

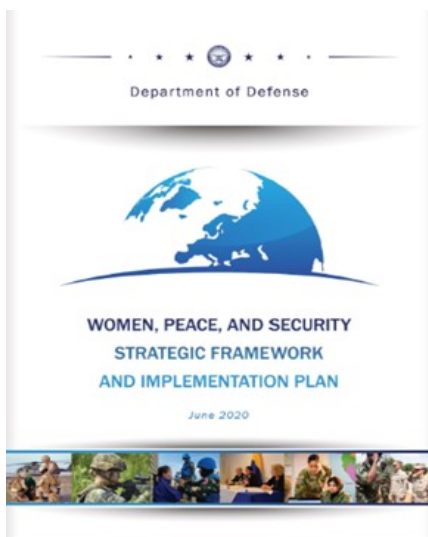


Quarterly CTIP Newsletter

Agency Highlights

Women, Peace, and Security Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan Released

Contributed by: The Women, Peace, and Security team in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy/Stability and Humanitarian Affairs



The Secretary of Defense recently approved and released the Department's [Women, Peace, and Security \(WPS\) Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan \(SFIP\)](#), as required by the [Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017](#) (Public Law 115-68) and the [U.S. Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security](#). The SFIP represents the first Department-wide strategy written to promote the meaningful inclusion of women across the spectrum of conflict to strengthen partnerships and increase effectiveness and national security capabilities.

The SFIP details how the Department will support the U.S. Strategy on WPS by focusing on the composition of its personnel and the development of its policies, plans, doctrine, training, education, operations, and exercises. It also states how the Department will encourage partner nations to do the same, thereby increasing interoperability and better preparing forces to face the complex challenges of the modern battlefield.

The evolution of conflict underscores the need to identify security approaches that are sustainable and meet the unique needs of the entire population. As our adversaries and competitors continue to seek a strategic advantage through global recruitment and exploitation of diverse populations, we must work to continue to empower and train diverse talent. By recognizing the roles women play as agents of change and by incorporating their perspectives throughout our plans and operations -- and encouraging partner nations to do the same -- the Department will be better equipped to promote our U.S. security, confront our near-peer competitors, and defeat our adversaries.



Photo By: Air Force Tech. Sgt. Gregory Brook

The Department's work on Combatting Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) is linked to WPS. [Seventy-two percent of trafficking victims are female](#), and vulnerability to trafficking, particularly for sexual exploitation and forced marriage, increases significantly during conflict. Combatting trafficking in persons is an essential part of the United States' national security effort, and through the implementation of the WPS SFIP, the Department of Defense will be more equipped to recognize and respond to risks of trafficking in conflict.

Featured Article

Building a Survivor Informed Combating Trafficking in Persons Program at DoD

Contributed by: CTIP Program Management Office

Since the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) in 2000, a new era for victims of human trafficking commenced, and with it, new ways to help victims become survivors and reclaim their lives. The TVPA laid out a 3 P framework – Prevention, Prosecution, and Protection – for combating human trafficking. Part of the framework is the need to include survivors in creating “victim-centered,” and “survivor-informed” programs and services. Their experiences, insights, and ideas are invaluable to combat trafficking.

The [Department of Health and Human Services](#) Human Trafficking Leadership Academy describes a “survivor-informed” practice as one that, “... acknowledges the unique perspectives of survivors with relevant expertise based on knowledge of their trafficking experiences and challenges they have faced in their efforts to regain and rebuild their lives. A survivor-informed practice includes meaningful input from a diverse community of survivors at all stages of a program or project, including development, implementation and evaluation.”

The Department of Defense Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) Program Management Office (PMO) is committed to developing a victim-centered and survivor-informed program and resources. The CTIP PMO strengthened its survivor-informed approach in the following ways:

- Sought out survivors to tell their stories at CTIP Task Force meetings, in special events, and in articles.
- Participated in a year-long process with the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking (members are all survivors) to assess the CTIP PMO anti-trafficking activities and to make recommendations to improve them, especially how to be more survivor-informed.
- Conducted over 1000 interviews with Other Country National (OCN) employees brought to DoD military installations to perform food services, janitorial, construction, and other labor-intensive work on bases.
- Created worker rights wallet cards to hand out to incoming OCNs to inform them of their rights and where to report any suspected human trafficking activities
- Added a special section to the CTIP Investigative Professionals Training on a victim-centered approach, trauma-informed care, communication strategies for questioning victims, and victim/witness coordination with investigative process.
- Added case studies to the CTIP General Awareness, Acquisition Professionals, and Investigative Professionals, Leadership and DODEA training for educators. These case studies are DoD-centric and based on sex trafficking and labor trafficking cases in DoD.



Harold D'Souza, survivor, speaking at the Pentagon, January 2020

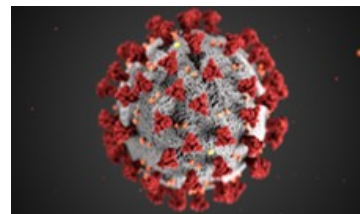
In the future, the CTIP PM plans to interview trafficking survivors allegedly trafficked on military installations. The CTIP PMO is also creating a “Survivors Speak” Resource as part of the [CTIP Website](#).

Featured Article

COVID-19 and Trafficking in Persons

Contributed by: CTIP Program Management Office

Experts say that COVID-19 puts many vulnerable people at risk for being trafficked. In a recent interview, the head of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime noted that the [pandemic creates an environment for exploitation, violence, and human trafficking](#). For example:



- Shelter-in-place orders trap many who are at risk for domestic violence with their abusers
- More heads of families are out of work and some are attempting riskier solutions to obtaining food, clothing, and shelter, thus increasing their risk of exploitation.
- More children are on-line for longer periods of time making them vulnerable to online exploiters
- Resources such as law enforcement, healthcare, and emergency responses have been diverted to treating COVID-19 cases; this results in a reduction of services typically available to survivors.
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide shelter for homeless people have adopted “no one in – no one out” policies, meaning that if you already had shelter, you can stay, but if you become homeless as a result of COVID-19, you may not be able to obtain shelter
- Travel restrictions have made it more difficult to travel through legitimate enterprises and increased the potential for organized criminals to move people across borders



According to Polaris, an anti-trafficking NGO, [groups who experience marginalization](#) by race, income, and immigration status are more likely to be exploited through sex and labor trafficking. All available evidence suggests that these same people will become even more vulnerable in the wake of this crisis.

As the pandemic continues, it will be important for communities to deepen their understanding of the ways to support anti-trafficking efforts. Countries, states, and cities need to keep shelters and hotlines open; safeguard access to food, clothing, and shelter; and ensure that law enforcement officials are aware of the increased vulnerabilities to trafficking during COVID-19.

The Department of Defense Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) Program Management Office is working to understand the ways that COVID-19 could lead to trafficking incidents in the DoD. For example, the CTIP Program Manager (PM) in Afghanistan is working with leadership there to ensure the quarantine process for Other Country Nationals coming onto bases does not lead to trafficking issues. Some of the considerations are safe social distancing during quarantine, reasonable comfort (heat/cold, clean bedding), hygiene (hot and cold running water, laundry), food and water, and getting paid during the quarantine. The PM works with the Area Support Group-Afghanistan to prevent TIP issues arising.

Interagency Activities



The U.S. Department of State released the [2020 Trafficking in Persons Report](#) on June 25, 2020. Due to COVID 19, the event was virtual. The Honorable Michael Pompeo, U.S. Secretary of State, The Honorable Ivanka Trump, Senior Advisor to the President, and The Honorable John Cotton Richmond, Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons all presented remarks. In addition to the country narratives, two articles in this year's report are about trauma bonding in human trafficking and the human trafficking of athletes.

Ms. Heather Fischer is the new White House Domestic Policy Council's Special Advisor for Human Trafficking. President Trump's Executive Order on Combating Human Trafficking and Online Child Exploitation in the United States established this position. Ms. Fischer will work on issues related to combating human trafficking occurring into, from, and within the United States and to coordinate with personnel in other components of the Executive Office of the President, including the Office of Economic Initiatives and the National Security Council, on such efforts.

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DoD CTIP Program Office Updates

On May 14, 2020, the Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) Program Manager (PM) participated in the virtual Senior Policy Operating Group (SPOG) meeting on human trafficking. The CTIP PM discussed the requirements for DoD in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, the updates to all of the DoD CTIP trainings, and the accomplishments of the CTIP PM in Afghanistan which help strengthen programs to prevent TIP in DoD contracts and subcontracts.

The CTIP Program Management Office (PMO) responded to a mandate in the NDAA for FY 2020 to submit a report to the Congressional Defense Committees. The report is an analysis of the Department's implementation of the DoD Instruction 2200.01, "Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP)," from the time of its first publication in 2007 through the most recent update in 2019.

The CTIP PMO is responding to requests for information from the Government Accountability Office (GAO), as mandated in the Conference Report for NDAA for FY 2020. The NDAA FY 2020 required the GAO to report on policies, regulations, and practices relevant to the DoD's efforts to combat trafficking in persons in contracting. The GAO will submit their report to Congress in January 2021.

The CTIP PMO is working with Joint Knowledge Online to produce two new posters. The first will show the connection between Women, Peace, and Security and trafficking in persons (TIP) and a second poster will show the connection between gross violations of human rights and TIP.

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

OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

Have ideas for the next issue? Submit your suggestions and agency highlights to dodctip@mail.mil.

Upcoming Events

The next meeting of the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons is tentatively scheduled for September 2020; no date yet.