

# Army Acquisition Reform Newsletter



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## Excellence in Contingency Contracting

The U.S. Army Contracting Command, Europe is designated by the United States European Command (USEUCOM) as executive agent for contingency contracting support in Bosnia and Kosovo (the Balkans). The U.S. Army Contracting Command, Europe (USACCE) has a cadre of 18 contingency contracting officers (CCOs) and two attorney-advisors in the Balkans. These individuals provide real-time contracting support to the deployed commanders. USACCE deploys its own military and civilian contracting professionals to man the deployed contracting offices and is augmented by military personnel from other major Army commands, the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Marine Corps. Working from several offices, these contracting professionals continue to press for cost savings and best value business arrangements in a quick-reaction, high-tempo environment. The CCOs are active members of the deployed acquisition/logistics teams where they serve as the commanders' business advisor. The typical term of service for deployment is four to six months.

In FY 2000, the deployed contracting officers satisfied warfighter requirements for supplies, services, and minor construction projects. Contracts were awarded to firms located throughout the Balkans, including Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Slovenia, Croatia, Albania, Macedonia, and Kosovo. One of the largest projects was five contracts for repair work and minor construction to hospitals and schools in BH. Other important projects in Kosovo included maintenance and repair to a Serbian school, the drilling of new wells and installation of pumps, and the reconstruction of a clinic to allow access for handicapped patients. These projects not only help rebuild the national infrastructure but serve to provide work and income for local vendors. There have been many successes in the area of cost avoidance. A reduction in the number of busses operating in Hungary was negotiated that resulted in an annual cost savings of \$62,000. The elimination of superfluous layers of dealers and purchase of riot control gear directly from the manufacturer resulted in a savings of \$52,000. A CCO negotiated a contract for the filling of sandbags that resulted in savings of 80% over the previous contract. In Sarajevo, the CCO located six Mobile Air Circulators in the Federal Supply System, making a \$6000 purchase unnecessary. The value added to the mission by the CCOs is demonstrated daily.

In summary, the USACCE presence in the Balkans has contributed to peace and stability in the region. It has provided assistance in establishing and maintaining a high level of quality of life for the soldiers, airmen, marines, and U.S. civilians serving in the deployments. The USACCE CCOs have distinguished themselves, individually and corporately, through their tenacity in establishing fiscal restraint and their professional and superior contingency contracting support.

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