



Law Enforcement and Terrorism

United States Embassy in South Africa

AMERICA INVESTS IN SOUTH AFRICA



“Freedom, prosperity and peace are not separate principles, or separable policy goals. Each reinforces the other, so serving any one requires an integrated policy that serves all three.”

Secretary of State Colin Powell
January 1, 2004

BACKGROUND

South Africa has well-developed banking, communications, and transportation infrastructures that make it attractive to terrorists and other international organized criminals. Such terrorists and criminals dissuade foreign investment in South Africa, and affect U.S. citizens and interests by laundering money, smuggling drugs and weapons, falsifying travel and identification documents, and promoting corruption. If unchecked, terrorist elements, along with other international criminals, can destabilize the region.

Since the high volume of criminal cases has created an immense backlog in the courts, the U.S. has invested substantially in law enforcement and crime prevention. America wants to strengthen South Africa’s criminal justice system to be more accessible to victims of crime, particularly women and children. The U.S. is sharing its experience in developing effective legislation related to the administration of justice. In addition, the U.S. is helping other countries in the region improve their security institutions’ ability to fight against criminal elements and to foster better coordination and cooperation between law enforcement agencies in countries across Southern Africa.

WHAT IS THE U.S. MISSION DOING?

- Providing U.S. specialists to train the South African Police Service (SAPS), elite Scorpions unit, Department of Treasury, Home Affairs, South African Revenue Service and municipal police forces, in anti-terrorism and other crime prevention, investigation, and prosecution techniques.
- Providing needed equipment, such as DNA forensics equipment, to the SAPS and new metropolitan police forces, to strengthen performance.
- Offering technical assistance, when requested, in high profile investigations.
- Providing U.S. specialists to assist in prosecuting complex criminal cases (i.e. money laundering and organized crime related to terrorist activities).
- Sending South African officials to the U.S. and to the International Law Enforcement Academy in Botswana for training in combating crime.
- Actively cooperating with South Africa in the fight against terrorism through information sharing, training, and donation of equipment and police dogs.

TYPES OF TRAINING SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS HAVE RECEIVED

- Sexual Offenses Investigations
- Terrorism and Money Laundering
- Role of the Police in Managing a Crisis
- VIP Protection
- Canine Consultations and Evaluation
- Hostage Negotiation
- Computer and Financial Crimes
- Vital Installation Security
- Crisis Response
- Rural Border Patrol
- Officer Safety/Street Survival
- Explosive Counter Measures/Detection
- Surveillance Detection
- Postal Chemical/Biological Incident Management Course
- Forensics and Computer Forensics

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WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

- Worked with the South African Government to freeze any terrorist financing that might be in South African financial institutions and to counter any laundering of money.
- Worked with the South African Treasury Department to establish South Africa's Financial Intelligence Center.
- Held bilateral consultations on control of ports, immigration, and airport security. Assisted in monitoring shipments.
- Cooperated closely to carry out extradition of fugitives. South African authorities surrendered the accused bomber of the U.S. Embassy in Tanzania, and a former member of the Symbionese Liberation Army, among many others, to the U.S. for trial. The U.S. extradited a South African to this country to face theft/embezzlement charges of 100 million Rand from pension funds in KwaZulu-Natal.
- Assisted South African parliamentarians in learning about U.S. anti-terrorism law by holding two seminars on anti-terrorism legislation. Consulted on elements in South Africa's terrorism bill. Shared information related to counter-terrorism.
- Organized programs on trafficking in persons for SAPS, think tanks and NGOs.
- U.S. prosecutors worked with the National Directorate for Public Prosecutions to assist on money laundering, financial and organized crime cases.
- Assisted the Department of Home Affairs to enhance border security.
- Seized counterfeit U.S. dollars.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Continue to strengthen border controls with the SAPS, the South African Revenue Services and the Department of Home Affairs.
- Expand programs that strengthen the judicial system, especially those dealing with juvenile justice.
- Together with SAPS, work on a comprehensive program to lower the police mortality rate.
- Expand crime and violence prevention programs, particularly for youth.
- Train customs officials to better determine the origin of goods and assess appropriate tariffs.
- Explore U.S. best practices in municipal policing.
- Implement training and mentoring programs for public prosecutors.



Donation of crime fighting computer equipment to the Scorpions.

USEFUL WEBSITES

State Department International Narcotics & Law Enforcement Affairs:
<http://www.state.gov/>

Federal Bureau of Investigation:
<http://www.fbi.gov/>

Drug Enforcement Agency:
<http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/>

U.S. Secret Service:
<http://www.usss.treas.gov>

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms:
<http://www.atf.treas.gov>

U.S. Customs Service:
<http://www.customs.treas.gov>

Immigration and Naturalization Service:
<http://www.ins.gov>

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