



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE**  
**HEADQUARTERS 89TH AIRLIFT WING (AMC)**

MEMORANDUM FOR: HQ AMC/LGC  
402 SCOTT DR. UNIT 2A2  
SCOTT AFB, IL 62225-5308

FROM: 89 CONS LGC  
1419 MENOHER DRIVE  
ANDREWS AFB, MD 20762-6500

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Humanitarian Relief Effort to the Balkans, Operation Shining Hope

1. The following information is provided in accordance with the Contingency Operational Contracting Support Programs, AFFARS Appendix CC-502-4 (a)(3). This report covers the period 3 Apr 99 through 30 May 99.
2. Introduction: On 3 Apr 99, 89<sup>th</sup> Contracting Squadron was notified of a classified deployment in support of the 317<sup>th</sup> TALCE, Dyas AFB, TX for Humanitarian relief effort to the Balkans.
3. General Information:
  - a. Contracting Support and associated duties were to be provided by one contingency contracting officer (CCO).
  - b. At the onset of the deployment very little information was provided due to the mission's classification. I was given a flight mission number to board a C17 at Charleston AFB, SC and then onto Europe. Once aboard the aircraft, I met with the 317<sup>th</sup> TALCE Commander, Lt. Col. Iverson. Introduced myself and discussed my role as a Contingency Contracting Officer. I also inquired about finance and interpreter support. Upon arrival at Ramstein AB, Germany, Lt. Col. Iverson requested support from the Joint Task Force at Rhein-main AB, Germany.
  - c. At Ancona Airport, Italy, an ADVON team was awaiting our arrival. Prior to our arrival, the ADVON team had secured vacant buildings owned by the Italian military and located at the southern end of the airport. This set-up made it seem that a host agreement was in existence. It was later determined this was not the case.
  - d. Food, accommodations and transportation, supplies and services were procured on the local economy.
  - e. Financial support arrived on 6 Apr 99. Prior to deployment, I was provided an IMPAC card with no funded AF Form 4009. With guidance from 89<sup>th</sup> CONS, I utilized the funded AF Form 616 provided by finance personnel to support in Italy. Subsequently, I was informed by Finance personnel that any charges made on the IMPAC card would be charged to my home unit

and not the AF Form 616 because the 616 was funded from Charleston AFB. I relayed this information back to the 89<sup>th</sup> CONS and was cut off from further use of the IMPAC card. All further purchases were made via SF Form 44.

f. On day three of the deployment I was given a copy of a host agreement written in Italian to be signed between by Col. Iverson and Col Cosimi, the Italian military commander at our location. Col Iverson wanted me to sign the agreement and said SA Bianco - a member of the ADVON team, gave the agreement to him. I informed Lt. Col. Iverson that we needed seek legal counsel and language certification on the agreement prior to his signature. In the meantime, I inquired if an agreement already in place. Col Iverson stated he wanted this done ASAP because he had made a gentleman's agreement with the Italian commander. I faxed the agreement to 89<sup>th</sup> legal and was informed that they couldn't do anything with it because they were unfamiliar with international laws. I then concurred with contracting at the JTF in Germany who instructed me to confer with 16AF Expeditionary Wing at Aviano AFB, Italy. 16AF Legal was able to language certify the agreement and a copy was provided to Col Cosimi for signature. Col Cosimi forwarded the agreement to his military headquarters for review. We departed prior to consummation of the agreement.

g. I encountered some difficulty procuring goods and services due to the language barrier. The interpreter, Maj. Turley (a C130 pilot from Pope AFB, NC), arrived on 11 Apr 99. Within a few days, he was elevated to the position of support commander. This action hampered the promptness and effectiveness in dealing with the Italian language barrier because Maj. Turley was now the support commander. Major Turley and others repeatedly questioned the integrity of finance and contracting personnel. We educated them by referring to our directives written in black and white. The question repeatedly asked was "why is it necessary for finance to accompany contracting when making cash purchases on the local economy".

h. Initially, the commander and I discussed his priority requirements. His number one priority was cellular phones. Secondly priorities included trash pickup, laundry service, port-a-potties, oil, diesel fuel, bottled water, Internet access, hard phone lines, etc. He agreed that since everyone had the Government travel card, there was no need to contract quarters and car rentals. After a few days scenario changed when it was pointed out that if quarters and car rentals were contracted, the 616 would be charged and not the individual's unit. All priority items were procured within two and half weeks of arrival.

i. Going into week three, the deployed commander approved the wear of civilian attire due to the terrorist threat in the area. Everyone except for security forces and OSI was restricted from the airport on a couple of Saturdays, due to anti-war/American demonstrations and the purchase of high-tech binoculars was made so the area could be surveyed and protected. No one was allowed to travel unaccompanied.

j. Since the commander was not sure how long we were going to be there, approval was given to purchase supplies and services necessary for the set up of a morale and welfare center. We purchased games, television with VCR, movies, Internet service, tables, chairs, and snack foods. Books and magazines were donated by Aviano AFB community center.

k. Going into the second month, Col Iverson held commander's call and informed us that the money for our operation in Italy was drying up and that we would be forward deploying to Greece and continue the humanitarian effort from there. I was told to ensure all bills were paid ASAP in preparation for departure. There was some difficulty in accomplishing this because some of the vendors were not in the local area; I was cutoff from use of the IMPAC card, difference in the local customs and language barrier. Accounting and Finance used the OSI agent as escort (due to large dollar amounts) to the bank so funds may be deposited into vendor accounts that were not local (telephone and water). Contracting and Finance came through in meeting the commander's deadline and were ready for the forward deployment.

l. After a week or so of waiting for direction, the forward deployment was canceled. Greece was determined "too hot" with terrorist activity.

4. Areas of Concern or Consideration:

a. Ensure that the CCO is aware of an ADVON team.

b. Ensure that the CCO is aware of any Host Nation Support Agreements, prior to departure.

c. Ensure that the CCO knows where to get legal council if deploying overseas.

d. Specify in orders items required by CCO to get the job done if the supplies and services are available. For example: Need to procure local interpreter, if necessary, cellular phone and car rental. This will alleviate having to justify these basic requirements to the deployed commander who is solely focused on the operation's needs. The procurement of a local interpreter will assure that there is no rank conflict to contend with.

e. The CCO needs to deploy with a funded IMPAC card. Having to use SF Form 44's was a hindrance because of the money conversion and need for escort if traveling with large sums. All vendors contacted accepted IMPAC card.

5. Any questions may be directed to TSgt Ellison at DSN: 858-1256/1257.

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Contingency Contracting Officer



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