



**WELCOME!**

U. S. SENDING STATE OFFICE FOR ITALY  
(U.S.S.S.O)

# ORGANIZATION

- \* Officer-in-Charge
- \* Captain Frank J. Bustamante, JAGC,USN
  
- \* Attorney Advisor
- \* LTC James J. Gibson
  
- \* Italian Legal Advisor
- \* AVV. Emanuela Lori
  
- \* Law Officer Manager/Paralegal
- \* LN1 Shirra M. Edwards
  
- \* Senior Paralegal Translator
- \* Ms. Sabrina Valente
  
- \* Paralegal Translator
- \* Ms. Vanessa Varani

# MISSION STATEMENT

\*The United States Sending State Office (USSSO) for Italy is the US Department of Defense (DoD) diplomatic-legal office responsible for supervising the administration of the NATO Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) in Italy. While the USSSO performs as the legal advisor to the U.S. Defense Attaché, the Office of Defense Cooperation, and the US Embassy Country Team, the Office is primarily the legal representative in Italy for the U.S. European Command (EUCOM). The USSSO also coordinates and advocates U.S. Forces' positions on numerous SOFA and non-SOFA issues to the Italian Government and its military, the U.S. Ambassador to Italy, and the Ambassador's Country Team.

# HISTORY

\* The USSSO was originally established by the Secretary of the Navy on 8 May 1956, and placed under the authority of a U.S. Navy command in Naples, Italy. The principal mission then was to provide facilities and services for the execution in Italy of Articles VII and VIII under the NATO SOFA relating to the exercise of criminal jurisdiction and processing claims for damage or injury, and to perform such other legal and liaison duties at the seat of the Italian Government, as assigned by competent authority. Since its inception, the USSSO has shifted its reporting responsibilities and, as of 1 October 1990, now reports directly to the J5, EUCOM.

# DIPLMATIC MISSION

\*USSSO is diplomatically-credentialed to represent U.S. interests for all matters involving the U.S. military Forces in Italy before: Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Defense; Ministry of Labor; and Ministry of Transportation.

# FUNCTIONS

- \* Foreign Criminal Jurisdiction - Ministry of Justice
- \* Oversight of NATO SOFA Claims - Ministry of Defense
- \* NATO SOFA Art. III Visas/Resident Permits - Ministries of Interior/Foreign Affairs
- \* 1995 Shell Agreement - Technical Arrangement Negotiations
- \* EUCOM Legal Representative in Italy
- \* Litigation Liaison to Department of Justice
- \* Civil Law Advisor to Ambassador and Diplomatic Missions

# REFERENCES

- \* NATO SOFA
- \* 1954 Bilateral Infrastructure Agreement (BIA)
- \* 1995 MOD - DoD MOU (“Shell Agreement”)
- \* Base-Level Technical Arrangements
- \* UR 550-32 (2004 Tri-Component Directive for Italy)

# PASSPORTS

- \* Bearers of no fee passports must use their passports for authorized travel to their country of assignment and for final return to the United States.
- \* They may use such passports for incidental personal travel while en route when this can be accomplished without any questioning of the bearer's status by other governments and without invalidating the passport for official travel.
- \* Diplomatic and official passport holders must use a regular tourist passport for all other personal travel except when entering or exiting their country of assignment

- \* NATO SOFA Art. III
- \* Civilian Personnel fall into three categories:  
U.S. Government, Essential Personnel and  
Technical Representatives
- \* Civilian Component/Civilian Personnel and all  
Dependents(to include military) receive Mission  
Visa (Visto per Missione)

## Civilian Component

- \* NATO SOFA Art. I, para. 1(b)
- \* Civilians who are accompanying the force... in the employ of armed service...not stateless...nor nationals of [any non-NATO] State...nor nationals of, nor ordinarily resident in [Italy].

## Civilian Personnel

- \* 1995 Shell Agreement
- \* Personnel who are closely affiliated with the United States Armed Forces and under their authority, but not employed directly by them, on the condition that the presence of such persons in Italy is recognized by both governments as necessary in connection with the functioning of the installations.

# SOJOURN PERMITS

- \* “Permission to stay” permits U.S. family members and civilian component/civilian personnel member who stay in Italy for a period that exceeds the period of 90 days.
- \* Non-EU citizens in possession of a National Visa (NV) for sojourns longer than 90 days are required.
- \* Must apply within eight (8) days from entry into Italy to request a residence permit (permesso di soggiorno) which requires possession of a mission visa.



# Questions?

<http://italy.usembassy.gov/ussso.html>