

2017 Trafficking in Persons report released

On June 27, the Department of State released the 2017 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Susan Coppedge each addressed the report in separate briefings, speaking about the global tragedy of human trafficking and the responsibility of governments to bring an end to this crime.

The State Department's TIP Reports highlight strategies to prevent human trafficking around the globe, analyzing governments' prosecution, protection, and prevention efforts. The focus of the 2017 TIP Report is the responsibility of governments to criminalize human trafficking in all its forms, as laid out in the Palermo Protocol, which was adopted in 2000. In his remarks, Tillerson spoke of the need to root out members of law enforcement and the military who are complicit in the trafficking of persons, while Coppedge asserted that victims of human trafficking should not face charges for criminal acts they may have committed due to coercion and exploitation.

The 2017 TIP Report assesses countries' anti-trafficking efforts, measuring government efforts across the 3P paradigm – prosecuting traffickers, protecting victims, and preventing the crime. While governments have made progress to criminalize all forms of human trafficking and strengthen victim protections, traffickers continue to exploit millions of victims around the world.

In his opening letter, Tillerson recognizes the global scope of trafficking and the need to cooperate with international partners, through governments, civil society, law enforcement groups, and survivors of trafficking.

- Department of State

Conference focuses on civ-mil relations

The Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) recently hosted an all-day conference focused on relations between the military and the civilian world. “Command Climate: The State of U.S. Civil-Military Relations” took place on May 23, with panelists representing the Department of Defense (DoD) and other U.S. government entities discussing different aspects of civil-military relations.

The first panel focused on the role of the military in policy making. Panelists discussed DoD's role in whole-of-government planning and strategizing, emphasizing the importance of civ-mil cooperation to achieve the best possible outcomes in U.S. operations.

Dr. Kori Schake, Research Fellow, Stanford University, touched on breakdowns in communication and cooperation between civilian and military operators, saying that differences in agency and department cultures can impede adaptiveness, while Dr. Janine Davidson, former Undersecretary of the Navy, pointed out that these problems are sometimes the result of civilian agencies being tasked with missions they have no training for.

In his remarks, Admiral William Gortney, U.S. Navy (ret.), stressed that DoD must not be perceived to be “in charge.” Instead, Gortney said DoD's role was to provide support to other agencies and departments involved. Major General Richard Clarke, Vice Director for Strategic Plans and Policy, Joint Staff, J-5, expressed similar views, saying that while military's part of the overall mission is “easy, measurable, quantifiable,” the focus should not be on the military at the expense of the civilian agencies.

The two other panels focused on the military's role in politics and their relationship with the public.

- Center for Strategic & International Studies