



Hot Spots

The following countries have reported high levels of sex and labor trafficking. In addition, several countries in the United States (U.S.) Central Command (CENTCOM) Area of Responsibility (AOR) are listed as 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/>).

Afghanistan – Tier 2
Iraq – Tier 2
Kuwait – Tier 3
Qatar – Tier 2 Watch List
Syria – Tier 3
Iran – Tier 3
Yemen – Tier 3



Case Examples

Case 1: A complaint alleged that a subcontractor on a U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) contract forced Nepalese laborers into the Iraqi war zone against their own will and without proper protection. Nepali men were promised high-paying hospitality jobs in Amman, Jordan. The men were coerced into paying exorbitant fees and their passports were withheld. Upon their arrival in Jordan, they were flown to the Iraqi war zone to work on a U.S. military installation. As they were driving to the base, 12 of the Nepalese laborers were captured by insurgents and executed.

Case 2: In Afghanistan in November 2012, the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) set up an audit in response to a report from a Service member that an Other Country National (OCN) working on the installation said he and others were being beaten by their employer, a DoD subcontractor. In audit interviews, employees spoke of threats of serious harm and physical restraint used against them by the subcontractor. Auditors discovered housing safety issues and four individuals were found locked in rooms. DCMA documented eight non-conformances at the site. DCMA issued a Corrective Action Request to the prime contractor and submitted a report for a possible criminal investigation. The prime contractor responded quickly and worked with the subcontractor to correct the compliance issues.

Links to Mission & Readiness

Thousands of OCNs are hired under U.S. government contracts to work in U.S. military missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. This large civilian workforce comes primarily from developing countries such as Nepal, India, the Philippines, and Uganda. These workers perform low-wage essential services, which may include construction, security, and food services.

Although the U.S. Government has adopted a “zero-tolerance” policy against TIP, OCNs are often subjected to deceptive hiring practices, substandard living conditions, unsafe or hazardous working conditions, and other forms of abuse. These workers can become an unstable element on military installations. Regular audits, inspections, and unannounced spot-checks of living and working areas, as well as on-going employee and OCN interviews can prevent compliance and criminal violations.

In addition, militant Islamic terrorist organizations engage in trafficking as a means of making money. Funds from human trafficking are used by organized criminal networks, warlords, and other rogue armed forces to further destabilize weak democracies.

Actions for Commanders

Communicate clearly the U.S. Government’s “zero tolerance” policy for TIP and each DoD member’s responsibility to prevent TIP. Ensure soldiers 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 the Uniform Code of Military Justice to solicit prostitution even in countries where it is legal. 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.