

## **GAO reports on progress in CBRN response**

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently released a report assessing the Department of Defense's (DoD) progress incorporating the Homeland Response Force into the chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) response enterprise.

DoD is expected to play a prominent role in supporting civil authorities in a CBRN incident, and the Homeland Response Force is intended to bridge the gap between the National Guard's initial response to a CBRN incident and any need for additional capabilities that the DoD military services' active-duty personnel can provide, if requested.

GAO's report describes the current status of Homeland Response Force capabilities and readiness, and assesses DoD's progress incorporating the Homeland Response Force into the CBRN response enterprise. During their investigation, GAO examined National Guard fiscal year 2013-15 evaluation reports and fiscal year 2012 through March 2016 readiness information, as well as other plans and guidance, and surveyed Homeland Response Force commanders.

GAO found that DoD has made progress in incorporating the Homeland Response Force into the CBRN response enterprise by updating plans, guidance, and exercises, and GAO did not make any suggestions for change.

**- Government Accountability Office**

## **State publishes 2016 Trafficking in Persons Report**

On June 30, Secretary of State John Kerry announced the release of the State Department's 2016 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report.

The report focuses on strategies to prevent human trafficking around the globe, analyzing governments' prosecution, protection, and prevention efforts. The 2016 report also builds on previous reports, featuring ways governments can identify people most at-risk and reduce their vulnerability.

In his opening letter, Secretary Kerry stated his belief that an end to human trafficking is possible, saying "If there is a single theme to this year's [report], it is the conviction that there is nothing inevitable about trafficking in human beings. That conviction is where the process of change really begins."

Kerry also discussed the creation of the first-ever U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, which includes 11 trafficking survivors

**- State Department**

## **DoD official speaks on "culture of cybersecurity"**

On June 22, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Global Security Thomas Atkin told members of the House Armed Services Committee that the Department of Defense (DoD) has made significant progress in implementing its cyber strategy.

In his address, Atkin spoke of our increasingly interconnected world and our increasing vulnerability to cyberattacks. According to Atkin, while the DoD's cyber capabilities are remarkable, they are not enough to protect the nation. Atkin insists that safeguarding the homeland requires "a culture of cybersecurity" and "a whole-of-government, and whole-of-nation approach."

Atkins went on to speak of the DoD's work with federal agencies and other partners to protect DoD networks and defend the U.S. against cyberattacks.

**- DoD News**