

USAF has a major role as NATO's implementation force attempts to sustain a fragile peace.

The Air Force in the Balkans

Since 1991, when Yugoslavia began to tear itself apart, international organizations have struggled to halt the violence. The UN and NATO have mounted various operations, both diplomatic and military, aiming to bring peace in Europe's deadliest conflict since 1945. The latest of these—Operation Joint Endeavor—began after Serbs, Croats, and Muslims signed a peace accord in Dayton, Ohio, on November 21, 1995. IFOR's 60,000 troops (20,000 Americans) have been put in place to ensure the fighting does not flare up again.

The Air Force delivers NATO's forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina and protects them once they are in place. This F-16C from the 555th Fighter Squadron, Aviano AB, Italy, is loaded with AIM-9 and AIM-120 missiles and has been fitted with an electronic countermeasures pod to help outwit the SAM threat. Such aircraft on patrol have kept the skies clear of hostile aircraft.



The First Wave of the Balkan Airlift

(December 4, 1995–January 18, 1996)

Aircraft Type	Missions Flown	Passengers Carried	Cargo Hauled (tons)	Fuel Off-Loaded (tons)
C-5	132	2,351	4,795	—
C-17	367	3,166	9,250	—
C-130	490	445	1,542	—
C-141	348	2,392	4,085	—
KC-10	11	114	67	—
KC-135	159	25	41	4,769 (combined)
CRAF	28	2,440	1,011	—
Totals	1,535	10,933	20,791	4,769

In the early going, Air Mobility Command's lifters and tankers (as well as some C-130s from Air Combat Command and US Air Forces in Europe) provided significant transportation support for Operation Joint Endeavor. "CRAF" means Civil Reserve Air Fleet, a pool of civilian aircraft from which AMC selected 747, 757, L-1011, and DC-8 aircraft for Balkan missions.



The typically foul Balkan winter hampered airlift at the start of the operation, and some of the first troops had to arrive by truck or bus. The weather cleared, and airlift operations started with a rush. Air Mobility Command C-17s (above right) and C-141s (above left) brought in the thousands of tons of equipment necessary for the operation.



Joint Endeavor also employed C-130s (and KC-10s, KC-135s, and Civil Reserve Air Fleet aircraft) to bring in troops and cargo. This C-130 has just landed at Tuzla, Bosnia.



Among the first USAF personnel to deploy were aerial port squadron personnel, like Sgt. John Allen (left) of the 615th APS, Travis AFB, Calif.



Though it is not scheduled to achieve initial operational capability until next year, the E-8 Joint Surveillance and Target Attack Radar System aircraft is already a star performer. Its effectiveness at spotting vehicles and troops on the ground prompted Col. Robert Debusek, 4500th Joint STARS Squadron commander, to assert that if any of the factions break the peace accord, "they can't hide."

Deployed Forces (as of February 1, 1996)

Elements of these active-duty, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard units *deployed* in support of Operation Joint Endeavor.

Unit and home station	Deployed location
1st Special Operations Support Squadron, <i>Hurlburt Field, Fla.</i>	Brindisi, Italy
9th Reconnaissance Wing units and assets, <i>Beale AFB, Calif.</i>	Istres, France
16th Special Operations Squadron, <i>Hurlburt Field, Fla.</i>	Brindisi, Italy
20th Special Operations Squadron, <i>Hurlburt Field, Fla.</i>	Brindisi, Italy
22d Services Squadron, <i>McConnell AFB, Kan.</i>	Rhein-Main AB, Germany
23d Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, <i>Pope AFB, N. C.</i>	Aviano AB, Italy; Tuzla, Bosnia
37th Airlift Squadron, <i>Ramstein AB, Germany</i>	Ramstein AB, Germany
42d Airborne Command and Control Squadron, <i>Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.</i>	Aviano AB, Italy
43d Electronic Combat Squadron, <i>Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.</i>	Aviano AB, Italy
47th Fighter Squadron (AFRES), <i>Barksdale AFB, La.</i>	Aviano AB, Italy
48th Security Police Squadron, <i>RAF Lakenheath, UK</i>	Tuzla, Bosnia
50th Airlift Squadron, <i>Little Rock AFB, Ark.</i>	Ramstein AB, Germany
52d Civil Engineering Squadron, <i>Spangdahlem AB, Germany</i>	Tuzla, Bosnia
55th Wing units and assets, <i>Offutt AFB, Neb.</i>	RAF Mildenhall, UK
56th Services Squadron, <i>Luke AFB, Ariz.</i>	San Vito dei Normanni AB, Italy
60th Civil Engineering Squadron, <i>Travis AFB, Calif.</i>	Taszar, Hungary
62d Aerial Port Squadron, <i>McChord AFB, Wash.</i>	Sarajevo, Bosnia
76th Space Operations Squadron, <i>Falcon AFB, Colo.</i>	Vicenza, Italy
81st Fighter Squadron, <i>Spangdahlem AB, Germany</i>	Aviano AB, Italy
86th Security Police Squadron, <i>Ramstein AB, Germany</i>	Tuzla, Bosnia
90th Fighter Squadron, <i>Elmendorf AFB, Alaska</i>	Aviano AB, Italy
91st Air Refueling Squadron, <i>Malmstrom AFB, Mont.</i>	Istres, France
100th Civil Engineering Squadron, <i>RAF Mildenhall, UK</i>	Tuzla, Bosnia
175th Fighter Wing (ANG), <i>Baltimore, Md.</i>	Aviano AB, Italy
235th Air Traffic Control Flight (ANG), <i>Fort Wayne IAP, Ind.</i>	Taszar, Hungary
302d Fighter Squadron (AFRES), <i>Luke AFB, Ariz.</i>	Aviano AB, Italy
303d Fighter Squadron (AFRES), <i>Whiteman AFB, Mo.</i>	Aviano AB, Italy
344th Air Refueling Squadron, <i>McConnell AFB, Kan.</i>	Istres, France
436th Aerial Port Squadron, <i>Dover AFB, Del.</i>	Zagreb, Croatia
457th Fighter Squadron (AFRES), <i>Carswell ARS, Tex.</i>	Aviano AB, Italy
469th Air Base Squadron, <i>Rhein-Main AB, Germany</i>	Rhein-Main AB, Germany
510th Fighter Squadron, <i>Aviano AB, Italy</i>	Aviano AB, Italy
555th Fighter Squadron, <i>Aviano AB, Italy</i>	Aviano AB, Italy
615th Aerial Port Squadron, <i>Travis AFB, Calif.</i>	Rhein-Main AB, Germany
615th Air Mobility Communications Squadron, <i>Travis AFB, Calif.</i>	Taszar, Hungary
621st Aerial Port Squadron, <i>McGuire AFB, N. J.</i>	Tuzla, Bosnia
823d Civil Engineering Squadron, <i>Hurlburt Field, Fla.</i>	Tuzla, Bosnia
4500th Joint STARS Squadron, <i>Melbourne, Fla.</i>	Rhein-Main AB, Germany

According to the Air Force, a unit is considered "deployed" if it has been placed under the operational control of the commander in the area of responsibility.

Supporting Forces (as of February 1, 1996)

Elements of these units support Operation Joint Endeavor on a *mission-by-mission* basis.

Active-Duty

Headquarters, Air Mobility Command	Scott AFB, Ill.
Tanker Airlift Control Center	Scott AFB, Ill.
22d Air Refueling Wing	McConnell AFB, Kan.
60th Air Mobility Wing	Travis AFB, Calif.
62d Airlift Wing	McChord AFB, Wash.
86th Airlift Wing	Ramstein AB, Germany
89th Airlift Wing	Andrews AFB, Md.
92d Air Refueling Wing	Fairchild AFB, Wash.
305th Air Mobility Wing	McGuire AFB, N. J.
319th Air Refueling Wing	Grand Forks AFB, N. D.
375th Airlift Wing	Scott AFB, Ill.
436th Airlift Wing	Dover AFB, Del.
437th Airlift Wing	Charleston AFB, S. C.
615th Air Mobility Operations Group	Travis AFB, Calif.
621st Air Mobility Operations Group	McGuire AFB, N. J.
621st Air Mobility Support Group	Ramstein AB, Germany
624th Air Mobility Support Group	Pope AFB, N. C.

Air Force Reserve

315th Airlift Wing	Charleston AFB, S. C.
349th Air Mobility Wing	Travis AFB, Calif.
433d Airlift Wing	Kelly AFB, Tex.
434th Air Refueling Wing	Grissom ARB, Ind.
439th Airlift Wing	Westover ARB, Mass.
445th Airlift Wing	Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
446th Airlift Wing	McChord AFB, Wash.
452d Air Mobility Wing	March AFB, Calif.
459th Airlift Wing	Andrews AFB, Md.
507th Air Refueling Wing	Tinker AFB, Okla.
512th Airlift Wing	Dover AFB, Del.
514th Air Mobility Wing	McGuire AFB, N. J.
916th Air Refueling Wing	Seymour Johnson AFB, N. C.
927th Air Refueling Wing	Selfridge ANGB, Mich.
931st Air Refueling Group	McConnell AFB, Kan.
940th Air Refueling Wing	McClellan AFB, Calif.

Air National Guard

101st Air Refueling Wing	Bangor IAP, Me.
105th Airlift Wing	Stewart IAP, N. Y.
107th Air Refueling Wing	Niagara Falls IAP/ARS, N. Y.
108th Air Refueling Wing	McGuire AFB, N. J.
126th Air Refueling Wing	O'Hare IAP/ARS, Ill.
128th Air Refueling Wing	General Mitchell IAP/ARS, Wis.
134th Air Refueling Wing	McGhee Tyson Airport, Tenn.
141st Air Refueling Wing	Fairchild AFB, Wash.
151st Air Refueling Wing	Salt Lake City IAP, Utah
155th Air Refueling Wing	Lincoln MAP, Neb.
157th Air Refueling Wing	Pease ANGB, N. H.
161st Air Refueling Wing	Sky Harbor IAP, Ariz.
163d Air Refueling Wing	March AFB, Calif.
164th Airlift Wing	Memphis IAP, Tenn.
171st Air Refueling Wing	Pittsburgh IAP/ARS, Pa.
172d Airlift Wing	Allen C. Thompson Field, Miss.
186th Air Refueling Wing	Key Field, Miss.
190th Air Refueling Wing	Forbes Field, Kan.

This list contains only Air Force units. Many Air Force individuals have taken part in the operation as augmentees. Moreover, the list contains only the initial or primary deployed locations. Many units have operated from multiple sites.

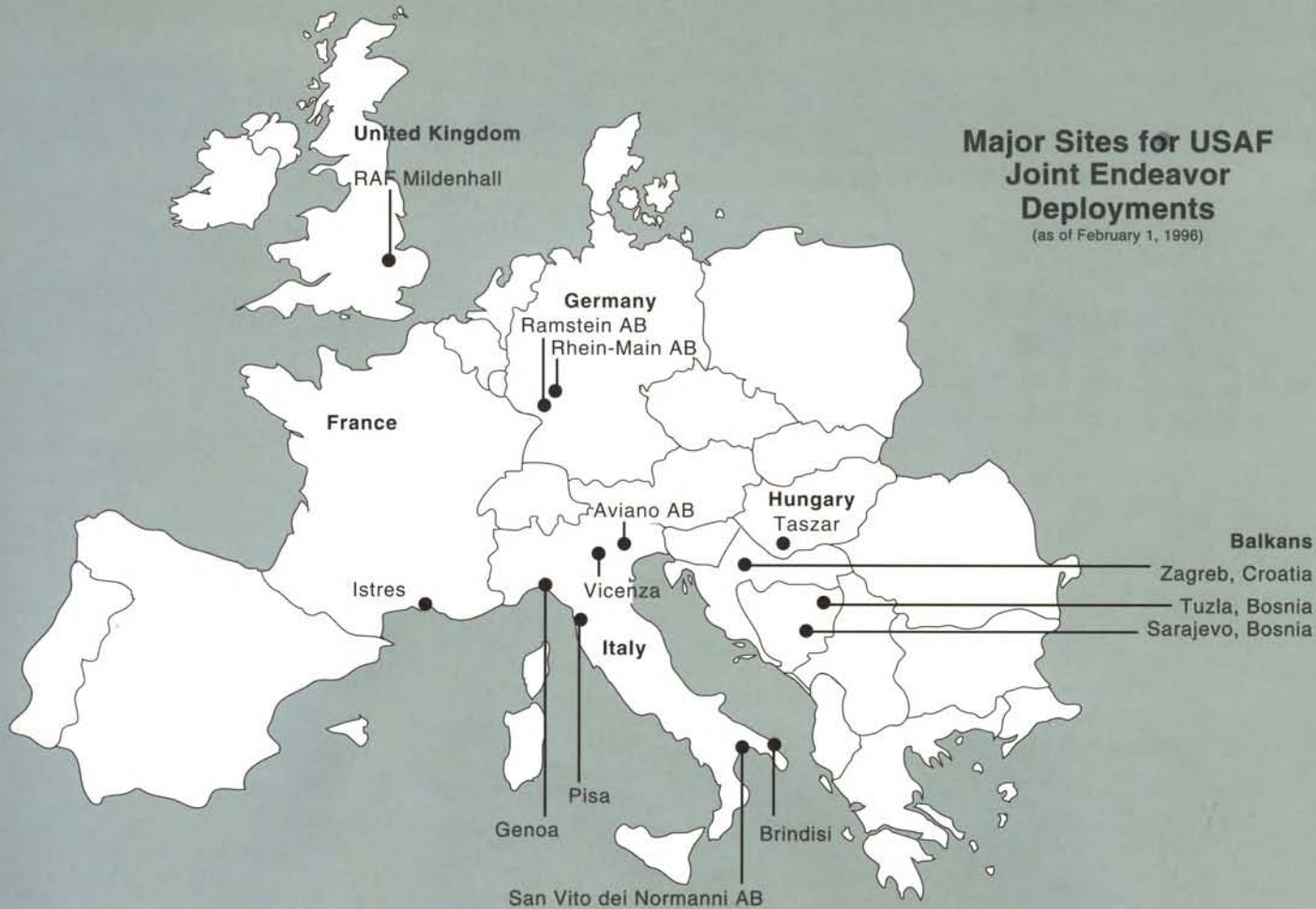


USAF photo by Ann. Sonny Collins

Landmines and snipers are major concerns for the deployed troops. Above, A1C Timothy Bulger of the 48th Security Police Squadron, RAF Lakenheath, UK, patrols the air base perimeter at Tuzla. Below, SSgt. Christopher Dockery, a C-17 crew chief from Charleston AFB, S. C., dons his flak vest just prior to touchdown in the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo.



USAF photo by SrA. Karl Olson



**Major Sites for USAF
Joint Endeavor
Deployments**
(as of February 1, 1996)

**Major USAF Systems
Deployed**

(as of February 1, 1996)

- Fighter/Attack**
- A/OA-10
- F-15E
- F-16
- Electronic Warfare**
- EC-130H Compass Call
- Reconnaissance/Surveillance**
- U-2
- RC-135
- C³/Battle Management**
- EC-130E ABCCC
- E-8 Joint STARS
- Aerial Refueling**
- KC-10
- KC-135
- Medical Lift**
- C-9
- Tactical Airlift**
- C-130
- Strategic Airlift**
- C-5
- C-17
- C-141
- Special Operations**
- AC-130H
- MH-53J
- HC-130P/N
- Spacecraft**
- GPS
- DMSP
- Milstar
- DSCS
- Others



USAF photo by MSgt. Rose S. Reynolds

It would be charitable to call Tuzla and some of the other Balkan bases "austere." Such units as the 823d Civil Engineering Squadron RED HORSE of Hurlburt Field, Fla., had to work furiously to achieve some semblance of comfort for the arriving troops—a far cry from recent major deployments to Haiti and Kuwait, where subzero temperatures were the least of their worries.



USAF photo by TSgt. James Bowman

Some ANG and AFRES units deployed to Europe with their A-10s and OA-10s to be ready to provide close air support to the troops on the ground. ANG's 175th Fighter Wing, and the Reserve's 47th and 303d Fighter Squadrons brought their aircraft to Aviano AB, Italy (above), less than an hour away from Bosnia as the "Warhog" flies.



AP photo by Robert King

USAF's special operations assets have turned out in force for the peacekeeping mission. Above, a MH-53 Pave Low gets a jolt of fuel from an HC-130 tanker over the Adriatic.

C-130 Hercules loadmaster TSgt. Douglas Sanders of the 37th Airlift Squadron accompanies another load of supplies to Tuzla from Ramstein AB, Germany. ■

USAF photos by MSgt. Rose S. Reynolds

