

# King Abdullah Special Operations Training Center (KASOTC) Provides Capabilities for Coalition Forces

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Since its inception, the United States has always maintained alliances with other nations. Alliances have shaped every armed conflict in our Nation's history. In some cases, we were the primary benefactors of our allies. For example, our alliance, both economically and militarily, with France was instrumental in securing our independence from Great Britain. During other conflicts, such as the El Salvadoran Civil War in the 1980s, we have assisted allies to support our national objectives.

Jordanian SOF prepare to conduct entry via the Airbus A300 aircraft during a training event. (U.S. Army photo.)

In today's contemporary operational environment, strengthening our alliances and partnerships with other nations is paramount. Our allies often possess critical regional knowledge and skills that we cannot replicate. The *2008 National Defense Strategy* charges our Armed Forces to strengthen and expand our alliances and partnerships through support, training, advising, and equipping our allies to counter the full spectrum of threats. DOD has a range of programs in place to support these goals, including foreign internal defense activities, such as exchanges or exercises, and security assistance activities, such as foreign military sales and foreign humanitarian assistance. Activities such as these serve to enhance mutual goals and promote further cooperation between the United States and our allies.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is one such ally. "Jordan continues to be a key partner and play a positive role in the region. Jordan participates in many regional security initiatives and has placed itself at the forefront of

**"Jordan continues to be a key partner and play a positive role in the region. Jordan participates in many regional security initiatives and has placed itself at the forefront of police and military training for regional security forces."**

**—GEN David H. Petraeus, Commander, CENTCOM**

police and military training for regional security forces," said GEN David H. Petraeus, Commander, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM), before the Senate Armed Services Committee on April 1, 2009. "In addition to its regular participation in multilateral training exercises, Jordan promotes regional cooperation and builds partner capacity through its KASOTC."

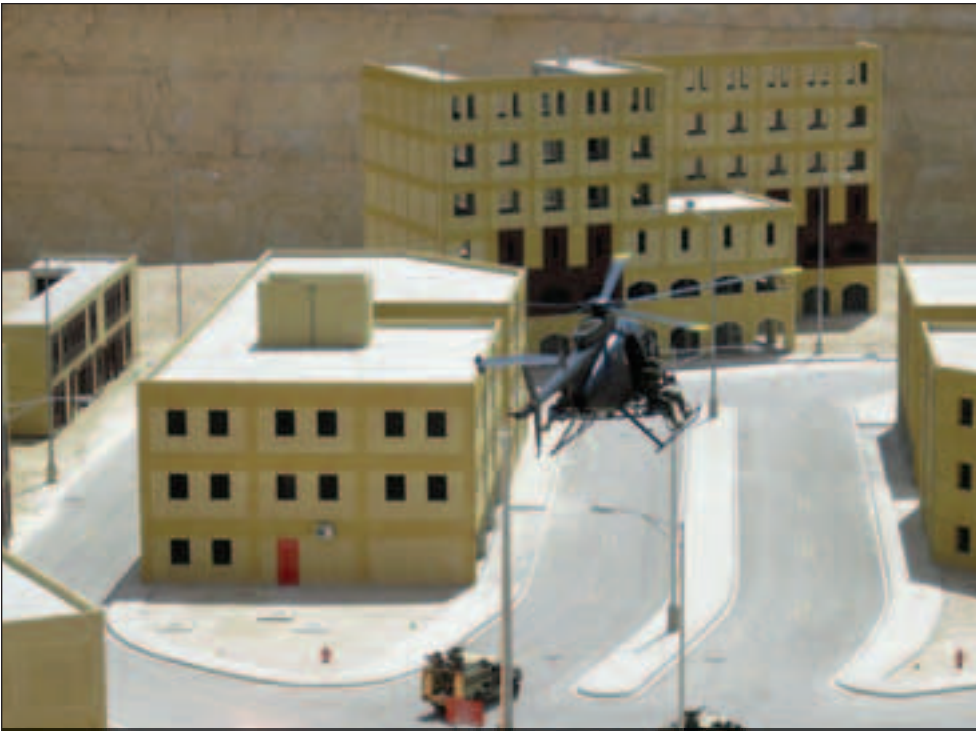
### **Enhancing Operational Capabilities**

On May 19, 2009, King Abdullah II of Jordan officially opened the 1,235-acre KASOTC, located approximately 35 kilometers outside Amman, Jordan, which made the goal of strengthening regional cooperation a reality.

The KASOTC is a state-of-the-art Special Operations Forces (SOF) training center with the capability to provide SOF units an environment to enhance their operational capabilities. It includes multiple indoor and outdoor shooting ranges; bays for explosive, mechanical, and ballistic breaching; a fully instrumented urban operations facility; a 5-story live fire "shoot house"; vehicle mock-ups; a driver's range; classroom facilities; and an Airbus A300 aircraft on an airport tarmac complete with a control tower. The complex also provides a place for coalition forces to train on common ground and learn from each others' real-life operational experiences.



Jordanian SOF conduct simultaneous entry via fastrope and ground insertion into the 5-story KASOTC shoot house. (U.S. Army photo.)



Jordanian SOF conduct operations in the KASOTC urban environment. (U.S. Army photo.)

The KASOTC, which is owned and operated by the Jordanian government, is outfitted with the most durable technology and is built to meet U.S. technical and safety standards. The complex is also equipped with training devices that resemble the high-tech military operations on urban terrain systems used by the U.S. Army. This attention to detail provides the coalition warfighter with the most realistic training possible.

King Abdullah II initially planned the KASOTC project in May 2002, with the first draft plans formulated within the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and subsequent solicited funding from the U.S. beginning in 2003. Two years later, Congress allocated funds necessary to complete the design and outfit the facility. Aggressive development and construction began shortly thereafter by the project's primary partners: the Jordanian

government; the U.S. Army Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training, and Instrumentation (PEO STRI); H-B Consulting LLC; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transatlantic Programs Center; and the prime contractor, General Dynamics Information Technology.

The KASOTC was designed in response to the emerging threats and unpredictable nature of the current international security environment. The facility meets the special operations training needs of the Jordanian Armed Forces and other Jordanian governmental and private security organizations, and is open to other coalition allies. It is also intended to:

- Strengthen a key U.S. ally and demonstrate U.S. commitment to the Kingdom of Jordan.
- Support Jordan as an “anchor state” that contributes to regional security.
- Support Defense Security Cooperation Agency objectives to enhance regional cooperation, interoperability, and building partner nations’ counterterrorism capabilities for overseas contingency operations (OCO).
- Enhance consequence management and civil defense capabilities of OCO partners.
- Provide U.S. forces and our coalition



King Abdullah II of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan arrives May 19, 2009, for the grand opening of the KASOTC outside Amman, Jordan. (U.S. Army photo.)

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partners access to a secure, world-class, state-of-the-art training center.

Specifically, the facility's scope and magnitude will shape units for success in current strategic and operational environments. This is particularly important as homeland and deploying forces face increasingly more adaptive and intelligent combatants. KASOTC's intent is to hone the full spectrum of individual and collective urban tactics, techniques, and procedures to ensure that KASOTC-trained forces maintain the highest possible urban readiness advantage over potential adversaries.

As a coalition regional training hub, KASOTC is fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of host nation and partner capabilities. The center facilitates rapport building with the local population and law enforcement as forces deploy into areas of conflict. This peacetime engagement will shape multinational teams for greater success in urban conflict.

### Supporting Exercise Scenarios

In addition to the spectrum of direct-action operations, KASOTC can support a multitude of real-world exercise scenarios to include:

- Natural disaster and serious incident consequence management.
- Urban terrorist attack.
- Weapons of mass destruction.
- Airport, port, border crossing, and checkpoint security.
- Building and vehicle searches.
- Explosive ordnance disposal.
- Improvised explosive devices (security planning and management).
- Tactical combat casualty care.

Current operations reinforce the fact that combat in urban areas is highly intensified and complex. KASOTC delivers this realism by using computer control ranges that integrate specialized targets, video and audio systems, and battlefield simulation effects. There are approximately 400 cameras linked to a centralized range operations center over a fiber-optic network, which

allows units to observe, monitor, and capture ongoing training. The integrated instrumentation embedded in this equipment plays a large part in the success of military training readiness and improving safety. Integrated instrumentation improves training fidelity and realism by infusing urban and range training environments with realistic conditions controlled by operator workstations and digitally recorded for playback in the after action review. The special effects employed to mimic realistic conditions include targets, smoke, sounds, and smells. The KASOTC environment permits Soldiers to practice mission-essential tasks in a stressful environment and commanders to assess mission readiness of their units and design training to overcome the identified shortcomings.

Healthy regional cooperation and strong alliances have proven their worth on today's battlefield. Maintaining and strengthening these partnerships is a key tenet of our national security strategy. For the special operations community, KASOTC will afford the opportunity to make this a reality.

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GEN David H. Petraeus, CENTCOM Commander, confers with Dr. James T. Blake, PEO STRI, and SGM David Lanham, PEO STRI Senior Enlisted Advisor, May 19, 2009, at the grand opening banquet for the KASOTC. (U.S. Army photo.)