

US FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING REACHED RECORD HIGHS IN 2015

KEY FACTS

- The total number of US military trainees increased by 35 percent from FY 2014 to FY 2015.
- The top five recipients of US military training in FY 2015 were Burundi, Rwanda, Columbia, Lebanon, and Uganda.
- The two regions with the largest number of US military trainees were Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin American and the Caribbean.
- The Pentagon increased counter-drug and counter-transnational organized crime training substantially to Lebanon, Tajikistan, Cameroon, and Uzbekistan from FY 2014 to FY 2015.
- The United States provided training to 34,526 trainees through the Peacekeeping Operations program in FY 2015.
- There was a 44 percent drop in US rule of law-related training to the Middle East and North African countries from FY 2014 to FY 2015.
- US cyber security training to Europe and Eurasian countries increased by 243 percent from FY 2014 to FY 2015.

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OVERVIEW

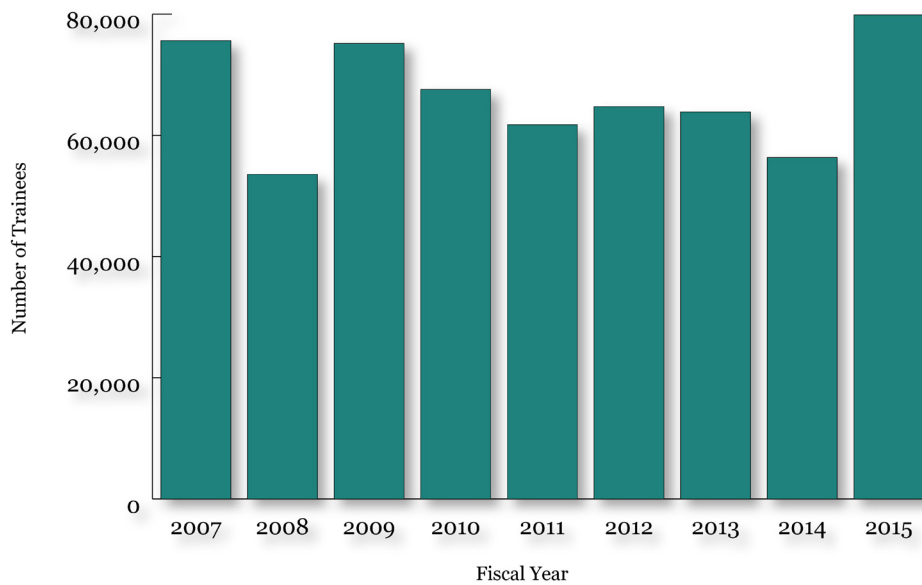
The United States significantly increased US foreign military training in FY 2015, moving from 56,346 trainees in FY 2014 to 79,865 trainees in FY 2015, according to the recent release of the US government's annual "Foreign Military Training" report.¹ The major jump marks the highest number of US trainees in any year since FY 2006 and shows the importance the Obama Administration placed on working with foreign governments to address shared security concerns (See Figure 1).

The new report also provides a window into the types of US military training the Trump Administration may cut as part of its effort to reduce US foreign aid. In March, the White House released an outline of its proposed budget for FY 2018, showing a major drop in US Foreign Military Financing (FMF) aid.² Administration officials have also called for cuts to US peacekeeping, counter-narcotics, and nation-building aid and show an unwillingness to curb security aid to countries where allegations of serious human rights violations exist.³

Based on data in the US report, the countries with the highest number of US military trainees in FY 2015 were in order: Burundi, Rwanda, Columbia, Lebanon, and Uganda. Lebanon surged back to the top this year because of increased US counter-narcotics training to help prevent a source of income for Hezbollah. Unlike previous years, Ghana and Nigeria did not make it into the top five recipients of US military training as the United States reduced the amount of peacekeeping training it provided to these countries.

There was an increase in the number of US military trainees from FY 2014 to FY 2015 for all of the six major world regions except East Asia and the Pacific, which saw a 42 percent drop in US trainees despite the Obama Administration's "Asia Pivot".⁴ The region that experienced the largest increase in US military trainees was Sub-Saharan Africa closely followed by Europe and Eurasia. The two regions with the largest total number of US military trainees were Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

FIGURE 1: TOTAL US MILITARY TRAINEES, FY 2007 - FY 2015



The report includes course details such as course title and training location for more than 65,000 of the 79,865 trainees. Compared to FY 2014, there was a significant increase in US courses that provided combat or technical skills to support United Nations or African Union peacekeeping missions and counter-drug and counter-transnational organized crime efforts. There were notable increases in more than one region for US courses focused on cyber security, maritime operations, border control, command and leadership, and rule of law. For the first time, the report includes details on US support for Colombians to train Central American security forces.⁵

The US report also shows that more than 82 percent of US military trainees received US training in their home country or a country close to them in FY 2015. The five US states with the most US military trainees in FY 2015 were in order: Georgia, Texas, District of Columbia, Florida, and Virginia. Mississippi followed closely behind Florida and Virginia in number of trainees.

Similar to previous years, the report only includes data on approximately 16 of the more than 100 US security aid-re-

US SECURITY AID AND ARMS SALES PROGRAM IN THE REPORT

STATE DEPARTMENT:

- Foreign Military Financing (FMF)
- International Military Education and Training (IMET)
- International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INCLE)
- Peacekeeping Operations (PKO)

HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT:

- US Coast Guard Activities

US ARMS SALES:

- Foreign Military Sales

STATE AND DEFENSE DEPARTMENT COMBINED:

- Misc. Department of State & Defense Non-Security Assistance

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT:

- Aviation Leadership Program (ALP)
- Combating Terrorism Fellowship Program (CTFP)
- Exchange Training
- Non-Security Assistance-Unified Command
- Professional Military Education and Exchanges
- Regional Centers for Security Studies
- Section 1004 Counter-Drug & Counter-Transnational Organized Crime (TOC)
- Section 1203
- Section 1206 Global Train and Equip Fund
- Service Academies

lated funding accounts or programs funded by the Homeland Security, Defense, or State Departments and one US arms sales program (Foreign Military Sales).⁶ As a result, several of the Defense Department-funded US security aid programs that provide training to thousands of foreign security forces such as the Afghanistan Security Forces Fund and the Iraq Train and Equip Fund are excluded.⁷ The report also excludes most US foreign police training, which reached a total of 94,000 trainees for FY 2015 and FY 2016 combined.⁸

The report below highlights key regional trends and issues in US military training from the new report. While foreign military personnel are the major recipients included in this report, the report sometimes includes training to foreign Coast Guards, national police, government personnel, and civilians. All of the data from the US report has been uploaded to the Security Assistance Monitor’s (SAM) freely accessible Military Trainees database. This database allows users to quickly answer key questions on US military training and identify new trends and issues.

A NOTE ABOUT THE REPORT AND METHODOLOGY

Every year, the US government submits a “Joint Report to Congress” that covers “all military training provided to foreign military personnel” by the State and Defense Departments for the previous fiscal year and all such training proposed for the current fiscal year, as required by Section 656 of the Foreign Assistance Act.⁹ This report, which is usually published in the summer, was published in early 2017 and is the basis of this SAM report.

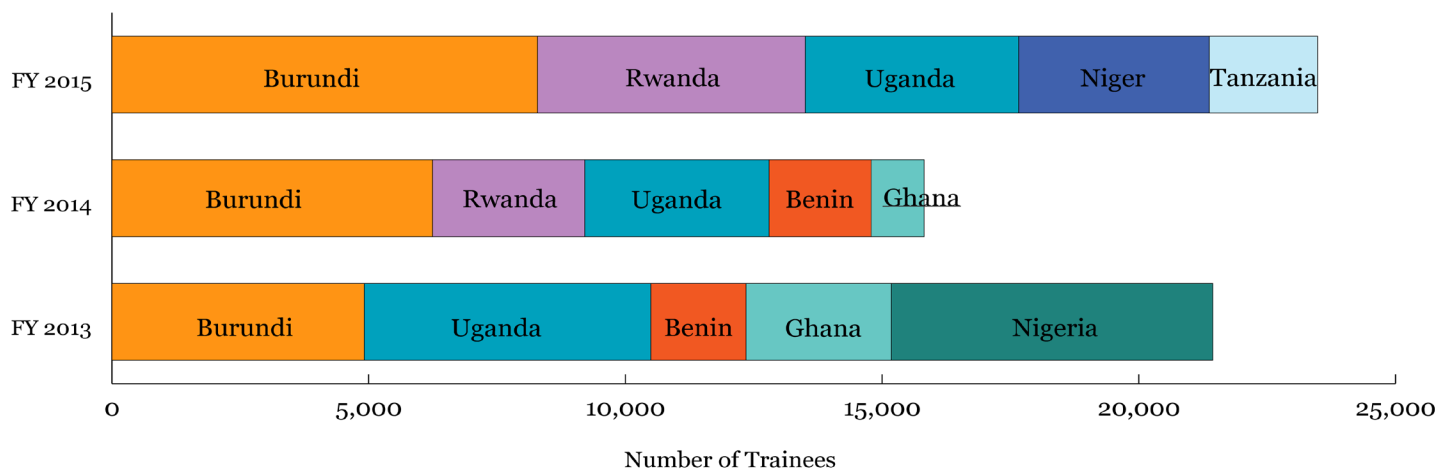
The US report always includes two volumes: Volume I and Volume II. Volume I covers actual US foreign military training while Volume II covers training that extends into the next year (ongoing) and that is planned for the next year. The SAM report focuses on data from Volume I and pulls data on total global, regional, and country trainees from Volume I Section III-I as this data is the most comprehensive and accurate.

Volume I of the report also includes many details on the types of US foreign military training courses offered to foreign countries in Section IV-I. This data includes information on the course title, quantity of trainees, training location, student’s unit, US unit, total cost, start date, and end date. However, this section excludes details on some types of training offered to foreign countries summarized in Section III-I because of the sensitivity of the training. The report only includes details on FMS training in proposed training or Volume II.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

The United States increased US military training to countries in Sub-Saharan Africa by more than 89 percent in FY 2015, moving from 21,439 trainees in FY 2014 to 40,482 trainees in FY 2015. Similar to previous years, this region accounted for the highest number of US trainees of all the regions in the world. Tanzania and Niger jumped to the

FIGURE 2: TOP FIVE RECIPIENTS OF US MILITARY TRAINING FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



top five US military training recipients in FY 2015 for the first time in several years (see Figure 2). This was the second year in a row that Nigeria wasn't one of the top five recipients. The highest number of US military trainees by sub-region was East Africa followed by West Africa, Central Africa, and Southern Africa.

From FY 2014 to FY 2015, there were significant increases in the number of US trainees in Sub-Saharan Africa through the US PKO, IMET, FMF, ALP, and Section 1004 counter-drug and counter-TOC programs. Section 1004 jumped to a total of 1,104 trainees in FY 2015 after frequently providing training to no more than 21 individuals per year. A total of 540 individuals from Cameroon, Nigeria, and Senegal received training on curbing illicit drug activities of terrorists. Other Section 1004 trainings focused on border patrol and naval activities for both counter-drug and anti-poaching efforts.

BOX 1: AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING RAPID RESPONSE PARTNERSHIP (APRRP)

During the US-Africa Leaders Summit in 2014, the Obama Administration announced “a new investment of \$110 million per year for 3-5 years” starting in FY 2015 to build the capacity of six African militaries (Senegal, Ghana, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda) to rapidly deploy peacekeepers in response to emerging conflict. In particular, the United States sought to “improve capacity of these militaries in areas such as military training, equipment maintenance and repair, institutional support, and interoperability with other African based peacekeeping forces”.¹

Of the six countries, Tanzania and Senegal saw the largest increases in the number of US trainees moving from 755 trainees in FY 2014 to 3,964 trainees in FY 2015 combined. In Tanzania most of the individuals received training on combat skills, including soldier skills, mechanized operations, and equipment maintenance, followed by training on leadership, command skills, and military policing. The most popular type of course for Senegal was soldier skills training. The United States also provided training to more individuals in Rwanda and Uganda in FY 2015 than FY 2014. There were only three trainees from Ethiopia in FY 2015.

¹ Fact Sheet: U.S. Support for Peacekeeping in Africa, The White House Office of the Press Secretary, August 6, 2014, <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2014/08/06/fact-sheet-us-support-peacekeeping-africa>

The US PKO program, which supports African security forces in peacekeeping missions, counterterrorism operations, and security sector reform efforts, among others, provided training to the highest number of individuals in FY 2015 with a total of 33,871 trained. At least 22,381 individuals that received training through this program took courses focused on tactical or technical skills such as mechanized and mortar operations and sniper and night vision training. There was also an increase in trainees taking courses on intelligence fusion and police peacekeeping in FY 2015. About 143 individuals received training on human rights and gender-related issues in FY 2015.

BURUNDI

The United States has consistently provided US military training to over 2,000 individuals from Burundi since FY 2012 because of the prominent role its military plays in the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Before protests began in April 2015 over the Burundian president's decision to seek a third-term in office, the United States initiated training on courses such as soldier skills, sniper training, and human rights for over 8,000 soldiers in FY 2015. In late May, the United States halted peacekeeping aid to the country because of reports that some security forces had participated in election violence.⁹ However, the US government initiated training for courses called “Special Mission” and “ADSN Maintenance” for 251 Burundians after this suspension through other US security aid programs.

COUNTRIES HOSTING PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

Despite the State Department's goal of building the capacity of security forces in the Central African Republic, Mali, and South Sudan to address security threats and stabilize the countries, there was almost no training provided to these forces in FY 2015, according to the US report.¹⁰ There were, however, noticeable increases in training to militaries in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Somalia, which also hosted ongoing UN or African Union peace operations from FY 2014 to FY 2015. In the DRC, the majority of military personnel took courses focused on strengthening military

institutions with a heavy emphasis on civil-military relations, military justice, and resource or acquisition management. The majority of Somali soldiers received training on combat skills and medical operations.

CAMEROON

The United States substantially increased the number of Cameroonians receiving US military training in FY 2015, moving from 84 trainees in FY 2014 to 2,028 trainees in FY 2015. The increase in trainees aimed to help combat Boko Haram, address illicit activities in the Gulf of Guinea, and support the UN peacekeeping operation in the Central African Republic. The most popular courses provided to Cameroon were soldier skills and train-the-trainer training for peacekeeping operations followed by courses focused on counternarcotics, weapons maintenance, and naval commando operations. The United States also trained at least 240 soldiers from Cameroon's Rapid Intervention Battalion, which Amnesty International has accused of systematic human rights violations.¹¹

EUROPE AND EURASIA

The Europe and Eurasia region saw an 86 percent expansion in US military training between FY 2014 and FY 2015 driven largely by increases in military training to Georgia and Ukraine. For FY 2015, Georgia, Ukraine, Kosovo, Moldova, and Macedonia were the top five recipients of US military training in the region. Montenegro was in the top five the previous year, but didn't make it into the top five in FY 2015. All of the top five countries, except Macedonia, saw increases from FY 2014 to FY 2015. Not a single member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) received US military training in FY 2015 or the previous four years despite the importance on the multi-lateral security body to help stem threats from Russia and to support counter-terrorism efforts.

There was a substantial increase in FMS military training to the region, growing from 372 trainees in FY 2014 to 1,978 in FY 2015. Georgia and Ukraine made up the bulk of this training in FY 2015. The majority of US training to the region in FY 2015 focused on networking events, security sector reform or management, and legal aspects of counter-terrorism through a total of ten US security aid programs. Compared to FY 2014, there was a substantial increase in trainees that received courses related to cyber security, countering improvised explosive devices, and parliamentary oversight of the security sector.

UKRAINE

US military training to Ukraine increased by more than 300 percent, moving from 176 trainees in FY 2014 to 720 trainees in FY 2015. The majority of US training to the Eastern European country was provided through the FMS program, which typically focuses on how to operate and maintain US weapons systems, however, the details on specific training are excluded from the report. According to the report, the two US courses with the highest participants were "Crew Teamwork" for the Ukrainian Navy and "Countering Improvised Explosive Devices" for various Ukrainian military regiments. The United States also provided new training to Ukrainian Special Forces on urban breaches and to the Ukrainian and Georgian Parliaments on common security challenges.

GEORGIA

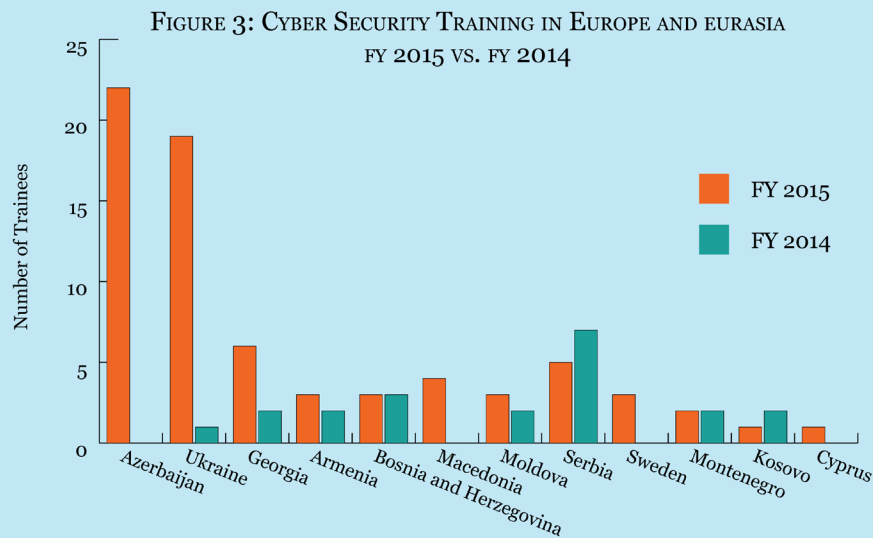
The US government increased US military training to Georgia by more than 235 percent from FY 2014 to FY 2015 with 1,285 of the total 1,481 trainees from the country receiving training through the FMS program. Although the report excludes details on actual FMS training, it indicates that over 1,206 Georgian personnel were slated to receive military training to support their deployment to Afghanistan through FMS in FY 2015. Within the actual training, the Department of Homeland Security provided training to 53 individuals from the Georgian Coast Guard on leadership and management issues. A very small number of Georgian officials received training in courses focused on human rights despite US public support for such training.¹²

BOX 2: US CYBER SECURITY TRAINING

According to a RAND study, US government officials are increasingly focused on building cyber security capacity for foreign security partners because “US forces overseas rely on our partners for critical infrastructure in their countries: energy, power, telecommunications, and water.” At last year’s NATO meeting in Warsaw, NATO members also expressed concerns about weak national capacity to prevent cyber security attacks from Russia and other sources, especially after attacks on Ukraine’s power grid and Germany’s lower parliament.¹

While the total number of US cyber security trainees is still relatively low compared to other types of training, there was a 243 percent increase in such training in FY 2015, growing from 21 trainees in FY 2014 to 72 trainees in FY 2015. Both Azerbaijan and Ukraine drove the jump in the total number of US cyber security trainees in FY 2015 (see Figure 3). US cyber security training to Azerbaijan’s military and government personnel went from 0 trainees in FY 2014 to 22 trainees in FY 2015, while trainees from Ukraine increased from 1 to 18.

Across the twelve countries that received US cyber security training in FY 2015, the most popular courses were titled “Program on Cyber Security Studies (PCSS)” and “Cyber Security Policy and Practice courses”, training a total of 54 individuals.² These types of courses focus on instilling leaders with critical knowledge that can aid them in developing cyber security policies, promoting inter-state cyber security cooperation, and cultivating cyber security capabilities that can deal with national-level threats.



¹ David E. Thaler, Michael McNerney, Beth Grill, Jeff Marquis, Amanda Kadlec, “From Patchwork to Framework: A Review of Title 10 Authorities for Security Cooperation,” Rand Corporation, 2016, http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1438.html
² “Program on Cyber Security Studies,” George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, <http://www.marshallcenter.org/mcpublicweb/en/nav-main-wwd-res-courses-pcss-en.html>; Center for Civil-Military Relations, U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, 2016, <https://my.nps.edu/documents/103449429/105518129/CCMR+Brochure/02db0edd-6f91-4ce5-a6d7-d130b01877ed>

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, there was a 49 percent increase in the total number of US military trainees, growing from 7,880 trainees in FY 2014 to 11,731 trainees in FY 2015. Lebanon received the most US military training of any MENA country in FY 2015 with a total of 4,164 trainees, surpassing Saudi Arabia as the previous year’s top recipient. Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, and Tunisia were the next five largest recipients of US military training in FY 2015. The Levant sub-region accounted for the highest number of US military trainees in FY 2015 followed by the Persian Gulf and North Africa.

The FMS program, which allows countries to purchase US military training, has consistently provided training to the most number of individuals for the region over the past few years. However, the new rise in US military training to the region comes from substantial increases in US military training through FMF and Section 1004 counter-drug and count-

BOX 3: RULE OF LAW-RELATED TRAINING FOR MENA

In some US security aid programs such as IMET and Section 1206 counterterrorism training, there is a requirement to provide training to “increase the awareness of foreign nationals...of basic issues involving internationally recognized human rights.”¹ This requirement is based on the understanding that US training on human rights, civil-military relations, and rule of law can stimulate improvements in the way foreign security forces tackle security concerns, improve their legitimacy with citizens, and make US security aid more effective.

However, the United States provided training on issues such as human rights, civilian control, and rule of law to just 109 individuals from the Middle East and North Africa region in FY 2015, a 44 percent decrease from FY 2014. This training was provided through IMET, FMF, CTFP, and Regional Centers. The country with the highest number of individuals in FY 2015 was Lebanon followed by Jordan, Morocco, and Egypt (see Figure 4). In FY 2014, Yemen topped the list. Despite US government efforts to improve Bahrain’s human rights record, the US did not provide any human rights training to this country in FY 2015.

In FY 2015, the most popular type of human rights-related courses focused on international humanitarian and human rights law (see Figure 5). This includes 29 Lebanese soldiers trained in a course titled “Humanitarian Operations, Refugees & Human Rights”. Civil-military focused courses accounted for 29 percent of the trainees in this category. “Civil-Military Response to Terrorism” provided training to the greatest number of countries. Courses in military justice, gender, and corruption account for the remainder of the trainees.

FIGURE 4: RULE OF LAW RELATED TRAINING TO MENA IN FY 2015 AND FY 2014

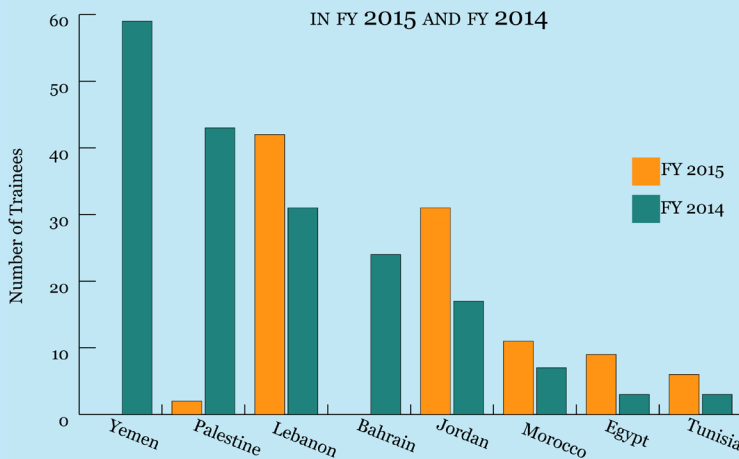


FIGURE 5: TYPES OF RULE OF LAW RELATED TRAINING TO MENA IN FY 2015



¹ “International Military Education and Training: Agencies Should Emphasize Human Rights Training and Improve Evaluations,” Report to Congressional Committees, United States Government Accountability Office, October, 2011, <http://www.gao.gov/assets/590/585950.pdf>

er-TOC programs. Section 1004, which provided training exclusively to Lebanon in the region in FY 2015, increased by 3,424 trainees between FY 2014 and FY 2015.

LEBANON

According to a US counter-drug strategy report in 2015, Lebanon’s illicit drug eradication efforts had decreased dramatically in 2014 because of insecurity in Syria.¹² The reduced eradication efforts, along with Hezbollah’s role in the drug trade, may explain the spike in US counter-drug related training to the country. The bulk of this US military training went to the Lebanese Marine Commando, Ranger, and Air Assault regiments through a course titled “Counter-narcotics Terrorism/Operations-Tactical Integration.” Lebanon also received training in courses focused on humanitarian operations, refugees, and the laws of war.

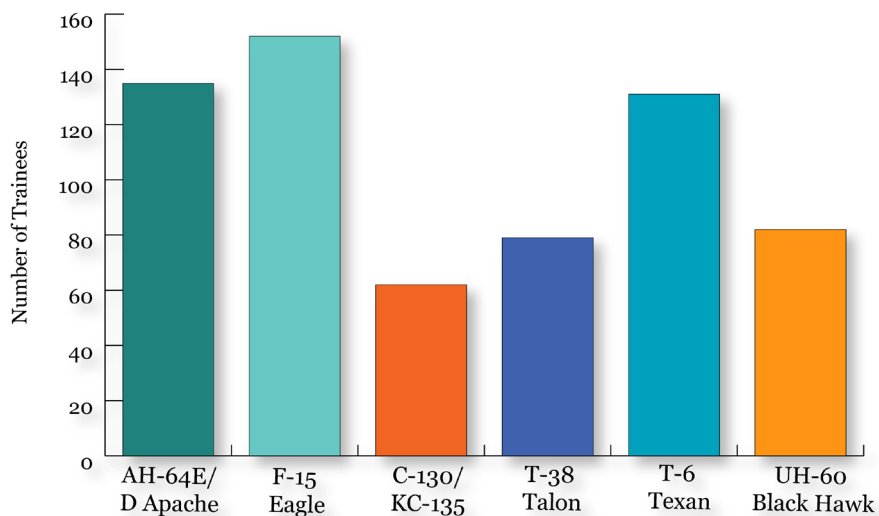
EGYPT AND TUNISIA

US military training to Egypt and Tunisia increased by over 90 percent and 184 percent respectively from FY 2014 to FY 2015. The United States provided training to 817 more Egyptian soldiers through the FMF program in FY 2015 than in FY 2014. Unlike previous years, the majority of Egyptian training was for crew operations of sea vessels and went exclusively to the Egyptian Navy’s 2nd Brigade. The jump in US military training to Tunisia comes from the US counterterrorism-focused Section 1206 program, which accounted for 69 percent of the total trainees for the country. There was also a noticeable increase in training to Tunisia on military intelligence, logistics, and addressing radicalized returnees.

SAUDI ARABIA

While there was a slight decrease in US military training to Saudi Arabia, from 2,510 trainees in FY 2014 to 2,414 trainees in FY 2015, training in the Kingdom accounted for 21 percent of all US military training to the MENA region in FY 2015. Almost all of the Kingdom’s training is provided through the FMS program. This includes a significant amount of training on military aircraft sometimes used in the Saudi-led coalition’s combat operations in Yemen.¹³ Saudi Arabia also receives FMS training at discounted prices because the country receives IMET training.¹⁴ In FY 2015 and 2016, the United States planned to provide military aircraft training to Saudi soldiers on the AH-64 Apache helicopter, UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, F-15 fighter jets, T-38 Talon fighter jet, and C-130 transport planes (see Figure 6).

FIGURE 6: US ONGOING AND PLANNED TRAINING TO SAUDI ARABIA ON MILITARY AIRCRAFT FY 2015 & FY 2016

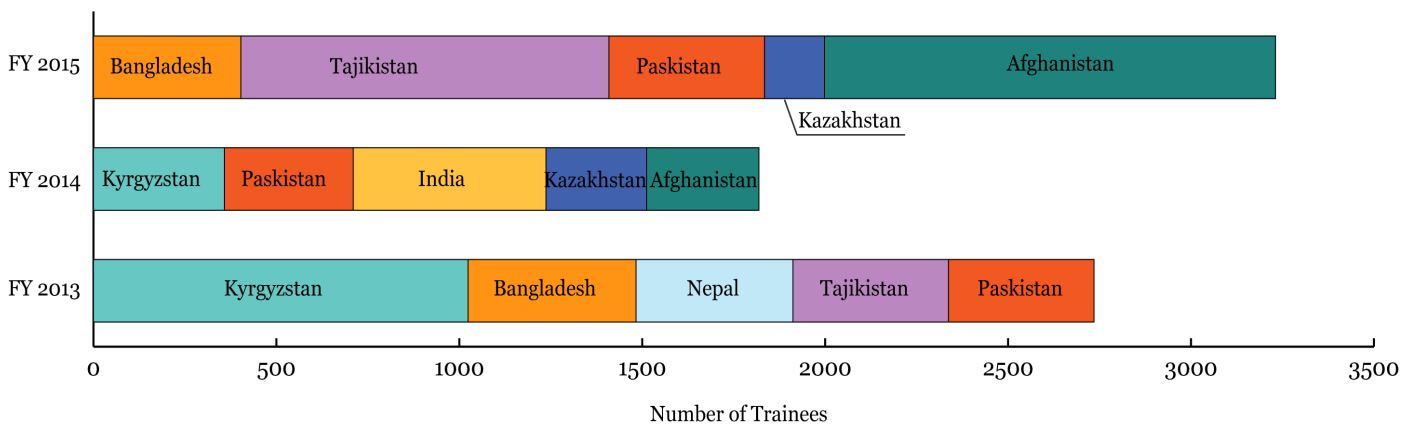


SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

US military training to South and Central Asia increased by 60 percent in FY 2015, increasing from 2,754 trainees in FY 2014 to 4,393 trainees in FY 2015. Afghanistan and Tajikistan were the region’s top recipients, with 1,233 and 1,006 trainees respectively in FY 2015. Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Bangladesh each had over 400 trainees (see Figure 7). While US military training for the region rose in FY 2015, the total number of trainees was still much smaller than FY 2012 totals, prior to the withdrawal of 30,000 US troops from Afghanistan.

The FMS and Section 1004 counter-drug and counter-TOC programs provided nearly 60 percent of all training for Central and South Asia. These programs also accounted for the significant increase in training to the region. FMS program trainees increased by 98 percent from FY 2014 to FY 2015, a majority of which were from Afghanistan. Section 1004 training increased by 1,226 trainees, of which 886 trainees were from Tajikistan.

FIGURE 7: TOP FIVE RECIPIENTS OF US MILITARY TRAINING FOR CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA



TAJIKISTAN

The reintroduction of Section 1004 counter-drug training to Tajikistan in FY 2015 contributed to a 745 percent increase in US military trainees to the country from FY 2014 to FY 2015. Tajikistan’s location makes it an important route for Afghan heroin exports to Europe.¹⁵ The majority of Section 1004 training focused on “Counter-Narcotics Terrorism (CNT)/Operations-Tactical Integration” and was given to the Tajik National Guard Special Forces (NGSF) and MGSO (unidentified unit).¹⁶ Additionally, 12 Tajik individuals took part in the “Security Sector Capacity Building - Peace Support Operations Workshop” where professionals discussed security sector reforms and peacekeeping operations.

AFGHANISTAN

In FY 2013, Afghanistan experienced sharp reductions in Section 1004 training after a Pentagon inspector general’s report questioned US strategy in stemming poppy cultivation.¹⁷ In FY 2015, the FMS program replaced Section 1004 as the largest training program, providing training for 1,233 trainees. The majority of the Afghans that were slated to receive training through the FMS program in FY 2015 and FY 2016 took courses on how to operate High Frequency Radios and various aircraft, including the A-29 Super Tucano Attack Aircraft. In 2016, the Afghans were set to receive a total of 20 A-29 aircraft.¹⁸ Afghanistan also saw increases in training for C-130 aircraft and Mi-17 helicopters. While the Defense Department has made efforts to cease the purchase of Russian aircraft for Afghanistan, Mi-17 helicopters continue to be a crucial tool for the Afghan Air Force.¹⁹

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In the Latin America and Caribbean region, there was a four percent increase in the total number of US military trainees, rising from 14,600 in FY 2014 to 15,173 in FY 2015. The Northern Triangle sub-region showed an even greater increase in the number of trainees from FY 2014 to FY 2015. Colombia has consistently accounted for the greatest number of US military trainees in the region since FY 2010 with 4,569 trainees in FY 2015. Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Honduras, and El Salvador were the next five largest recipients of US military training in FY 2015. Brazil and Dominican Republic were in the top six countries in FY 2012 and FY 2013 respectively, but didn't make it into the top six for FY 2015.

The Section 1004 counter-drug and counter-TOC program provided the most US military training in Latin America and the Caribbean over the past few years, accounting for 9,000 trainees in FY 2015. Two of Section 1004's new courses for FY 2015 – a course on border control training and one on countering transnational threats – provided training to 1,352 individuals from the region. Like previous years, the United States provided training to more than 3,000 trainees through the "Counter-Drug Related Training" course.

BOX 4: RULE OF LAW-RELATED TRAINING FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The United States provided training focused on issues such as rule of law and civilian control of the military to 679 individuals from 21 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean region in FY 2015, a 31 percent increase in the number of trainees from FY 2014. This training was provided through the IMET, FMF, CTFP, and Regional Centers programs. Colombia had the greatest number of students in FY 2015 followed by Honduras, the Bahamas, and Costa Rica. Despite allegations of human rights violations by Mexican security forces throughout 2014 and 2015, only nine individuals from Mexico participated in this type of training, down from just 39 trainees in FY 2014.

From FY 2014 to FY 2015, there was an increase in trainees taking courses focused on maritime law enforcement, growing from 86 trainees to 217 trainees. One hundred trainees from the Bahamas and 54 trainees from Costa Rica took this course. At least 207 individuals, mostly from Colombia, received training on conducting military and security operations in accordance with international human rights and humanitarian laws. Civil-military-related courses accounted for 144 trainees in FY 2015. The United States provided the "Civil-Military Operations" and "Civil Affairs Operations" courses to the highest number of countries.

There was a significant increase in US trainees from the region attending courses related to maritime law enforcement, drug interdiction, professional and leadership development, and peacekeeping courses through FMF, IMET, and PKO programs. The report shows that the United States provided training in Colombia to 54 individuals from several countries in a new course called "Countering Violent Extremism Organizations." A different Pentagon report says it trained 1,009 individuals in Colombia in the same course.²⁰ Unlike other world regions, the report shows US training to hundreds of national police through the INCLE program.

COLOMBIA

While Colombians accounted for the greatest number of US military trainees in the region in FY 2015, there was an overall decrease in the number of US military trainees from the country, dropping from 4,969 in FY 2014 to 4,569 in FY 2015. The most popular type of US training provided to Colombia in FY 2015 was focused on tactical or technical military skills. Many of these technical types of courses focused on maintaining or repairing military aircraft systems such as the Black Hawk and Iroquois helicopters. There was a small increase in individuals participating in US courses on UN peacekeeping, cyber security, and maritime operations from FY 2014 to FY 2015.

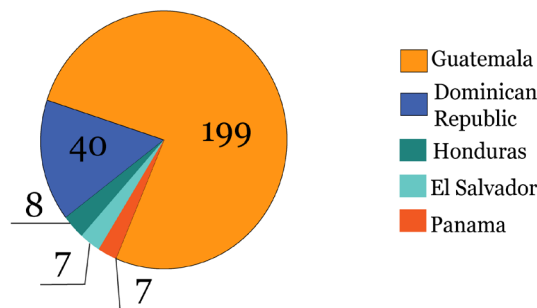
The report also shows, for the first time, US support for Colombian officials to train military and security force personnel from several countries in Central America and the Caribbean (see Figure 8) through the Section 1004 program. According to the report, Colombians trained at least 261 individuals in courses such as riverine operations, naval intelligence, infantry tactics, air superiority, and human rights. The total number of trainees is likely much higher as the report leaves out key details on similar types of training. A March 2017 Congressional Research Service report stated that the United

States funded Colombians to train more than 3,300 individuals in FY 2015.²¹

NORTHERN TRIANGLE (CENTRAL AMERICA)

US military training to the Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras increased by 36 percent in FY 2015, moving from 2,259 trainees in FY 2014 to 3,530 trainees in FY 2015. The most popular US military training course was new in FY 2015 and focused on border control, with at least 1,312 total trainees. Guatemala accounted for 992 of the total 1,312 border control trainees. In El Salvador, the United States conducted a new course on “Media and the Military” that brought together 30 individuals from local and federal government, civil society, and various branches of the military in part as an effort to build trust between these institutions and the civilian population. There has been widespread concerns about Salvadoran security forces using excessive use of force in combating organized crime. The United States provided training to 200 soldiers from an elite Special Forces unit in Honduras, the TIGRES, which has come under scrutiny for corruption and alleged human rights violations in the past.²²

FIGURE 8: NUMBER OF TRAINEES FROM US-COLOMBIA ACTION PLAN ON REGIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION
FY 2015



MEXICO

The United States provided training to 2,874 individuals from Mexico in FY 2015 - a 10 percent drop from the total trainees from Mexico in FY 2014. In FY 2015, two popular courses provided to Mexico’s Secretaria de Marina Armada de Mexico (SEMAR) were the “Combat Shoot Course” and “Urban Pre-Deployment Training.” This was the first year that the United States provided the “Combat Shoot Course” to Mexico. Through the Section 1004 program, the US Army or US Special Operations Command trained 100 individuals from Mexico’s Secretariat of the National Defense (SEDENA) in a course titled “Tactical Combat Casualty Care” and 90 Mexican Special Forces in urban operations. There were also at least 100 additional trainees from the Mexican Police in FY 2015, most which attended courses in “Advanced Marksmanship and Medical Training” and “Operational Planning.”

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

After a jump in the number of US military trainees to East Asia and the Pacific countries from FY 2013 to FY 2014 in connection with the US “Asia Pivot”, there was a 42 percent drop in US military trainees in FY 2015, moving from to 7,773 trainees in FY 2014 to 4,546 trainees in FY 2015. The number of US military trainees decreased for all of the countries in this region except Cambodia, Fiji, Laos, and Samoa. In FY 2015, the top five recipients of US training in the region were Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea, Indonesia, and the Philippines. In FY 2014, Thailand was in the top five, but the country’s trainees dropped dramatically in FY 2015 after the country experienced a coup d’état in 2014.

In FY 2015, the FMS, Regional Centers, IMET, and PKO programs provided training to the highest number of military and government personnel in the region. Some of the most popular courses focused on the establishment of greater security cooperation between nations in the region, crisis management, military logistics, executive decision-making, and infection control. The program that saw the largest reduction in the number of trainees from FY 2014 to FY 2015 was the Defense Department-funded Non-Security Assistance - Unified Command. This program, which supports for-

eight militaries with emergency response efforts, trained 1,906 individuals in FY 2014, but didn't provide training to a single person in FY 2015.

CAMBODIA

While future US security cooperation with Cambodia may be affected after the recent dismissal of the US Navy's Mobile Construction Battalion, Cambodia received the largest increase in the number of US military trainees from FY 2014 to FY 2015 for the region.²³ In FY 2015, the United States provided training to 232 individuals from Cambodia, a 70 percent increase over FY 2014. This increase was the result of an expansion in the number of trainees from both IMET and Section 1004 program training. The most popular courses were focused on maritime terrorism and small boat maintenance/operation. The US Defense Institute of International Legal Studies also provided training to Cambodians on the "Legal Aspects of Fighting Corruption," the "Law of Armed Conflict and Human Rights," the "Legal Aspects Of Defense Support (SUP) Of Civil Authorities," and "Military Law Development."

TAIWAN AND SOUTH KOREA

In recent weeks, the Trump Administration has made moves to bolster US security ties with both Taiwan and South Korea. From FY 2014 to FY 2015, the number of US military trainees from Taiwan reduced significantly, dropping from 797 trainees to 688 trainees. There was an even greater reduction in the number of US military trainees from South Korea, moving from 1,317 trainees to 654 trainees. The overwhelming majority of US military training to both countries comes from the FMS program. For Taiwan, most of the planned training for FY 2016 through this program focused on UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter instruction and fast-rope training. The United States planned to provide FMS training to South Korea on AH-64D Apache helicopter qualification and intelligence training for FY 2016.

CHINA

In connection with the Obama Administration's efforts to deepen working relationships with emerging powers in Asia, the United States supported several conferences and trainings with 52 individuals from the Chinese government, university, military, and police personnel in FY 2015. The majority of the courses offered to Chinese officials took place in the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies. They largely focused on promoting international cooperation on several common issues including counterterrorism and maritime security. An interesting event that wasn't included in FY 2014 was "Ensuring Maritime Security, Stability, and International Law in a Changing Arctic".²⁴ This course focused on the growing importance of the Arctic in maritime security and "sought to build cooperation globally in sustaining peace, stability, rule of law, and responsible resource management in the region."

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