

NATO Rapid Deployable Corps – Turkey (NRDC-T)



Contact Information

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NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Turkey (National Support Element)

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Welcome to the NRDC-T (This is a one (1) year dependent restricted tour)

Welcome to US Army NATO (USANATO). A smooth transition to USANATO begins with good sponsorship. It is imperative that you maintain contact with your assigned sponsor immediately. Your sponsor is the one person who can help ensure that you arrive in country and begin in processing smoothly. Be sure to address your concerns and questions to your sponsor 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, airport transportation pick-up, and in-processing appointments for you as a minimum. Make sure to inform your sponsor of any last minute flight changes or reporting delays. Below we have captured some key highlights of what you can expect from this assignment while in country. The information here is not all inclusive and may change over time. It is especially important to check and verify a country's requirement for passport and visa.

Advise your sponsor of the date, time and number of your arrival flight. It's very important to have your sponsor meet you at the airport. Your sponsor can be a huge asset by sending you information on Istanbul, your duty section, the local community, things to do, and places to go. You will receive a Sponsorship Package with information on Istanbul facilities, programs, the city, and the local community.

Mission of NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Turkey

NRDC-T, is a High Readiness Force (Land), prepared to deploy, on order, to an area of operation designated by SACEUR, and assume command of assigned units to conduct combined, joint military operations across NATO's entire mission spectrum (High Intensity Conflict / PSO) either as a Corps HQ, Land Component Command (LCC) HQ including NATO Response Force (NRF) and Combined Joint Operations (CJFLCC), a NTS JHQ to command Small Joint Operations (SJO), or a HQ/JTF capable to support NATO Command Structure (NCS) JHQ in command of Major Joint Operation (MJO), or to augment ongoing operations, in order to support crisis management options or sustain extant operations. Our HQs is certified as Joint Task Force (JTF) able to command and control four component commands (Land, Maritime, Air, and SOF) in the conduct of an SJO. We were declared fully operationally capable in May 2016 and are on standby thru June 2019.

Unit Support

We have a National Support Element (NSE) that is collocated with the NRDC-T consisting of two Army NCOs and one Turkish national. They provide us with all personnel support and are the liaison to the nearest Army Regional Support Element, Alpha Company is located in Izmir, Turkey. This command currently provides us with finance and personnel service support. Upon in-processing in Istanbul, all assigned U.S. Air Force personnel will be required to contact the NSE at Incirlik in order to coordinate any additional administrative support requirements. You will have additional duties assigned upon your arrival. Contact your Sponsor for more information on additional duties. Ensure your DA Photo is up to date. There is no DA Photo lab located in Istanbul. Taking a DA Photo requires TDY.

Demographic Location

Turkey has a population of around 75 million people. Istanbul has approximately 18 million inhabitants living within the city and its suburbs. The ethnic background includes Turks, Armenians, Kurds, Greeks, Georgians, Arabs, Thracians, and Russians. The primary language is Turkish with a limited few that have a good understanding of English. The primary religion is Sunni Islamic, but Turkey is a secular government and religion is not as dominant as in neighboring countries. There are over one million registered vehicles in Istanbul making traffic and parking a serious challenge.

Billeting

Currently, all U.S. NRDC-T personnel live in 42 Maslak Apartments in the Maslak district of Istanbul, located on the European side of the city. Our apartments are government-leased and come modestly furnished to accommodate you adequately.



If mailing anything prior to your arrival use the following address:

YOUR NAME
NRDC-T
PSC 121 Box 01
APO, AE 09810

42 MASLAK
Address: MASLAK MAH. Ahi Evran
cad. NO: 6 Maslak A Kule,
Maslak Turkey

Turkey Weather Conditions

Turkey has four seasons. The winter climate in Istanbul is cool and wet, with occasional high winds, and light snow accumulation. The summer climate is hot and humid. The fall and spring climates produce moderate temperatures and weather conditions. Below is a chart that depicts the average temperatures which one can expect throughout the year.

Average temperatures in Fahrenheit (Daily Lows and Highs)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
25-39	27-41	32-52	41-63	45-74	50-76	67-82	67-82	65-80	57-68	30-59	30-59

Resources

Military Support

Limited US support; no US facilities. Army NSE provides admin and supply support (2 US NCOs). US NSE co-located with NRDC-T (one Turkish national)

Travel

NRDC-T sponsors various cultural activities.

Passports/Visa

Official Passports: Soldiers may enter Turkey on NATO travel orders. At the Passport Control point, **use the Diplomat line (expedited customer service)** where you will need to show your original NATO orders (stamped, signed and dated in blue ink) and your US military ID card. It is required to have an Official and Tourist Passport for official and unofficial travel.

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.

Soldiers will enter Turkey on NATO travel orders, Official Passport is required for travel outside NATO countries on training events.

The Turkish Passport Police will stamp your NATO orders when you exit or enter Turkey. The NATO travel order is your de facto passport while performing official duties in Turkey and allows you to enter or exit the country without paying for a visa. NATO orders are only valid when accompanied by PCS/TDY orders. However, PCS/TDY orders with "NATO travel authorized" will not suffice for Turkish Immigration and the separate NATO travel order is required. If flying commercial into Turkey without orders, you can be denied entry into Turkey and immediately placed on an aircraft departing Turkey. ***Do NOT depart your current station without NATO Travel orders.***

VISA INFORMATION

As a NATO force member, you are not required to have a visa when traveling (use NATO Travel Orders). The NATO Travel Orders should be issued by your out-processing personnel center for the period of your assignment to NATO. When arriving at the airport, proceed through the Diplomatic line to avoid long wait times in the normal tourist line.

Please note that the NATO Travel Orders has to be the original signed copy with blue stamp.

Family Members

Dependents that travel to Turkey must enter the country using a tourist passport and are required to purchase a 90-day tourist visa (\$20; subject to change).

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 Departments official website at <http://travel.state.gov>.

Entitlements:

- Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)

BAH for Dual Military members and Service Members receiving the w/o dependent rate is not authorized during this tour. Only those who have the w/dependent rate will receive BAH.

- Imminent Danger Pay (IDP)
- Family Separation Pay (FSP) (For Married Personnel or single personnel w/dependents they are drawing BAH for)
- Cost of Living Allowance (COLA)

Everyone is entitled to COLA which is based on pay grade, time in service, and duty location COLA rates Use Code TU005 (ISTANBUL) at: <http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/perdiem/ocform.html>

- Excess Baggage (Must be annotated on your orders)
- Civilian Clothing Allowance (CCA):

Soldiers are authorized to receive CCA. We will process your CCA so you will receive the entitlement within your first 30 days of arrival. A memorandum will be submitted during in processing in the NSE. If you submitted for your CCA prior to arrival bring a copy of the paperwork to the NSE when in processing. All personnel will travel to and from work in civilian clothes. Some conferences and the NATO School in Oberammergau require business casual as the duty uniform. Your sponsor should be able to give you some idea if you will be going.

In-processing

Turkey requires all NATO orders to be stamped, dated and signed in **blue ink and must include a return date (one year from report date)**. These orders are in addition to your PCS orders. Your PCS orders are standard overseas, unaccompanied tour orders. You are authorized to ship your POV, but it can be extremely costly and time-consuming due to Turkish import taxes. If shipping your POV, check to ensure that your PCS orders indicate the authorization. ALL NATO orders will be provided by your home station before PCSing to Turkey. Your orders must reflect that you are assigned unit zip code 09810, W1NB35 or W2HW44 UIC. In-Processing is done through the Army National Support Element (NSE) and in your branch section of the NATO Headquarters. Soldiers should arrive with all of the following deployment requirements up to date:

"All US military personnel should not wear uniforms on the streets of Istanbul and while traveling".

Soldiers should arrive with all following deployment requirements up to date:

PCS Orders

Leave Form

Passports and Visas

Driver's License

Medical and Dental

records

Proof of Citizenship if

Naturalized

HHG and Vehicle Shipping

Documents CIF printout

Vehicle Titles/Registrations/License

Plates Copy of Last Evaluation (if

applicable) Insurance Documents

(Vehicle/Home)

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

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 II

PHA up to date

DA Photograph and personnel records

Have a current DA photograph taken prior to your arrival and placed into your OMPF. There is no DA photograph facility located in Turkey and taking DA photos are at your own expense. The closest facility is located in Germany. Have all your personal paperwork completed and updated prior to arriving in Turkey. The closest Personnel Support Battalion is located in Naples, Italy

Commissary/Post Exchange

The Commissary is located in Ankara (4 1/2 hours drive), Izmir (7 hours drive), or Incirlik AFB (12 hours drive).

The PX is located in Ankara (4 1/2 hours drive), Izmir (7 hours drive), or Incirlik AFB (12 hours drive).

Medical/Dental

There is a Medical/ Dental Infirmary on the base for basic support. Acibadem Hospital will be used for all levels of medical and dental care.

TRICARE Prime Remote program is administered through **International SOS**.

TRICARE / International SOS

Soldiers and family members will be referred to network physicians by TRICARE International SOS. TRICARE maintains a list of network physicians, including specialists, who speak English and meet strict medical standards of practice. Standards of practice in Istanbul may not be as strict as those in the United States, but rest assured that your medical needs will be satisfactorily met when referred to one of these physicians.

Family members will need to be enrolled in TRICARE Prime Remote Overseas. Contact TRICARE for proper procedures to enroll in International SOS. For Soldiers, there will be certain medical requirements (PHA, PDHA, etc) that can only be met by going to an MTF.

All dental coordinated through the local TRICARE Representative, and possible travel to Ramstein AFB or Incirlik AFB for some surgeries if required.

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TRICARE Prime Remote program is administered through **International SOS**.

All dental care for the Soldier and family members is done on the local economy through Tricare International SOS. All Soldiers should have Met Life Insurance for their Family Members for the Dental. You are responsible for scheduling all appointments and care through International SOS.

Active duty personnel under full-time orders with a permanent duty assignment, who **live and work** more than 50 miles (*or approximately a one-hour drive*) from a military hospital or clinic in TPR-designated ZIP codes, must enroll in TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR). In some cases where geographic boundaries create undue hardship for travel, members living closer than 50 miles may be eligible for TPR.

ADFM's residing with their TPR-enrolled sponsor's qualifying TPR location are eligible for TPRADFM. Once ADFM's enroll in TPRADFM, they may remain in TPRADFM as long as their sponsor is enrolled in TPR and they reside in the same TPR-qualifying location. ADFM's may remain enrolled in TPRADFM even if their sponsor later receives an unaccompanied permanent change of assignment and they continue to reside in the same TPR location. If ADFM's choose not to enroll in TPRADFM, they will receive care under TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra, with applicable cost-shares and deductibles.

If you're an active duty service member or an activated Guard or Reserve member stationed in a

designated remote overseas location, you must enroll in TRICARE Prime Remote Overseas. Family members must be command-sponsored to enroll or they have the option to use TRICARE Standard Overseas if not command-sponsored.

Call your regional call center Eurasia-Africa: +44-20-8762-8384

TRICARE Prime Remote Overseas meets or exceeds the requirements for minimum essential coverage. The Affordable Care Act requires you to maintain basic health care coverage—called minimum essential coverage. If you don't have minimum essential coverage, you may have to pay a fee for each month you aren't covered under the [Affordable Care Act](#).

Who Can Participate?

The following beneficiaries may enroll in TRICARE Prime Remote Overseas:

Active duty service members

Command-sponsored active duty family members

Activated National Guard/Reserve members

Command-sponsored family members of activated National Guard/Reserve members

When you enroll in TRICARE Prime Remote Overseas, you can call an overseas point of contact (POC) for help. They can help you:

Enroll in a TRICARE plan overseas

Schedule appointments at overseas network facilities

File your medical and dental claims

Answer questions about coverage options and benefits—including complex issues

Navigate TRICARE's electronic self-service options

To locate your POC, contact your [TRICARE Area Office](#).

What is International SOS?

International SOS is a medical and security assistance company that TRICARE has partnered with to provide healthcare for remote locations. International SOS provides assistance with scheduling medical appointments, locating network primary and specialty care providers and medically monitoring your care. There is no out-of-pocket costs or paperwork to file. The SOS also provides a doctor/nurse advice line 24 hours, seven days a week. The number is 44-20-8762-8133, and you can call this number collect. You can find more information on SOS at the following website:

<http://www.internationalsos.com/private/tricare/europe/>

Phone number:

0800-181-8508 (This number is for a TRICARE representative that works at the International SOS)

Collect: 00-44-20-8768-8133

Fax: 00-44-20-8762-8125

E-Mail: tricarelon@internationalsos.com

Keep Your DEERS Information Up To Date

Eligibility for TRICARE is determined by the services and reflected in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). It is important to keep DEERS records up to date. Due to coverage requirements under the Affordable Care Act, TRICARE must be able to verify your coverage status based on what is listed in DEERS. Your Social Security number (SSN) and the SSN of each of your covered family members must be included in DEERS for your TRICARE coverage to be reflected accurately. For more information, visit www.tricare.mil/deers.

Welcome to the TOP Prime Remote program! Our health care specialists at International SOS (Intl. SOS) are available to assist you and will be arranging and managing your health care needs with your primary care physician. We understand that you may be more familiar with a Military Treatment Facility (MTF) or civilian assigned Primary Care Manager (PCM). In TOP Prime Remote locations, you will not have an assigned PCM. Intl. SOS will act as your PCM for referral and authorization management. The health and well-being of you and your family are our main priorities.

As the TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) contractor, Intl. SOS has developed a provider network in your enrolled remote location. This network includes hospitals, emergency, primary care, and specialty care providers. There are no enrollment fees for TOP Prime Remote beneficiaries and medical care is available on a cashless, claimless basis.

In order to receive cashless, claimless medical care, TOP Prime Remote beneficiaries must follow the procedures outlined below. It is also important to understand the Point of Service (POS) benefit and how Other Health Insurance (OHI) is used when receiving care in TOP Prime Remote locations. International SOS is available to assist you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and you may call collect, if available. For toll-free contact information, visit www.tricare-overseas.com/contactus.

Point of Service Option: The TRICARE Prime Point-of-Service (POS) option allows TOP Prime and TOP Prime Remote Active Duty Family Members (ADFMs) to pay additional out-of-pocket fees to receive non-emergency health care services from any host nation provider without referrals. Note: Prior authorization requirements for certain services may still apply when using the POS option. Visit www.tricare.mil/FindDoctor/Appointments/Authorization.aspx for more information. If you still have questions or need assistance when using the POS option, contact your TOP Regional Call Center.

***Note:** The POS option results in significantly higher out-of-pocket costs. TRICARE only reimburses 50 percent of the negotiated or allowable charge after you meet the POS deductible. POS costs do not apply to your annual catastrophic cap. For more information regarding POS costs, visit www.tricare.mil/costs.

Pets

Pets are not authorized

Vehicles

POVs (Customs Clearance and Traffic Registration)

Unaccompanied Allied NATO personnel are allowed to import one motor vehicle each free of duties and taxes. Allied personnel who are entitled to temporarily import motor vehicles may also purchase a motor vehicle on the Turkish commercial market free of duties and taxes. If accompanied by a spouse, the NATO- member is allowed to import or purchase two motor vehicles free of duties and taxes.

Personnel who are entitled to temporarily import motor vehicles may also import or purchase one motorcycle, caravan/trailer and/or non-motorized Pleasure Boat on the Turkish commercial market free of duties and taxes.

Motor vehicles can be imported by the following means:

1. By shipping
2. By driving

When your vehicle(s) arrive(s) by a container ship, your removal contractor will be responsible for carrying out customs formalities. Please let them contact the HNSS/ Customs Liaison Office which will provide them with the required documentation for customs clearance.

If you bring your vehicle to Turkey yourself by driving, it will be registered on your passport at the border, and you will be granted (up to) six months to drive it in Turkey. Once you start in-processing, please contact the HNSS/ Customs LNO, and inform him of your intent to import your POV. You will be given three (3) blank copies of the NATO Byname and will be referred to the Customs Office in Izmir for customs clearance. Your vehicle will be registered on the NATO Byname and deregistered from your passport. Thus you will be able to drive it during your tour of duty in Izmir. You are strongly advised to have these formalities carried out by a contractor. The vehicle(s) also need(s) to be registered with the Traffic Police. Vehicles older than three years must receive a certificate of conformity, and pass a safety and exhaust emission inspection before you can register and drive with a Turkish number-plate. Language barriers may make these procedures seem complicated to newcomers, therefore, it is highly recommended that you have them carried out by a professional traffic broker.

Registration:

Turkish Law requires all vehicles (shipped by SDDC and arriving at the VPC, transferred, or driven into Turkey) have a Standardization Certificate before vehicle registration and inspection. You have 45 days to complete this, or the Turkish Government will take ownership of your vehicle. Ensure that you can physically locate your engine block number on your car. Be prepared to spend 4-6 hours at customs to transfer/register the vehicle. Inspections take a morning or afternoon, and you need to know where to find the VIN and engine number. Submit the completed paperwork to the Pass & ID office and they will request your license plates.

License: Through the USAF in Ankara and Izmir.

Registration: Through the USAF in Ankara and Izmir.

Fuel: Purchased each month, rationed on the size of the vehicle's engine.

You may want to consider obtaining an International Driver's License before departing the United States. The sponsor should notify the inbound Soldier and dependents, those that are of driving

age of the need to obtain an international driver's license prior to departure from CONUS.

<http://www.idlid.com/prices.php>

Update: IDL Website: <http://www.idlid.com/?gclid=CJGI0tj31MMCFQoKwwod0KoA4g>

International Driver's License (book only): \$20.00 US

International Driver's License (book with regular plastic card): \$25.00 US

Additional plastic card: \$10.00 US

International Driver's License (book with magnetic stripe plastic card):
\$35.00 US

Additional magnetic stripe plastic card: \$15.00 US

Additional security hologram security seal affixed to booklet: \$10.00 US

Member plastic ID card: \$20.00 US

Additional Helpful Safety Information:

EARTHQUAKE PREPARATION

- Istanbul is located in the Trans-Asiatic Fault Zone. Earthquakes are not uncommon.
- The greatest hazard in an earthquake is falling objects. If you are inside, stay inside. If you are outside, move into a clear area away from trees, buildings, signs, etc.
- Have each family member learn the safe spots and danger zones in each room.
- Safety spots: Strong, supported doorway; under a sturdy table or desk or a corner of the apartment/room.
- Danger Zones: windows and other glass, furniture that may fall over or slide, heating units, stoves, fireplaces, places that could be blocked by falling debris and elevators. Also, be cautious when using stairwells.
- If you are near the stove, turn it off. If you smell gas, turn off the gas bottle and the water mains. Remember to turn off the main electricity fuse box. Do not light matches or candles.
- Be prepared for after-shocks many hours later!

Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA)

You will often hear the term Status of Forces Agreement or SOFA during your assignment overseas. Each European country has distinct differences regarding what rights or responsibilities are included in the SOFA agreement that they have with the United States. The SOFA plays a vital role in guaranteeing fair treatment of Soldiers and their family members. It defines the legal status of U.S. (Sending State) personnel and property in the territory of the host nation. The purpose of such an agreement is to establish rights and responsibilities between the United States and the host nation government on matters such as the wearing of the uniform, carrying arms, taxes, entry and exit of personnel and property (for example, automobiles, personal weapons), resolving damage claims, and other activities such as postal, recreation, and banking. More importantly, SOFA deals with civil and criminal jurisdiction. They are a vital means by which the Department of Defense carries out its policy "to protect, to the maximum extent possible, the rights of United States personnel who may be subject to criminal trial by foreign courts and imprisonment in foreign prisons." All civilian employees and family members going overseas will be provided a SOFA certificate for their passport. Contact your local military passport section for more information on the SOFA certificate.