



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALPHA COMPANY, ALLIED FORCES SOUTH BATTALION
UNITED STATES ARMY NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION BRIGADE,
UNIT 6871
APO AE 09821-6871

NAAS-A
3 March 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR INCOMING PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: Alpha Company Welcome Letter

1. Greetings! You have been identified for assignment to Alpha Company, Allied Forces South (AFSOUTH) Battalion. I am your Company Commander, MAJ Jose CruzDiaz, the Company First Sergeant is 1SG Chantel De La Cruz. On behalf of LTC Natalie L. Meng AFSOUTH Battalion Commander, COL Jeremiah D. Pope, United States Army NATO Brigade Commander and General Christopher T. Donahue, the NATO Allied Land Command Commander, we welcome you.

3. Türkiye is a diverse country and Izmir boasts a wide variety of food, people, and entertainment. Izmir has a vibrant culture, relaxing beaches, museums, historic sites, and great restaurants. You may bring a vehicle to participate in these experiences. Use your time to travel and experience this country.

4. Ensure that you book a direct flight to Izmir, Adnan Menderes Airport (ADB). Upon receipt of this message and send a scan of your orders and passport to your sponsor. Ensure you have your blue passport and your NATO orders (blue ink). Bring anything that you might need from Clothing and Sales because our nearest C&S is over 500 miles away. Ensure your government travel card is in mission critical status. Due to an absence of government lodging, you will initially reside in commercial lodging and receive TLA up to 30 days. Update your medical records (PHA, HIV, vision, hearing, shots, etc.) and dental records within 90 days prior to departing your losing installation.

5. Special Instructions: Primary and alternate UDLs will be certified on an annual basis through the Army Center for Substance Abuse Programs approved Unit Prevention Leader Certification Training Program or through the Garrison ASAP office.

6. For any further inquiries please contact your sponsor. If that person is not available or is unresponsive the company Sponsorship Coordinator is SSG Bryce Baraby, who can be contacted at 314-675-6636 or SSG Lewis, Sean at 314-675-6637.

JOSE CRUZ DIAZ
MAJ, AG
Commanding

Izmir Welcome Guide Army

Updated: March 2025

Newcomer's Information



This guide is a compilation of information that individuals found valuable in during their time in Izmir. Our goal is to provide you with the most up-to-date information and answers questions you may have about living here to ensure you have a successful transition into the community.

*Sponsored by 425th ABS
Military & Family readiness
center*

DSN: 314-675-6372

EMAIL:

425ABS.AFRC.1@us.af.mil

Welcome

Congratulations on your new assignment! You are now part of an exciting community that performs a vital mission for NATO Land Command.

We hope you will find your assignment to Izmir, Turkey, both professionally and personally rewarding. This document is intended to help facilitate the integration of inbound US personnel into the community and assist you with decisions related to your upcoming move. Please do not hesitate to contact your sponsor or the Military & Family Readiness Center for any additional questions. Welcome to the team!

Important Numbers

Dialing Instructions

Dialing Izmir from the U.S.:

- From a **U.S. Commercial** phone:
011+90+232+455+four digital extension
- From a **DSN within Europe**:
675+Four extension
- From a **DSN outside Europe**:
314+675+four digital Extension
- Or call the Incirlik AB Operator at
DSN: 314-676-1110 to connect you to any 425th ABS office extension.

While in Izmir:

- From **DSN to a 1-800 number**:
94+800+XXX+XXXX
- Izmir DSN to U.S.:
94-312-XXX-XXXX

Contact Information

**24/7 Base Defense Operations Center
(Security Forces)**

DSN: 314-675-6771
Comm: +90-232-455-6773

Air Force 425th ABS:

- **AF1st Sgt.**
DSN: 314-675-6638
Comm: +90-232-455-6703
- **Commander's Support Staff**
DSN: 314-675-6694
Comm: +90-232-455-6704

Army

- **Army 1SG**
DSN: 314-675-6500
Comm: +90-232-455-6500
- **Army Commander**
DSN: 314-675-4455
Comm: +90-232-455-9547
- **Army Personnel Section**
DSN: 314-675-6634
Comm: +90-232-455-6634

Things to Know Prior to Arrival

Tips, Warnings, Advice:

- If you fly through Istanbul on your way into Türkiye, it can be a little challenging. The final leg of your journey from London, Munich, Frankfurt, etc. will be directly to Adnan Menderes Airport (ADB), Izmir Türkiye.
- **Ensure the TMO/SATO at your losing unit does not book you on a rotator to Incirlik, ABS**
- Know how to call or email your sponsor while you are traveling.
- Turkish Customs: Present an original, **blue-ink signed** copy of your NATO orders and your passport. NATO orders are **mandatory** to get stamped because you will need to show your stamped NATO orders every time you enter or leave Türkiye (TDY, mid-tour, leave, travel etc.).
- Bring all your uniforms: battle dress/OCP, service dress/ASU, mess dress, and don't forget PT gear. The closest Clothing and Sales is in Italy. Be sure to bring all the extras (rank, Cover Wheel Cap/ABU Cap, etc.), name tapes, ribbons for service dress/mess dress, etc.). **PACK AT LEAST ONE FULL UNIFORM ON PLANE AND OTHERS WITH UNACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE HHG TAKES MONTHS!**
- Carry CAC (military ID), U.S. orders with amendments; U.S. Driver's License/ID
- Ensure your Government Travel Card (GTC) is activated and placed in a Mission Critical Status
- Submit requested paperwork to your sponsor at least two weeks prior to your arrival
- Be sure to address your concerns and questions before your arrival, so that your sponsor and gaining unit can assist you properly. Prior to your arrival, your sponsor should have made billeting reservations and in-processing appointments for you at a minimum. Make sure to inform your sponsor of any last-minute flight changes or reporting delays.

US ARMY & NATO LANDCOM UNIFORM POLICY:

Civilian “work attire” and on-duty travel between work location: Attire will be conservative, professional in appearance, and should avoid attracting attention. Men's professional attire is defined as dress slacks or khaki pants with collared shirts. Are allowed to be un-tucked but must look professional. Shorts are allowed for transit to and from NATO during some portions of the year (summer). Female professional attire is defined as dresses with sleeves (no sun dresses with thin straps or spandex), skirt or pants, with a collared or non-collared blouse that's either tucked in or left out. Tank-tops are not authorized. Shorts are allowed for transit to/from NATO during some portions of the year (summer). All clothing should not be translucent and professional coverage always. Do not wear PT gear or any other US or military associated clothing while using mass transit or on the “economy.” Off-Duty Civilian Clothes: Be mindful and respectful. We are professionals and ambassadors, dress appropriate.

PASSPORTS

Active-Duty U.S. military members are mandated to obtain a tourist passport for travel to Turkey. It is highly encouraged to start this process ASAP as it can take 4 to 6 weeks to receive your passport. **Active-Duty U.S. military members** need to enter/exit Turkey using their military ID cards, tourist passport and NATO travel orders. **Military members MUST have NATO travel orders stamped with BLUE ink and a BLUE ink signature.** The customs control at the Turkish airport will “red stamp” your NATO orders.

Dependents per DOD regulations, require an official/no-fee passport. The application process could take between 4 to 6 weeks. To ensure your dependents receive their official/no-fee passport in a timely manner submit the application as soon as you receive your PCS orders and have approved Command Sponsorship.

DoD Civilian employees will need to have an official no-fee (burgundy color) passport before coming to Izmir because they do not get NATO orders. Upon arrival you will also have to request a “Turkish Residential Permit” (the Incirlik CPO has the details on that or ask the 425th ABS Legal Office for guidance).

There is also a U.S. Izmir Consulate if you need to apply for or renew your U.S. Tourist passport. The email is Izmir@state.gov.

VISA

Dependents: See local MPD/CPF/Soldier Support Center for assistance.

Passports must be signed before requesting visa. Min Passport Validity for Visa Issuance: Six (6) Months. Apply prior to departure: At least Thirty (30) Days. Visa Type / Validity: Multiple entry / One (1) Year.

DD Form 1056: For Civilian, Civilian Family, and Non-US Citizen Family Members (Military / Civilian) requiring a visa:

- Submit one (1) original and one (1) copy.
- Provide exact job title in Block 19.
- Provide exact duty location in Block 19.
- Provide Port of Entry in Block 19.
- Provide exact purpose in Block 19.

Instructions for properly completing this form can be found in the Training Handout, [Chapter 5](#).

Visa Application Requirements:

- Visa applications for Turkey must be completed online at www.visa.gov.tr
- When filling the application online, the applicant must choose ***Turkish Embassy in Washington*** as the Consular Mission when filling out the application online
- Applicants will be required to upload one (1) passport photo and all supporting documents listed under "Other Special Requirement". Once completed online, print and sign the application, and submit to the DoD Passport and Visa Office at Ft Belvoir, VA

- Official orders required for travel for 15 days or less from date of departure based off the DD1056
- Flight itinerary if feasible.

Photo:

- One (1) photos
- Photo can be affixed to visa application

Other Special Requirements:

Dependents:

- Copy of marriage certificate
- Copy of official orders
- Blue no-fee passports require a \$60 money order, payable to the Turkish Embassy

Requirements for minors:

- A power of attorney signed by any parent not traveling with the minor.
- Copy of birth certificate
- Flight itinerary to confirm that children are traveling with parents

Non-US Citizens:

- Passport Agents MUST provide assistance for all Non-US Citizens by contacting the nearest [Turkish Consulate](#) to see what their requirements are.
- One (1) signed visa application form
- Visa application can be photo copies
- Three (3) photos

Unofficial (i.e. leave, unaccompanied family, etc): Visitors must obtain a visa in advance from with a Turkish Embassy or Consulate or from the E-Visa online application system at <http://www.evisa.gov.tr/EN>. This includes active duty military members not assigned but on leave to Turkey. Failure to obtain the visa before arrival may result in denied entry into Turkey.

FREQUENT PROBLEMS

Izmir is a unique assignment, and as such the Personnel Processing Codes (PPCs) are frequently overlooked when PCS Orders are being prepared. Vitally notes for your NATO Orders are:

1. NATO Orders Must be stamped/signed in blue ink. The rule requiring blue ink goes back and forth, but most Turkish Customs Agents enforce the blue ink regardless (No blue ink No Entry to Türkiye). *Military members, will use your blue passport and NATO ORDERS to enter and exit the country*

2. Must have a valid time period covering your entire assignment. To leave Türkiye, your orders must not be expired (Expired by 1 day = No Exit from Türkiye). PCS orders must state the following authorizations:
3. Weight Allowance (Accompanied: Full JFTR allowance; Unaccompanied: 2500 pounds or 25% of JFTR, whichever is greater). Plan accordingly when deciding what will be packed and what will be stored or left home.
4. HAAP Verbiage: 101 - Soldier participating in HAAP is authorized to leave Family member at current location or send Family members to advanced assignment location or to home of record city and state or to a place no farther distant than home of record while serving in a dependent-restricted area. Family members will leave to (:1) (:2) (:3)
5. Deferred COT Entitlement: IAW AR 600-8-10, Deferred COT is voided if any chargeable leave is used between the two tours of duty. If COT leave travel is deferred, the Soldier must travel directly from the old PDS to the new PDS. No leave or other absence may be authorized enroute except for 4 days to drop off and/or pick up dependents if they are residing at an approved designated location.
6. Accompanied Tour: Ensure all dependents traveling with you to Türkiye are on your orders to Travel to Türkiye and you have **APPROVED** Command Sponsorship and EFMP if applicable.

Vehicles

Shipping

Members are only allowed one vehicle in the country, either a motor vehicle or a motorcycle. Shipping is at the government's expense, which means they will not pay for your vehicle to be put in storage. You also have the option to purchase a vehicle in-country from another NATO or U.S. military member.

While public transportation is cheap in comparison to the U.S., having a vehicle has some advantages. You will be able to choose more housing options away from the center of the city in areas like Urla, Guzelhace, or Narlidere while traveling outside the city becomes convenient.

If you are considering shipping a vehicle, here are a few things you need to know:

- The registration/deregistration process of a vehicle is time-intensive and bureaucratic. You will need to hire a broker to handle the registration/deregistration process on your behalf. You will need to have your Foreign Identification Number (FIN) prior to registering your vehicle.
- The average cost of registering your vehicle with insurance and if applicable full coverage insurance will range anywhere between \$1,000 USD to 3,000 USD. Insurance is paid upfront for the whole year and prices range based on the type of vehicle you have.

- Traffic is aggressive and most traffic signs are just a suggestion. Stay vigilant and take your time getting to your destination.
- Large vehicles are not recommended. Parking is limited and roads can be very narrow.
- Most housing options in the area do not have parking. You may be able to purchase parking spaces through your lease or park your vehicle in the parking garage at the ICC.

Motorcycles

All USA personnel assigned to Alpha Company/LANDCOM wishing to operate a motorcycle for use in Izmir must have the proper motorcycle operators' endorsement and/or certification reflecting the successful completion of an approved Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) rider's course. A motorcycle is defined as "any two or three-wheeled motor vehicle with a 50 CC or higher engine." These courses are currently not available in Turkey, so you should complete the course prior to PCS. MSF certification needs to be updated every five years. There are no exceptions to this requirement. MSF certification must cover the entire duration of your assignment.

Due to Turkish customs law, every motorcycle must be registered at your expense, regardless of whether you have the training or not. Those who do not meet the MSF requirement will register their motorcycles and store them for the duration of the assignment, at their expense if incurred. Again, there are no exceptions to this requirement.

This requirement does not apply to 425th GS employees unless they operate a motorcycle for official government business. MSF courses are usually available free of charge at your present base; contact your local safety office for details. Contact your post safety office for guidance.

Lodging

When you have your travel dates to arrive in Izmir your sponsor will assist you with obtaining a hotel room. There are three available hotel options with military rates all within walking distance of the ICC. There is no Temporary Lodging Facilities in Izmir. Pets are limited to the Swiss Grand Efes Otel and Izmir Marriot Hotel. In order for your sponsor to assist you with a reservation, you will need to provide required information for the room reservation request memorandum and an official duty hotel travel memorandum.

Hotel Options

1. **Swiss Grand Efes Otel:** A ten-minute walk to/from the ICC. Near the waterfront. High-quality rooms. Five-star hotel.
 - a. Email or Call for reservations:
 - b. Email: reservations.izmir@swissotel.com
 - c. Commercial: +90 232-414-0000
 - d. Website: <http://www.swissotel.com/hotels/izmir/>

2. **Renaissance Izmir Hotel:** A five-minute walk to/from the ICC. Between Swiss and Hilton. High-quality rooms. Five-star hotel.
 - a. Email or call for reservations:
 - b. Email: reservation.izmir@renaissancehotels.com
 - c. Commercial: +90 232-497-7777
 - d. Website: <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/adbbr-renaissance-izmir-hotel/overview/>
3. **Izmir Marriott Hotel:** A ten-minute walk to/from the ICC. Sea views in some suites. High-quality rooms. Pet friendly. Five-star hotel.
 - a. Email or call for reservations:
 - b. Email: reservations@izmirmarriott.com reservation.agent@izmirmarriot.com
 - c. Commercial: +90 232-497-0000
 - d. <https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/adbbr-renaissance-izmir-hotel/overview/>

Cell Phone Services/Internet Services

You are allowed to bring a cell phone purchased in another country into Turkey. However, after approximately 120 days the cell phone may be blocked if it's not registered with the Turkish government. Your phone registration is matched to your sim card which is also matched with your FIN.

Another alternative for a cell phone is to purchase one on the local economy but you will still need a U.S. Passport and your FIN. The cost of purchasing a Turkish cell phone starts at \$250 USD to \$1400 USD depending on the brand. The three cell services available are Türk Telekom, Vodafone, or Turkcell.

Lastly, you can buy a Google phone or Google SIM Card (make sure it works in your current cell phone model). Or explore T-Mobile plans for competitive prices for international calls. If you go with either of these options, ensure you have activated your phones and plans prior to coming to Turkey.

Internet: & AFN:

Türk Telekom is the primary internet provider for the Izmir area. The cost for internet is approximately 135 to 200 TL a month. Your modem must be purchased in Turkey. In order to set up internet service you must have a FIN. It is also recommended you establish a Turkish bank account in order to pay your bill.

AFN (Armed Forces Network) (www.myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil) is available. It is the individual's responsibility to coordinate satellite installation.

Suggested Packing/Ship List Prior To Arrival

- 220 Volt or Dual Voltage Vacuum, appliances or any other electronics (or can easily be purchased locally) and plug adaptors.
- Clothing items like favorite jean brand, winter clothes, and work-out clothes.
- Sports equipment like a bike, golf clubs, scuba equipment, snowboards/skis.
- Bedroom furniture and mattress (make sure you stay within your weight allowances; FMO also can provide if needed) (**California King may be too big**).
- Things to remind you of home like an easy chair, blankets, sleeping pillow, and pictures of your family.
- Smart TV, Firestick, Apple TV, etc. with pre-established accounts and a VPN.
- Small, new, and clean portable charcoal BBQ grill (you can also buy on the local economy).
- Tools (your favorite go-to tools for home use for odds and ends) if they are electric, they must be 220 Volts, not 110 Volts.
- Camping chairs and portable insulated coolers.
- Special beauty, hygiene, make-up, vitamins, workout products. The local economy has most of these items but a little more expensive.

Arrival to Izmir

You will arrive at Adnan Menderes Airport (ADB), Izmir Türkiye. Your sponsor will coordinate with you on transportation and meeting you upon your arrival. The airport is located approximately 17 miles from the ICC-Hilton. Your sponsor will assist with the appropriate in-processing documents and base access. All US military personnel will not wear uniforms on the streets of Türkiye or while traveling.

Soldiers should arrive with the following up to date documents:

PCS Orders	Proof of Child Support	ACFT within 6 Months
Leave Forms	Wills & Power of Attorney's	Weapons within 6 Months
Flight Itinerary's	HHG & Vehicle documents	Proof of Citizenship
Passport and Visas	Receipts over \$75	Education Records
Social Security Cards	CIF Printout	350-1 Trainings
Driver's License	Pet Records and ID Tags	
Birth Certs	Copy of Last Evaluation	
Marriage Cert or Divorce Decree	Insurance Documents	

Medical Services

Location	ICC, 6 th Floor, Medical Aid Station
Hours of Operation	0730 – 1630 Monday - Friday
Contact Information	DSN: 314-675-6792 COMM: +90-232-455-6792

While stationed in Izmir, Active-Duty personnel fall under the TRICARE Overseas Prime Remote insurance agency. Izmir has a long history of international relations and is the home of many foreign nations and expatriates. Turkey's main partners in international trade are Western European nations, primarily Germany and Great Britain. As a consequence of its economic ties with Europe, Izmir is a very "Westernized" city with modern medical facilities and state-of-the-art equipment. **Download "MyCare Overseas" app. This will be your lifeline for medical appointments.**

425th Air Base Squadron Medical Aid Station (MAS)

The Medical Aid Station is available for Active-Duty service members only and provides sick call, public health, and bioenvironmental services. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT** that individuals on maintenance medication for chronic issues such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, pain medications, mental health medications, and/or birth control, should obtain a minimum six-month supply of medications from their losing hospital/clinic before reporting to Izmir. Personnel arriving in Izmir without their maintenance medication may have to wait up to thirty days for delivery of those medications. Please start an Escript account for recurring medications as stock is limited.

The MAS is equipped to handle acute illnesses and some routine appointments. All other care would be managed by the local economy. It is not recommended that active-duty personnel with chronic issues who need regular follow-up appointments PCS to Izmir. Active-duty personnel reporting to Izmir should meet deployment medical requirements as this is a remote tour. Please get your HIV lab and Immunizations done before arrival, as stock and laboratory functions are limited, especially if you are coming due within your tour.

Active-duty personnel are highly encouraged to hand-carry their medical records. TRICARE Network Providers

Izmir TRICARE/ISOS Preferred Provider Network (PPN) consists of three individual and three institutional providers. The three institutional providers; Kent Hospital, Tinaztepe Hospital, and Medical Park, with a total medical staff of more than 15 physicians that are capable of providing services including, but not limited to Orthopedics, Neurosurgery, Internal Medicine, Ophthalmology, Dermatology, Urology, Physical Therapy, Neurology, Oncology, OB&GYN, Allergy & Immunology, ENT and General Surgery. Apart from our institutional providers, we have two private dental clinics with state-of-the-art equipment and capabilities and a physical therapy and rehabilitation clinic that is within walking distance of our base of operations.



TRICARE Area Office Eurasia-Africa (TAO-EA)

TRICARE Overseas Program

Quick Reference Guide:

TRICARE Prime Remote Beneficiaries



Welcome to the TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP). TRICARE is your health benefit (not insurance), 24/7/365, Worldwide. Active-duty service members and their dependents in a remote area will receive most of their care from host nation medical providers. The TRICARE Area Office – Eurasia Africa (TAO-EA), in Sembach, Germany, provides government oversight of the contractor, International SOS (ISOS) (who manages host nation care), and together, we work to serve all eligible TRICARE beneficiaries.

International SOS (ISOS) Call Center (24/7/365): +44 20 8762 8384

Call immediately for any issue (i.e. payment, language assistance, authorizations, evacuations, etc.)

Eligibility for Enrollment into TOP Prime Remote:

- Active Duty (AD) on orders >179 days.
- National Guard/Reserves activated for >30 days
- Dependents **MUST** be Command Sponsored
- Dependents **MUST** reside with a sponsor

How to Enroll

- Contact the TOP Regional Call Center +(44)20-8762-8384 and press Option 2 to reach a member of the TOP Beneficiary Support Center (BSC)
- Email TRICAREenrollments@top.internationalsos.com
- Fax +1-215-773-2740

How to Access Care

- Active Duty Service Members (ADSMs) and their Command Sponsored Family Members are covered worldwide, 24/7/365
- National Guard/Reservists activated >30 days are covered the same as ADSMs. Otherwise, Line of Duty care only.
- **Emergency Care**
 - Seek care **first** where available. Use local EMS or Organic Transport (Preauthorization is never required)
 - Then contact ISOS ASAP: +(44) 208 762 8384
- **Routine and Urgent Care**
 - Contact ISOS **FIRST**: +(44) 208 762 8384
 - Obtain an authorization, **then** seek care

Active Duty Dental Program (United Concordia)

- Emergency care covered 24/7
- **Must be enrolled to TOP PR to receive Routine or Urgent Dental Care OCONUS.**
- Routine/Urgent, need Appointment Control Number (ACN)
- Remote Dental Program (scan QR code)



Claims

- If asked to pay up front, call ISOS immediately
- Members who pay for OCONUS care upfront have up to 3 years to file for reimbursement
- File a TRICARE Overseas Claim online
- Mandatory to submit a narrative description of the reason for the medical services received and proof of payment.

To Report a Complaint, Compliment, or Quality Issue:

- Send to: TOPGlobalQualityAssu@internationalsos.com

For Medical Evacuations, contact ISOS (+44 20 8762 8384) or TPMRC-E (DSN 314-480-8040/Comm: +49-6371-478040). TPMRC-E Validating Surgeon has final authority on all movements.

Contacts and Resources





TRICARE POC

- **TRICARE Local POC:**
Name:

Phone Number:

E-mail:
- **TAO EA Group Box:** dha.sembach.healthcare-ops.mbx.tao-ea-prime-remote-expeditionary@health.mil

International SOS (ISOS)

- Country Specific Wallet Cards (scan QR code) 
- Enrollment (scan QR code) 
- Claims (scan QR code) 
- MyCare Overseas App (scan QR code) 

Veteran's/Military Crisis Line: +1 844-702-5495 <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

< Search



MyCare Overseas™

TRICARE Overseas Assistant

Open



49 RATINGS

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AGE

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Years Old

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Health & Fitness

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What's New >

Version 1.6.33

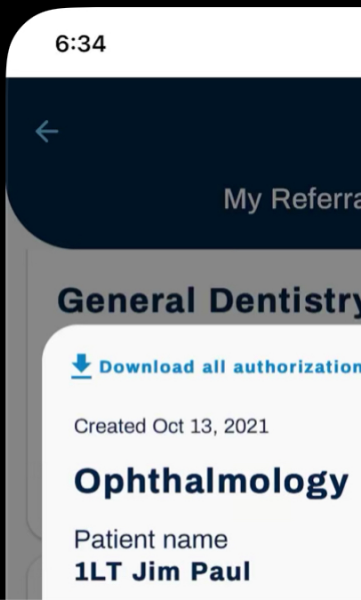
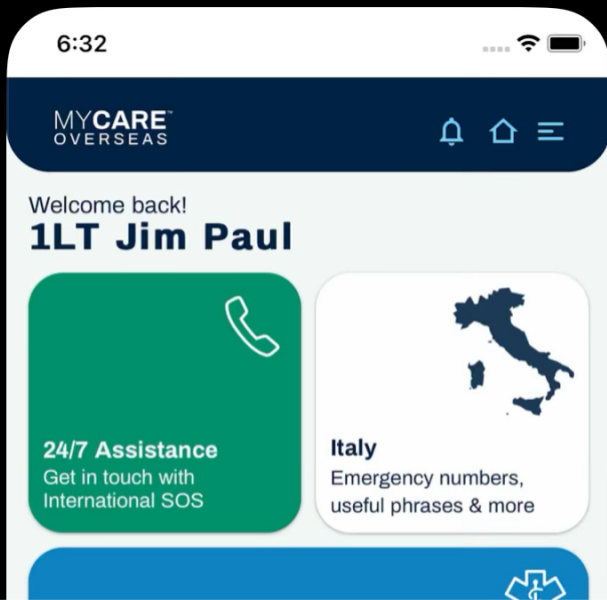
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Bug fixes and performance improvements.

App feedback is always welcome:

[more](#)

Preview



Post Office Services

Location	NATO LANDCOM. Bldg 4
Hours of Operation	0900-1600 Monday-Thursday 0900-1330 Friday 1200-1300 Closed for lunch

- Once Official Assignment Orders are received scan/send a copy of PCS Orders to your sponsor to get a Post Office box assigned for you. If your sponsor has not provided you a mailbox, upon arrival take a copy of your PCS orders to the Post Office to have a box assigned.
- Space is very limited; you are allowed to send boxes to your post office box one month before you arrive in Izmir.
- You can purchase money orders, stamps, and postage.
- There is a **70-pound weight limit** for mailing out.
- Credit and Debit cards are the **ONLY** accepted payment methods.
- There is **no registered mail service** or Express mail service.

Izmir Liberty Chapel Services

Location	ICC 6 th Floor, Chaplain Office
Hours of Operation	0730 - 1630 Monday - Friday
Contact Information	DSN: 314-675-6809 COMM: +90-232-455-6809

In Service to God and the Izmir Community. Open to All Military and civilian Members and Families.

Worship:

- Catholic Mass (Sunday, 1000, St. John's Cathedral)
- Contemporary Service (Sunday, 1115, ICC, 6th Floor Chapel)
- Other Faith Groups (Various times & locations, see or call the Chapel for more information.

Available:

- Privileged Communication is YOUR Privilege. We are always available!
- 100% Confidential Counseling, Religious Accommodation Requests, Pre-Marital/Marital Coaching, Stress Reduction, Sexual Assault and PTSD/Crisis Trauma Counseling, Spiritual/Pilgrimage Trips, Strong Bonds Trips/Training, Suicide Prevention Training, and more.

FYSA:

- You still have constitutional freedom of religion in a secular state, but Islam is the dominant faith group (98%). You are free to talk about your religious ideas and experiences with Turkish people, BUT...Do not distribute religious literature, discuss religion with minors under the age of 18, or insult Mohammed, Islam, Ataturk, or the Islamic way of life.

Comptroller Office

Location	NATO LANDCOM, Bldg 1
Hours of Operation	0930 – 1130 and 1300 – 1400 Mon – Thur
Contact Information	DSN: 314-675-6800 COMM: +90-232-455-6801

The Finance Office has a cash cage for check-cashing purposes. You can cash up to \$2500 weekly (with limited exemptions) and once a month you can cash your rent check (Example: \$1300 etc. just bring a copy of your Rental Agreement).

Military & Family Readiness Center

Location	ICC, 6 th Floor, Military & Family Readiness Office
Hours of Operation	0730 – 1630 Monday – Friday
Contact Information	DSN: 314-675-6372 COMM: +90-232-455-6638 EMAIL: 425ABS.AFRC.1@us.af.mil

- There is a small Loan Closet filled with items such as pots, pans, dishes, cooking utensils, irons, and ironing boards. These items are available to check out upon arrival to be used until your household goods can be delivered or you can purchase your own items.
- All new inbound US military, DoD Civilians, and US contractors are expected to attend the 425th Air Base Squadron Newcomer's Welcome Brief.

Legal Services

Location	ICC, 6 th Floor, Legal Office
Hours of Operation	0800 – 1600 Monday - Friday

Legal Information

The legal office provides several services to assist service members and families. Some examples are listed here:

- Powers of Attorney
- Notary
- Bill of Sale
- Legal Assistance concerning Turkish law
- Wills (referred to Incirlik Legal Office to be completed by a U.S. Military Lawyer)
- General legal assistance
- 24/7 Foreign Criminal Jurisdiction (FCJ) support
- UCMJ support is provided via Incirlik AB (39 ABW/JA) in Adana
- Support for Residency Permits
- Registering your U.S. or Foreign Cell phone online with the Turkish Government

Interpreter Services

The 425th ABS paralegal can help translate legal documents for the military and U.S. Civilians assigned.

Housing

Location	ICC, 6 th Floor, Housing
Hours of Operation	0730 – 1630 Monday – Friday
Contact Information	DSN: 314-675-6756/6757 COMM: +90 232-455-6750 EMAIL:

Like any large metropolitan area, Izmir has a wide selection of available housing. Most U.S. personnel choose to live in apartments, residential buildings, and long-term hotel rentals. Single-family houses are also available. You can find housing either furnished or unfurnished. What you can expect from each type of housing:

- Apartments in the Alsancak area, which is where the support center is located, are between 30 to 40 years old with 2-4 bedrooms. Most apartments have limited closet space. The average size of these units is between 1,200 to 1,600 square feet. These units often do not provide parking.
- Residential buildings are more inclusive apartment's style housing with more amenities than a regular apartment. These buildings are often high rises that may offer parking, gyms, security staff, and concierge desks. Amenities will vary. There are several residential buildings in the Alsancak area and a few in Bornova.
- Long-term hotel rentals eliminate the stress of moving your household goods and provide all the services of a hotel. These are often studio or one-bedroom units with small kitchenettes. The units are fully furnished and include internet. Housing cleaning services are also provided.

Once you arrive, the base housing office will provide you with a database of available rentals for you to consider. These units are pre-approved, and the landlords already use an approved lease agreement that protects Service Members/Federal Employees. The housing office will take you to look at available rentals and assist with the lease signing.

Members are also authorized to use a realtor to find suitable housing. It is normal here that when using a realtor, you pay for your first and last month's rent along with one month's rent to the realtor. So, members will need to have three months' worth of rent available at the time they sign their lease. While rent is commonly paid in U.S. dollars, some landlords will ask you to pay for your rent or utilities in TL.

One website to use to search for available rentals is: www.sahibinden.com

Furniture

Location	ICC, 6 th Floor, Furniture Management Section
Hours of Operation	0730 – 1630 Monday – Friday
Contact Information	DSN: 314-675-6756/6757 COMM: +90 232-455-6750 EMAIL:

The Furniture Management Section (FMS) provides a wide variety of furniture and appliances for Service Members and GS civilians for the entire time of their tour. Current items include:

- Space heater
- Microwave, Stove, Refrigerator, European Washer & Dryer
- Couch, chairs (2), end tables and lamps
- Dining room table & chairs (4)
- Office desk, chair, & bookcase
- Full-size mattress, Headboard, Nightstand & dresser
- Clothing wardrobes (2)
- Four transformers (to use with your 110V appliances)
- American Forces Network (AFN) receiver box

Transportation

Transportation in Izmir is cheap compared to American standards. Between the metro, ferries, trains, trams, buses, and taxis, you can easily get around the city. Services like Uber and Lyft do not exist here. The 425th ABS also provides a shuttle bus service for members to commute between work locations. Here are some things to know.

- Shuttle Bus Service: Shuttle Services take members between work locations to and from the ICC to NATO or ICC and Cigil AB. Shuttle Services are also used for Inbound PCS,

TDY In/Out bound, along with providing transportation to and from medical appointments and other official business.

- **Taxi Services:** Taxis are plentiful and run 24 hours in the city. You can often find taxi stands on the corner or at a large intersection. The cost of your taxi is determined by the mileage the taxi goes. It is important that when entering a taxi, the driver turns on the fare meter before they start to move. The minimal cost of using a taxi, regardless of the mileage, is 90 TL.
- **Public Transit; Bus, Train, Metro, Tram, Ferry:** As previously stated, public transit is plentiful in the city. The easiest way to navigate how to reach your desired destination is to download apps such as Moovit or Google Maps. You will need to purchase an Izmirim Kart, they are available to be purchased within a five-minute walk from the ICC or at some metro or ferry stations. Your Izmirim Kart will need to be pre-loaded with TL prior to using it. The app allows you to input your departure location and arrival location while providing the best route for you to take using all available modes of transportation.

Shopping

Turkey is a shopper's paradise for gold, copper/brass, spices and carpets. The area is also known for towels, leather, brass, onyx, pistachios and antiques. All the specialties of the area can be found in the local surrounding areas along with a variety restaurants and other services. The shops open around 0900 hours and close around 1900 hours. Most shops are closed on Sunday. More upscale shopping can be found in the nearby quarters of Alsancak, Balçova, Karsiyaka, Bostanlı and Bornova. Turkey has many modern goods. Many Americans and European products/brands are readily available. There are many shopping malls in Izmir (İstinye, Hilltown, Agora, Optimum, Forum Mall, Mavi Bahçe, Ege Perla etc.) which are the same as the U.S. shopping malls. There are stores similar to Wal-Mart, Home-Depot, and multiplex cinemas are located throughout the city. The cinema provides views of movies in English with Turkish subtitles.

There are also many outdoor vegetable and fruit markets located in local surrounding areas such as Alsancak, Cankaya, Bostanlı, Cesme, Urla, Bornova, Hatay and Karsiyaka etc.

Additional Shopping locations are:

- Concessionaires (Family Hair Care, Hand Made Furniture, Hand Made Carpets/Kilims, Souvenir and Tailor Shops)/Commissary/Club/Support Services located in the ICC.
- Five Malls; Bornova (Bornova Forum), Balçova (Agora), Karabağlar (Optimum), Bostanlı (Hilltown, Mavi Bahçe), Fahrettin Altay (İstinye)
- Grocery Stores (Migros, Gurmur, BIM, Sok, A101, Macro Center, Kipa)
- Koçtaş (Home Depot)
- IKEA
- Mom & Pop stores on just about every street
- Kemeralti (Bazaar/Shops with just about everything)

Travel

Turkey is a country full of historic significance, well worth exploring. Summers in Izmir and the surrounding community can be fun. Opportunities abound to visit the most frequented beaches on the Mediterranean Sea. Information, Travel and Tours (ITT) offers many tours of the surrounding area. From April to October, most places in Turkey have an ideal climate that is perfect for relaxing on sandy beaches or enjoying the tranquility of mountains and lakes. Turkey also has a magnificent past and is a land full of historic treasures from 13 successive civilizations spanning 10,000 years.

*NOTE: Do bring comfortable walking shoes so you are able to do tours in comfort! Also recommended for the beaches; bring water shoes because some beach sands are rocky and, in the sea, you may step on sea urchins.

Climate

Winters in the interior of the country can be bitterly cold. Although it rarely snows in Izmir you should bring a warm coat, sweater, gloves, and warm shoes. The spring and fall months of April/May and September/October are generally considered to be the nicest time of the year. Temperatures are normally in the 70s and make it a delightful time to explore the wonders of Turkey. For the summer bring lightweight clothing. Temperatures in the summer months of June through September can be extremely hot with temperatures in the 90-100 degree range with humidity close to 100 percent. One thing you don't want to leave behind is a good umbrella. You will need it often during the rainy season of December through February. You may also want to bring a good raincoat and some waterproof shoes or rain boots.

Pets

Members are authorized to bring their pets to Izmir. Please ensure you notify your local TMO and sponsor of your plans to bring your pets early in your PCS process. It is up to the member to ensure your pet's documentation meet both airline and customs requirements when attempting to bring them to Turkey. Entry of pets is authorized through customs, however there is no pet care provided at airport/entry points. It is for this reason it is not advised to ship your pets through cargo. There is a limited number of hotels in the area that allow pets (please see the lodging section for further details).

Once in Izmir, you may be limited on what housing might be available for you. However, there are many English-speaking veterinary offices that you can choose from, along with animal sitting service. The city many areas to walk your dog and overall is pet friendly.

Lastly, as of July 14, 2021, the CDC has temporarily suspended dog imports from certain countries, to include Turkey. While as of December 1, 2021, the CDC has updated its guidance you might have to apply for a CDC Dog Import Permit prior to flying your dog back to the

states. Please review the CDC website for the most up-to-date information. <https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/high-risk-dog-ban-frn.html>

Additional resources for shipping your pet OCONUS:

- USDA for the latest information on documentation requirements of pets traveling to Turkey: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/pet-travel/take-pet-to-foreign-country>
- SPCA provides grants to offset the cost of moving your pet: <https://www.spcai.or/our-work/operation-military-pets>
- Army Emergency Relief no-interest loans for moving a pet: <https://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/news/petassistance/>

Additional Websites and Apps

- Foreign Clearance Guide <https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/>
- DODEA <https://www.dodea.edu/NONDOD>
- <http://www.usanato.army.mil/ABOUT-US/CONTACT-US>
- Military HomeFront/Plan My Move <http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil>
- American Auto Logistics <http://whereismypov.com>
- International Driving Permits http://www.aaasouth.com/travel_drivers.asp
- Military Moving Center <https://www.militarymovingcenter.com/nexcom/>
- Military One Source <http://www.militaryonesource.com>
- Military Spouse Resource Center <http://www.milspouse.org>
- <http://www.allaboutturkey.com/izmir.htm>
- <http://www.turkishlanguage.co.uk/izmirtour.htm>
- <http://afneurope.net/>
- Izmir Maps and Orientation http://www.world-guides.com/europe/Türkiye/izmir/izmir_maps.html
- Izmir Tourist Information and Tourism <http://www.world-guides.com/europe/Türkiye/izmir/>
- 3) Izmir Tourism and Information Directorate <http://www.visitizmir.org/en/page/izmiren/-797715/-720984>

Congratulations on your assignment to Izmir, Türkiye the best kept secret in the Army, Air Force, Marines, and Space Force!



The above photo is of the Clock Tower by the Konak Pier; just one example of the beautiful sites to be seen in Izmir and throughout Türkiye.

Welcome!

This guide is a compilation of official facts and unofficial opinions from a community of people who wish to pass on to you the valuable lessons they have learned during their time here. Our goal is by providing you the most up-to-date information and answers to questions you may have about living here to ensure you have a successful transition into the community.

Guide Sections:

Getting to Izmir- information from notification, getting your PCS orders, to the point of arriving at Izmir.

Living in Izmir- information on finding an apartment, entertainment and finances.

Service Specific-information specific to Army/NATO LANDCOM, Marine, Space Force and Air Force processes.

Remember this guide is built by people like you. Help the next person by providing your comments or suggestions to the 425 ABS Airmen & Family Readiness Center . If you have any questions prior to coming to this assignment don't hesitate to call: DSN: 314- 675-6372 or Commercial: (+90) 538-035-59-46 or Email: (Ms. Laura Belding, MSW Community Readiness Consultant)

Living In Izmir

Where is Izmir?

Izmir is on the western coast of the country closest to Europe, and European influences on clothing, culture, and society. This is very different from the central and eastern parts of Türkiye. Note that the closest installation is approximately 550 miles, but is the source of the support for Izmir.



Overviews:

Here are the views of the greater Izmir Bay area, and a close-up view of downtown Alsancak.

Transportation Choices:

- Public transportation is plentiful
- Walking (If you live in Buca to NATO or Alsancak to ICC-Hilton)
- 425th Shuttle Bus for Work* (From Alsancak to NATO)
- Tram (Everywhere, One Way, 13 TL)
- Public Bus** & Metro Train ** (Everywhere, 14TL)
- Ferry Boat ** (If you live in Karsiyaka/Bostanlı), 7 TL)
- Vehicle /Motorcycle/Scooter (Must be registered, SOFA)
- Taxi (Everywhere, cheap by US standard, (Min. 50 TL)
(To Work 150 TL)

** Prepaid "İZMİRİM Kart" on any. One swipe lasts 90 min.

Shopping Choices:

- 5 Malls (Alsancak, Bornova (Forum), Balcova (Agora), Karabaglar (Optimum), Mavi Bahci (Mavisehir)
- Grocery Stores (Migros, Dia, Tansas, KIPA/Kipa express etc.)
- Koctaş (Home Depot)
- Kipa (compared to a Super Walmart)
- Migros (Compared to a Walmart)
- Ikea
- Mom' n Pop Stores (on just about every street)
- Kemeralti (Bazaar/Shops with just about everything)
- YKM is department store in a high-rise building equivalent to Kohl's its located in Konak

Living In Izmir Turkish Culture

LIVING IN TURKEY

Türkiye is not the United States. While this statement seems a bit obvious, it serves as a reminder of certain cultural sensitivities. Almost every book about Türkiye describes it as either the cradle of civilization or the bridge between the east and west. Unlike many clichés, these two are not overused. The world's first town at Catalhouk dates back to 6500 B.C. The various groups inhabiting the area over the last 8000 years have influenced Türkiye's history and culture. Hittites, Persians, Macedonians, Romans, Seljuks and Ottomans among others have played an important role in the development of this country. Notable figures are not only in the distant past of Türkiye. The most celebrated figure in Türkiye's history made his mark in the 20th century. Mustafa Kemal, known affectionately by the name Ataturk or "Father of the Turks", is considered to be the George Washington of Türkiye. Ataturk led a rebellion against foreign powers inhabiting Türkiye after World War I and the decline of the Ottoman Empire. In November 1923, the republic of Türkiye declared its independence and named Ataturk its first president. During the 15 years of his presidency, Ataturk carried out great cultural and political reform. He changed the written language from Arabic to the Latin alphabet used by countries in the western world. He also initiated changes in the legal and education systems. He is responsible for raising the social position of women and encouraging the acceptance of western dress. In essence, Ataturk made Türkiye what it is today -a unique mix of old and new, where east meets west.

A few Things To Know And See:

- Türkiye has some of the best mountain biking and scuba diving in the world!
- Pamukkale (beautiful, natural springs)...Troy, Isparta, Gallipoli, Assos (historical)
- Local islands via day cruises...Istanbul...Beach cities: Çesme, Bodrum (Vita Golf Resort), Marmaris, Kusadasi (has a Golf Course) and Antalya (has a Golf Course)
- Camel wrestling, Pergamum, Greek Islands (Chios, Samos, Patmos, Cos etc.)
- Seven Churches tour...Ephesus...Virgin Mary's House...See Cappadocia from a hot air balloon

"Tamam" (tuh-mum) means "okay"

You will hear it every day AND find yourself saying it constantly!

<http://www.yemeksepeti.com/index.asp> is an English take out/delivery menu website

Raki is the national alcohol drink

Local Turkish beer is quite good and inexpensive. "Efes & Tuborg" is a favorite.

Population of Izmir is ~ 4 million

Hot, humid summers; cool, wet winters

Izmir is Z+3 during DST (Mar-Oct)

"Merhaba" (mare-ha-bah) means hello

WELCOME

Dear Newcomer,

Congratulations on your assignment! You are now part of an exciting community who perform a vital mission for Land Command NATO.

We hope you will find your assignment in Türkiye both professionally and personally rewarding. In this document, you will find information intended to facilitate the integration of newcomer's into the community and to assist you with decisions related to your upcoming move. Please do not hesitate to contact your sponsor for any additional questions. Welcome, to the team!

Local Contact Information

Army First Sergeant: DSN: 314-675-6500/Comm: 90-232-455-6500 •

Army Commander: DSN 314-675-4455/Comm: 90-532-791-95-47

24/7 Base Defense Operations Center (Security Forces): DSN 314-675-6771/Comm: 0090-232-455-6771

Dialing Instructions

From a US Commercial Phone: 011 + 90 + 232 + 455 + four digit extension

From a DSN within Europe: 675 + four digit extension

From a DSN outside Europe: 314 + 675 + four digit extension

Or call the Incirlik AB Operator at DSN: 314-676-1110 to connect you to any 425 ABS office extension.

While in Izmir:

From DSN to a 1-800 number: 94+800+XXX+XXXX

Izmir DSN to US: 94-312-XXX-XXXX

NOTE: All phone numbers in this document are the numbers for the units or offices designated. Call NATO LANDCOM Operator: at 011-90-232-411-1111) may be the best option to reach the office you need. Just remember Izmir is in the Eastern European Time Zone (GMT + 2)

Traveling to Izmir, Türkiye

Reminder of Absolute Must Haves:

- NATO orders must be stamped with blue ink and with signature in blue ink (Türkiye customs stamp RED for entry, BLUE for exit) Ensure that the correct number of months is on the NATO Orders beginning date and end date for assignment

- CAC (military ID), U.S. orders with amendments; U.S. Driver's License (or 2nd picture ID)
- Government Travel Card (GTC) Activated to Mission Critical Status
- Information Assurance certificate, Hard/soft copy (this is needed to get your mil email account and network access)
- Medical & Dental records (hand carried for Active Duty)
- U.S. Tourist or Official Passport /Foreign Identification is needed to purchase a Turkish Cell Phone and Turkish SIM Card. Also while assigned here you will need a Foreign ID to pay your monthly rent (if living in an apartment)/register your vehicle. To obtain a Foreign Identification Number; during your in-processing see Mr. Mehmet, Building. 1, 1st floor, located at the NATO Compound, takes 10 to 15 days for you to receive it. (You will also need this Foreign Identification to open a Turkish Bank Account at the Turkish IS Bank located on NATO Compound. This bank account is only needed for those assigned/working directly for NATO) ***Send paper work prior to arrival at least 2 Weeks in Advanced - Use Your Sponsor**

Frequent Problems:

Izmir is a unique assignment, and as such the Personnel Processing Codes (PPCs) are frequently overlooked when PCS Orders are being prepared. Three vitally important notes for your NATO Orders are:

1) NATO Orders Must be **stamped/signed in blue ink**. The rule requiring blue ink goes back and forth, but most Turkish Customs Agents enforce the blue ink regardless (No blue ink = No Entry to Türkiye). *Military members, will use your blue passport and NATO ORDERS to enter and exit the country*

2) Must have a valid time period covering your entire assignment. To leave Türkiye, your orders must not be expired (Expired by 1 day = No Exit from Türkiye).PCS orders must state the following authorizations:

3) Weight Allowance (Accompanied: Full JFTR allowance; Unaccompanied: 2500 pounds or 25% of JFTR, whichever is greater). Plan accordingly when deciding what will be packed and what will be stored or left home.

Tips, Warnings, Advice:

•If you fly through Istanbul on your way into Türkiye, it can be a little challenging. The final leg of your journey from London, Munich, Frankfurt, etc. will be directly to Adnan Menderes Airport (ADB), Izmir Türkiye.

•**Ensure the TMO at your losing unit **does not** book you on a rotator to Incirlik, ABS**

•Know how to call or email your sponsor while you are traveling.

- Turkish Customs: Present an original, blue-ink signed copy of your NATO orders and your passport. NATO orders are mandatory to get stamped because you will need to show your stamped NATO orders every time you enter or leave Türkiye (TDY, mid-tour, leave, travel etc.).

- Bring all your uniforms: battle dress/OCP, service dress/ASU, mess dress, and don't forget PT gear. The closest Clothing and Sales is in Italy. Be sure to bring all the extras (rank, Cover Wheel Cap/ABU Cap, etc.), name tapes, ribbons for service dress/mess dress, etc.). **PACK AT LEAST ONE FULL UNIFORM ON PLANE AND OTHERS WITH UNACCOMPANIED BAGGAGE HHG TAKES MONTHS!**

PASSPORTS

Family members and US Government civilians traveling overseas are required to have passports. Official or “no-fee passports” can be obtained at Government expense. The application process may take 4 to 6 weeks, so, you should begin the passport application process as soon as you receive your travel orders. Soldiers should also request a No-Fee Passport or apply for a Tourist Passport prior to leaving the United States for this assignment. ***Tourist passports are required and highly recommended for leave/leisure travel, purchasing a SIM card for your U.S. or Foreign Cell Phone, or purchasing a Turkish Cell Phone.**

A birth certificate with a raised seal is required to apply for a passport. You can request a birth certificate from the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state where you were born. Adoption decrees, marriage and/or divorce decrees may be required for personnel getting a passport with a different name than the name that appears on the birth certificate. The U.S. State Department requires both parents' consent for new passports for children less than 14 years old. If one parent is unavailable because of geographic separation, divorce, or other circumstances, the parent applying for a child's passport must obtain a signed statement from the absent parent that grants permission to take the child overseas.

Tourist passports are needed for personal travel in Europe. You may apply for tourist passports on arrival, but for convenience it is recommended that you should apply for the tourist passport while you're still residing in the United States. You can find more information on tourist passports from your local personnel services' detachment, passport office nearest you, or from the U.S. State Department's official website at <http://travel.state.gov>.

Dependent Information: TBD

VISAS

As of 23 Dec 2023 Citizens of the United States of America, Kingdom of Bahrain, The United Arab Emirates, Canada, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Sultanate of Oman

No longer need Visas when holding regular passports. **This applies for 90 of 180 days for touristic trips.**

Dependent information TBD

Sponsorship

A smooth transition to USANATO begins with good sponsorship. It is imperative that you initiate and maintain contact with your assigned sponsor immediately. Your sponsor is the one person who can help ensure that you and your family arrive in country and begin in processing smoothly. Be sure to address your concerns and questions before your arrival, so that your sponsor and gaining unit can assist you properly. Prior to your arrival, your sponsor should have made billeting reservations and in-processing appointments for you at a minimum. Make sure to inform your sponsor of any last-minute flight changes or reporting delays.

LODGING

There are several hotels available in the local area upon arrival. Your sponsor will help you coordinate lodging once you have orders. We have several agreements with local hotels for military rates; the Reservation Assistance Office can help you select the hotel appropriate for your needs. There are no Temporary Lodging Facilities in Izmir. **Pets are not permitted in all hotels, be sure to ask questions if you are bringing a pet.**

Top Hotel Options

Mariott: On the waterfront and a 10 minute walk to the Hilton. High quality rooms.

Swissotel : A 10 minute walk to/from the ICC . Near the waterfront. High quality rooms.

Mövenpick Hotel Izmir: A 10 minute walk to/from the ICC. Next Swiss

Park Inn by Radisson: 15 minute walk to ICC. On the Waterfront.

VEHICLES

Unaccompanied members are only allowed one vehicle in country. Shipping is at government expense, they will not pay for your vehicle to be put in storage. **You also have the option to purchase a vehicle in-country from another NATO or U.S. military member.**

Do you need a vehicle?

A vehicle is optional depending on where you live. Living near the waterfront in Alsancak or Karsiyaka provides many options. Public transportation is plentiful and cheap via metro, bus, taxi, ferry and train. If you decide to live in Urla, Guzelbace or Narlidere then a vehicle is necessary. Plus if you plan to travel outside the city having your own vehicle makes it convenient. Having your own vehicle may make it more convenient for commuting between to and from work or traveling on your own time.

If you are considering shipping a vehicle, here are a few things you need to know:

- Traffic is aggressive just keep vigilant and you will do great!
- Your car will get scratched, don't bring your Aston Martin
- You will need to register your vehicle on arrival and deregister to leave
- The registration/deregistration process is time intensive and bureaucratic
- A large vehicle is NOT recommended...parking is limited and roads are narrow
- Most residences do not have parking spots but there are parking garages you can purchase monthly park spots.

A full vehicle registration guide is available in the TMO office in Izmir

You must obtain a Foreign Identification Number once you start in-processing. You need this Foreign Identification number to register your vehicle in Türkiye.

Motorcycles

All USA personnel assigned to NSE/LANDCOM wishing to operate a motorcycle for use in Izmir must have the proper motorcycle operators' endorsement and/or certification reflecting successful completion of an approved Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) rider's course. These courses are currently not available in Türkiye, so you should complete the course prior to PCS. MSF card need to be updated every five years. There are no exceptions to this requirement. MSF certification must cover the entire duration of your assignment.

Due to Turkish customs law, every motorcycle must be registered at your expense, regardless of whether you have the training or not. Those that do not meet the MSF requirement will register their motorcycles and store them for the duration of the assignment at the direction of the commander. Again, there are no exceptions to this requirement.

This requirement does not apply to civilian personnel, unless they operate a motorcycle for official government business. MSF courses are usually available free of charge at your present base; Contact your post safety office for guidance.

Page 12, Guide Version, March 2020, Sponsored by the 425 ABS Airman/Soldier & Family Readiness Center

Banking / Finance

BANKING

- There is one local national bank located at the NATO Garrison and several around town.
- There is no base/U.S. bank at Izmir Air Base.

- It is strongly recommended that members establish a checking account before departing their current duty station.
- Possessing only a debit or ATM card is not always sufficient as these cards may not always work in foreign ATM machines.
- ATMs are located on the NATO Garrison (The currency is US Dollars, Euro or Turkish Lira)

ATMs on the local economy: You can only withdraw Turkish Lira, in the Hilton Hotel AKBANK: You can withdraw US Dollars. Only TEB BANKs ATMs on the local Economy you can withdraw US Dollars and ATM machines at NATO

Finance Office located in Building. 1 NATO LANDCOM Garrison; The Finance Office has a cash cage for check-cashing purposes. You can cash \$750 daily and once a month you can cash your rent check (Example: \$1300 etc. just bring a copy of your Rental Agreement). We can be reached at 675-6800 on Monday-Friday from 1300-1600, except for federal holidays and weekends. Below is a general example of benefits you may receive.

Additional information regarding entitlements/expenses

- Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) (based on rank/dependency status)
- Move-In Housing Allowance (MIHA) (One-time payment)
- Move-In Housing Allowance (MIHA-Security) (one-time payment based on expense, i.e. changing locks/doors)
- Family Separation (usually paid if you are separated from dependents)
- TLA (cost of lodging/per diem up to cap locality rate, paid on 1st/15th pay for 10 day intervals)
- OHA/Pay Advance as necessary (\$100 will be taken out monthly until paid in full)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- OHA is housing and utility. The rental portion is base on the amount of rent you pay (up to your ceiling) for example:
- If Rent is \$950, OHA \$1000 = OHA pays \$950 rent is paid in US \$\$ and/or Turkish Lira (TL) to the landlord's bank
- Security allowance (once only) for steel doors, alarms etc, but most apts already have this stuff. You will use this to have the locks changed. (Approximate cost is between 70 to -90 TL, which is reimbursed).
- Your utility bills will be delivered to your apartment (note: it won't be in your name, it is in the Landlords name.)

- Most bills can be paid at any PTT Office or the PTT located on NATO, or on the Local Economy at the Electric Company. Heads up your bill can only be paid during the window specified on the statement (no earlier, no later).

- Drinking water can be purchased at the Commissary or delivered to your apartment by a variety of local water vendors just ask your Kapici (Apt Building Manager or the housing office to set it up for you.)

***Very Important Info:** Be prepared to pay for set-up costs! Make sure prior to coming to this assignment that you have at least \$2500 to \$3000 for set-up costs. *(Examples: 1st Month Rent, apartment supplies, Internet/Cable hook up costs, Turkish Cell Phone purchase and SIM Card, Initial grocery purchase items etc. Also it may take 1 month after you arrival for your Temporary Lodging Advance Pay and Monthly Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) etc. may take 1-2 pay periods for pay/entitlements to be updated and deposited with your normal pay.*

Dependents visiting more than 90 days

If dependents stay with the member more than 90 days, then the member must:

Stop the dependent location-based with-dependent allowance on day 90. (Finance)

Stop FSH-O (Single Rate OHA) on day 90. (Housing Management Office)

Start PDS-based with-dependent OHA as of day 90. (Housing Management Office)

Stop FSA-R. (Finance)

If the dependent departs the PDS afterward to take up residence elsewhere, reinstate dependent location-based with-dependent allowance, FSH-O, and FSA-R as of the departure day.

Important takeaway- Always report the movement of your dependents to Finance!

JTR 10408 A-3 – POC: 425 ABS/FM

<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/Docs/perdiem/JTR.pdf>

MEDICAL

Izmir is a cosmopolitan city of almost four million residents. Izmir has a long history of international relations and is the home of many foreign nationals and expatriates.

Türkiye's main partners in international trade are western European nations, primarily Germany and Great Britain. As a consequence of its economic ties with Europe, Izmir is a very “westernized” city with modern medical facilities.

Medical Aid Station

A medical aid station is available for Active Duty service members only. The aid station provides limited services with limited amounts and types of medications. As a result, individuals on maintenance medication such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or

birth control pills, should obtain a 6 month supply of medication prior to departing their previous assignment.

This is not a location to get your LASIK done or Fluff your retirement packet. **Medical services are extremely limited.**

Likewise, if you do have Medical Issues that require routine monitoring or care please consult with medic to confirm this location will be able to meet your needs.

Tricare Network Providers

Izmir TRICARE/ISOS Preferred Provider Network (PPN) consist of over twenty three individual and institutional providers associated with either Tinaztepe or Medical Park hospitals. Their services include, but are not limited to the following: Primary Care Pediatrics, Family Practice, Internal Medicine Specialist plus OB/GYN, In Vitro Fertilization, Orthopedics, Ophthalmology, Dermatology, Urology, Physical Therapy, Oncology, and General Surgery/Plastic Surgery.

Download "MyCare Overseas" app. This will be your lifeline for medical appointments.

POST OFFICE SERVICES

The main post office is located at NATO LANDCOM, Sirinyer (Buca). Customer service hours are Monday through Friday, from 0830-1600 hours.

- Once Official Assignment Orders are received scan/send a copy of PCS Orders to your sponsor to get a Post Office box assigned for you.
- Space is very limited; you are allowed to send boxes to your post office box one month prior to your arrival to Izmir.
- You can purchase money orders and stamps.
- There is a 70 pound weight limit for mailing out.
- Credit, debit cards and personal checks are acceptable for payment.
- There is no registered mail service.
- You can receive mail from most online order locations. However, not everyone will ship to and APO, AE address. There are several companies that will assist you with shipping to APO addresses for a fee.

US ARMY & NATO LANDCOM UNIFORM POLICY

Civilian "work attire" and on-duty travel between work location: Attire will be conservative, professional in appearance, and should avoid attracting attention. Men's professional attire is defined as dress slacks or khaki pants with collared shirts. Are allowed to be un-tucked but must look professional. Shorts are allowed for transit to and

from NATO during some portions of the year (summer). Female professional attire is defined as dresses with sleeves (no sun dresses with thin straps or spandex), skirt or pants, with a collared or non-collared blouse that's either tucked in or left out. Tank-tops are not authorized. Shorts are allowed for transit to/from NATO during some portions of the year (summer). All clothing should not be translucent and professional coverage always. Do not wear PT gear or any other US or military associated clothing while using mass transit or on the "economy." Off-Duty Civilian Clothes: Be mindful and respectful. We are professionals and ambassadors, dress appropriate.

IN-PROCESSING

You will arrive at Adnan Menderes Airport (ADB), Izmir Türkiye. Your sponsor will coordinate with you on transportation and meeting you upon your arrival. The airport is located approximately 17 miles from the ICC-Hilton. Your sponsor will assist with the appropriate in-processing documents and base access.

All US military personnel will not wear uniforms on the streets of Türkiye or while traveling. Soldiers should arrive with the following up to date documents:

PCS Orders

Leave Form

Flight Itinerary make sure that the itinerary has the flight cost and invoice number

Receipts for reimbursement claims over \$75

Current Citibank credit card statement

Passports and Visas

Social Security Cards

Driver's License

Birth Certificates

Marriage Certificates and/or Divorce Decrees (if applicable)

Proof of child support (if applicable)

Dependency status approvals from DFAS (if applicable)

Lease or mortgage statements

Medical and Dental records

Proof of Citizenship if Naturalized

Wills and Powers of Attorney

HHG and Vehicle Shipping Documents

CIF printout

Pet Records and ID tags

Children's Education Records

Vehicle Titles/Registrations/License Plates

Copy of Last Evaluation (if applicable)

Insurance Documents (Vehicle/Home)

ACFT within the past six months of arrival on DA Form 705

DA 5500/5501 Army body fat worksheet (if applicable)

Weapons qualification within the past six months of arrival, NOTE: Weapons qualification currently unavailable locally. Bring your current weapons card with you for in-processing.

Dental status Category I or II PHA up to date

Immunizations up to date

TA 50(OCIE) is a requirement for NATO and LANDCOM **(not optional)** Full ASU, Full Summer, and Winter APFU

TRAINING

Alpha Company Training NCO will verify and validate all 350-1 training that is complete and will notify the new personnel of their status. Alpha Company Training NCO will notify personnel, via email, when readiness training (to include but not limited to EO, SHARP, ACFT, etc.) has been scheduled. All personnel should complete the following online 350-1 Training 1 month prior to arriving:

LEADERS SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH (E7&ABOVE O1-O6) (2G-F107_DL_) - <https://learn.atis.army.mil/>

SERE 100 (J3TA-US1329) - <https://jkodirect.jten.mil/>

OPERATIONS SECURITY (OPSEC) - <https://learn.atis.army.mil/>

ANTI-TERRIRISOM (AT LVL1) TRAINING (JS-US007) - <https://jkodirect.jten.mil/>

INFORMATION ASSURANCE/CYBER AWARENESS (IA_CYBER) (DOD-US1364-24) - <https://jkodirect.jten.mil/>

THREAT AWARENESS & REPORTING PROGRAM (TARP) - <https://learn.atis.army.mil/>

INFORMATION SECURITY (INFOSEC) - <https://jkodirect.jten.mil/>

PERSONNEL READINESS (PREVIOUSLY TITLED SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND SUICIDE PREVENTION) (JS-US011) - <https://jkodirect.jten.mil/>

CONTROLLED UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION (CUI) - <https://www.cdse.edu/Training/eLearning/IF141/>

AZIMUTH - <https://armyfit.army.mil>

LAW OF WAR (JS-US074) - <https://jkodirect.jten.mil/>

SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ASSAULT RESPONSE PREVENTION (SHARP) – Provide training memo or sign in roster

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (EO) - Provide training memo or sign in roster

RESILIENCE (MRT) - Provide training memo or sign in roster

Housing / Household Goods

Apartment Photos of What to Expect

(Examples only, apartments will vary)



Alternative Choice if you don't want to live in an apartment? Housing can prepare a room contract for 1 year in the Swiss, Kordon or Gurel Hotels. This eases the stress of not having to ship any HHGs! The rental agreement includes: Refrigerator, Microwave, Free WI-FI Internet, Free Parking in Hilton parking garage, use of Hilton Fitness Center and 25% off any of their food items (Restaurant). For more questions; ask your sponsor via email! (Important note: there is no cooking stove or balcony)

All types of housing can be found in Izmir, from studio apartments to single family houses. The average apartments nearest the support facilities are 30-40 years old, 2-4 bedroom with bedrooms on the small size and a few have closets, range from 1,200 to 1,600 square feet and rarely accept pets. Newer and more spacious housing exists within easy commute of the NATO and support facility locations.

Furniture Management Items/Information

Note:

Unaccompanied members get FMO items issued for the entire time of their tour.

Furniture Management Office (FMO) Provided Items:

- Couch & chairs (2)
 - Dining room table & chairs (4)
 - End tables & lamps
 - Office desk, chair, & bookcase
 - Full-size mattress & Headboard
 - Nightstand & dresser
 - Clothing wardrobes (2)
 - Four transformers (to use w/your 110V appliances)
 - American Forces Network (AFN) dish with mount and Converter box
- Space heater
 - Microwave, Stove, & Refrigerator
 - European Washer & dryer

FMO Furniture Samples



SCHOOLS / CHILDCARE

TBD

Legal/Interpreter Services

Legal Information

The legal office provides several services to assist service members and families. Some examples are listed here:

- Powers of Attorney
- Notary
- Bill of Sale
- Legal Assistance concerning Turkish law
- Wills
- General legal assistance
- Official translations
- Residency Permits
- UCMJ support is provided via Incirlik AB (39 ABW/JA) in Adana

Interpreter Services

The 425 ABS paralegal can help translate legal documents for military, U.S. Civilian and Contractors assigned. We also have many Turkish Local Nationals who you will work with and may be willing to help you out. Once you've worn out your welcome or gone beyond their expertise, there are always other alternatives.

PETS

- Passengers may bring pets. Rules may change, please check with your local TMO and sponsor before making permanent plans. TMO E-Mail: **burcin.baransel_canbaz.1.tr@us.af.mil** DSN: **314 675-6727**
 - Entry of pets (accompanied by the passenger) is authorized through customs. Pets must have required veterinary health certificate, origin and vaccine documents.
 - No pet care is provided at the airports/entry points; therefore, shipping pets through cargo is not advised.
 - It is advisable to check with the sponsor or TMO on latest restrictions.
 - Many apartments and rentals do not allow pets. Be sure to identify your pets early in the process.
 - There are many local veterinarians you can utilize to take care of your pets once you arrive and get settled in Izmir.
- **NOTE:** Very important, let your sponsor know in advance before you arrive that you have pets accompanying you. There are limited Apartments that accept pets; so this will give the Housing Office ample time to find an apartment for you upon your arrival/in-processing.**



Izmir Liberty Chapel Services

In Service to God and the Izmir Community

Open to all military, civilian members and families



Worship

Catholic Mass (Sun, 1000, St. John's Church)

Protestant Worship (Sun, 1115, ICC, 6th Floor, Chapel)

Other Faith Groups (Various times & locations)

Religious Education

All: Bible Studies (Sun, 1000, ICC, 6th floor)

Women's Group

Women of the Chapel: meetings, Bible Studies and retreats

Children's Service

USO united Through Reading Program

Community Outreach

Buca Girls Rehabilitation Center, Children's Hospital, Children's Orphanage and Adult Nursing Home

Pastoral Care and Counseling

Confidential Counsel, Religious Accommodation, Marriage & Family, Stress Reduction, Sexual Assault and PTSD/Crisis Trauma Counseling

Privileged Communication is YOUR Privilege

We are always available, Walk-in or Call DSN: 675-6807/6809 for an appointment, after hours contact BDOC at 0232-455-6771

FYI...

Constitutional freedom of religion in secular state, but Islam is the dominant faith group (98%)

You are free to talk about your own religious ideas and experiences with Turkish people, ***BUT...***

Do not distribute religious literature, discuss religion with minors under the age of 18 or insult Mohammed, Islam, Atatürk, or Islamic way of life.

Shopping

Türkiye is a shopper's paradise for gold, copper/brass, spices and carpets. The area is also known for towels, leather, brass, onyx, pistachios and antiques. All the specialties of the area can be found in the local surrounding areas along with a variety of restaurants and other services. The shops open around 0900 hours and close around 1900 hrs. Most shops are closed on Sunday. More upscale shopping can be found in the nearby cities of Alsancak, Balçova, Karşıyaka and Bornova. Türkiye has many modern goods. Many American and European products/brands are readily available. There are three major shopping centers in İzmir (Agora, Optimum and Forum Malls) which are much like moderate shopping centers in the US Stores similar to Wall Mart, Home-Depot, and multiplex cinemas are located throughout the cities. The movies are in English with Turkish subtitles or Turkish with English subtitles.

There are also many outdoor vegetable and fruit markets located in local surrounding areas such as Alsancak, Cankaya, Bostanlı, Buca, Cesme, Urla, Bornova, Hatay and Karşıyaka etc.

Trips and Tours

Türkiye is a country full of historic significance, well worth exploring. Summers in İzmir and the surrounding community can be fun. Opportunities abound to visit the most frequented beaches on the Mediterranean Sea. Information, Travel and Tours (ITT) offers many tours of the surrounding area--most are one day and overnight tours are available. From April to October, most places in Türkiye have an ideal climate that is perfect for relaxing on sandy beaches or enjoying the tranquility of mountains and lakes. Climbing castles, walking amidst the ruins of ancient cities or just lying on the warm sandy beach. Türkiye has all of this to offer and more. Türkiye also has a magnificent past, and is a land full of historic treasures from 13 successive civilizations spanning 10,000 years.

*NOTE: Do bring comfortable walking shoes so you are able to do tours in comfort! Also recommended for the beaches; bring water shoes because the beach sands are rocky and in the sea you may step on sea urchins..



Climate

Winters in the interior of the country can be bitterly cold. Although it rarely snows in İzmir you should bring a warm coat, sweaters, gloves, and warm shoes. The spring and fall months of April/May and September/October are generally considered to be the nicest time of the year. Temperatures are normally in the 70s and make it a delightful time to explore the wonders of Türkiye. For the summer bring lightweight clothing. Temperatures in the summer months of June through September can be extremely hot with temperatures in the 90 -100 degree range with humidity close to 100 percent. One thing you don't want to leave behind is a good umbrella. You will need it often during the rainy season of December through February. You may also want to bring a good raincoat and some waterproof shoes or rain boots.

Things I Wish I Knew Before Coming

"I Should Have packed in my HHB/HHG or mailed ahead of time..."

- Foam egg crate or feather bed cover
- Mattress cover (mattresses from FMO are very hard)
- Pocket translator
- 220 Volt or Dual Voltage Vacuum, appliances or any other electronics (or can easily be purchased locally)
- Ironing board (or can easily be purchased locally)
- Favorite Jean brand
- My winter clothes (jackets, sweaters etc.)
- My bike
- My own bedroom furniture and mattress (make sure you stay within your weight allowances) (California King may be too big)
- Favorite DVD sets of television shows, series, etc.
- Pictures of family to put around the apartment, plus other things to make your apartment like home
- More work-out clothes (sports bras, gym shorts, shoes, and tops are hard to find; BX is very limited and on the economy things like Nike, Under Armour and Puma)
- Easy chair that reminds you of home
- Sports equipment
- Snowboards/skis/poolstick
- Scuba equipment
- Small new and clean portable charcoal BBQ grill (you can also buy on the local economy or order from the BX) **no GAS grills** (some apts will not let you BBQ on the balcony)
- Every single uniform and extras (ribbons, name tapes, name badges, patches, shoes, etc.)
- Golf courses are available in Kusadasi and Antalya (there is no golf course in Izmir)
- Tools (your favorite go to tools for home use for odds and ends) if they are electric, they must be 220 Volt not 110 Volts
- Favorite blankets, Candles, sleeping pillows etc.
- Camping chairs for my patio or small patio table and chairs (these items can be purchased on the local economy or ordered through the BX)
- Special Beauty, hygiene and make-up, vitamins, shoes or work out products (the local economy has most of these items but you will pay more for them especially if they are name brands, example: MAC, GNC, Timberland, Nautica, etc.
- Contact lenses, Prescription Meds to hold you over until you get settled down, but remember you have a post office box!
- Car Parts? If you want to ship some in your HHGs, do check with your TMO prior. You can find on the local economy and it will be at least two times the price in the USA. There are Dodge, Honda, BMW, Ford, VW, car dealerships, just be prepared for the cost.

Remember almost everything above and more can be purchased on the local economy or ordered online, just make sure you check if they will mail to APO AE boxes.

If there is an item that you would like and the BX or Commissary doesn't stock it, you can always do a special order with them— just ask the manager

Airman and Soldier Family Readiness Center (AFRC)

- There is a small Loan Closet filled with items (irons, dishes, utensils, adapters as items are donated to the closet the inventory gets larger) to use as you move into your new apartment. First check it out before you purchase anything prior to moving in.
- Assistance is provided to you for US Cell Phone Registration/Turkish Cell Phone purchase etc.
- Cultural immersion is provided to you as you transition into your new environment; anything from local walking tours, clothes and shoe purchases, items for your apartment and much
- All new inbound US military, DoD Civilians and US Contractors are expected to attend the 425th Air Base Squadron Newcomer's Welcome Brief. All supporting agencies who you need to see on your inprocessing checklist brief on their services provided to you as the customer!
- AFRC is here to assist & support you to a smooth transition to your new assignment! You are assigned a sponsor but if you have any additional questions; **please free to email: laura.belding@us.af.mil (Ms. Laura Belding, MSW Community Readiness Consultant)**

Living In Izmir

Advice, Fair Warnings, Direct Quotes, and Things I Wish My Sponsor Had Told Me:

- Become familiar with online companies that will ship to APOs; they were vital to getting through the tour.
- Be patient! NATO in-processing is a long process, it may take 1 week to get your access badge.
- Drivers have a well-deserved reputation for aggressiveness. If you don't pay attention crossing streets, you will die here.
- This isn't the US, i.e. 40 liter hot water heaters allows brief showers; building heating may only be on a few hours a day.
- Power capacity has limitations, i.e. can't run the A/C, oven, washer at the same time. Know location of circuit breakers!
- Learn the difference between a transformer and an adaptor...if not, you'll be purchasing new fuses for your electronics!
- Don't worry— you'll have all the modern conveniences (AFN for TV, internet, phones, etc.) You will not suffer.
- Don't insult Atatürk! He was the founder/hero of the Republic of Türkiye. Read about him, you'll understand why.
- Get out and enjoy the country...don't sit in your apartment because you don't feel safe. But there are places to avoid (use common sense)
- Taxi drivers are mostly trustworthy; however, in Istanbul I received change in old, unusable, Turkish Lira.
- The asphalt has a high concentration of marble in it, which makes the roads incredibly slick while it's raining.
- Even though Türkiye is 99% Muslim, you rarely see anyone bow during the call to prayer you will see some women with head scarves.
- If you're going on a long TDY, be sure to have someone to pay your utility bills and leave an extra apt key with housing.
- Ask around for housekeeping services...you can get very cheap housecleaning services here approximate 80TL (\$50).
- Besides restaurants and hotels, most Turks do not speak English...learning some basic Turkish is key!
- To learn the basics of the metric system (kilometers versus MPH, kilograms versus pounds).
- Spend your clothing allowance on what it was meant for... nice civilian work attire for work and then change into your uniform at NATO. To be safe; for men it is recommend purchasing khaki/dress pants and polo shirts/button down shirts clothes on the economy to blend in.
- For women; dress pants, skirts, dresses, suits and dress blouses with or without collars, (for winter, pull over or button up Cardigan sweaters.
- You can pay utility bills on the NATO base at the NATO PTT office, at local payment stores or via IsBank.
- Pedestrians have no rights on the streets of Izmir...if you are in the way, get out of the way....quickly.
- Great bicycling/running paths at the Kordon & Kültür Park (park has 1.25 mile running track and many fairs during the year).
- Türkiye operates on 220volt electricity...you can buy 220 Volt items at the BX or bring your dual voltage electronics.
- You don't have to buy everything at the BX/Commissary. Izmir is a large, modern city with most things on the economy.
- You will have much free time to knock out education classes, PME, etc.
- Bring good walking shoes! You will do a lot of walking here!
- How difficult it can be to get things done in a International working environment? It is not the same get it done attitude seen in the US. Important to build friendships to help ease the process of accomplishing day-to-day tasks and be patient.
- Bring your favorite furniture or decorations from home. Recommend bringing some things that will make you apartment feel like a home. You can bring up to 25% of your JTR - use it!!
- Bring "Sea Shoes" this will enable you to enjoy the beaches and walking in the sea water.



Living In Izmir

Things I've Experienced:

- Call to prayer five times per day from the mosques.
- Lots of gypsies and young children selling tissues, gum, flowers, plastic gloves, bunnies, etc.
- Cars honking a lot! They do it to warn people when they are coming into an intersection, coming up behind someone, or for lots of other reasons. Don't get aggravated, and don't take it personally when they honk at you.
- The ground floor of buildings referred to as "Floor O", not the first floor like we're used to.
- Everything you know about traffic law and being a defensive, courteous driver being brutally violated.
- Cars parked in lanes of travel with flashers on, buses cutting off drivers, drivers cutting off drivers.....
- Trucks overloaded and people sitting on top to hold the wires down, while on the highway.
- An old convertible with drummers and horn instruments playing music as a young boy dressed as a prom king grins and waves...this means he has just been or going to be circumcised...seriously.
- Jay-walking gone crazy with people walking in the street from every direction, among cars, middle section, etc.
- Tractors, trailers, cows, horses, and carriages on the highway once you are out of the city limits.
- People on mopeds with no helmets? Yes, you will see this—even on the sidewalks!
- Stray "street dogs" roaming the city and barking while you sleep.
- The Izmirim Kart was great for riding the bus, metro, train and ferry all with one prepaid card!
- The water is hard on colored clothes, so you may want to use a water softner (Calgon etc.) or take them to the Dry Cleaners

Entertainment:

- 1st Kordon, Karsiyaka, Bornova, Mavishir is full of nice restaurants, cafes and traditional Turkish music clubs, movie theaters etc, playgrounds for children, rental riding bicycles for adults. Most of Izmir has great places to go to!
- Library has a large selection of DVDs/books for everyone to include children.
- The Club has a movie night where you can see the latest movies and old classics.
- Free and discounted meals to Club members (as low as \$7 a month fee).
- You will need a US IP address to watch Internet TV via ABC, NBC, CBS, Fox etc (www.youtube.com if no problem). Use a VPN service, but find a legitimate service (www.strongvpn.com, goldengate.bbb.org). Netflix has a Turkish website.
- Slingbox Pro connects to your cable/satellite DVR box in the US (spouse, friend, parents). You can watch via Internet anything

Phone Information

Free Communication Options:

MSN Messenger, Skype, Vonage, WhatsApp, and more

Website: <http://webmessenger.msn.com>

Website: <http://www.skype.com/>

Website: <http://www.vonage.com>

Turkish Cell Phone SIM Card: (Note: speak with the AFRC representative for newest procedures prior to purchasing)

You can use your US Cell phone in Türkiye but here are the Turkish Government requirements:

- 1) You must have a Foreign Identification number (obtained from NATO, Building. 1, 1st Floor, with your US Passport takes 10 –12 days to receive.
- 2) With your U.S. Passport go to any Cell Phone provider to purchase your Turkish Cell SIM Card approximate cost \$30 (75 TL) this includes, talking minutes, text messages and data. All locations will also charge a 31,000tL device import fee.
- 3) Go to the PTT Office located on Ataturk Circle and obtain a E-Devlet Sifrisi packet which contains a special password cost is .69 (2 TL) (you need to take your US Passport, & NATO Orders).
- 4) Go to the Turkish Tax Office and pay your Taxes for your phone approximately \$49 (150 TL) prices will vary depending on the exchange rate. (You need to take your US Passport & 1 cy)
- 5) Now you are ready to complete your cell phone registration online E-Devlet Sifrisi. The 425 ABS Legal Office personnel can assist you with this.

Other alternative for Cell Phone is to purchase one on the local economy; but you will still need a US Passport and your Foreign Identification number. Cost for purchasing a Turkish Cell Phone from \$80 to \$1400.

*Another Popular Plan in the States is T-mobiles Magenta Max for military and then buying Hot spot In Türkiye. 200GB will run about 600TL and you pay as you go. A HotSpot Puck Will be Sold Separately and will run about 1,800TL

Internet: & AFN:

Approximate 40-100 TL/month) DSL modem must be purchased in Türkiye.

Local Turkish Cable (approximate 80 tL/month)

AFN (Armed Forces Network) (www.myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil) HRO coordinates with the landlord to have the satellite dish installed; if the apt was not previously occupied by an American.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Air Force Portal <https://www.my.af.mil/faf/FAF/fafHome.jsp>

Turkish News Network <http://www.turkishnews.com/NewsNetwork>

Turkish Press <http://www.turkishpress.com/>

Military HomeFront/Plan My Move <http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil>

Air Force Housing (available for CAC.mil only) <https://www.airforcehousing.hq.af.mil>

Air Force Lodging Directory <http://dodlodging.net/>

American Auto Logistics <http://whereismypov.com>

International Driving Permits http://www.aaasouth.com/travel_drivers.asp

Military Moving Center <https://www.militarymovingcenter.com/nexcom/>

Military One Source <http://www.militaryonesource.com>

Military Spouse Resource Center <http://www.milspouse.org>

Per Diem, Travel, Transportation Allowances <https://secureapp2.hqda.pentagon.mil/perdiem>

Pet Transportation <http://www.petsonthego.com/resourcestrans.html>

Time Zone Converter <http://www.timezoneconverter.com>

United States Postal Service <https://moversguide.usps.com/?referral=USPS>

USAF Household Goods <http://afmove.hq.af.mil/>

Air Force Aid Society <http://www.afas.org>

Army Financial Aid: <http://aerhq.org/dnn563/AboutUS/Contactus.aspx>

Army and Air Force Exchange Service <http://www.aafes.com>

Commissaries <http://www.commissaries.com/locations.cfm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C4%B0zmir>

<http://www.allaboutturkey.com/izmir.htm>

http://travel.yahoo.com/p-travelguide-489413-izmir_vacations-i

<http://www.turkeytravelplanner.com/go/Aegean/Izmir>

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g298006-Izmir_Izmir_Province_Turkish_Aegean_Coast-Vacations.html

<http://www.izmir.bel.tr/en/default.asp>

http://www.turkofamerica.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=525&Itemid=167

<http://www.izmir.gen.tr/eng/default.asp>

<http://www.izmir.com/>

<http://www.turkishlanguage.co.uk/izmirtour.htm>

<http://afneurope.net/> (exchange rate, fuel prices, TV schedule, news)



TRICARE Area Office Eurasia-Africa (TAO-EA)

TRICARE Overseas Program

Quick Reference Guide:

TRICARE Prime Remote Beneficiaries



Welcome to the TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP). TRICARE is your health benefit (not insurance), 24/7/365, Worldwide. Active-duty service members and their dependents in a remote area will receive most of their care from host nation medical providers. The TRICARE Area Office – Eurasia Africa (TAO-EA), in Sembach, Germany, provides government oversight of the contractor, International SOS (ISOS) (who manages host nation care), and together, we work to serve all eligible TRICARE beneficiaries.

International SOS (ISOS) Call Center (24/7/365): +44 20 8762 8384

Call immediately for any issue (i.e. payment, language assistance, authorizations, evacuations, etc.)

Eligibility for Enrollment into TOP Prime Remote:

- Active Duty (AD) on orders >179 days.
- National Guard/Reserves activated for >30 days
- Dependents **MUST** be Command Sponsored
- Dependents **MUST** reside with a sponsor

How to Enroll

- Contact the TOP Regional Call Center +(44)20-8762-8384 and press Option 2 to reach a member of the TOP Beneficiary Support Center (BSC)
- Email TRICAREenrollments@top.internationalsos.com
- Fax +1-215-773-2740

How to Access Care

- Active Duty Service Members (ADSMs) and their Command Sponsored Family Members are covered worldwide, 24/7/365
- National Guard/Reservists activated >30 days are covered the same as ADSMs. Otherwise, Line of Duty care only.
- **Emergency Care**
 - Seek care **first** where available. Use local EMS or Organic Transport (Preauthorization is never required)
 - Then contact ISOS ASAP: +(44) 208 762 8384
- **Routine and Urgent Care**
 - Contact ISOS **FIRST**: +(44) 208 762 8384
 - Obtain an authorization, **then** seek care

Active Duty Dental Program (United Concordia)

- Emergency care covered 24/7
- **Must be enrolled to TOP PR to receive Routine or Urgent Dental Care OCONUS.**
- Routine/Urgent, need Appointment Control Number (ACN)
- Remote Dental Program (scan QR code)



Claims

- If asked to pay up front, call ISOS immediately
- Members who pay for OCONUS care upfront have up to 3 years to file for reimbursement
- File a TRICARE Overseas Claim online
- Mandatory to submit a narrative description of the reason for the medical services received and proof of payment.

To Report a Complaint, Compliment, or Quality Issue:

- Send to: TOPGlobalQualityAssu@internationalsos.com

For Medical Evacuations, contact ISOS (+44 20 8762 8384) or TPMRC-E (DSN 314-480-8040/Comm: +49-6371-478040). TPMRC-E Validating Surgeon has final authority on all movements.

Contacts and Resources





TRICARE POC

- **TRICARE Local POC:**
Name:

Phone Number:

E-mail:
- **TAO EA Group Box:** dha.sembach.healthcare-ops.mbx.tao-ea-prime-remote-expeditionary@health.mil

International SOS (ISOS)

- Country Specific Wallet Cards (scan QR code) 
- Enrollment (scan QR code) 
- Claims (scan QR code) 
- MyCare Overseas App (scan QR code) 

Veteran's/Military Crisis Line: +1 844-702-5495 <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

Apps to make your time in Izmir easier



Get real-time traffic updates, explore new places, and easily plan public transportation with **Google Maps!**



Plan your routes, track real-time public transportation, and explore your city with ease using **Moovit!**



Plan your bus routes, track real-time arrivals, and navigate the city easily with **ESHOT Mobile!**



Get a taxi in minutes, track your ride in real-time, and enjoy a seamless experience with **Bitaxi!**



Top up your balance, manage your travel, and access all public transport in Izmir with the **Izmir'im Kart** app!



Get anything you need delivered fast, from groceries to essentials, right to your door with **Getir!**



Shop fashion, beauty, home essentials, and more—just like Amazon, with fast delivery right to your door on **Trendyol!**



Order from your favorite restaurants and get it delivered fast, just like DoorDash, with **Yemeksepeti!**



Shop groceries, get exclusive deals, and enjoy fast delivery with the **Migros** app, your one-stop grocery solution!