



# DEPARTMENT OF WAR

## COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS OFFICE

*Laura J. Lederer, Subject Matter Expert*

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*Combating Trafficking in Persons Office*



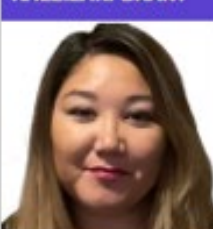
# Warning

The Department of War (DoW) Trafficking in Persons presentation contains language and images depicting physical violence and sexual violence to accurately portray the nature of trafficking in persons. DoW has determined that this level of candor is necessary in order to properly convey the subject matter.





## Additional Resources: Human Trafficking Survivor Voices

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
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| <b>KRISTIN VAUGHN</b><br> <p>"I was taken all up and down Virginia interstates and later flown around to East Coast major cities and then I said..."</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p>                          | <b>JAZMYN BROWN</b><br> <p>"There were men from the military too. I specifically remember one guy from the military who came back again and again."</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p>                                           | <b>KUMAR</b><br> <p>"I come from a small city in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, India. One day I saw an ad in the newspaper for a U.S. company that was recruiting for Army jobs in Afghanistan."</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p> | <b>JAMES DOLD</b><br> <p>"Sometimes wolves wear sheep's clothing. In my case, the wolf came dressed as a devoted wife and mother of another young Cub Scout from my troop."</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p>                      | <b>LU SAMBU KARIM</b><br> <p>"Twenty-one Ugandans (including myself) were sent to Afghanistan in June 2018. We spent two months in Bagram transit area where we were..."</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p>                                                      | <b>SHELBY THOMPSON</b><br> <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><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p>                                              | <b>KALEILANI GRANT</b><br> <p>"Hawaii is a place where every branch of Service in the U.S. military is represented. We have large events such as the Pro Bowl and... RIMPAC."</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p>           |
| <b>AMBER CAUSEY</b><br> <p>"Believe me when I say it is not an exaggeration when I say the military saved my life! Just before dropping out..."</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p>                              | <b>NISSI HAMILTON</b><br> <p>"In a way, it was labor trafficking. And sex trafficking. Because I was dancing, stripping, selling drinks and being sold for sex."</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p>                             | <b>RONNY MARTY</b><br> <p>"I heard from friends about a recruiter who was coming to the Dominican Republic (DR) to find workers for large U.S. hotels and other hospitality companies."</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p>            | <b>CARLOS DIMAS</b><br> <p>"I grew up in El Salvador, raised by a courageous single Mom and an alcoholic father who used violence to deal with stress."</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p>                                         | <b>BARBARA AMAYA</b><br> <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><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p>               | <b>KEYANA MARSHALL</b><br> <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><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p>                          | <b>TINA FRUNDT</b><br> <p>"When I was 13, I met an older guy who lived in our neighborhood. He was nice to me, and I bonded with him and trusted him."</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p>                                 |
| <b>THERE SA FLORES</b><br> <p>"I was a normal everyday girl living in the suburbs. I was part of a nice family. I was a good kid. I got good grades, was a good athlete..."</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p> | <b>JEROME ELAM</b><br> <p>"Following my parents' divorce, my mother and I were set adrift on a sea of dysfunction. When I was five, my mother began a relationship with a man named Neale."</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p> | <b>TANYA GOULD</b><br> <p>"I met my trafficker when I was still in high school. We dated for four months - he doted on me, gave me presents, brought me flowers, took me shopping."</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p>                | <b>ISHMEAL CHARLES</b><br> <p>"One summer, the rebels attacked Kono two weeks after I arrived. They made me a laborer and I was forced to carry heavy loads of stolen loot from town to town."</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p> | <b>HANNAH BLAIR</b><br> <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><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p> | <b>DESIREE TRAIL</b><br> <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 an underworld, an outlier life, and finally led to me being trafficked."</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p> | <b>HAROLD D'SOUZA</b><br> <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..."</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">BIO</a></p> <p><a href="#">VIDEO</a></p> |



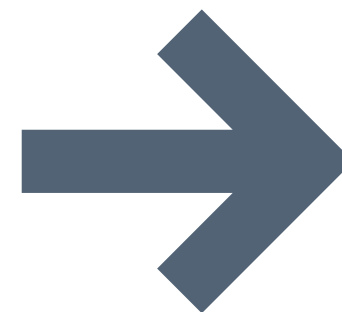
# The Warfighter's Approach

Human trafficking is more than a humanitarian or criminal justice issue—it is an operational threat that affects mission readiness, military installations, supply chains, and national security.

## Traditional View



Human trafficking is a humanitarian and criminal justice issue.



## Warfighter's View



Human trafficking is also a national security and operational threat.

The Warfighter Approach to Stopping Human Trafficking approach equips military personnel to recognize, report, and help disrupt trafficking as part of today's operational environment.



# The Warfighter's Approach

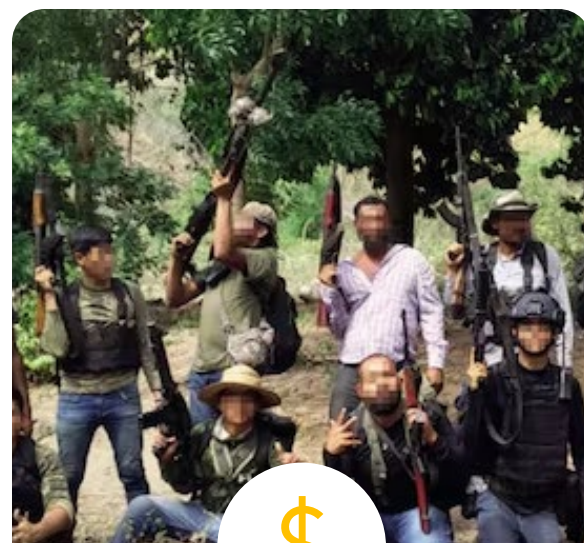
- The 21st-century warfighter faces new adversaries—**narco-terrorists, rogue militias, cartels, street gangs, and other transnational and domestic criminal organizations and foreign terrorist organizations** that rely on human trafficking to support their operations.
- These actors employ **asymmetric and irregular tactics**, using human trafficking alongside other illicit activities to gain power and control
- **Warfighters need to be trained deeply and broadly** to understand these new adversaries and how to combat them.





## Today's Adversaries

Human trafficking is not carried out by a single type of offender. It is used by a diverse range of adversaries to support and sustain their operations. Representative organizations linked to human trafficking include:



### Drug Cartels & Narco Terrorists

- *Sinaloa Cartel*
- *Cártel de Jalisco Nueva Generación (CJNG)*
- *Cártel del Golfo (Gulf Cartel)*



### Transnational Criminal Organizations

- *Chinese Triads*
- *Russian Bratva*
- *Yakuza*
- *Black Axe*



### Street and Prison Gangs

- *MS-13*
- *Tren de Aragua*
- *Bloods*
- *Crips*



### Motorcycle Outlaw Gangs

- *Hells Angels*
- *Outlaws Motorcycle Club*
- *Bandidos Motorcycle Club*



### Violent Extremist Organizations

- *ISIS*
- *Boko Haram*



# Why Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is not the end goal—it is a strategic tool used to advance broader criminal and operational objectives.



## FINANCE OPERATIONS

- Finance operations
- Sustain logistics
- Expand influence



## BUILD CAPACITY

- Child soldiers
- Forced labor
- Intelligence
- Recruitment

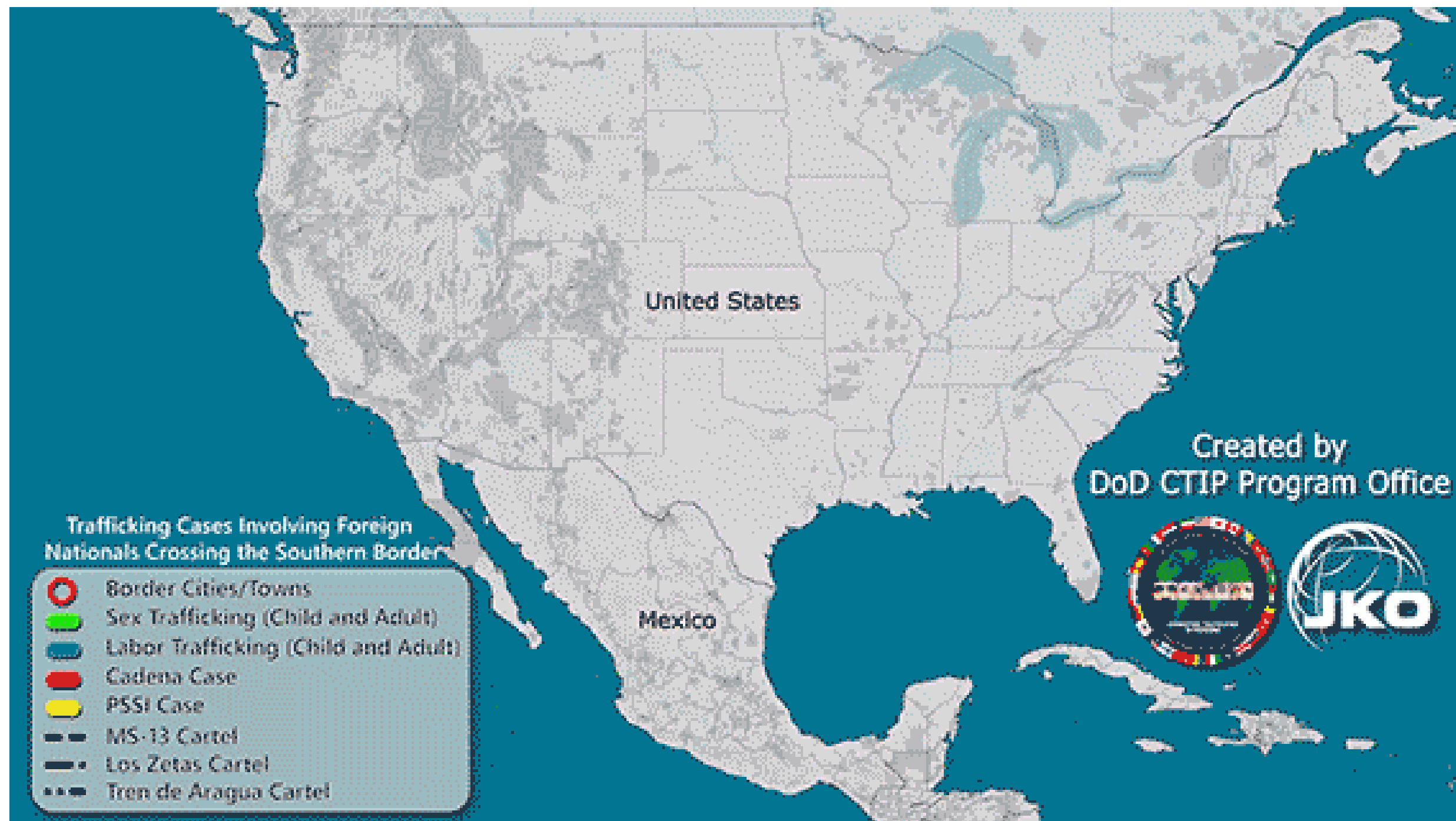


## EXPAND NETWORKS

- Multi -Purpose Routes
- Drug Trafficking
- Arms Trafficking



## Human Trafficking Threatens National Security and Border Security in the U.S. Routes See these Routes of Foreign National Human Trafficking at our Southern Border





# Southern Border Breach Methods

## BY LAND



By foot, car, or truck — across the southern border wall or wilderness

## BY SEA



From Mexico to San Diego or further up coast

## BY TRAIN



By freight routes crossing the border, no passenger routes

## BY AIR



By small private aircraft, cargo planes, commercial aircraft

## UNDERGROUND



Through 200 plus tunnels from Mexico to the U.S.

## RIO GRANDE



River crossing by wading, swimming, floating, or boarding



# Routes and Patterns of Foreign National Human Trafficking from Northern Border of the U.S.





## Northern Border Breach Methods

### BY FOOT ON LAND



Especially from Canada to Northeast States

### BY SEA



Via Atlantic and Pacific Ocean, fishing vessels, cargo ships and more

### BY CAR & TRUCK



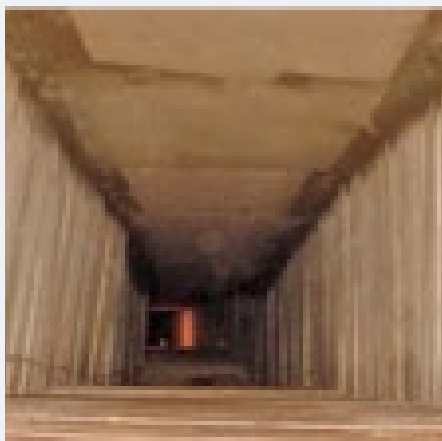
At legal and illegal crossing points across the Northern border

### BY AIR



By small private aircraft, cargo planes, commercial aircraft

### UNDERGROUND



Through legal or illegal tunnels from Canada to the U.S.

### RIVERS & LAKES



By speed boats, rigid hull inflatable boats, snowmobiles when the river freezes.



## Case Study: U.S. v. Cadena (19992015)

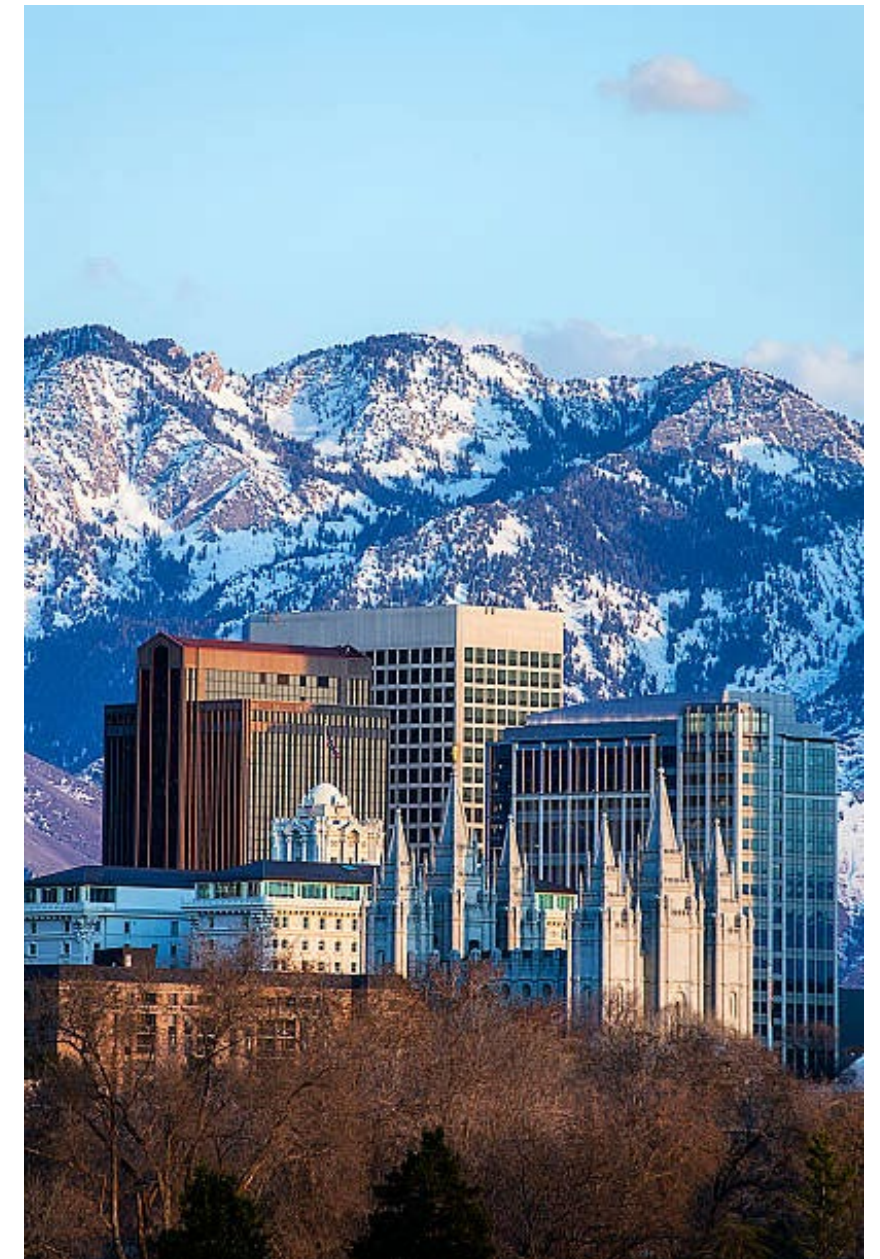
- A **family-run trafficking ring** smuggled girls as young as **12** from **Veracruz, Mexico**, into the United States.
- Lured victims with **false promises of jobs** in hotels and restaurants.
- Imposed a **\$10,000 smuggling debt**
- Used **physical violence, sexual assault, and threats of death** against victims and their families.
- Forced victims into prostitution **12 hours a day, 6 days a week**, servicing up to **50 buyers per day**





# Case Study: State v. Victor Manuel Rax (2006–2014)

- Trafficker was an **MS-13** shot-caller in Utah.
- **Trafficked boys as young as 7 years old and used them as drug couriers.**
- Controlled them with **violence and intimidation**
- Arrested and **deported seven times** but repeatedly returned to the United States to continue operating his trafficking network.
- Utah AG gained trust of **30 child victims**, enabling investigators to identify **250+ additional victims**, making it one of the largest human trafficking cases in U.S. history.





## Case Study: U.S. v. Adrian Zitalpopoca et al. (2000–2006)

**Border Breach:** Smuggled into the U.S. Southern border by foot and car

**Destination:** San Diego, California

**Purpose:** Sex Trafficking

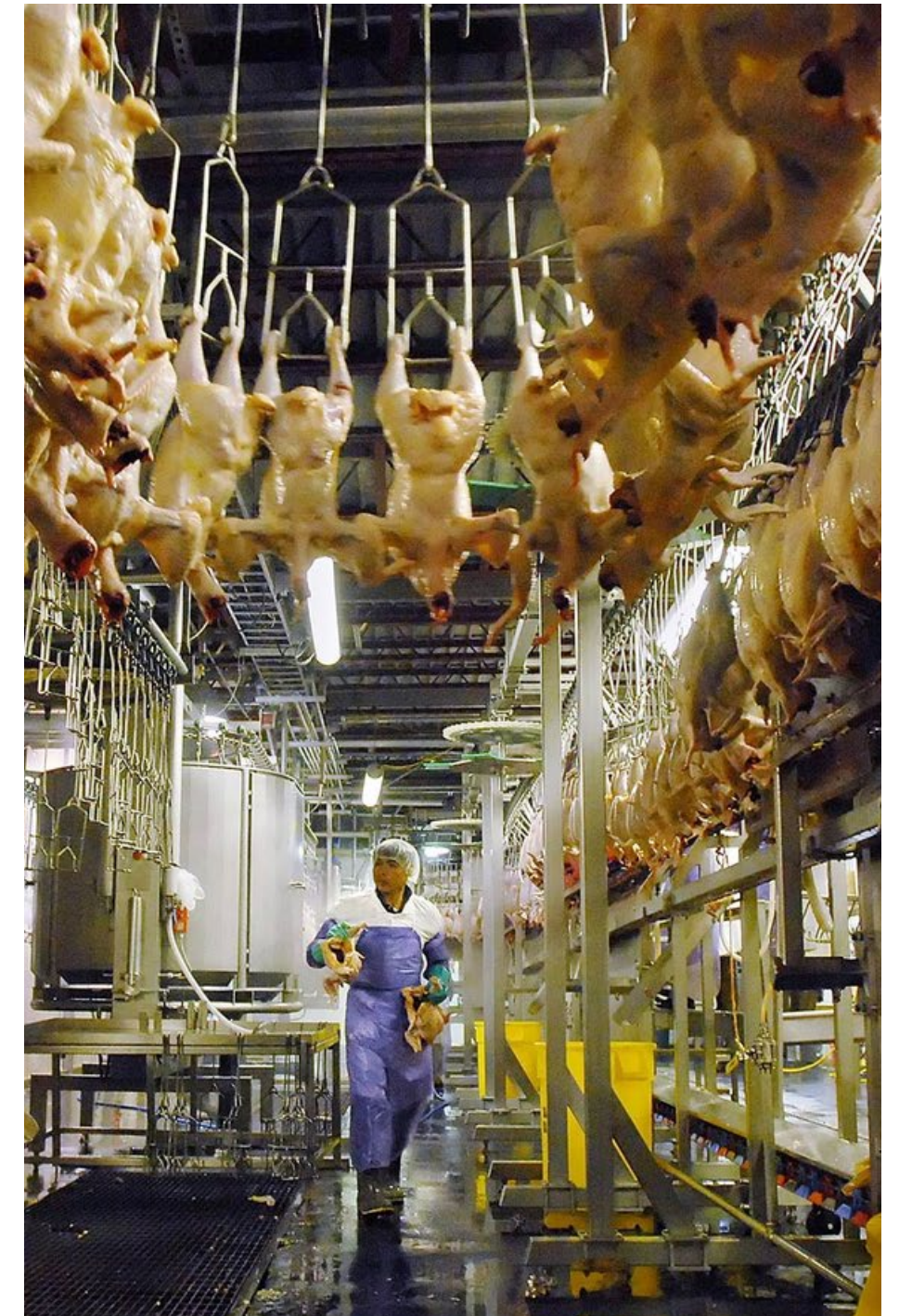
- **Hundreds of young women and girls as young as 12** were trafficked from small towns in Mexico to **open-air brothels** in California's strawberry fields.
- Victims were **sold for approximately \$2,500 each** and transported to makeshift brothels hidden in the reeds along the San Luis Rey River near San Diego.
- Traffickers built concealed "**hooches**" from plastic tarps, where men paid **\$25 for 10-minute encounters**.
- Victims were **forced to work seven days a week**, regardless of illness, serving **up to 300 buyers per day**.
- Each victim generated an estimated **\$50,000 per week—up to \$3 million annually** —for the trafficking network.





## Department of Labor Investigation (2020)

- 14-year-old immigrant Marcos Cux lost his arm while working at a slaughterhouse.
- Hired through a cleaning contractor, Cux and dozens of other children made up **nearly one-third** of the plant's overnight cleaning crew.
- They cleaned industrial machinery with corrosive chemicals, pressure hoses, and hazardous tools, **often suffering chemical burns.**
- Many of the children were working under intense pressure to repay their **"travel debts."**
- Authorities and community members failed to act despite knowing children were working in hazardous slaughterhouse conditions.
- Hundreds of other children trafficked in this manner to these U.S. factories





## Department of Labor Investigation (2020) cont.

- At least **102 foreign national children (ages 13–17)** were illegally employed in hazardous sanitation jobs at **13 meat processing plants across 8 states**.
- They worked **overnight shifts** cleaning industrial meat processing equipment with **caustic chemicals**.
- The investigation began after multiple children suffered **serious injuries** while cleaning razor-sharp saws, head splitters, and other high-risk machinery.
- Packers Sanitation Services Inc. (PSSI), one of the nation's largest sanitation contractors, **paid \$1.5 million in civil penalties**
- **But no jail time because not tried as human trafficking case**



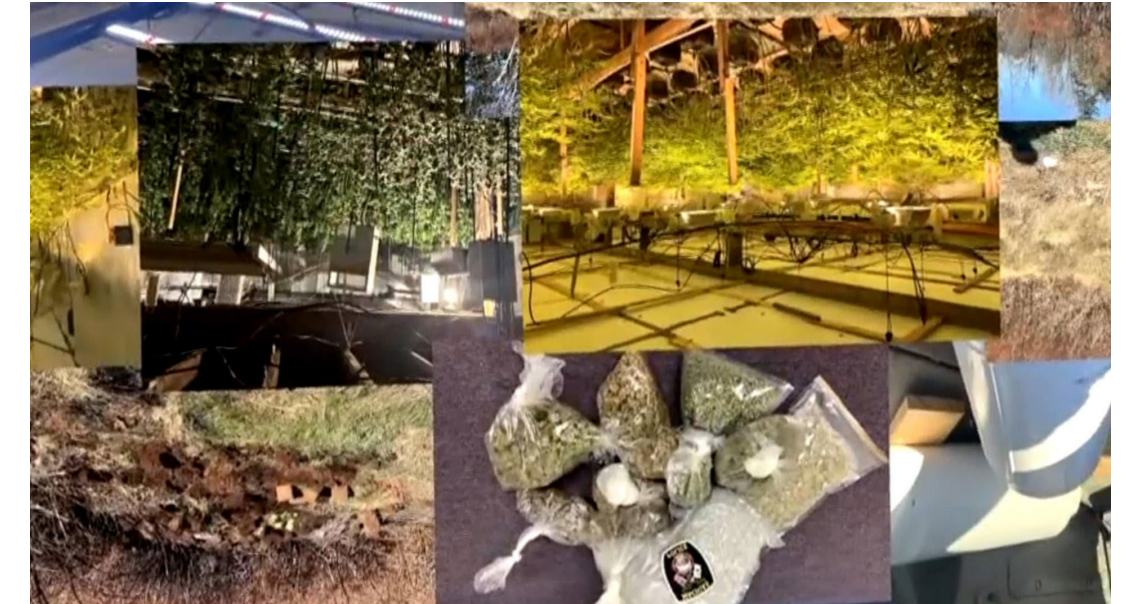


## Chinese Grow Farms in the United States Engage in Sex Trafficking and Labor Trafficking





## Chinese Grow Farms in the United States: A Criminal Enterprise Masquerading as Legitimate?





# What do all these case have in common?



## CONTROL

- Victims held against their will
- Identify papers seized
- Force, fraud & coercion



## EXPLOITATION

- Exploitation of Children
- Unpaid labor
- 14–16 hour work days
- No medical care



## CRIMINAL NETWORKS

- Trafficking linked to TCOs and FTOs and domestic gangs
- Harm and even deaths on U.S. soil



# CTIP Training Pathway

A three-course training series to help military personnel recognize, report, and stop human trafficking.

The series begins with the foundational Warfighter Approach, followed by specialized training for border security and National Guard personnel.



## FOUNDATIONAL TRAINING

A Warfighter Approach to  
Combating Human Trafficking



## SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Seal and Repel: Border Security  
to Prevent Human Trafficking



## SPECIALIZED TRAINING

National Guard Training on  
Human Trafficking



# A Warfighter Approach to Combating Human Trafficking

- Discusses the evolving threat environment, including cartels, transnational criminal organizations, terrorists, and other adversaries that use human trafficking to advance their operations.
- Examines the links between human trafficking, drug trafficking, arms trafficking, migrant smuggling, and other transnational criminal activity.
- Prepares personnel to recognize, respond appropriately to, and help disrupt human trafficking in operational environments through interactive maps, case studies, and real-world scenarios.





## Seal and Repel: Border Security to Prevent Human Trafficking

- Designed specifically for personnel deploying to the U.S. border.
- Provides mission-enhancing capabilities to secure the border and stop the flow of human trafficking, illegal drugs, contraband, criminals, and illegal immigration into the United States.
- Features an animated map illustrating the routes and patterns used by human traffickers into and across the United States.
- Includes instruction on recognizing the signs, symbols, and markings of cartels, gangs, transnational criminal organizations, and foreign terrorist organizations involved in human trafficking.





# National Guard Training on Human Trafficking

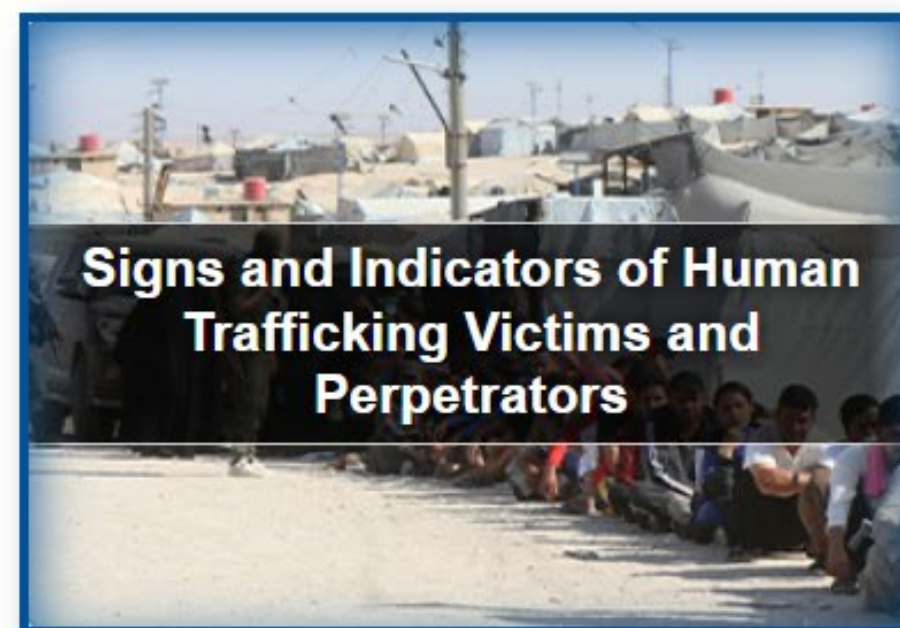
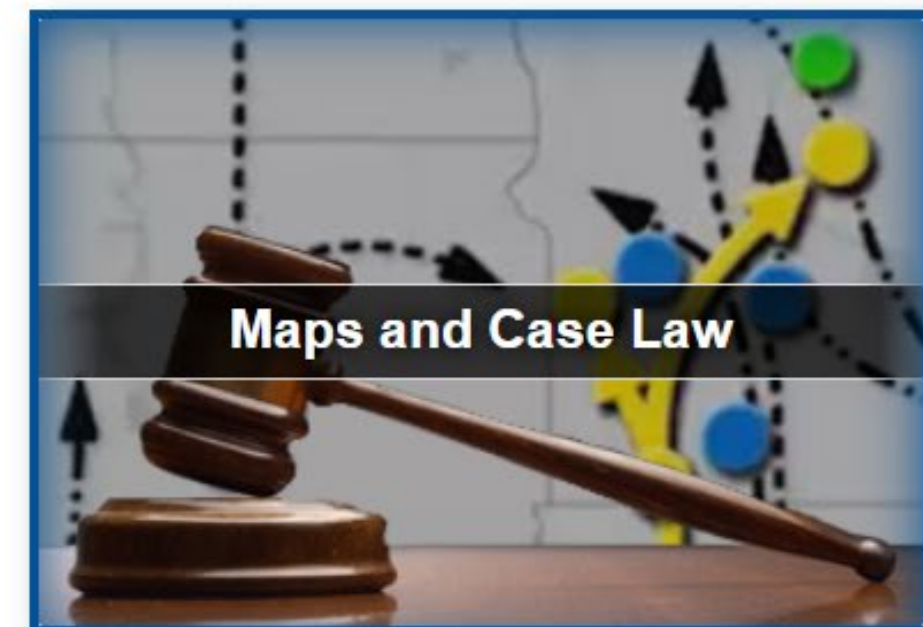
- Designed for National Guard personnel responding to disasters, public health emergencies, urban crime, major sporting events, protests, and border operations.
- Emphasizes the importance of recognizing the signs of human trafficking to support mission success and protect the citizens of the United States.
- Features original interactive maps showing how traffickers exploit the U.S. borders and trafficking routes and patterns across the United States.



*This map shows cases of human trafficking where National Guard member have been or are now being deployed*



# Additional CTIP Warfighter Readiness Resources





# A Warfighter Approach To Stopping Human Trafficking

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

