



Quarterly CTIP Newsletter

Agency Highlights

Catalyzing a Rescue: The CTIP Training on Human Trafficking in Action

Contributed by: Combating Trafficking in Persons PMO

All DoD personnel must take the Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) trainings, most take the General Awareness training. Many of you may ask why and think you will never need it. This is a story of one DoD member using what he learned in that training to get help for victims.

Recently the CTIP Program Office learned of a success story – a Marine Corps Reserve Officer who was in the DC area for weekend training, told us this story.

On this particular "drill weekend" the Marine was staying at a hotel in Alexandria, Virginia. After a day of training with his unit, the Marine pulled into the hotel parking lot and saw a young lady who appeared to be a teenager. The young lady walked past him and as she did, the two made eye contact and she gave him what he described as a "weird look." The Marine explained "like a smirk or something but definitely not a look your average young person would give to a 41-year-old stranger." That first contact stuck with the Marine as he remembered thinking "something was off."



The Marine saw the young lady again a few minutes later as he was leaving the hotel for some evening exercise. The young lady had changed clothes into more revealing attire which the Marine also found odd. With this change of clothes, the Marine could see the young lady more clearly and realized she had two distinct tattoos that caught his eye. The female had two number 13's tattooed on the back of both of her arms just above her elbows. The Marine is currently a Law Enforcement drug and gang agent. From his training and experience he knew tattoos of the number "13" typically mean "MS-13" – the Salvadoran gang known to anyone with law enforcement experi-

ence for its criminal activities including extortion, smuggling, assault, homicide, rape, kidnapping, identification theft, home invasions, carjackings, robbery, and vandalism.

The Marine followed the young lady to the curb where she was standing. The hotel was next to a pretty rough part of Alexandria, Virginia – where a lot of drug trafficking and prostitution take place. The Marine recalled "Everything about her – her age, dress, tattoos, mannerisms, and her look at me all set off bells, so I contacted my partners who are agents with the Human Trafficking Task Force in Virginia and reported what I saw, and they took it from there. They're very professional. They responded and I assisted with the investigation and surveillance. A young lady who matched the same description continued to pace from corner-to-corner with a middle-aged man following behind her on a bicycle. The male appeared to monitor the young lady's every move." The Marine suspected the male was the young lady's handler, possibly a MS-13 gang member himself. The investigation continued with help from the hotel staff who were all very supportive. As well, the agents performed an on-the-spot welfare check on the young girl. The investigation continues.

The Marine continued to explain, "So, I was only one small part of a larger operation. The more personnel we educate about human trafficking, the better off we're going to be. We need people to understand that human trafficking happens in the U.S. and that minors are often the victims. We need people to know about the signs and indicators yes, but they need to know more because people often just see what's in front of them at that moment and they think "oh that's just a single prostitute" and she's out there voluntarily, when in reality, that person may be a slave."

The Marine continued, "There is a lot more we can do to improve general education and awareness. We can post the human trafficking hotline everywhere – in hotels, but also in metro stations, bus stations, and in any common areas that people frequent. I knew about it because of my Commander, Colonel Cowart. We travel a lot in our unit and because we travel so often, Colonel Cowart has taken the time to educate us about the subject. But especially with the units that have younger Marines, nowadays they take the general awareness course once within 6 months of being recruited and then they forget about it."

"Perhaps we need reminders in the military – PSAs, something in the Liberty Briefs, something in the "Prohibited Activities" orders, in Deployment Orders etc. We know that the purchase of sex is prohibited in the UCMJ [Uniform Code of Military Justice], but we also know that it still goes on. We need to help our personnel understand that you may think it's OK to buy sex but behind that young girl who looks on the surface like she's smiling – may be some guy who's beating her and forcing her to have sex with you. If you engage in that act, it makes you part of the problem of human trafficking."

To learn more about DoD's CTIP training, you can go to our training page at: <https://ctip.defense.gov/Training/>

Featured Articles

Defense Base Act: A New Legal Approach to Assisting Victims of Trafficking

Contributed by: Combating Trafficking in Persons PMO

During the time the U.S. Government was in Iraq and Afghanistan, over a dozen egregious cases of alleged labor trafficking in government contracting were uncovered. These cases were particularly difficult to investigate thoroughly because they took place overseas, in conflict zones, and in countries where there was political and economic instability and little criminal justice infrastructure. Another reason for the difficulty was the victims were mainly workers brought in from South Asia or Southeastern Europe to provide food services, construction work, janitorial and waste management, and security services to U.S. troops. These "Other Country Nationals," as they were called were victims of corrupt recruiting practices, bait and switch techniques in contracts and subcontracts, and practices such as confiscation of passports and other identity documents, withholding of payment for work completed, and hazardous working and living conditions in conflict zones. These practices are prohibited in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013, Title XVII, "Ending Trafficking in Government Contracting."

[When COVID-19 hit](#), the pandemic exacerbated slavery like conditions, in many cases slowing down or halting the return of foreign contractors to their homes of record and leaving them warehoused without pay, adequate food or healthcare, and confined with no TV, books, access to the post exchange, exercise, computers, mobile phones or out-processing, in many cases for three to six months or more.

By the time these workers reached home, they were suffering serious physical and mental health problems. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act, the National Defense Authorization Act, ("Ending Trafficking in Government Contracting) and other recently passed legislation was of little help in these circumstances where contracts had ended, and the U.S. Department of Justice had little or no jurisdiction to investigate even serious cases of trafficking.

As the CTIP Office collected stories from survivors of trafficking that took place in these conditions, we

Trafficking in persons is a crime in the United States and almost every other country. The Department of Defense (DoD) prohibits trafficking in persons and any related activities. Although DoD works proactively to prevent human trafficking, we have had cases of labor trafficking and sex trafficking in the DoD. For example, in the five years from 2017 to 2021, 537 trafficking in persons or related cases were reported and investigated in the DoD.

Over the past years, DoD members were involved as traffickers, as buyers, and as victims. There were reports involving DoD contractors and reports involving the dependent children of Service members. Trafficking in persons is a problem in the DoD and requires all of us to prevent its occurrence and protect those it victimizes.

learned of a new remedy: The Defense Base Act. Survivors were learning about the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (LHWCA), an old law, first passed in 1927, and amended twice, in 1972 and 1984. The LHWCA provides disability, medical and other benefits, such as vocational rehabilitation, to longshore and harbor workers, and other types of maritime employees. The LHWCA is a "no fault" workers' compensation system.

An extension of the LHWCA, The Defense Base Act (DBA), was passed first in 1941 and expands upon the LHWCA by providing coverage to personnel working on U.S.-controlled military bases in foreign countries. The DBA provides workers' compensation protection to civilian employees working outside the United States on U.S. Military bases or under a contract with the U.S. Government for public works or for national defense. The DBA applies to both U.S. citizens and foreign contractors providing contract services.



When a work-related injury occurs, Defense Base Act benefits may be owed. An "injury" is anything that goes wrong with the body or mind. It covers physical and psychological injuries that arise because of workplace exposures. Further, the "zone of special danger" doctrine expands coverage such that employees working on a military base receive 24-hour coverage for foreseeable injuries.

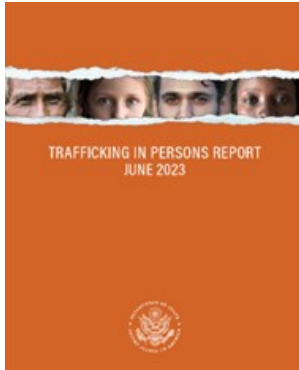
The Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act defines an injury as accidental injury or death arising out of and in the course of employment, and such occupational disease or infection as arises naturally out of such employment or as naturally or unavoidably results from such accidental injury, and includes an injury caused by the willful act of a third person directed against an employee because of his employment.

"Disability" benefits replace two-thirds of an injured employee's lost wages and up to a maximum weekly rate. Importantly, "disability" is a defined term. In the LHWCA and DBA context, "disability" is a "deprivation of economic choice." If the work-related injury affects the injured employee's ability to earn pre-injury wages—perhaps by hindering the employee's ability to return to high-paying military contracting jobs because of a psychological, physical, or even viral injury—then "disability" benefits are owed to the employee in addition to reasonable and necessary medical care.

The Defense Base Act requires all U.S. Government contractors and subcontractors to secure workers' compensation insurance for their employees working overseas. It is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Workers' Compensation Programs. The Department of Labor ensures that workers' compensation benefits are provided for covered employees promptly and correctly. But that is not to say the DBA is free of lengthy litigation. When factual disputes arise, the litigants refer DBA claims to the Office of Administrative Law Judges (OALJ). Litigants are facing extensive delays at the OALJ, usually waiting one to two years or longer to get a formal hearing date.

Still, some survivors of human trafficking are finding relief in cases where the contractor did not secure workers' compensation insurance for Other Country Nationals or where they had secured insurance but not provided benefits promptly and correctly. And while the Defense Base Act is not a perfect remedy, at least it offers benefits for the injuries that employees sustain at work.

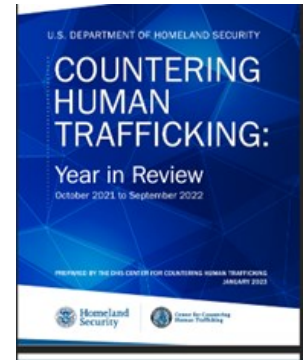
To learn more about the Defense Base Act go to the U.S. Department of Labor website: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/owcp/dlhwc/lbdba>



Interagency Activities

In June 2023, the U.S. Department of State released the [2023 Trafficking in Persons \(TIP\) Report](#). Secretary Blinken hosted the event and Ambassador-at-Large for the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Cindy Dyer, made additional remarks. 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.

In January 2023, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released the second [Center for Countering Human Trafficking \(CCHT\) Annual Report](#), outlining the Department's achievements in combating human trafficking during the previous fiscal year. DHS efforts encompass criminal investigations, victim assistance, identifying and reporting human trafficking, external outreach, intelligence, and training.



DoD CTIP Program Office Updates

On June 1, 2023, the CTIP Program Director represented the DoD at the Senior Policy Operating Group (SPOG) meeting. The SPOG consists of senior officials designated as representatives of the President's Interagency Task Force. DoD updates included: outreach training presentations at the Metropolitan Airports Authority, William Beaumont Army Medical Center, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and Defense Acquisition University; new CTIP trainings for FY23; and three more survivors added to the [Survivor Voices of Human Trafficking page](#) on the [CTIP website](#).

The CTIP PMO conducted CTIP site visits to U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Space Command on June 6, 2023, in Colorado. The CTIP Office schedules meetings annually with select Combatant Commands and Services as part of the ongoing Internal Controls program.

The CTIP PMO attended the 2023 National Law Enforcement Training on Child Exploitation from June 13 –15 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.

The CTIP PMO held its quarterly CTIP Task Force meeting on July 12, 2023. The CTIP PMO invited two guest speakers for the meeting. Mr. Michael Camal, Senior Engagement Manager, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Center for Countering Human Trafficking, discussed the Blue Lightning Initiative and the DHS Blue Campaign human trafficking awareness materials displayed in travel hubs. Ms. Joanna Mateo, Director, Prevention Division, Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP), Department of Health and Human Services, discussed OTIP mission and prevention efforts.

For more information,
visit :

<http://ctip.defense.gov>



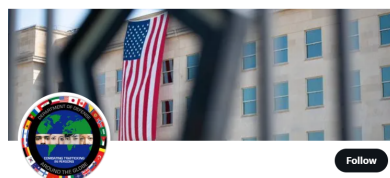
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Check out the [CTIP Website!](#) The website includes tabs for CTIP resources, acquisition resources, a resource library, and How to Report TIP!



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

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SUBMISSIONS**

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

Upcoming Events

- o The next CTIP Quarterly Task Force meeting will be October 11, 2023.
- o The annual CTIP Self-Assessment is due to the CTIP PMO by November 30, 2023.