, have helped both nations advance their mutual security goals, says al-Raggad.

Maj. Gen. Mohammad Abdulla al-Raggad joined Jordan’s Public Security Directorate (PSD) in January 1979 and currently serves as deputy director of Public Security. He has participated in many law-enforcement and crisis-management courses locally and internationally. He previously held positions in the Operations Department and has supervised several ATA training courses, presented lectures, and attended the launch of new ATA courses and the graduation of many ATA students in Jordan.
Brig. Gen. Abdul Ahad Mohammadi began his distinguished career in the Afghanistan Presidential Protective Service (PPS) in March 2002, when he was selected to attend a U.S. Department of State protective operations course in the United States. After successfully completing the course, he was assigned to President Karzai’s protective security detail as a primary security team leader. In 2003, Mohammadi added to his protective-security skill set by completing several ATA courses at a training facility outside of Kabul. After completing those ATA courses, that included a security course on protecting national government leaders, the instructor development course, and the protective leadership workshop, he became a shift leader on President Karzai’s detail. In 2005, he was promoted to primary agent-in-charge for President Karzai, and was again promoted in 2007 to Deputy Director of Physical Security and Training.

In Mohammadi’s ten years of service with PPS, there have been eight assassination attempts against President Karzai. During one such attack in 2003 at the governor’s residence in Kandahar, Mohammadi’s skilled and timely reaction while under fire permitted President Karzai to escape unharmed. Mohammadi attributes that successful response to his ATA training.

As he has acquired more skills, Mohammadi also has been assigned higher levels of responsibility. For example, he helped develop the security plan for the November 2011 Peace Jirga, a four-day council that brought together 2,000 of the nation’s tribal, religious, and political leaders to discuss ways to advance a peace process for the war-torn nation. For his contribution to securing this large-scale assembly, Mohammadi was awarded Afghanistan’s Presidential “First Class” medal.

As deputy director in charge of training presidential security officers, Mohammadi has worked tirelessly with ATA personnel to ensure that the PPS training cadre met all requirements necessary to successfully deliver the agency’s first basic agent training. Based on ATA curriculum, but taught entirely by PPS instructors, the PPS basic agent course marked a milestone for Afghanistan’s self-reliance and antiterrorism-capacity building.

In 2010, Mohammadi was promoted to the rank of colonel and became director of PPS operations, reporting directly to the organization’s director. As operations director, he supervises 318 security agents and oversees the presidential residence watch section, as well as the PPS air squadron. He also manages presidential security operations and logistical coordination with other security agencies throughout Afghanistan, such as the UN International Security Assistance Force, the Directorate of Protection and Security of the Government High-Ranking Officials, Afghan National Army, and Afghan National Police.

As a result of his 10 years of exemplary performance, Mohammadi was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in 2011. He attributes a large part of his professional success to the training and mentoring he received over the years through the ATA program. It is a success that reflects the mutually beneficial and longstanding partnership between the PPS and the ATA program.
Afghanistan

Instructors with Afghanistan’s Presidential Protective Service (PPS) have begun to take over PPS training programs at ATA’s elite antiterrorism training center near Kabul. The PPS instructors became subject matter experts in the training program’s Protection of National Leadership disciplines and completed the same certification process required of all American ATA instructors before they could teach. These requirements included passing an evaluation-board review and an evaluation of their first classroom teaching experience.

Twenty-one new presidential security agents graduated in February 2012 from the basic agent course, the first course taught entirely by Afghan PPS instructors and a significant milestone in Afghanistan’s antiterrorism efforts.

By April 2012, 17 PPS instructors were certified to teach the ATA curriculum on their own, thereby meeting the program’s deadline for PPS instructors to take over delivery of the PPS basic agent course. These certified instructors now provide protection training to personnel from other Afghan security organizations, including the protective security details of the governor of Kandahar and the director of the National Directorate of Security.

Since August 2011, ATA has worked to develop similar instructor expertise in Afghanistan’s Directorate of Protection and Security of the Government High-Ranking Officials, also known as D10, by providing instructor-development training to future D10 instructors. D10’s mission—to protect Afghanistan’s vice presidents, provincial governors, and government ministers—is considered by some to be the toughest security job in Afghanistan. ATA’s instructor-development training is considered crucial to developing a cadre of in-house instructors who can deliver the sustained training necessary for D10 security agents to fulfill the agency’s protective security mission.

Seventeen D10 agents, including two women, have graduated from ATA’s instructor-development, protection-of-national-leadership, and firearms courses. As part of their instructor training, the agents rotate weekly for three months between the training facility, D10 headquarters, and field operations. Four of these agents shadow American ATA instructors delivering courses at the training camp; four work with ATA advisors at D10 headquarters honing their specialty skill sets; and the remaining instructors work in the field assisting with daily “sustainment” training, educating students on weapons assembly and handling.

The D10 instructors use the concepts they learned as assistant instructors working with the American ATA instructors to expand their teaching methods and knowledge. After three months of shadowing the ATA instructors, the D10 instructors go through a process that certifies them as subject-matter experts and authorizes them to teach all disciplines of their organization—protection of national leadership, designated defensive marksman, explosive...
In addition to training the logistics staff, ATA trains each graduate of the protection of national leadership course on the use of the individual weapons identification card. This card provides total accountability of all weapons while they are checked out of the armory for training or official duties.

Based on the success of these inventory controls, other Afghan organizations and the multinational Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan are duplicating these accountability systems with their Afghan training partners.
Georgia

ATA has a longstanding relationship with law-enforcement agencies in Georgia dating back to 1987, four years before it gained independence from the former Soviet Union.

One of the most important capabilities that Georgian police have developed through ATA training and equipment grants—and one that they have made great use of in recent years—is explosive ordnance disposal (EOD).

From September 2010, when EOD police technicians used an ATA-provided water cannon to disrupt and render safe a bomb near the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi, to February 2012, Georgia experienced six terrorist attacks using improvised explosive devices. In that same time period, Georgian police detected and disrupted several additional terrorist bomb plots.

In one high-profile case in February 2012, ATA-trained police in Tbilisi responding to a suspicious situation, identified and successfully deactivated a vehicle-borne bomb. The explosive device had been attached to the car of a Georgian national working for the Israeli embassy in Tbilisi.

The failed bombing was just one in a series of terrorist attacks against Israeli diplomatic interests over two days in locations around the world, including similar attacks in India and Thailand. But thanks to their ATA training, police in Tbilisi thwarted one of those terrorist bombings and saved lives.

India

In India, ATA-trained members of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) bomb-disposal unit disrupted dozens of bombs, potentially saving hundreds of lives in two instances in the summer of 2012.

In July, officers of the CRPF 24th Battalion discovered an explosive device in a culvert along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and called in a bomb-disposal team. The ATA-trained bomb technicians who arrived successfully rendered the explosive device safe using ATA-provided equipment.

On August 4, 2012, police in the eastern state of Jharkhand passed a tip to the local ATA-trained bomb-disposal team about explosives reportedly planted along the Tata-Ranchi Highway near Palna Dam, a popular tourist site.

Using landmine-detection equipment, the bomb technicians located the first of what turned out to be dozens of explosive devices buried along both sides of the highway. The devices were linked by detonating cord and designed to explode simultaneously to maximize the number of casualties. It took the ATA-trained bomb technicians six hours to locate, unearth, and disable all 130 explosive devices. The local superintendent of police noted that had the devices detonated, the explosion could have caused major damage within a wide radius.

The leader of the bomb-disposal team, a senior police inspector at the Police Training College in Jharkhand, had been trained in explosives countermeasures by ATA just a year earlier.
On August 1, 2012, a combined team of ATA-trained police officers from the Public Security Directorate Unit 30 and the Gendarmerie Unit 14 special weapons and tactics (SWAT) unit, using ATA-provided equipment, conducted two pre-dawn raids with the Jordanian Armed Forces. In two separate locations of Amman, police and military forces moved against suspected terrorists involved in international weapons and narcotics trafficking.

The raids triggered a shootout in which more than 7,000 shots were fired, resulting in the death of one of the suspects and the injury of two police officers. Two suspects escaped in a stolen car but were later killed in a shootout with police. Thanks to their ATA training, police were able to arrest 13 suspects and seize large quantities of arms and ammunition.
Kenya

On September 30, 2012, terrorists attacked an Anglican church in the Eastleigh neighborhood of Nairobi during a Sunday service for children, killing one child and injuring nine others. ATA-trained first responders, including those from law enforcement, ambulance services, security firms, national disaster response agencies, and the Kenya Red Cross, quickly arrived on the scene and used the skills they had learned in ATA’s first response to terrorist incidents and first-responder medical stabilization training just six months earlier.

The victims of the attack were rushed to a hospital near the church for stabilization and triage. Six children in critical condition were later transferred to Kenyatta National Hospital, where doctors were trained in ATA’s hospital-based management of mass-casualty incidents.

A representative from the Kenya Red Cross attributed the well-coordinated and professional response of emergency agencies to the ATA training their personnel had received and expressed the hope that other first-responder organizations would take the training to learn how to set up an effective incident-command system for managing emergency events.

In September 2012, ATA-trained bomb-disposal technicians were called to the scene of a police raid on a terrorist cell believed working with al-Shabaab, a Somali terrorist group affiliated with the al-Qaida terrorist network.
Police arrested two suspects during the raid and discovered a small arsenal of weapons and explosives, including four suicide vests loaded with hundreds of metal ball bearings, two improvised explosive devices also rigged with ball bearings, four AK-47 assault rifles, ammunition, and 12 grenades. The bomb-disposal technicians who arrived on the scene were well prepared to respond: one had received ATA’s post-blast investigation training, and his partner had taken ATA’s explosives-incident countermeasures course.

The bomb-disposal team disarmed the suicide vests and determined that the devices were similar to those used in the July 16, 2010, al-Shabaab terrorist attacks which killed 76 people watching the televised World Cup finals at public venues in the Ugandan capital.

This similarity led Kenyan police investigators to suspect the involvement of al-Shabaab, which the U.S. Department of State has designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. The terrorist group had vowed to conduct attacks in Kenya in response to Kenyan troops being deployed to neighboring Somalia in October 2011 to fight al-Shabaab terrorists there. Since 2011, more than 50 people have been killed in Kenya in terrorist attacks attributed to al-Shabaab and its sympathizers.
ATA training and equipment helped Lebanese police disarm a bomb and save lives in a busy neighborhood of Sidon, on Lebanon’s southern Mediterranean coast, in early January 2012.

Residents initially notified the Lebanese Armed Forces about a suspicious device hidden in a cardboard box covered with apples in a parking lot surrounded by apartments, shops, medical clinics, and offices.

The troops assessed the situation, cordoned off the area, and called a police explosives ordnance disposal (EOD) team for assistance.

The EOD team, three of whose members had been trained by ATA in explosives-incident countermeasures, identified the device as a cinder block filled with about 13 pounds of TNT surrounded by small shrapnel.

Using portable X-ray equipment provided by ATA, the technicians determined the improvised explosive device could be remotely detonated by a cell phone and identified wires leading to an initiator. Technicians used their ATA-provided water cannon to disrupt the detonator and successfully render the device safe.

Afterward, ATA-trained police investigators recovered evidence that led to the arrest of multiple suspects.
Pakistan

Pakistan, which lost approximately 2,000 Pakistani civilians and 680 security forces personnel in terrorist-related incidents in 2012, remains a key partner nation in the ATA program. Pakistan’s ATA-trained bomb technicians were called upon many times throughout the year to defuse explosive devices. Using their ATA-provided skills and equipment, they deactivated bombs, recovered evidence, and saved countless lives. The following are just a few examples of the successes achieved by ATA-trained police bomb technicians who every day face such hazardous challenges.

In Remembrance

Hukam Khan
ATA-Trained Senior Bomb-Disposal Officer
Dates of Service: 1978–2012

On September 28, 2012, Inspector Hukam Khan, an experienced ATA-trained senior bomb-disposal officer, was killed while attempting to defuse a bomb in Peshawar. The bomb was one of two planted near a road used by security convoys travelling to the Khyber tribal region. He had successfully defused the first bomb and was attempting to defuse the second one when it was detonated remotely, mortally injuring him. The bombs were among four others that had been defused that day.

Khan was the leader of the bomb-disposal team that had defused a bomb in Badaber earlier in the week. Over his professional lifetime, Khan had saved scores of lives by defusing dozens of bombs in Peshawar region, which led one senior police officer to declare that Khan played a key role in the battle against militants in Peshawar.

Hukam Khan’s legacy lives on in his three sons who have followed him into law enforcement careers. Two of those sons are now ATA-trained members of the police bomb-disposal unit of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

Although Khan joined the police force in 1978, he did not take his first ATA course until 2008, when one of his sons returned from the program’s explosives-incident countermeasures training, praising the quality of the course, and recommending it to his father.

We honor the memory of our brave partner and colleague who saved so many lives over the course of his career and who tragically lost his life in the performance of his duties. His service and his sacrifice for his countrymen will not be forgotten.

On July 20, 2012, police in Karachi were called to a school after a guard there discovered a suspicious package. The police summoned the Sindh provincial ATA-trained bomb-disposal unit, whose members determined that the package was a remote-controlled improvised explosive device. The bomb team defused the device, that consisted of a nine-volt battery, detonation cord, nuts, bolts, and ball bearings to enhance its killing power, and about 22 pounds of explosive material packed in a cement block.

Just three days later, the same bomb-disposal team responded

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Paraguay

On the morning of March 21, 2012, four armed young men, ages 17 to 23, entered a convenience store in Nueva Germania, Paraguay, intending to rob it. But a neighbor alerted the nearest police station, whose officers arrived within minutes, before the robbers could escape.

With the criminals trapped inside, the local police commander requested reinforcements from neighboring jurisdictions, and soon more than 150 police officers, including a member of the police force's Criminal Investigations and Anti-kidnapping unit who had taken ATA's hostage-negotiation course, arrived and secured the perimeter of the neighborhood.

Surrounded but unwilling to surrender, the gunmen held hostage the store owner and six other individuals, including two children. Unbeknownst to the attackers, another child, a 5-year-old girl, lay sleeping in an adjacent room.

Police realized the stakes were high, and they determined that their primary goal was the safe release of all hostages. Thus began a tense standoff that lasted for a total of 16 hours.

Throughout the ordeal, the ATA-trained police officer, assisted by a local police commander, negotiated with the robbers, who demanded money, more weapons, and a getaway car in exchange for the safety of their captives.

Bomb Defused in Badaber

On September 24, 2012, an ATA-trained bomb-disposal unit responded to an anonymous tip about an explosive device hidden in a handcart near a police checkpoint in Badaber, near the city of Peshawar. After evaluating the bomb, which weighed more than 65 pounds, the bomb technicians defused it.

Bomb-Disposal Units at Train Stations

ATA delivered more than $300,000 worth of antiterrorism equipment to Pakistan Railways in August 2012 and trained four railway police officers in Islamabad to detect arms and ammunition in railway stations.

The Inspector General of Police inaugurated the railroad's first bomb-disposal unit at the Rawalpindi railway station and announced plans to establish similar units at all main railway stations across the country, including Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, and Quetta.

The ATA equipment grant included metal detectors and a bomb-disposal kit for defusing bombs and detecting multiple types of explosive material.
About 90 minutes into the crisis, the shopkeeper’s 18-year-old daughter escaped by slipping out a back door and climbing over a patio wall to freedom.

After some five hours of negotiations, the robbers agreed to release four of their hostages. When the released hostages informed police that the five-year-old girl remained hidden in an adjacent room, police managed to slip her out of the shop while the police negotiator engaged the gunmen in talks over a getaway vehicle. Now only two hostages—the shopkeeper and his 10-year-old son, remained inside.

The ATA-trained hostage negotiator kept the dialogue going. Some 14 hours into the talks, the police negotiator obtained an agreement with the criminals to exchange the boy for a volunteer hostage from the police ranks. An hour later, the details of the swap were worked out, the officer entered the store, and the boy was set free.

At about 3 a.m., after some 16 hours of tense negotiations, the gunmen exited the store with their two hostages, expecting to enter the getaway car. But police special forces swooped in, the volunteer police hostage pushed the shopkeeper down to protect him, and the young gunmen, realizing they could not escape, surrendered. All hostages had been rescued alive and unharmed.

The next day, the police negotiator told news media that the successful outcome was due to the skills—critical listening, understanding human behavior and negotiating—that he gained from his ATA training. And he stressed the message conveyed by his ATA instructors in the class—that saving the lives of the hostages is the most important part of the hostage-negotiation process.

The Paraguayan National Police commander subsequently contacted the U.S. Embassy in Asunción to thank the U.S. government for the ATA hostage-negotiations training and for providing police with the skills and know-how to bring this incident to its successful conclusion.