

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
60TH CONTRACTING SQUADRON (AMC)



20 September, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR: 60 CONS/LGC, Lt Col Cloud
60 LSS/LGLOP
HQ AMC, CMSgt Willis

FROM: 60 CONS/LGCK, SSgt Howell-LaPalme
350 Hanger Avenue, Bldg 549
Travis AFB CA 94535-2632

SUBJECT: AFTER ACTION REPORT (AAR) TDY to Queenstown, New Zealand.

1. PURPOSE OF TDY:

The Contracting goal for this deployment was to provide effective and efficient support of Presidential Phoenix Banner Mission, Queenstown, New Zealand.

2. PERSONNEL DEPLOYED:

60 CONS/LGC, see attached orders (SSgt Howell-LaPalme).

3. ITINERARY:

STOPS	DATES
Depart Sacramento Int. A.P.	13 Aug 99
Arrive Christchurch Int. A.P.	15 Aug 99
Depart Christchurch Int. A.P.	18 Aug 99

4. PREDEPLOYMENT OBSERVATIONS:

I was deployed as a Contingency Contracting Officer to support the Presidential Phoenix Banner Mission in Queenstown, New Zealand. I was the first person to arrive in Queenstown and the sole source for contracting requirements in Queenstown and Auckland. This office was given notice of this mission on 11 Aug 99. Within 24 hours, a Contracting Officer was selected, and on 13 Aug 99, I was deployed. All contingency contracting requirements were taken which included a laptop, printer/fax/printer and most of the contracting kit.

The mission I encountered was to provide support of the President's visit to Queenstown, New Zealand, in a one-deep position. The President attended the Asian-Pacific Economic Co-operation conference (APEC) in Auckland from 11 Sep 99 through 13 Sep 99. From 14 Sep 99 through 15 Sep 99, he stayed in the resort area of Queenstown, before flying out of Christchurch on 15 Sep 99.

5. DEPLOYMENT/BUILD-UP:

The deployment for Contracting was very successful. As soon as I arrived in Queenstown, I contracted for jet fuel, as well as a deicer machine from Mobil and Flight, Tours, Seeing respectively. Additional small commodity and service items were found easily obtainable from local markets, therefore I had great success in providing all items requested well within the timeframes requested – usually three days.

Purchases were all made using the International Merchant Purchase Authorization Card (IMPAC) which was funded on an AF Form 616 prior to my departure from Travis AFB, CA. Queenstown comprises of approximately 12,000 residents and almost all businesses that I encountered accepted and welcomed the IMPAC as a form of payment.

Arrived in Christchurch on 15 August. On 18 August I arrived in Queenstown. There were at that time no other military personnel in the area. I quickly contracted for the jet fuel and the deicer. On 30 August the 621st TALCE, comprising of 7 members, arrived in Queenstown. I met with them later that day and Capt. Lluberes, TALCE Commander, stated that I would need to contract for a forklift before the arrival on 4 September of two C130's. My job was to support the TALCE operation while deployed at this location. I also attended several

Communications

New Zealand has an excellent telecommunications system in place, and there were a variety of competitive plans on offer. I rented a cellular phone from a company in Auckland Airport. However, the TALCE and all other personnel were provided cellular phones by the White House Staff. They had rented approximately 200 phones for selected personnel to use. There were no DSN phone lines available, however there were commercial lines available everywhere, as well as fax lines, internet and printing services.

Security

This was not a problem as all incoming cargo which was bound for the President's hotel was well guarded by Secret Service Agents who were already in place. All airport security was enforced by the New Zealand Police and the Secret Service.

Supply

As this was a very small mission, I took receipt of all commodities and supplies received.

Sources of Supply

Although Queenstown is a small resort town in the Southern Alps, the businesses in the area worked hard with us to meet our needs. They were extremely friendly and trusting and bent over backwards to be of service to the Government. If items were not available locally, then they would truck the items in from nearby towns. Prices were very competitive and more than reasonable considering the remoteness and size of Queenstown.

Language

English is the national language of New Zealand, therefore there were no problems with communication.

David Strozier (AGE Technician) from Dover AFB. Capt Lluberis was replaced as TALCE Commander by SSGT Chris Sidoli on 7 September.

7. REDEPLOYMENT:

The TALCE departed on a C130 to Christchurch on 18 September and flew out of Christchurch on the 20th. I closed out all open contracts and departed Queenstown on 19 September and left from Christchurch the following day. Flew into Auckland where I changed planes to Los Angeles International Airport and finally arrived at Sacramento Airport the same day.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Ensure that all country clearances if required by the host nation are promptly applied for as soon as the contracting officer is selected for deployment.
- B. Identify requirements clearly, precisely and as soon as possible.

TRACEY A. HOWELL-LAPALME, SSGT, USAF
Contracting Officer

Attachment:
Travel Order No. TAI-016