



Hot Spots

The following countries have reported high levels of human trafficking. Although the United States (U.S.) and Canada are rated Tier 1 and Mexico Tier 2, there is still a significant amount of trafficking in all three countries. (<http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/>).

Canada – Tier 1
Mexico - Tier 2
United States – Tier 1



USNORTHCOM
United States Northern Command

Case Examples

Case 1: An investigation was initiated after a tip from law enforcement indicated a U.S. Navy Petty Officer Second Class possessed child pornography and had used the Internet to solicit children in sex acts. The investigation surfaced evidence that confirmed both allegations. As part of a pretrial agreement, the Petty Officer entered a plea of guilty at a General Court Martial to violating Articles 92 (Failure to Obey Order or Regulation) and 134 (Attempting to Obtain a Minor for the Purpose of a Commercial Sex Act) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). He received a dishonorable discharge from the Navy, was confined for 12 years, reduced in rank to E-1, and forfeited all pay and allowances. Upon release from confinement, he will be required to register as a sex offender.

Case 2: The U.S. had also prosecuted numerous cases of trafficking of Mexican and Central American women and girls to the U.S. for purposes of prostitution. In one recent case, Mexican women and girls were trafficked across the border into Texas and driven to Florida where they were beaten, assaulted, and raped to force them to comply with their traffickers' demands. The lead trafficker was sentenced to 20 years in prison and ordered to pay nearly half a million dollars in restitution.

Links to Mission & Readiness

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the federal government has prosecuted over 1,200 human trafficking cases since 2000. Military children in distress may be prime targets for traffickers online, at schools, or in neighborhoods. Traffickers have moved to sophisticated business models involving new technologies including smartphones, social media, and specialized apps. In addition, bars, massage parlors, and other fronts for brothels are often situated near U.S. military bases.

Mexico is a country with family values and societal norms, but it struggles with trafficking, smuggling, and corruption issues, including a well-developed corridor for moving people from Central America to the U.S.

Some cases of trafficking on the northern border between Canada and the U.S. have been reported and coordination between federal, provincial, and territorial law enforcement officials are uneven.

Actions for Commanders

Communicate clearly the U.S. Government's "zero tolerance" policy for Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and each Department of Defense (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. Ensure that personnel understand that it is a violation of UCMJ 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. Ensure DoD Hotline is posted and accessible for reporting TIP.