



Hot Spots

The following countries have reported high levels of sex trafficking and labor trafficking. In addition, several countries in the United States (U.S.) Pacific Command (PACOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR) are listed as Tier 2, Tier 2 Watch List, or Tier 3 in the U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Reports (<http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/>).

Burma – Tier 3
Cambodia – Tier 2
China – Tier 2 Watch List
Malaysia – Tier 2 Watch List
North Korea – Tier 3
Papua New Guinea – Tier 3
Thailand – Tier 2 Watch List
South Korea – Tier 1



Case Examples

Case 1: In March 2002, an investigative reporter uncovered U.S. military personnel patronizing South Korean bars involved in prostitution and human trafficking. According to interviews with the military personnel, the men were aware that the women were trafficked and noted confiscation of passports and the selling of women at “auction.” U.S. military personnel were soliciting in the establishments and keeping the peace outside of the buildings, in Courtesy Patrols. That year, in the National Security Presidential Directive 22, the U.S. Government adopted a “zero- tolerance” policy on TIP, which the military follows. In addition, the Department of Defense (DoD) established a new statute in the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) prohibiting purchase of sex, and enacted mandatory education and training for all military personnel. U.S. Forces Korea created a list of 600 off limits establishments, improved on-base recreation facilities, and increased cooperation with Korean authorities in combating human trafficking.

Case 2: In 2014 , the Naval Criminal Investigative Service collaborated on a joint investigation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Honolulu Police Department (HPD). A U.S. Navy (USN) Petty Officer Second Class was arrested by HPD when a 16 year old victim reported that he was pimping her for money, providing her with alcohol, and raping her. Subject received an Administrative Discharge from the USN related to misconduct. Subject is currently incarcerated by the State of Hawaii pending trial for sexual assault, promoting prostitution, and assault.

Links to Mission & Readiness

Prostitution is common in PACOM AOR, and U.S. military personnel are prime targets for the sex industry.

Funds from human trafficking are used by organized criminal networks, terrorist groups, militias, and other groups to further their criminal enterprises and weaken and destabilize democracies.

China and North Korea have serious intra- and inter-national labor and sex trafficking issues, including reports of slave labor in North Korea.

Actions for Commanders

Communicate clearly the U.S. Government’s “zero tolerance” policy on TIP and each DoD member’s responsibility to prevent TIP. Ensure all PACOM personnel understand the link between prostitution and TIP, and that, although legal in some countries in the AOR, prostitution is often coerced and can involve underage individuals. Furthermore, it is a violation of UCMJ to solicit prostitution even in countries where it is legal. Commanders shall ensure that all service contracts are consistent with U.S. and host nation laws to include appropriate CTIP safeguards and reporting. Ensure establishments are placed off limits through an established process and ensure all personnel are aware of the off-limits establishments. Ensure all personnel complete mandatory annual Combating Trafficking in Persons training.