



Contractor Shura

The overall Classification
of this brief is:

UNCLASSIFIED

11 March 2015



Agenda

- Opening Remarks
- Legal Background: BSA/SOFA and Presidential Decree
- Business Licenses
- Visas
- Arming
- Key Takeaways
- Key Contacts
- Open Discussion

NOTE: None of the information presented in these slides or presented today is intended to provide a substitute for private legal counsel. This information does not create any private rights of relief.



Opening Remarks

- All BSA/SOFA articles are in force, the below documents provide additional guidance:
 - MOU 5030, dated 19 Sep 14
 - Presidential Decree (PD), dated 31 Dec 14
- PD does not relieve US/NATO contractors or personnel from BSA/SOFA implementation
- PD provides for a transition period 1 Jan – 1 Jun 2015 to allow for gradual application of Afghan law to U.S./NATO contractors relating to certain BSA issues
- All US/NATO personnel are expected to be in compliance with Afghan law as it pertains to all BSA/SOFA articles NLT 1 Jun 15
 - A valid business license is a prerequisite to apply for a multi-entry visa.
 - Documents required for Licenses and Visas must be worked **NOW**.
 - All Arming Re-certifications will be complete NLT 31 Mar 15

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PD IS DEPENDENT UPON **GIRoA**
“WE ARE MAKING GREAT HEADWAY“



Legal Background

BSA/SOFA and Presidential Decree (Farman)

- BSA/SOFA are now in effect
 - PD does not relieve US/NATO contractors or personnel from BSA/SOFA implementation
- Contractors must now comply with Afghan law consistent with the BSA/SOFA
- PoA has signed Presidential Decree #38, providing relief to US/NATO contractors by phasing-in application of Afghan law to them on certain issues.
- That PD provided a bridging period through June 1 for business licenses, visas, and contractor charter flights and clarifies guidance with regard to work permits, weapons arming, etc.

**Compliance with the BSA/SOFA is not an Option
1 June 15 will Affect Everyone**



AISA Business Licenses

- The BSA/SOFA requires U.S./NATO contractors to obtain a valid Afghan business license.
 - Contractors are required to obtain a license from Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA). Licenses are valid for 3 years under the BSA and SOFA. Non-BSA/SOFA Licenses are valid for 1 year.
 - A valid AISA business license is a prerequisite to applying for a one-year multi-entry business visa. Currently held licenses are valid until expiration.
 - We expect new AISA licensing procedures for U.S./NATO contractors in the coming days. **It is recommended that companies submit their applications.**
 - AISA website includes a link to a chat room where questions about AISA procedures are answered immediately and a link to the current registration procedures. The new AISA procedures for US/NATO contractors will appear on that website once they are finalized.
 - AISA currently offers 11 different business licenses that vary by business sector: The initial fee for a business license ranges from \$700 to \$5,000 USD, depending on the type of license.

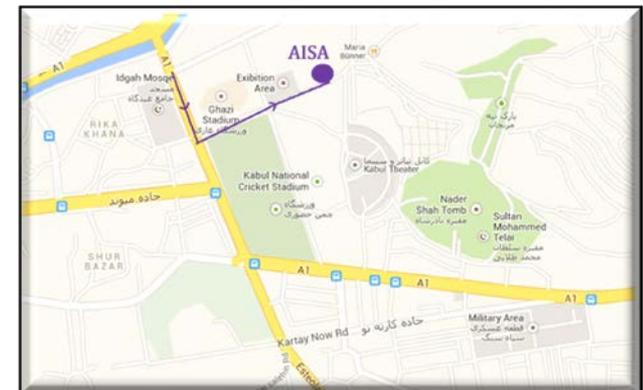
Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA)

Website: <http://www.aisa.org.af/> (in English)

Telephone: 0093(0) 20-210-3404

Address: East part of Charman-e-Hozory, near the National Olympic building, Kabul, Afghanistan

Email: invest@aisa.org.af





1-Year Multiple Entry/Exit Visas (MEV)

- Best option is to apply for a visa **NOW**
 - In-country: MoI Passport Offices (Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kandahar, and Kabul)
 - Outside of AFG: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Consulates
- US/NATO Forces contractors and contractor employees may enter/exit Afghanistan until **1 June 2015** without a visa.
 - Per PD, a passport and a US/NATO raised gold seal Contractor Certificate are sufficient.
 - Available at Legal office Kabul, Bagram, and Kandahar; Wing Commander office Maser Sharif
- **Possession of a valid AISA business license is a prerequisite to applying for a MEV business visa.**
 - Contractors and their employees inside of Afghanistan should get their Visa packets together and submit them **NOW** to obtain the one-year multiple-entry visas.
 - New contractors should obtain the visas prior to departing their country; Procedures are still being developed by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but we expect similar documents to be required as are required by the MOI.
- Per PD, no financial penalties, or judicial prosecution for lack of a visa prior to 1 Jun 15
- Groups of visa applications are authorized and encouraged
- Processing fee (\$200.00) per first-time visa applicant, plus the visa costs (\$360 for one year MEV)

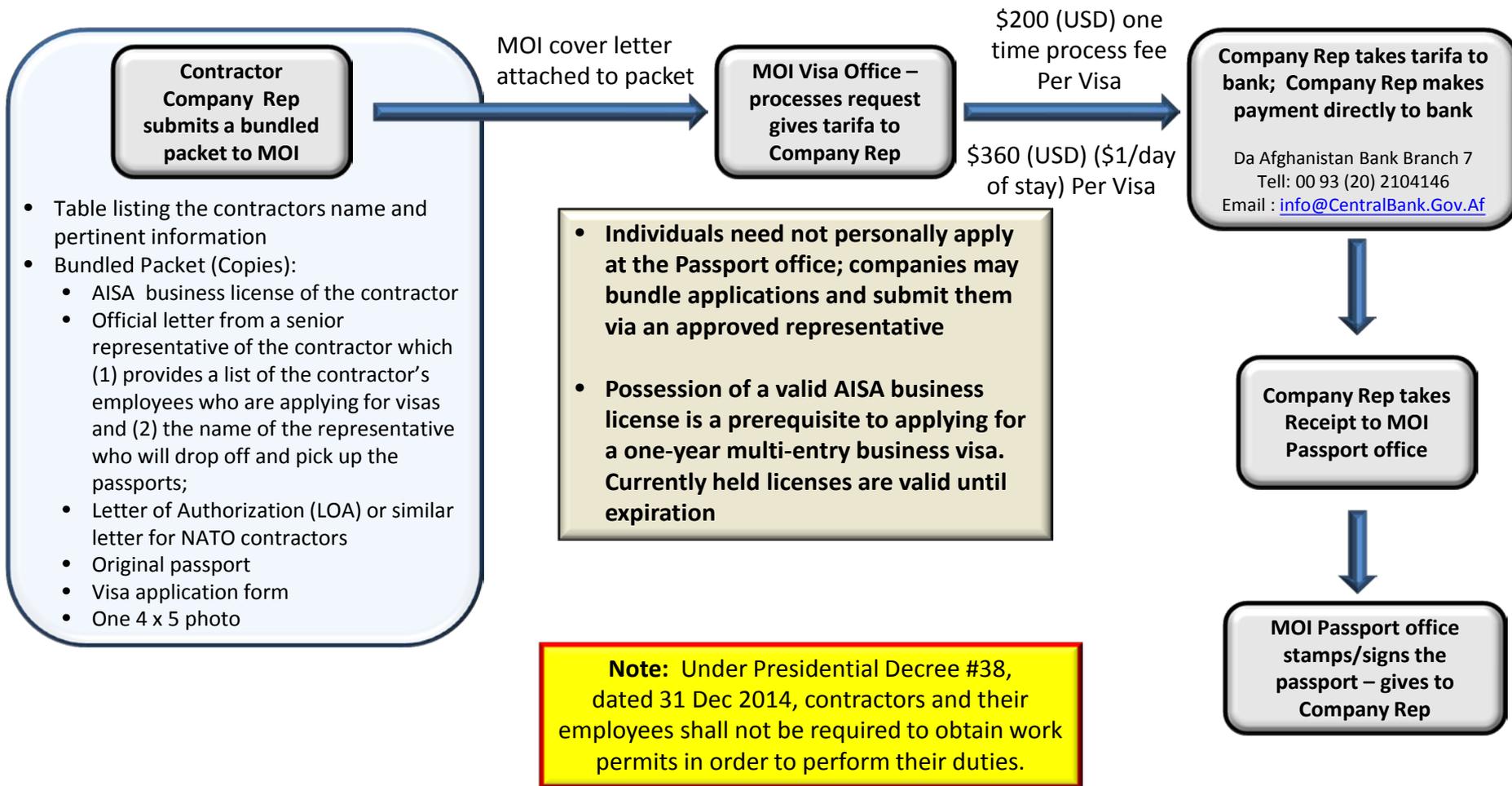


Get your required visa packages together NOW, and Execute!



GIRoA's Multiple Entry/Exit Visa Process for Contractors Inside Afghanistan

This Information is provided as a courtesy to US contractors. The USG does not take responsibility as this is Afghan government information



Letters of Authorization

LETTER OF AUTHORIZATION NOT VALID WITHOUT PHOTO ID			DATE OF REQUEST
REGULATING ACTIVITY Department of Defense	GOVT AUTHORITY POC Jana K Doe	GOVT AUTHORITY POC PHONE 1234567890	9/5/2014
NAME (Last, First, Middle) Wayne, John M	SSAN/DOBID 100-11-1101	STATUS FNU/UD	GOVT AUTHORITY POC EMAIL jane.doe@dod.mil
EMAIL wayne.john999.civ@mail.mil		CITIZENSHIP United States	DATE OF BIRTH 1/28/1972
THEATER EMAIL brando.martin.999.civ@mail.mil		DEPLOYMENT PERIOD START 8/4/2014	PASSPORT # / EXPIRATION 123456789 / 9/15/2015
COMPANY (full name/Prime or Subcontractor) Hensell Postcard / Prime			DEPLOYMENT PERIOD END 8/4/2015
COMPANY POC Hanks, Tom	COMPANY POC TELEPHONE 1234567890	COMPANY POC EMAIL tom.hanks@hensell.com	
CONTRACT NUMBER/TASK ORDER HMM402-13-C-0042Prime	CONTRACT TO START DATE 8/4/2014	CONTRACT TO END DATE 8/4/2015	CONTRACT ISSUING AGENCY DPLR OF DEFENSE
ASSIGNED KO Jana K Doe	ASSIGNED KO TELEPHONE 1234567890		ASSIGNED KO EMAIL jane.doe@dod.mil
IN-THEATER CONTACT Martin, Brando	CONTACT'S PHONE 1234567890		CONTACT'S EMAIL brando.martin@dod.mil
COUNTRIES TO BE VISITED Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates	CONTRACTOR STATUS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAAF <input type="checkbox"/> NON-CAAF AUTHORIZED GOVERNMENT SERVICES* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WEAPON** <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY UNIFORMS/CLOTHING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BILLETING <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY ISSUED EQUIPMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAC <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY FACILITIES <input type="checkbox"/> LOGICAL ACCESS BADGES <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY EXPENSES <input type="checkbox"/> DOD/CAF FACILITY (DFAC) <input type="checkbox"/> COMMODITY <input type="checkbox"/> GOVT FURNISHED MEALS (GFMA) <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY MESSAGES <input type="checkbox"/> APO/PO BOX SERVICES <input type="checkbox"/> EXCESS BAGGAGE <input type="checkbox"/> DIPLOMATIC POST OFFICE (DPO) <input type="checkbox"/> MILAR <input type="checkbox"/> PRIMARY CARE*** <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION (other than MILAR) <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SEE REMARKS FIELD) <input type="checkbox"/> NONE		
PURPOSE Technical collection and analysis	NUMBER OF AGS ITEMS CHECKED: 3		
COMPANY BILLING ADDRESS 1234 James Street Anytown, Vermont - 05541 United States			

*Authorized Government Services does not necessarily mean that the Government provides these services to contractors on a non-reimbursable basis. For certain categories of authorized services, the contractor may be required to reimburse the government IAW applicable Federal, DOD or COCOM regulations/policies and/or the contract terms and conditions. The indicated Authorized Government Services on this LOA are only applicable for the designated countries to be visited during the deployment, however, if the services vary between countries, the contracting officer shall specify which services may be authorized in each country. If the country to be visited has a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) in place that governs the categories of services to be authorized, then the terms of the SOFA take precedence over the terms of this LOA.

**Combatant Commander (CCDR) authorization is required IAW FAR Clause 52.225-26 in order for a contractor to be authorized to carry a weapon.

***Resuscitative/Emergency Care is the default level of care. Unless specifically negotiated in the contract, ALL medical care is reimbursable to the U.S. Government.

The government organization specified above, in its mission support capacity under the contract, authorizes the individual employee identified herein, to proceed to the location(s) listed for the designated deployment period set forth above. Upon completion of the mission, the employee will return to the point of origin.



NCI Agency
SHAPE - Mors Belgium 7010
Telephone: +32 (0)65 44 xxxx
Fax: +32 (0)65 44 xxxx

NATO UNCLASSIFIED
ANNEX 4 - LOA

NCIA/
Date

Subject : DEPLOYMENT OF: (Deploying Personnel Name)

Letter Assignment in Support of Resolute Support (RS)
Afghanistan

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Deployment of: FULL NAME

RANK/GRADE: Brig Gen Luigi Tomaiuolo
SURNAME:
FIRST NAME:
GENDER:
NATIONALITY:
DATE OF BIRTH:

1. The above person is designated to deploy to Afghanistan in support of Resolute Support (RS). The assignment is as follows:

PO Reference Number:

Post Title:

Post/Deployment Location(s): List location, CJOA-A

2. The period of the deployment is estimated to DAY MON 2015 and end DAY MON 2015, but may be extended or shortened according to the current operational situation.

3. The subject is assigned to RS and required to carry out Post title while deployed duties.

4. Support to RS mission AOR has been agreed by Chief of Staff SHAPE and General Manager NCI Agency. This letter is the NCI Agency Director Service Operations (DSO) authorization to deploy. As such, this person it to be considered as providing services to the Resolute Support and shall be provided access privileges and travel rights consistent to such status IAW RS - Agreement between NATO and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on the Status of NATO Force and NATO personnel conducting mutually agreed NATO-led activities in Afghanistan dated 30 September 2014.

5. Ownership of this letter, supported by appropriate identity, is proof that the holder is authorized to be in theatre and is to be afforded all support (e.g. medical, logistical) in line with extant policy and regulation.

LUIGI TOMAIUOLO
Brig Gen / ITA A
Director Service Operations
NCI Agency
DISTRIBUTION:
Internal:
Action:
TOE/Operational HQ
NCI Agency HR
NCI Agency Travel Office
NCI Agency Security Office
Operations and Exercises SL-Chief
Travelor
Sending OE

NSPA Letter



PROCUREMENT DIVISION
DIVISION DES ACHATS

**NATO SUPPORT AGENCY
AGENCE OTAN DE SOUTIEN**



XX-X/2015/XXX/####/XX

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

DAY MONTH 2015

TO : MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AFFAIRS
PASSPORT ADMINISTRATION
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

SUBJECT : REQUEST FOR APPROVAL AND PROCESSING OF VISAS

REFERENCE(S) : A [REFERENCE TO CONTRACT AND CONTRACT NUMBER]

1. This is to certify that company O [CONTRACTOR COMPANY NAME] is contracted by the NATO Support Agency (NSPA) to provide the services under contract at Reference A.
2. For the performance of the contract, [CONTRACTOR COMPANY NAME] is employing staff of various nationalities to work at [CONTRACTOR LOCATION].
3. The contract at Ref. A is a critical operational requirement for the assistance the Resolute Support Mission is providing to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
4. To that end, it is essential that the staff contracted by [CONTRACTOR COMPANY NAME] receive multiple entry visas to enter and exit Afghanistan.
5. It is therefore requested your approval to the issuance of 12 month multiple visas for the below listed employees of [CONTRACTOR COMPANY NAME] in Annex A.

Thank you in advance for your positive consideration and please be assured of our sincere appreciation.

Sincerely,

[FIRST NAME, LAST NAME]
Contracting Officer

L-8302 Capellen (G.-D. of Luxembourg) Internet: www.nspa.nato.int
E-mail: frs.last@nspa.nato.int - Tel.: (+352)##### - Fax: (+352)#####

NATO UNCLASSIFIED

Annex A to [XX-X/2015/XXX/####/XX]

No	Name of Applicant (Family, Given Name)	Passport Number	Nationality
1	Example, First Name	#####	[NATIONALITY]
2			
3			
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20			
21			

DRAFT

Certificate **ONLY** for those Contractors who are **NOT** a US/NSPA/NCIA contractor



HEADQUARTERS
Resolute Support
Kabul, Afghanistan
APO AE 09356



U.S./NATO CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATE

[This person] is the holder of [NATION] Passport # [NUMBER]. This U.S./NATO certificate confirms that he/she is a contractor employee of [contractor company name], a U.S./NATO Contractor, who is supplying goods or services in Afghanistan, to or on behalf of U.S./NATO forces under contract or subcontract number [NUMBER], with or in support of United States forces, NATO, NATO Member States, or Operational Partners.

Pursuant to Presidential Order (Farman) #38 issued 31 December 2014, U.S./NATO contractor employees are entitled to enter, exit, work, and be present in Afghanistan requiring only a valid passport and this U.S./NATO issued certificate, which verifies their identify and their relationship with U.S./NATO forces.

National authorities of all countries are requested to afford favorable consideration to the expeditious transit of all U.S./NATO contractor personnel through their respective territories and customs areas, in order to promote the development and security of Afghanistan.

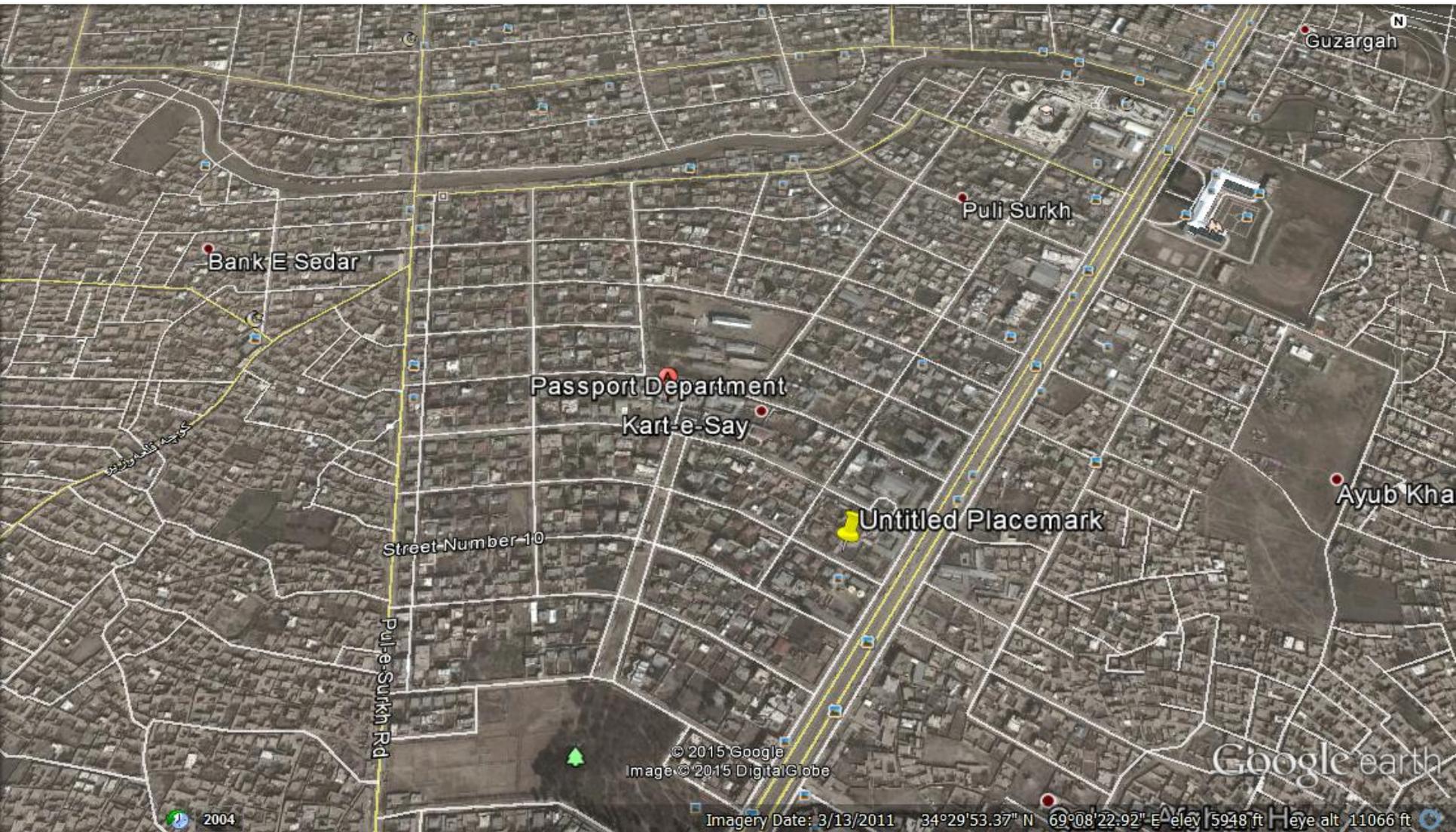
ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES and THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

A blue ink signature of Patrick M. McCarthy.

Patrick M. McCarthy
Captain, United States Navy
Senior Legal Advisor
Resolute Support/
United States Forces-Afghanistan



Visa Office and Da AFG Bank, Branch 7



Branch 7 is located on Darulaman road next to the Afghanistan Parliament building the main branch which locate by Srina Hotel in Kabul city.



Airport Expeditor

- The contractor Expeditor (Afghan nationals) will support and facilitate entry/exit into and out of Afghanistan at five airports of debarkation/embarkation (APOD/E) for contractor personnel performing on US/NATO awarded contracts in Afghanistan.
- The contractor will serve as a go-between, facilitator and liaison between BSA/SOFA contractors and Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) officials concerning entry/exit procedures and documents such as passports, visas, US/NATO contractor certificates.

- **Bagram Airport** (not req at this time)
 - **Kabul Airport (In Place)**
 - **Kandahar Airport**
 - **Herat Airport (16 hours a day)**
 - **Mazar-e-Sharif Airport**
- 24hrs per day 7 days a week unless noted

Team: 1 Site Manager and 6 Entry/Exit Facilitators and at each location

- The Expeditor will assist contractors and contractor employees in acquiring visas for contractors already in Afghanistan by providing interpretation support with GIROA immigration agencies within each APOD/E when possible.
- Expeditor will be identified with **RED** badges indicating access to immigration/customs area. Expeditor will provide English-Dari-Pashto interpretation/translation services on behalf of US and NATO military personnel, civilian personnel, and contractors in support of their transit through approved entry/exit control points.

We continue to work expeditor placement and airport access



Other Requirements

- **Contractor Charter Flights:** Shall continue current aviation practices, procedures and operations into, out of, and within Afghanistan with no changes until June 1, 2015.
 - Please let us know if you are aware of companies providing air services within Afghanistan or to and from Afghanistan; we would like to be in contact with them.
- **Work Permits:** US/NATO Contractors are NOT required to obtain work permits to perform their duties.
- **Withholding Tax:** Contractors employing LN employees must withhold personal income taxes for these employees and withhold taxes on payments made to local subsidiaries and local vendors. **It is extremely important that you seek legal counsel on all taxation issues.**
- **Tax Exemption Letters:** Letters will continue to be stamped by the SDDC office at the Embassy until further notice



Contractor Arming

- CENTCOM policy states that arming of contractors and contractor employees is **prohibited**; however Exceptions to Policy (ETP) can be granted in certain situations
- Arming authorizations are considered an **exception** to policy. Two narrow ETP categories exist:
 - **Armed Security**: (5030 MOU) DOD contractors and contractor employees providing armed security services inside NATO/U.S. Agreed Facilities and Areas; and
 - **Self-Defense / Personal Protection Arming**: (BSA/PD) DOD contractors and contractor employees who regularly (i.e., at least weekly) perform their contractual duties outside of Agreed Facilities in support of NATO/U.S. missions, including the provision of training, advice, and assistance to Afghan National Security Defense Forces.
 - **Contractors must obtain GIRoA Weapons Permits from in order to carry weapons after ETP process is complete**
 - PD #38, signed 31 Dec 14 allows for bulk application for GIRoA weapons permits

**GIRoA Weapons Permit is Required for Arming under
Self-Defense / Personal Protection**



Timeline For Transitioning to ETP Requirements

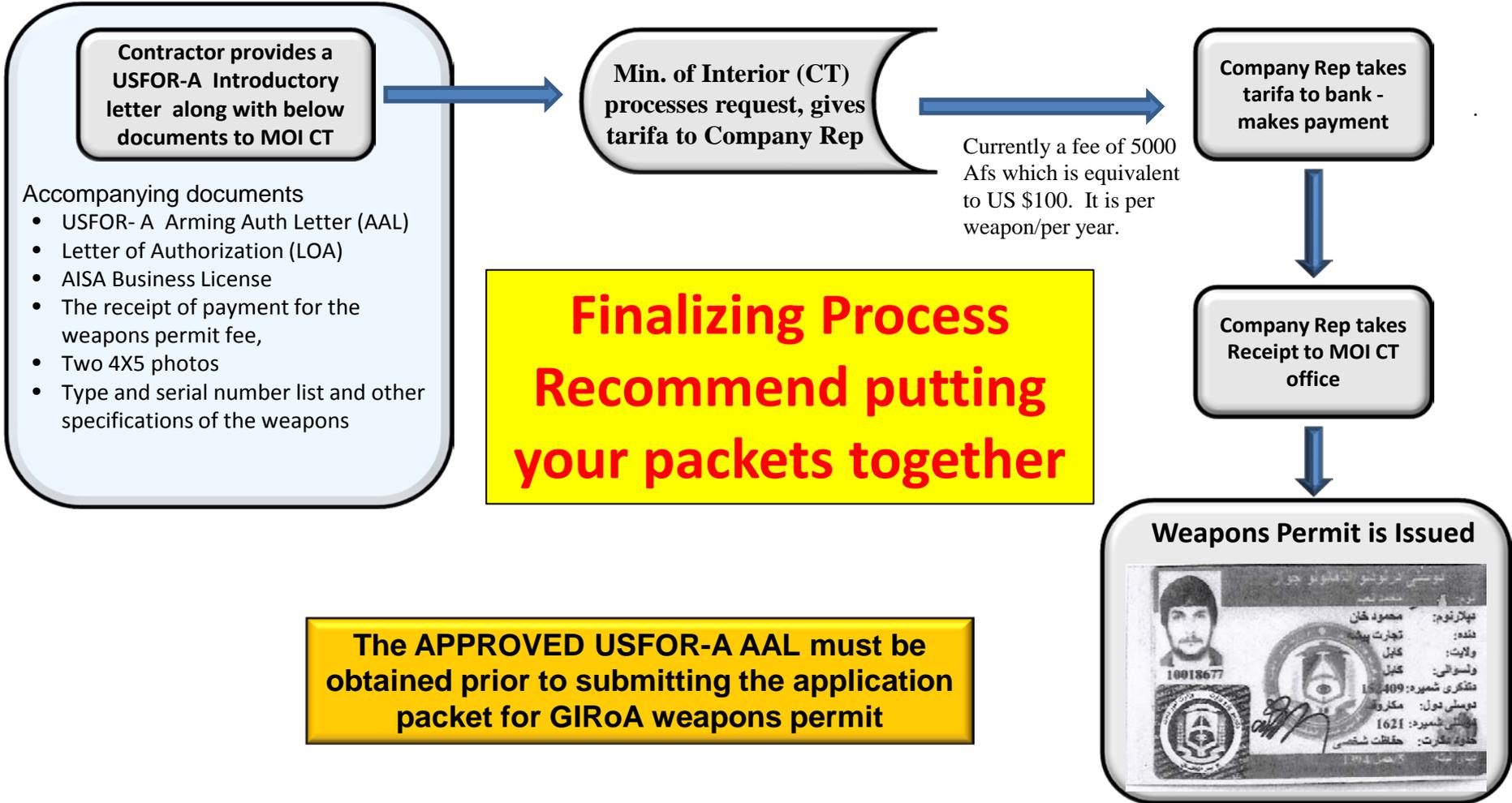


- Must fully comply with the new requirements by submitting an ETP request and obtaining approval by 31 MAR 15.
 - If a contractor employee does not fall under one of the two ETP categories, then that employee **must have disarmed** as of 1 January 2015 (no transition period)
 - ROs will supervise and coordinate weapons turn in.
 - Weapons will be stored in accordance with garrison commander's directive and in coordination with JSO.
 - **Arming authorization is not complete until a weapons permit is issued by GIROA**

USFOR-A Arming Recertify must comply NLT 31 March 2015



Recommended GIROA's Bulk Weapons Permit Process for BSA Contractors



GIROA Contacts:

•MOI Counterterrorism Directorate, Deputy Director, Gen. Mir Afghan Hesar Stanikzai



Recertification of Armed Contractor Employees

- ETP requests must be submitted through CAAMS and will include:
 1. RO memo (Self-Defense arming requires individual memos – NO GROUP MEMOS)
 - Armed Security allowed to submit group memos (for same contract number and location)
 - RO must be an O-6/GS-15 or higher – NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY
 - **No “boilerplate” language!** The RO must specify who, what, where, when, and why each person needs a weapon.
 2. Newly issued SPOT letter of authorization (dated on or after 1 DEC 14) – Required
 3. Newly signed DD Form 2760, RUF/LOAC training acknowledgments, and signed training and liability statements
 4. Weapons qualifications; existing qualifications may be used, however, qualifications are only valid for 12 months
 5. Summary of the required background investigation or memo verifying security clearance
 6. New certification that the LN or OCN has been biometrically enrolled, screened, and cleared
 7. Acknowledgement that the contractor employee has complied with Afghan law and regulation for licensing and weapons permit; provide a copy of the GIRoA weapons permit or license to ACOD upon receipt – TO BE DONE AFTER RECEIVING NEW ARMING AUTHORIZATION LETTER (AAL)
- RO will notify ACOD of disarmed personnel
- Weapons from disarmed personnel must be processed for return or removal from Afghanistan NLT 31 Mar 15

Currently armed DOD contractors must submit a new ETP request or disarm



Civilian Arming Authorization Management System (CAAMS)

- NEW web-based application automating the submission, review, approval, and compliance management of civilian and contractor arming requests in Afghanistan
 - CAAMS Website (registration): <https://www.jccs.gov> / multistep process
 - Contractors/Vendors can log in and have visibility into their contract. They will have the ability to upload documents for their employees and initiate request
- Step 1 Contractors or COR must upload all relevant documents for arming requests.
- Step 2 **COR must** complete biometric verification (Non-US Citizens), and
- Step 3 Conduct Quality Control, and
- Step 4 Submit RO memo for each contract employee
- ACOD: Once arming packet is complete, ACOD performs quality control and completes legal review
- Arming Authorization Letter is generated, signed, and uploaded into CAAMS
- **Last Step: COR uploads GIRoA weapons permit/license in CAAMS**



Key Takeaways

1. Investigate AISA business licensing requirements to be prepared to submit your application as soon as BSA/SOFA procedures are finalized.
2. Obtain your 1 year Multiple Entry Visa.
 - Documents required for visas must be worked **NOW**
3. Fly into/out of military air terminals to the extent possible/authorized.
4. If you meet the requirements to be armed, apply **NOW.**
 - If you do not meet the requirements, you will be disarmed
5. Consult your employer/KO/local private legal counsel for advice.



Multiple Entry/Exit Visa/Weapons Permit Expeditors



Innovative Logistics

Charlene Bolton, *Finance Manager*

Kabul, Afghanistan

Afghan Cell: 079 342 4610

Email: cbolton@totalscmsolutions.com

Parks Global Solutions LLC

Gerald Ike. Parks, President

Personal Cell #: +971557749932

Email: parks.gerald@gmail.com

Gerald.parks@parks-global.com

Afghanistan Holding Group

Sanzar Kakar, Chairman

Opposite MRRD, Darulaman, District 6, Kabul

(UAE) +971 555 106622

(AFG) +93 799 145 229

Email: info@ahg.af

**This Information is provided as a courtesy to US contractors. The
USG does not take Endorse the use of Expeditors**



Important Contacts

- **BSA Policy**
 - Mr. Mark Illg, USFOR-A Senior Commander Advisor
 - Email: usforabsajc@afghan.swa.army.mil
- **SOFA Policy**
 - COL Edward Henderson, International Agreements Branch
 - Email: edward.henderson@hq.isaf.nato.int
- **Embassy BSA Support**
 - Ms. MaryEileen Earl, Pol/Mil Officer
 - Mr. Kit Redmer, Deputy Economic Counselor
 - Web Site: <http://kabul.usembassy.gov/pol-mil.html>
 - Inquiry Email: KabulBSAInquiries@state.gov
- **Armed Civilian Oversight**
 - CAPT Kevin Sheil, Armed Civilian/Contractor Oversight
 - LT Michael Grabowski, Operations Officer/COR
 - Email: usfora.acod.org@afghan.swa.army.mil
 - CAAMS Website: <https://www.jccs.gov>
- **CENTCOM-Joint Theater Support Contracting Command (C-JTSCC)**
 - Dennis M. McGowan, Senior Contracting Official-Afghanistan (SCO-A)
 - Email: C3_Ombudsman-SCO-A@afghan.swa.army.mil

Kabul Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)

To promote an open dialogue between the U.S. Government and the American private sector on security issues abroad.

KabulOSAC@state.gov



Sample Visa Certificate



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Resolute Support
Kabul, Afghanistan
APO AE 09356



U.S./NATO CONTRACTOR CERTIFICATE

Visa Certificates are ONLY valid until 1 June 2015

is the holder of **Passport #** .
This U.S./NATO certificate confirms that he/she is a contractor employee of
, a U.S./NATO Contractor, who is supplying goods or services in Afghanistan,
to or on behalf of U.S./NATO forces under contract or subcontract number , with or
in support of United States forces, NATO, NATO Member States, or Operational Partners.

Pursuant to Presidential Order (Farman) #38 issued 31 December 2014, U.S./NATO contractor employees are entitled to enter, exit, work, and be present in Afghanistan requiring only a valid passport and this U.S./NATO issued certificate, which verifies their identity and their relationship with U.S./NATO forces.

National authorities of all countries are requested to afford favorable consideration to the expeditious transit of all U.S./NATO contractor personnel through their respective territories and customs areas, in order to promote the development and security of Afghanistan.

ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES and THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

Patrick M. McCarthy
Captain, United States Navy
Senior Legal Advisor
Resolute Support/
United States Forces-Afghanistan





Civilian Arming Authorization Management System (CAAMS)



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Can more than one person be designated as a KO/COR for a particular contract?
 - **YES. While only one name will be listed as the primary KO or COR, anybody granted KO/COR access will have identical permissions in the system.** *Note: all KO/COR requests will be verified before being granted. Any employee of a particular contract company should request Vendor access, not KO/COR access.
- I get an error while trying to access the CAAMS application. Who should I notify?
 - **Please submit a trouble ticket using the Helpdesk link.** In the narrative of the trouble ticket please provide: contract number, the role you are requesting, and the e-mail address that you used to register with.
- I am able to access CAAMS but I cannot view my contract(s).
 - Please submit a trouble ticket using the Helpdesk link with the same information noted above. Additionally, send an e-mail to usfora.acod.org@afghan.swa.army.mil so that we can verify whether or not the contract is currently active in our status reports.