



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

SEP 16 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DIRECTORS OF DEFENSE AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Combating Trafficking in Persons

I want to offer my view on this important matter to augment the January 30, 2004 memo on this subject.

Trafficking in Persons is the third largest criminal activity in the world, after illegal arms and drugs sales. It enslaves thousands of people. I am especially concerned with commercial sex exploitation and labor trafficking practices in areas near our overseas locations.

I want commanders at all levels to ensure their units are trained to understand and recognize indicators of this serious crime. I also want commanders to work with host nation law enforcement to identify businesses and establishments that are involved in trafficking for sexual exploitation. Once violators are identified, commanders then should take appropriate steps to put those establishments off limits to DoD members--military, civilian and contract civilian. No leader in this department should turn a blind eye to this issue.

Commanders need to be vigilant to the terms and conditions of employment for individuals employed by DoD contractors in their Areas of Operations. Trafficking includes involuntary servitude and debt bondage. These trafficking practices will not be tolerated in DoD contractor organizations or their subcontractors in supporting DoD operations.

Further, commanders should make full use of all tools available, including DoD Inspectors General and criminal investigative organizations, to combat these prohibited activities.

I am committed to taking every step possible to combat Trafficking in Persons.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. M. Feld".



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