



## PRESS RELEASE

**409th Contracting Support Brigade**

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### **409<sup>th</sup> CONTRACTING SUPPORT BRIGADE TALKS MISSION SUPPORT AT AFRICOM CONFERENCE**

*Story by: Rachel Clark, 409<sup>th</sup> Contracting Support Brigade*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany. At the semi-annual AFRICOM contracting conference in Stuttgart, representatives from the 409<sup>th</sup> Contracting Support Brigade had the opportunity to discuss amongst interested parties and stakeholders the current events, initiatives, and issues relevant to contracting activities in support of AFRICOM.

“Our presence at this conference was integral because of the role the 409<sup>th</sup> plays in AFRICOM’s support”, said 409<sup>th</sup>CSB Director of Strategic Initiatives, Lt. Col. Roy Manauis.

As a stakeholder in AFRICOM’s concept of support, the 409th CSB is closely engaged with the AFRICOM Operations and

Logistics Directorate to influence the development and implementation of AFRICOM’s Service Component operational contract support (OCS) strategy.



At a recent AFRICOM contracting conference in Stuttgart, Germany, contracting officer representatives from different agencies pose for the camera after discussing the various needs need support in coordination to the AFRICOM mission. From left to right: Lt. Col. Patrick Badar, 409<sup>th</sup> CSB, Lt. Col. Roy Manauis, 409<sup>th</sup> CSB, Cmdr. Mark Runstrom, USN, from the J4 of the Joint Staff, Cmdr. James Thomas, USN, from the J4, of AFRICOM, Maj. Tom Kelley, USA, 409th CSB LNO to USARAF, Maj. Chris Foster, USA, 903rd CCBN representing CJTF-HOA Contracting Center, Col. Michael Scalise, USMC, J4 of SOCAF.

“Since we play a large part in AFRICOM’s contracting business, it was important for us to inform our audience as to whom the 409<sup>th</sup> CSB is, what we do, and how we do it.” Manauis went on to say.

Some of the more significant discussions included the Combatant Commander’s role in coordinating and synchronizing OCS and other contracting requirements on the continent. Mitigation of “collateral damage” was a common theme in the discussions.

Collateral damage was the term used when one contracting activity adversely impacts the local resources/infrastructure or another service/agency requirement. For example, a USN requirement for bulk fuel for helicopter operations in support of an exercise may tax local supplies thus driving up gasoline prices for local users/vendors.

AFRICOM will move forward and work towards developing and implementing policies and guidance to delineate contracting support and sources in order to mitigate the occurrence or impacts of this collateral damage.

“This was a great opportunity to meet with the AFRICOM staff and our service component and interagency counterparts .” Stated 409<sup>th</sup> Contracting Support Operations Officer, Lt. Col. Patrick Badar. “The outcome was a better understanding of how they operate and the means in which we can offer mutual support.”

One presenter, Contracting Officer Maj. Christopher Foster, 649<sup>th</sup> contingency contracting team, who is currently deployed in support of operations in AFRICOM, spoke to the audience about best business practices for Eastern Africa, where the 409<sup>th</sup> CSB is augmenting the U.S. Navy contingency contracting office.

“I addressed some of the challenges we have operating with the local vendor bases located throughout the continent.” Said Foster.

The 409th CSB plans and executes sustainment, operational, and expeditionary contracting in support of US Army Europe, and as directed to the US European and US Africa Commands. The 409th CSB executes command and control of subordinate Contingency Contracting Teams and other Army contracting assets deployed in support of USAREUR.