



Hot Spots

The following countries have reported high levels of human trafficking, mainly sex trafficking. In addition, several countries in the United States (U.S.) European Command (EUCOM) 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/>).

- Belarus – Tier 3
- Bulgaria – Tier 2 Watch List
- Germany – Tier 1
- Russia – Tier 3
- Turkey – Tier 2
- Ukraine – Tier 2 Watch List



Case Examples

Case 1: A 14 year old dependent son of an Army Major in Stuttgart, Germany attempted to recruit a 14 year old dependent daughter of a Sergeant First Class to have sex with others for money. The girl confirmed that the suspect attempted to recruit her to have sex for money; she refused. There was no action by German authorities. Command action resulted in early return to the U.S. of the dependent son.

Case 2: According to allegations, employees of a U.S. military contractor purchased young women and girls, including a 12-year-old child, from local brothels and had them live in their residence for sexual and domestic (i.e., house cleaning) purposes. Of eight contractors named in the investigation, five were sent back to the U.S.; none faced charges. Since then, Congress passed the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act, which allows the U.S. to arrest, charge, prosecute, and convict U.S. citizens who commit crimes in another country.

Links to Mission & Readiness

Many EUCOM countries have legalized prostitution and U.S. military are prime targets for the sex industry.

As a result of the Syrian Civil War, 13.5 million people have left Syria and are migrating to various countries in Europe, most notably Turkey and Germany. Turkey has 2,733,850 million refugees as of July 2016, and Germany has pledged to take 800,000 refugees through 2017. Experts predict increases in human trafficking, drug trafficking, and other criminal activity as a result of these influxes.

Actions for Commanders

Communicate clearly the U.S. Government’s “zero tolerance” policy for TIP and each Department of Defense 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. Ensure that personnel understand that 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.