

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**ON THE STATUS OF
UNITED STATES FORCES IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

INDEX

TITLE ARTICLE	NUMBER
PREAMBLE	
PURPOSE AND SCOPE	I
DEFINITIONS	II
ENTRY AND EXIT	III
USE OF FACILITIES AND AREAS	IV
CRIMINAL JURISDICTION	V
DETERMINATION OF CRIMINAL JURISDICTION	VI
TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	VII
OFFICIAL DUTY CERTIFICATES	VIII
CUSTODY AND ACCESS	IX
CONFINEMENT AND VISITATION	X
DISCIPLINE	XI
SECURITY	XII
CLAIMS	XIII
OFFICIAL TAX EXEMPTIONS	XIV
PERSONAL TAX EXEMPTIONS	XV
OFFICIAL IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION	XVI
PERSONAL IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION	XVII
MOTOR VEHICLES	XVIII
LICENSES	XIX
CUSTOMS PROCEDURES	XX
MILITARY SERVICE ACTIVITIES	XXI
CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE	XXII
CONTRACTING PROCEDURES	XXIII
STATUS OF CONTRACTORS	XXIV
UTILITIES AND COMMUNICATIONS	XXV
ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY	XXVI
IMPLEMENTATION AND DISPUTES	XXVII
ENTRY INTO FORCE, DURATION AND AMENDMENT	XXVIII

PREAMBLE

The Government of the Republic of Croatia (hereafter "Croatia") and the Government of the United States of America (hereafter "the United States");

Considering that from time to time by arrangement between the Croatia and United States (hereafter "the Parties"), elements of the United States forces, their civilian component and dependents may be present in Croatia;

Considering that the purpose of the presence of such United States forces in Croatia is in furtherance of the efforts of the Parties to promote peace and security in areas of mutual interest;

Affirming that such cooperation is based on full respect for the sovereignty of each Party and the purposes of the United Nations Charter;

Considering that the second paragraph of the Preamble to the "Agreement Between the Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty Regarding the Status of their Forces", signed at London on 19 June 1951 (hereafter "the NATO SOFA"), and Article IV of the "Agreement Among the States Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty and the other states Participating in the Partnership for Peace regarding the Status of their Forces," done at Brussels, June 19, 1995, (hereafter "the PfP SOFA") provide for separate arrangements supplementary to those agreements;

Desiring therefore to supplement the PfP SOFA, to which both governments are Parties and, which incorporates by reference the NATO SOFA, and any other multilateral status of forces agreement to which the two governments become Parties in the future;

Have agreed as follows:

Article I **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

This Agreement further defines the basic terms and conditions governing the presence of the United States forces, the civilian component, dependents and, in the specific situations indicated in this Agreement, United States contractors, and United States contractor employees in the territory of Croatia.

Article II **DEFINITIONS**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement and unless otherwise noted herein, the term "civilian component" as defined in Article I, paragraph 1(b) of the NATO SOFA includes employees of non-Croatian, non-commercial organizations who are nationals of or ordinarily resident in the United States and who, solely for the purpose of contributing to the welfare, morale or education of the United States forces, are accompanying those forces in Croatia. The term "civilian component" also includes dependents if employed by the United States forces, or the non-commercial organizations referred to in this paragraph and in Article XXI.

2. For the purposes of this Agreement, the terms “United States contractors” and “United States contractor employees” means non-Croatian legal entities or individuals and their employees not ordinarily resident in Croatia present in Croatia to provide goods and services under a contract or subcontract with or for the United States in connection with activities of the United States forces under this Agreement.
3. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “dependent” as defined in Article I, paragraph 1 (c) of the NATO SOFA includes a member of the immediate family of a member of the force or of the civilian component, e.g., a spouse, or a child who has not established a family of his/her own, and other relatives who are financially, legally, or for reasons of health dependent upon and supported by such member and who share the quarters occupied by such member and are present in Croatia with the consent of the authorities of the United States forces.
4. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “duties” shall include customs duties and all other duties and taxes payable on importation or exportation, as the case may be. It shall not include charges for services requested and received.
5. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “agreed facilities and areas” means the public facilities and areas in Croatia, including military installations and training areas, designated for use by the United States forces, the civilian component, dependents, United States contractors or United States contractor employees by mutual agreement of the Parties or their Coordinating Authorities.
6. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “Coordinating Agents” means the Ministry of Defense of Croatia and the Department of Defense of the United States.

Article III **ENTRY AND EXIT**

1. The entry of United States forces shall be exercised through the international border crossings upon forty-eight (48) hours notice to the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Croatia. The entry of individual members of the force will be in accordance with Article III of the NATO SOFA without prior notice.
2. Unless otherwise mutually agreed in advance, Croatia shall not require movement orders to be countersigned by its appropriate representative in accordance with Article III, paragraph 2 (b) of the NATO SOFA.
3. The members of the civilian component, United States contractors, United States contractor employees and dependents who are nationals of the states for which Croatia has prescribed visa requirements, shall on their first entry to Croatia be issued visas on the border crossing upon producing a valid passport and a U.S. Department of Defense identification card, or an appropriate certificate issued by a competent authority of the United States indicating their status as a member of the civilian component, United States contractor, United States contractor employee or dependent. If such members intend to remain in Croatia beyond the length of their 15-day border visa, they must notify the Ministry of Defense prior to the expiration of the 15-day visa period. On the basis of such notification, the Ministry of Defense shall make an appropriate annotation in their passports extending the length of their stay to 90 days. Any further extension beyond 90 days is governed by Article III paragraph 4.

4. Members of the civilian component, dependents, United States contractors and United States contractor employees shall be exempt from the application of Croatian regulations on the registration and control of aliens. The entry and prospective exit dates of members of the civilian component, dependents, United States contractors and United States contractor employees who are to be present in Croatia for more than ninety (90) days shall be notified by the United States forces to the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Croatia. On the basis of such notification, the Ministry of Defense shall, within 15 days from entry of such persons in the Republic of Croatia, make an appropriate annotation in their passports. Upon cessation of the purpose for which the annotation was made, the annotation shall be void.
5. Members of the civilian component, dependents, United States contractors and United States contractor employees who are notified in accordance with paragraph 3 above may enter and exit the Republic of Croatia on the basis of a valid passport into which the appropriate annotations referred to in paragraph 4 above have been made.

Article IV
USE OF FACILITIES AND AREAS

1. United States forces are authorized access to and use of agreed facilities and areas in Croatia as set forth in an Implementing Arrangement to this Agreement.
2. United States military and civilian component personnel and United States contractors and vehicles, vessels, and aircraft operated by or for United States forces, may use agreed facilities and areas for training, transit, support and related activities, refueling of aircraft, temporary maintenance of vehicles, vessels and aircraft, accommodation of personnel, communications, staging of forces and materiel, and for such other purposes as the Parties may agree. While using such facilities and areas the United States forces shall respect the laws of the Republic of Croatia as stipulated in Article II of the NATO SOFA.

Article V
CRIMINAL JURISDICTION

1. Croatia recognizes the particular importance of disciplinary control by the United States military authorities over members of the force and the effect that such control has upon operational readiness. Accordingly, in furtherance of its commitment to mutual defense, Croatia exercises its sovereign discretion to waive its primary right to exercise criminal jurisdiction as provided for under Article VII, paragraph 3 (c) of the NATO SOFA. This waiver does not apply to members of the civilian component or dependents.
2. The United States military authorities shall notify the Croatian authorities of individual cases falling under the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article.
3. Where the competent Croatian authorities hold the view that, by reason of special circumstances in a specific case, major interests of Croatian administration of justice make imperative the exercise of Croatian jurisdiction, they may recall the waiver granted under paragraph 1 of this Article by a statement in writing to the competent United States military authorities within a period of thirty (30) days after receipt of the notification envisaged in paragraph 2 of this Article.

Article VI
DETERMINATION OF CRIMINAL JURISDICTION

Upon notification to the competent Croatian authorities by United States authorities that a question exists as to which authority will exercise jurisdiction with respect to an offense, the Croatian judicial authority dealing with the case shall suspend any court proceedings until a determination by the two governments on the jurisdictional issue has been reached.

Article VII
TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

1. The Croatian authorities have primary responsibility for the investigation of traffic offenses and traffic accidents that occur on Croatian territory, including preservation of the accident sites and questioning of witnesses and all other measures necessary for the conduct of proper accident investigations.
2. The United States Forces shall designate a primary point of contact for all traffic offenses and accidents involving United States military and civilian component personnel and dependents. Upon being informed of a traffic offense or accident involving such personnel, Croatian authorities shall immediately inform the United States point of contact.
3. United States security units may, on the request of the Croatian police or as agreed between the appropriate authorities, provide assistance in the investigation. Releasable information will be freely exchanged between the responsible authorities of the Parties upon request. The Parties shall cooperate and assist each other in the conduct of such investigations, including as required under Article VII of the NATO SOFA.

Article VIII
OFFICIAL DUTY CERTIFICATES

For purposes of determining whether an alleged criminal or civil offense has arisen out of any act or omission done in the performance of official duty by a member of the force or the civilian component under Articles VII or VIII of the NATO SOFA, certification by the highest appropriate military authority of the United States that such act or omission was done in the performance of official duty shall constitute sufficient proof of the fact. In cases where Croatian authorities question the official nature of such act or omission, United States and Croatian authorities will consult immediately. During such consultation, Croatian authorities may present any relevant information and United States authorities shall take full account of such information. Croatian authorities retain the option of requesting confirmation of the official nature of such act or omission from the next higher United States military echelon.

Article IX
CUSTODY AND ACCESS

1. A member of the force or of the civilian component under investigation or pending trial by Croatian authorities shall remain in United States detention or under other appropriate United States control until the conclusion of all related judicial proceedings, unless otherwise mutually agreed. United States military authorities shall assure the appearance of the member of the force or of the civilian component before the Croatian authorities in any proceedings that may require the presence of such person. Croatian authorities shall assure the right of the member of the force or of the civilian component to prompt proceedings and a speedy trial.

2. In the event Croatian judicial proceedings are not completed within one year of their commencement, the United States military authorities shall be relieved of any obligations under this Article. Upon request by the Croatian authorities, the United States authorities will consult with the Croatian authorities regarding such alternative arrangements for the appearance of the accused as may be authorized under United States laws and regulations and are operationally feasible. The one year period will not include the time necessary to appeal and also any time during which scheduled trial procedures are delayed because the United States authorities, after timely notification by Croatian authorities to arrange for the presence of the accused, fail to do so.
3. When a member of the force or of the civilian component has been convicted by a Croatian court and an unsuspended sentence of confinement is adjudged he shall remain in United States detention or under other appropriate United States control until the conclusion of all appellate proceedings, unless otherwise mutually agreed.
4. Any period of time spent in restraint exercised by Croatian authorities or confinement exercised by United States military authorities shall be credited against any sentence of confinement eventually adjudged.
5. When a member of the force, or the civilian component, or a dependent is arrested or detained by Croatian authorities, representatives of the United States shall be notified immediately and shall have prompt access to that individual and shall be permitted to be present during any interrogation by Croatian authorities.

Article X
CONFINEMENT AND VISITATION

Confinement imposed by a Croatian court upon members of the force, or the civilian component, or dependents, shall be served in Croatian penal institutions suitable for the custody level of the prisoner determined after consultation between the Parties. Croatian authorities will permit the authorities of the United States to visit such persons at appropriate times outside of regular visiting hours upon coordination with appropriate Croatian officials. Family members may visit such persons during regular visiting hours. Croatian authorities will permit authorities of the United States and family members to provide such persons with such assistance as the authorities of the United States deem appropriate.

Article XI
DISCIPLINE

1. United States military authorities shall be responsible for maintenance of discipline over members of the force.
2. In furtherance of the maintenance of discipline of United States forces, United States military authorities may establish military security units on the agreed facilities and areas in Croatia where United States forces are located. Upon request and in cooperation with relevant Croatian authorities, United States military authorities may also employ such units in communities near the agreed facilities and areas in Croatia where United States forces are located under procedures agreed to by the relevant Croatian authorities and United States military authorities.

Article XII

SECURITY

1. Croatia shall take such measures as are necessary to ensure the adequate security and protection of the United States forces, members of the force, the civilian component, and dependents in the agreed facilities and areas within Croatia where United States forces are located or are to be located. In furtherance of this responsibility, Croatian authorities shall cooperate closely with United States authorities to ensure that adequate security is provided and that there is unhindered ingress to and egress from such facilities and areas where United States forces are located.
2. If the safety of the United States forces, members of the force, the civilian component, or dependents is endangered, United States military authorities may take appropriate measures to maintain or restore order and discipline in the agreed facilities and areas where United States forces are located. Outside the agreed facilities and areas where United States forces are located, United States military authorities shall act only in coordination with or jointly with Croatian authorities.

Article XIII

CLAIMS

1. Members of the force and of the civilian component shall not be subject to any proceedings for civil claims arising out of acts or omissions attributable to such persons done in the performance of their official duties. Such claims may be presented to the appropriate Croatian authorities and processed according to the provisions contained in Article VIII of the NATO SOFA.
2. All other civil claims except contractual claims, if not resolved in accordance with Article VIII, paragraph 6 of the NATO SOFA, shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the civil courts of Croatia where Croatian legislation would apply.
3. As used in this Article, and Article VIII of the NATO SOFA, the term "civilian component" also includes Croatian nationals and other civilians who are United States employees acting in the performance of official duty assigned by the United States forces, but shall not include employees of non-commercial organizations.
4. Members of the force, the civilian component, and dependents shall not suffer default judgments or actions prejudicial to their interests when official duties or duly authorized absence temporarily prevents their attendance at non-criminal proceedings to which they are parties.

Article XIV

OFFICIAL TAX EXEMPTIONS

1. The United States forces in respect of matters falling exclusively within the scope of their official activities, and contractors in respect of matters falling exclusively within the scope of contract activities for United States forces, or in respect of property devoted to such activities, shall not be subject to direct or indirect taxation. With respect to the Value Added Tax (VAT), an exemption shall apply to articles and services acquired by or on behalf of the United States forces.
2. Croatian laws and regulations pertaining to the withholding of payment of income taxes and social security contributions shall not be applicable to members of the force, non-Croatian members of the civilian component, United States contractors and United States contractor employees.

3. Vessels operated by or at the time exclusively for the United States forces shall not be subject to the payment of any fees at Croatian military bases. The use of civilian seaports shall be negotiated directly with the sea port management and accredited concessionaire.
4. United States Government vessels and aircraft shall not be subject to boarding and inspection.

Article XV
PERSONAL TAX EXEMPTIONS

1. With respect to Article X of the NATO SOFA, members of the force, the civilian component, and dependents shall not be liable to pay any tax or similar charges, including the VAT, in Croatia on the ownership, possession, use, transfer among themselves, and to or from the force, or transfer in connection with death of their tangible movable property imported into Croatia or acquired therein for their own personal use.
2. The exemption from taxes on income provided by Article X of the NATO SOFA shall also apply to income received by members of the force, the civilian component, dependents and United States contractor employees from activities under this Agreement, and to income derived from sources outside Croatia.

Article XVI
OFFICIAL IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION

1. With reference to Article XI of the NATO SOFA, the importation of equipment, supplies, provisions, and other goods into Croatia by or on behalf of the United States forces shall be exempt from payment of all duties, special taxes and VAT. The United States forces shall be liable for the payment of charges for services requested and received from Croatian governmental entities or any political subdivision thereof, and for charges for services requested and received from any private entity.
2. Equipment, supplies, provisions and other goods shall be exempt from any tax or other charge which would otherwise be assessed upon such property after its importation into or acquisition within Croatia by the United States forces.
3. The exportation and re-exportation from Croatia by the United States forces of the equipment, supplies, provisions, and other goods referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be exempt from all types of duties. Such property may be disposed of in Croatia provided that such disposition to persons or entities in Croatia not entitled to exemption from taxes or customs dues under this Agreement shall be subject to payment of applicable taxes and duties by such persons or entities, and provided that the other legal conditions for the import of the said property in Croatia are fulfilled by the recipient of such property.
4. The exemptions provided in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of this Article shall also apply to services, equipment, supplies, provisions, and other property imported into or acquired within Croatia by or on behalf of the United States forces for use by a contractor executing a contract for such forces. The United States forces shall cooperate fully with the appropriate Croatian authorities to prevent abuse of these privileges.
5. Deposit of the certificate provided for in Article XI, paragraph 4 of the NATO SOFA shall be accepted by Croatian authorities for the purpose of fulfilling the appropriate customs procedure of items imported or exported by or for the United States forces under this Article.

Article XVII
PERSONAL IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION

1. The members of the force, the civilian component, dependents, United States contractors, and United States contractor employees may import their personal effects, furniture, private motor vehicles and other goods intended for their personal or domestic use or consumption free of payment of duties during their assignment in Croatia. This privilege shall apply not only to goods which are the property of such persons but also to goods sent to them by way of gift or delivered to them in fulfillment of contracts directly concluded with a person or persons not domiciled in Croatia.
2. The property referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article may be sold or otherwise transferred to persons in Croatia not entitled to import such property duty free in accordance with this Agreement, provided that all applicable taxes and duties are paid by the recipient of such goods. Members of the force, the civilian component and dependents may transfer such property among themselves and to or from the force, and such transfers shall be free of payment of duties. The United States forces shall be responsible for maintaining records which will be accepted as proof by Croatian authorities of these transfers of tax or duty free merchandise. Croatian authorities shall accept copies of duly filed police reports as prima facie evidence that duty free property of members of the force, the civilian component or dependents has been stolen, damaged or destroyed, which shall relieve the individuals of any liability for payment of the tax or duty.
3. Members of the force, the civilian component, dependents, United States contractors, and United States contractor employees may re-export, free of payment of exit duties or charges, any goods imported by them into Croatia or acquired by them during their period of duty in Croatia.

Article XVIII
MOTOR VEHICLES

1. Authorities of Croatia will honor the valid license plates and registration cards issued by United States military and civilian authorities for motor vehicles and trailers of the force, United States contractors, members of the force, the civilian component and dependents.
2. United States military authorities shall take adequate safety measures with respect to motor vehicles and trailers registered and licensed by them or used by the force in Croatia.
3. It is the duty of members of the force, the civilian component, United States contractors, United States contractor employees and dependents to respect the law of Croatia regarding auto liability insurance coverage for their private motor vehicles while in Croatia.

Article XIX
LICENSES

1. Croatia shall accept as valid, without a test or fee, a valid operator's license or other valid permit issued by United States authorities to a member of the force, the civilian component, United States contractor or United States contractor employees authorizing the holder to operate vehicles, vessels, or aircraft of or for the force.
2. Croatian authorities will honor driving licenses issued by United States military and civilian authorities for the operation of private motor vehicles by members of the force, the civilian component and dependents, if the person concerned is eighteen years or older.

3. (a) United States military authorities shall withdraw driving privileges of the persons holding drivers licenses recognized in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, if there is reasonable doubt concerning the holders' reliability or fitness to operate a motor vehicle. They shall give sympathetic consideration to requests made by Croatian authorities for the withdrawal of driving privileges. United States military authorities shall notify Croatian authorities of all withdrawals made in accordance with this subparagraph and of all cases where, after such withdrawal, driving privileges have been restored.

(b) In cases where Croatia exercises jurisdiction pursuant to Article VII of the NATO SOFA and Article V of this Agreement over offenses involving the operation of motor vehicles, provisions of Croatian criminal law relating to the withdrawal of driving privileges remain applicable with respect to driving licenses referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article.

4. Croatia shall accept as valid all professional licenses issued by the Government of the United States, political subdivisions or States thereof to members of the force, members of the civilian component, United States contractors and United States contractor employees for the provision of services to the force, members of the force, members of the civilian component, dependents, United States contractors, United States contractor employees and other categories of personnel as mutually agreed by the Coordinating Agents.

Article XX CUSTOMS PROCEDURES

1. Croatia shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the smooth and rapid clearing of imports and exports of the force, members of the force, the civilian component, dependents, United States contractors, and United States contractor employees by Croatian customs authorities.
2. Customs procedures applicable to United States forces imports and exports under this Agreement will be carried out in accordance with procedures mutually agreed between the appropriate Croatian authorities and the United States forces. Any inspection by Croatian customs authorities of incoming or outgoing personal property of members of the force, the civilian component, or their dependents shall be conducted when the property is delivered to or picked up from the individual's residence.
3. Pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, United States military authorities shall establish the necessary internal controls at facilities where United States forces are located in order to prevent abuses of the customs privileges and exemptions granted under the NATO SOFA and this Agreement. United States military authorities and Croatian authorities shall cooperate in the investigation of any alleged offenses involving customs violations.

Article XXI MILITARY SERVICE ACTIVITIES

1. United States military authorities may directly or through contract establish, maintain and operate military service exchanges, commissaries, other sales outlets, open messes, social and educational centers, and recreational service areas at the agreed facilities and areas in Croatia for use by members of the force, the civilian component and dependents.
2. The organizations and activities referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article are integral parts of the United States forces and shall be accorded the same fiscal and customs exemptions granted to the force, including those provided in Articles XIV and XVI of this Agreement. No license, inspection, or other regulatory control shall be required by Croatia for these military service activities. Such exemptions shall not apply to services provided in support of the organizations and activities by Croatian taxpayers.

3. United States military authorities shall adopt appropriate measures to prevent the sale of goods and property imported or acquired in Croatia by the organizations referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article to persons who are not authorized to have access to such organizations and their services.

Article XXII
CURRENCY AND EXCHANGE

1. United States forces shall have the right to import, export and use United States currency or instruments expressed in the currency of the United States in any amount.
2. United States military authorities may distribute to or exchange for members of the force, the civilian component and dependents currency of, and instruments denominated in the currency of: (a) the United States; (b) Croatia; (c) the Euro zone; and (d) any other country.
3. A member of the force, the civilian component and dependents:
 - (a) may import United States currency and instruments denominated in currency of the United States; and
 - (b) may export any currency other than that of Croatia, and instruments denominated in any such currency, provided that such member or dependent has either imported such currency or instruments or received such currency or instruments from the United States military authorities, so long as such import and export is not in violation of Croatian law.
4. United States military authorities shall, in cooperation with the authorities of Croatia, take appropriate measures in order to prevent any abuse of the rights granted under this Article and to safeguard the system of foreign exchange regulations of Croatia insofar as they apply to personnel covered by this agreement.

Article XXIII
CONTRACTING PROCEDURES

1. The United States forces may award contracts in accordance with United States laws and regulations for the acquisition of articles and services, including construction, in Croatia. The United States forces may contract with any source and shall endeavor, as authorized under applicable United States laws and regulations, to contract with Croatian legal entities and individuals.
2. Contractors and contractor employees whose presence at an agreed facility or area at which United States forces are located or are to be located is required for the performance of a contract shall be granted permission to enter into such facility or area within seven (7) working days of a request by United States military authorities. Such entrance may be denied or withdrawn for reasons of security or due to the individual's misconduct. If the appropriate Croatian authorities deny or withdraw such permission they shall inform the appropriate United States military authorities in writing of the reasons therefore.
3. Croatia shall accord to the force treatment in the matter of procurement of goods, services and utilities no less favorable than is accorded to Croatian armed forces.

Article XXIV
STATUS OF CONTRACTORS

1. United States contractors and United States contractor employees shall be exempt from the laws and regulations of Croatia with respect to the terms and conditions of their employment, and the licensing and registration of businesses and corporations. Such contractors also shall be exempt from all income and corporate income (profits) tax and VAT arising from the delivery to the United States forces of goods or services, or from construction of facilities.
2. United States contractors and the United States contract employees, including the expiration date of their contracts with or for the United States forces, shall be notified to the Croatian Ministry of Defense, in accordance with the provisions of an Implementing Arrangement between the Parties or their Coordinating Agents.

Article XXV
UTILITIES AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. United States military and civilian component personnel and United States contractors may use water, electricity, and other public utilities on terms and conditions, including rates or charges, no less favorable than those available to the Croatian armed forces or government, in like circumstances, unless otherwise agreed. The United States forces' costs will be equal to their pro rata share of the cost of such utilities.
2. The United States forces shall be allowed to operate their own telecommunication systems (as the term "telecommunication" is defined in the 1992 Constitution of the International Telecommunication Union). This shall include the right to utilize such means and services as are required to ensure full ability to operate telecommunication systems, and the right to use, free of charge, all necessary radio spectrums for these purposes. The United States forces, in the interest of avoiding mutually disruptive interference, as well as to assist Croatia in fulfillment of its international obligations, will make every reasonable effort to coordinate the use of frequencies with the appropriate Croatian authorities. The United States forces will take into consideration Croatian laws and will consult with appropriate Croatian authorities on the operation of their own telecommunication systems. Members of the force and the civilian component shall be exempt from payment for any licenses or of fees for the operation of radio or television receivers.

Article XXVI
ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY

Recognizing that protection of the environment, nature, cultural property and human health represent special interests for the Republic of Croatia, the Parties agree to implement this Agreement in a manner consistent with the protection of the environment, nature, cultural property and human health. The United States confirms its commitment to fully respect relevant Croatian legislation on protection of the environment, nature, cultural property and human health in the execution of its policies. Croatia confirms its policy to implement its relevant legislation with due regard for the health and safety of United States forces, the civilian component, dependents, United States contractors and United States contractor employees.

Article XXVII
IMPLEMENTATION AND DISPUTES

1. The Coordinating Agents may enter into Implementing Arrangements to carry out the provisions of this Agreement. Such Implementing Arrangements shall be concluded by the Coordinating Agents and the Croatian Coordinating Agent will inform the United States Coordinating Agent whether the Implementing Arrangement will be co-signed by an authorized representative of the Croatian ministry competent for the individual Implementing Arrangement in question.
2. Any divergence in views or dispute regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be submitted to a committee consisting of the representatives of the competent Croatian bodies and the representatives of the United States forces in Croatia. If the committee can not make a decision in a particular case, the dispute will be resolved by consultation between the Parties and shall not be referred to any national or international tribunal or any third party for settlement.

Article XXVIII
ENTRY INTO FORCE, DURATION AND AMENDMENT

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date that Croatia notifies the United States through diplomatic channels that all internal procedures necessary for the entry into force of this Agreement have been fulfilled. This Agreement shall remain in force for an indefinite period.
2. Either Party may terminate this Agreement upon six months written notice to the other Party through diplomatic channels. This Agreement may be amended by written agreement of the Parties. The Parties agree to consult concerning amendment of this Agreement upon request of either Party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective governments, have signed this agreement.

Done at _____, this _____ day of _____, 2008, in duplicate, in the Croatian and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

**For the Government of
the Republic of Croatia**

**For the Government of
the United States of America**