

Sharon H. Cooper

Director for Defense Human Resources Activity

Sharon H. Cooper was appointed Director, Defense Human Resources Activity (DHRA) Headquarters after her assignment as the Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Program Integration (DUSD (PI)) in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (OUSD (P&R)). In her capacity as the Director of DHRA she directs administrative and operational oversight of the entire Field Activity, she is also responsible for planning, policy, program and resource analysis and management for the Field Activity Headquarters, the DoD ID Card Policy Office, the Joint Advertising Market Research and Studies Program, the Law Enforcement Policy Support Office, the Defense Manpower Data Center, the Defense Personnel Security Research Center, the DoD Office of the Actuary and the Federal Voting Assistance Program. She also performs special projects supporting the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD (P&R)).

Ms. Cooper served in several legislative staff positions in the House of Representatives as well as in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower, Reserve Affairs and Logistics. Ms. Cooper served as the Director, Demand Reduction, DoD Drug Policy Office where she developed policy for drug testing, education, prevention, and community outreach for all military and civilian personnel. Later, while serving as the Chief, Special Requirements Division in the Defense Manpower Data Center, Ms. Cooper supported the USD (P&R) through work involving the Department's Common Access Card program and overseeing research and analysis on the effects of exposure to chemical and biological agents on military personnel.

Ms. Cooper received her Bachelor of Arts from Ohio University and her Master's Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University. She also graduated from the National War College. Ms. Cooper is a member of the Senior Executive Service and has received numerous awards including the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service and several Secretary of Defense Exceptionally Meritorious Civilian Service Awards.

Prepared Statement

Of

Ms. Sharon H. Cooper

Director, Defense Human Resources Activity

REGARDING

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

BEFORE THE

HOUSE OVERSIGHT & GOVERNMENT REFORM COMMITTEE

**TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION POLICY,
INTER-GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND PROCUREMENT
REFORM SUBCOMMITTEE**

March 27, 2012

Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Connolly, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Department of Defense's continued efforts to combat modern day slavery. I deeply appreciate the Committee's interest and support for the Department's efforts in combating trafficking in persons.

I am pleased to report that since the Department last appeared before you on November 2, 2011, we have undertaken a number of actions based on the Combating Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) Strategic Plan provided to Chairman Lankford in February of this year.

The CTIP Strategic Plan will focus on two major areas. The first area is monitoring contracts to enforce Trafficking in Persons (TIP) regulatory compliance as a preventative measure, so TIP abuses do not occur. The second area is monitoring contracts for non-compliance and taking appropriate remedial action.

To that end, we have completed the first two actions on the strategic plan:

1. Establish a multidisciplinary Task Force, made up of a Continental United States (CONUS) Team and an Outside of the Continental United States (OCONUS) Team to provide advice and recommendations for improving the current implementation, execution, and oversight of CTIP. The CONUS Team will consist of: Defense CTIP Program Management team - Acquisition, Technology & Logistics – Policy, Defense Contract Management Agency, Inspector General, Assistant Secretary of the Army for

Procurement, Army CORP of Engineers, and U.S. Agency for International Development. The OCONUS Team will consist of: Central Command Joint Theater Support Contracting Command - Contracting & General Counsel, NATO Contracting - International Security Assistance Force & their Subordinate Commands, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Contracting.

2. Identify contracts that have indicators of possible non-compliance with and/or are in violation of the current Federal Acquisition Regulation & Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation TIP clauses.

Ultimately, the Task Force will develop courses of action to improve the Department's management of the contracting process for dealing with TIP, from the policy level to contract implementation on the ground.

The Task Force seeks to engage the Department of State chaired, TIP Senior Policy Operating Group (SPOG) for assistance. The Task Force will ask the SPOG Federal Acquisition Regulation working group to review the Task Force's work and provide advice and guidance as the development and implementation of the strategic plan proceeds.

The first Task Force meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2012.

In addition, as a result of standing up the Task Force an acquisition specialist will be added to the TIP Program Office to strengthen our expertise in this complex area.

In other efforts to combat trafficking in persons, the Department has enhanced our information campaign by producing new combating TIP Public Service Announcements (PSA) addressing both sex and labor trafficking. These PSAs are airing on the Armed Forces Network (AFN) on both television and radio at overseas locations, and the Pentagon Channel here in the United States. We also are continuously updating the Department's CTIP website (<http://ctip.defense.gov>) to communicate information regarding the Department's TIP training, events and links to other agencies' TIP websites and resources.

We are taking advantage of cutting edge training technology by expanding the availability of our individualized TIP General Awareness training through delivery on the latest mobile devices. The Department CTIP training is currently running on Apple, Android, and Blackberry devices. A full course conversion, as well as a streamline version, will run on any Internet accessible device. Information on this new training method has been made available through workshops, training sessions, emails, and websites in each Service, the Combatant Commands and Department Components. With mobile devices becoming more prevalent in the Department, this will provide another easy means of getting our training products to our personnel.

Our Combatant Commands continue to pursue cooperative efforts within their geographic areas of responsibility to combat TIP. For example, the US Pacific Command

(USPACOM) convened an interagency forum to address the problems and increase awareness of human trafficking within the USPACOM area of responsibility. With regard to Filipino women being recruited to work in Korea bars, the United States Forces in Korea (USFK) personnel hold meetings with bar owners, the Philippine Embassy and Philippine women working as bar staff in Korea concerning Korean Immigration Law and the confiscating of employee passports. These efforts to identify possible trafficking victims by USFK law enforcement, in coordination with the U.S. and Philippines Embassies, has resulted in a noticeable reduction in the number of Filipino women working in bars outside USFK installations.

In conclusion, the Department continues to engage in a multifaceted operation to combat trafficking in persons. We continue our education and training programs to keep TIP awareness at a high level amongst personnel assigned to the Department, and are accelerating efforts to end overseas contracting abuses. Thank you, I look forward to working with the Congress in the future to address this important issue, and to your questions.