



# Quarterly CTIP Newsletter

## Agency Highlights

### DoD CTIP Survivor Voices of Human Trafficking Project: Learning from First-Person Accounts

*Contributed by: Combating Trafficking in Persons Office*








There is a saying that goes, “Those closest to the problem are closest to the solution...” This certainly applies to survivors of human trafficking, who know the traffickers’ recruiting techniques; circuits and routes; types of force, fraud, and coercion applied to compel victims to do their bidding; amount of money made; and patterns of activity. If we want to understand the nature and scope of human trafficking in the U.S. and other countries, we must listen to survivors because they have lived it.

In 2021, the DoD Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) Office launched a new webpage entitled, “Survivor Voices of Human Trafficking.” The webpage was designed to give survivors a platform to tell their stories to help us understand how trafficking occurs, and in particular, in and around the Department of Defense. Over the years, we have recorded eighteen survivors. Yes, they tell their stories of being trafficked, but much more than that. They also discuss adverse childhood events that were precursors to being trafficked; what they and others could have done differently to prevent being trafficked, or to get earlier intervention; how they escaped, exited, or were rescued. In addition, they talk about what they are doing now to prevent trafficking, help prosecute traffickers, and protect and assist victims. Finally, in many instances, they have given the CTIP Office ideas for new approaches to address and eradicate trafficking in the DoD.

Of the 18 participants in our program, 12 were victims of sex trafficking, four were victims of labor trafficking, two were child soldiers, and two were victims of both labor and sex trafficking. Eight are male survivors, and 10 are female survivors. Eight were trafficked when they were minors and 10 were trafficked when they were youth or young adults. All experienced the trauma of force, fraud, or coercion, many telling stories of traffickers who used terrible violence to compel them into commercial sex, forced labor, or child soldiering. Six spoke of being homeless before they were trafficked; six told of drug use and addiction during the time they were trafficked. Those who were trafficked into forced labor spoke of the trickery and cheating, many times by legitimate companies, who used them for their labor and then dumped them back in their home of record with little or nothing to show for the months, sometimes years, they had worked. Ten of the 18 told of a connection with the U.S. military – either their parents were military (4), or they were purchased by military men (8), or they were trafficked by subcontractors who had contracts related to the U.S. military (2). In one case, someone from the military was the trafficker.

Though each story is different in its details, the same overarching exploitation and abuse can be seen running through all the survivor stories, that a more powerful person or set of people, forced the survivors to do their

(the traffickers’) bidding for the traffickers’ gain.

 <p><b>TANYA GOULD</b></p> <p>"I met my trafficker when I was still in high school. We dated for four months – he dated on me, gave me presents, brought me flowers, took me shopping."</p> <p>READ MORE ▶</p> <p>BIO ▶</p> <p>VIDEO ▶</p>	 <p><b>TSHEAL CHARLES</b></p> <p>"One summer, the police arrested them two weeks after I arrived. They made me a prisoner and I was forced to carry heavy loads of stolen loot from store to store."</p> <p>READ MORE ▶</p> <p>BIO ▶</p> <p>VIDEO ▶</p>
 <p><b>LUSAMBU KADIM</b></p> <p>"Twenty-one vigilantes (including myself) were sent to Afghanistan in June 2011. We spent two months in Bagram transit area where we were..."</p> <p>READ MORE ▶</p> <p>BIO ▶</p> <p>VIDEO ▶</p>	 <p><b>SREELY THOMPSON</b></p> <p>"After I was trafficked, and still at times to this day, I'm sorry to say when I think of the military I get fearful and anxious and many other negative emotions."</p> <p>READ MORE ▶</p> <p>BIO ▶</p> <p>VIDEO ▶</p>
 <p><b>BARDARA AMAYA</b></p> <p>"I grew up in Fairfax Virginia until the age of 12, after that, I finished my childhood years being brutally sex trafficked in the streets of Washington, D.C. and New York City."</p> <p>READ MORE ▶</p> <p>BIO ▶</p> <p>VIDEO ▶</p>	 <p><b>KEYANA MARSHALL</b></p> <p>"It seemed like sometimes the military police even knew or suspected what was going on but turned a blind eye to it. Some military men would 'gift' girls to each other to celebrate..."</p> <p>READ MORE ▶</p> <p>BIO ▶</p> <p>VIDEO ▶</p>
 <p><b>HANNAH BLAIR</b></p> <p>"During that time many men purchased me. I'm sure some were from the military because the Coast Guard was so close. There were also law-enforcement officials – one even came in his uniform."</p> <p>READ MORE ▶</p> <p>BIO ▶</p> <p>VIDEO ▶</p>	 <p><b>DE'SIREE TRAIL</b></p> <p>"I met a bouncer at a local strip club and even though it didn't seem like it then, looking back I see that began my downward spiral into sex trafficking. I had signed up for the ROTC. Miraculously, a few years later a local recruiter found me."</p> <p>READ MORE ▶</p> <p>BIO ▶</p> <p>VIDEO ▶</p>
 <p><b>HAROLD D'SOUZA</b></p> <p>"If they had, if someone had known the indicators, if someone had been paying attention, the fact that we were trafficked could have been identified at a very early stage. There were so many other indicators..."</p> <p>READ MORE ▶</p> <p>BIO ▶</p> <p>VIDEO ▶</p>	 <p><b>AMBER CAUSEY</b></p> <p>"Believe me when I say it is not an exaggeration when I say the military saved my life! Just before dropping out of high school, I had signed up for the ROTC. Miraculously, a few years later a local recruiter found me."</p> <p>READ MORE ▶</p> <p>BIO ▶</p> <p>VIDEO ▶</p>

Reflecting on what could have been different, what could have saved them, survivors give us important information on where to aim our education and awareness programs. Ms. Theresa Flores and Mr. Jerome Elam both noted that so many systems failed them – the education system, child protective services, the foster care system, and health care providers. Ms. Flores says that she wishes she had tried to tell someone what was happening to her, but she didn't know how. So, building a cadre of trusted adults who have direct contact with kids is important. Mr. Elam noted that believing children is critical. He tried to tell adults on several occasions what was happening, but they did not believe him. One survivor said that this was her initial experience with the military: the investigators did not believe her and treated her as if she was the problem.

Mr. Harold D'Souza, who was trafficked into a restaurant business in Ohio said, "If [people around me] had known the indicators, if someone had been paying attention, the fact that we were trafficked could have been identified at a very early stage. There were so many indicators..." Knowing the importance of explaining how to recognize TIP, all the DoD CTIP trainings have a section that includes the basic signs and indicators of trafficking to help learners understand what trafficking looks like in a DoD setting. The trainings also have videos of survivors or excerpts from their stories to give real world examples.

encouraged her to take the GED and get her high school diploma; and walked her through the application process. Ms. Causey served two tours in Iraq, worked her way through college and then law school, and now serves as an assistant criminal defense attorney in Iowa. She gave us the idea of a special message and micro-training for recruiters and is assisting us in creating it.

Ms. Amber Causey, who was trafficked when she was a minor and then joined the military when she escaped, noted that the military saved her life. She recounted that a recruiter who found an interest card from high school saw the "Army Strong!" in her when she was 90 pounds and recovering from being trafficked. This recruiter assisted in getting her personal paperwork in order;

Many of the survivors spoke of "turning their pain into purpose," or "making a message out of their mess." We are grateful for the guidance of the survivors who have participated in our Survivor Voices of Human Trafficking project.

For the full stories of the survivors, see the CTIP Survivor Voices of Human Trafficking site: <https://ctip.defense.gov/Survivor-Voices/>

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## Featured Article

### **CTIP PMO Makes a Site Visit to INDOPACOM**

***Contributed by: Combating Trafficking in Persons Office***

In June 2024, the Combating Trafficking in Persons Program Management Office (CTIP PMO) visited Oahu to meet with U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) points of contact (POCs) about human trafficking. Although we have worked closely with USINDOPACOM over the years, this was our first formal

site visit to this area of responsibility. Thirty-eight nations comprise the Asian-Pacific region, making it culturally, socially, economically, and geopolitically diverse. The region is home to 60% of the world's population, and the people speak 3,000 different languages. The region also houses several of the world's largest militaries, and five nations allied with the U.S. through mutual defense treaties. It is a heavily militarized region, with seven of the world's ten largest standing militaries and five of the world's declared nuclear nations. It is also one of the world's busiest international sea lanes and has nine of the ten largest ports in the world.<sup>1</sup>



Given this background, it is not surprising that the USINDOPACOM region is home to a number of countries on Tier 2 Watch List and Tier 3, meaning that the U.S. Department of State (DOS) has identified them as countries having significant human trafficking issues. The DoD has encountered both sex trafficking and labor trafficking cases in this region and has worked hard to create counter-trafficking programs.

In a series of meetings, Ms. Linda Dixon, CTIP Program Director, briefed POCs on new CTIP laws, policies, and regulations, and described the CTIP PMO's programs and projects. She noted new legislation, the "Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022," Public Law 117-348, that requires all personnel to take the CTIP General Awareness training within one year of joining the DoD, and a CTIP Refresher course every two years after that. She also briefed USINDOPACOM POCs on the new law entitled, "End Human Trafficking in Government Contracts Act of 2022," Public Law 117-211, that requires suspension and debarment officials be alerted immediately of TIP violations. Finally, she discussed new CTIP Resources, including the Health and Human Trafficking Training and Toolkit, the Military Chaplain Training and Toolkit, and that a new CTIP survivor, Ms. Amber Causey, a survivor who contributed to the CTIP Survivor Voices of Human Trafficking. Amber was trafficked when she was a minor and then joined the military shortly after she turned 18.

USINDOPACOM and the CTIP PMO discussed regional issues and the efforts being made to combat

trafficking in persons. The DOS has listed six countries in the region on Tier 3 (Brunei, Bruma, Cambodia, China, Macau, and North Korea), and 4 countries from the region on Tier 2 Watch List (Fiji, Laos, Hong Kong, Vanuatu).<sup>2</sup> Of critical importance to the DoD is the DOS Report on China, where state-sponsored forced labor persisted under the government's mass detention and political indoctrination campaigns. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has issued five Withhold Release Orders (WROs) on goods produced using state-sponsored forced labor.<sup>3</sup> Once a WRO is issued, goods cannot enter any U.S. port of entry.<sup>4</sup>

According to the U.S. Department of State, state-sponsored forced labor channeled more than one million Uyghurs, ethnic Hui, ethnic Kazakhs, ethnic Kyrgyz, ethnic Tajiks, and ethnic Uzbeks between 2017 and 2019 into as many as 1,200 "Vocational Skills Education and Training Centers" – internment camps designed to erase ethnic and religious identities under the pretext of "deradicalization." Authorities utilize discriminatory surveillance technologies, including facial recognition and DNA sequencing technology, and arbitrary administrative and criminal provisions to detain predominantly Muslim Turkic minorities in Xinjiang and international observers reported authorities use similar surveillance technologies to collect DNA from ethnic Tibetans across Tibet as part of a "crime detection" program. Camp authorities reportedly forced some individuals to work in staff positions within the camps, including in sewing and Mandarin language instruction. During detention within – and following "graduation" from – these facilities, government authorities and/or authorized commercial entities subjected many of these individuals to forced labor in adjacent or off-site factories producing garments, automotive components, footwear, carpets, yarn, food products, seafood processing, construction materials, holiday decorations, building materials, solar power equipment polysilicon and other renewable energy components, consumer electronics, bedding, hair products, cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment face masks, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and other goods for domestic and international distribution.

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-trafficking-in-persons-report/china/>

<sup>1</sup> Stats about the INDO PACOM AOR taken from: <https://www.pacom.mil/About-USINDOPACOM/USPACOM-Area-of-Responsibility/>

<sup>2</sup> Find the latest country tier rankings in the 2024 Trafficking in Persons Report here: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-trafficking-in-persons-report/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/09/14/dhs-cracks-down-goods-produced-china-s-state-sponsored-forced-labor#:~:text=The%20products%20subject%20to%20the,other%20ethnic%20and%20religious%20minorities.>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/forced-labor/withhold-release-orders-and-findings>



USINDOPACOM has also addressed trafficking in the Pacific Rim [fishing industry](#). More recently, sex trafficking of Native Hawai'ian people has been raised in a [new report](#) published by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in collaboration with the Hawaii Commission on the Status of Women, and posted on the Department of Justice website entitled, "Missing and Murdered Native Hawaiian Women and Girls Task Force Report." The CTIP Office and USINDOPACOM CTIP POCs vowed to renew efforts to combat trafficking in persons in the region.

The CTIP PMO is headed to U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command headquarters for site visits, and we will report on these visits in a future newsletter.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued numerous Withhold Release Orders (WRO) on products in the USINDOPACOM AOR, including 36 WROs on products produced in the People's Republic of China (PRC), 5 WROs on fishing vessels in international waters in the USINDOPACOM AOR, 2 in Malaysia, and 1 in Japan. The WROs for products from China are thought to be produced with state-sponsored forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, where the Chinese government is engaged in systemic human rights abuses against the Uyghur people and other ethnic and religious minorities. You can see all the active Withhold Release Orders around the world on a map produced by DHA CBP here: <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/forced-labor/withhold-release-orders-and-findings>

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## Interagency Activities



In June 2024, Secretary Blinken hosted the release of the U.S. Department of State [2024 Trafficking in Persons \(TIP\) Report](#). The TIP Report is the U.S. Government's principal diplomatic tool to engage foreign governments on human trafficking. It is also the world's most comprehensive resource of governmental anti-trafficking efforts and reflects the U.S. Government's commitment to global leadership on this key human rights and law enforcement issue.



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced [Know2Protect, Together We Can Stop Online Child Exploitation](#). Through Know2Protect, DHS and its partners will educate and empower young people, parents, and trusted adults on ways to prevent and combat exploitation and abuse both on and offline, explain how to report incidents of these crimes, and offer support resources for victims and survivors of online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

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## DoD CTIP Program Office Updates

The CTIP Office chaired the CTIP Task Force meeting on July 10, 2024. The CTIP PMO invited two guest speakers for the meeting. Ms. Amber Causey, a survivor of human trafficking, spoke about the trajectory of her life after she joined the military, the work she did to combat trafficking while she was in



the military, and what she is doing now. Ms. Dede Wallace Homeland Security Investigations Victim Assistance Specialist, discussed initiatives of the Hampton Roads Human Trafficking Task Force providing services to human trafficking victims, investigating and prosecuting crimes related to sex and labor trafficking, and conducting public outreach activities to promote human trafficking awareness throughout the community.

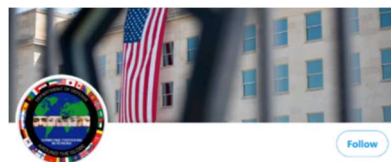
The CTIP PMO attended the 2024 National Law Enforcement Training on Child Exploitation from June 10 –14 in Atlanta, Georgia. This is a national training event designed to expand the efforts and knowledge base of law enforcement investigators and prosecutors by providing specialized training focused on investigating and prosecuting technology-facilitated crimes against children.

On June 16 – June 19, the CTIP PMO conducted a site visit to USINDOPACOM HQ and the Services in Hawaii. As part of the CTIP PMO ongoing Internal Controls program, the office schedules meetings annually with select Combatant Command and Services to discuss current efforts to combat trafficking in persons in their area of responsibility. During the site visit, the CTIP PMO discussed information about new TIP laws and requirements including the implementation of the Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 2200.01, “Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP),” ideas for improving the CTIP program, communication about the program, and Inspector General audits and reporting.

For more information,  
visit :  
[ctip.defense.gov](https://ctip.defense.gov)

**Training:** The CTIP Office worked with the Defense Health Agency, Continuing Education Program Office, to obtain the continuing education credit (CE/CME) on 15 specializations for the CTIP Healthcare Professional Training on Joint Knowledge Online. For more information about the training, check out the CTIP Training page: <https://ctip.defense.gov/Training/>

**Check out the CTIP Website!** The [website](https://ctip.defense.gov) includes tabs for the CTIP Trainings, the CTIP Student Guide to Preventing Human Trafficking, and Acquisition Resources.



**Follow us on social media!** The CTIP PMO is now on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#)!

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## Upcoming Events

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- CTIP Site Visit to USAFRICOM and USEUCOM on August 27-29, 2024
- The next CTIP Quarterly Task Force meeting will be October 9, 2024
- The annual CTIP Self-Assessment is due to the CTIP PMO by December 2, 2024.