

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES PROVIDES TRAINING FOR VITAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY

DHAKA, JULY 16 -- The U.S. Government, through the U.S. Department of State's Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) Program and the U.S. Embassy's Regional Security Office, concluded a ten-day training program focusing on Vital Infrastructure Security training course on Thursday, July 12, 2012.

The training, offered by the Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security and taught by U.S. instructors, took place at the Police Staff College Bangladesh in Dhaka. Officers from Special Branch, Armed Police Battalion, Dhaka Metropolitan Police of Bangladesh Police, Ministry of Home Affairs, Public Works Department, Special Security Force, Fire Service and Civil Defence Directorate, and National Parliament participated in the training.

When asked about the benefits and purpose of the training, U.S. Embassy Dhaka Regional Security Officer David J. Koczot said, "The Antiterrorism Assistance Program courses are just one of many avenues we can use to fight terrorism together and protect the interests of Bangladesh, the United States and the entire region. A nation's vital infrastructure is the framework of networks and systems that provide a reliable flow of products and services essential to the defense and economic security of the nation. The U.S. believes that through this training, participants learned the strategies to protect their vital infrastructure, which will help ensure the smooth function of government at all levels and society as a whole in the event of a terrorist incident."

During the two-week course, participants learned how to recognize the components of a physical protection system; identify vital infrastructure, characterize vital infrastructure, identify and prioritize assets, develop design basis threat statements, identify security countermeasures, conduct a security inspection validation, manage critical incidents, perform threat/risk/vulnerability analyses, and develop recommendations for implementing improvements to existing physical protection systems based on gap analysis. The training also included limited scope performance testing, cost benefit analysis, feasibility, and acceptability. Through lecture, large and small group discussion, demonstrations and small group activities, participants learned how to use a systematic process for securing vital infrastructure against the threat of terrorism.

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The U.S. Embassy, in partnership with the Bangladesh Police, plans to offer the training program several more times throughout the year.

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