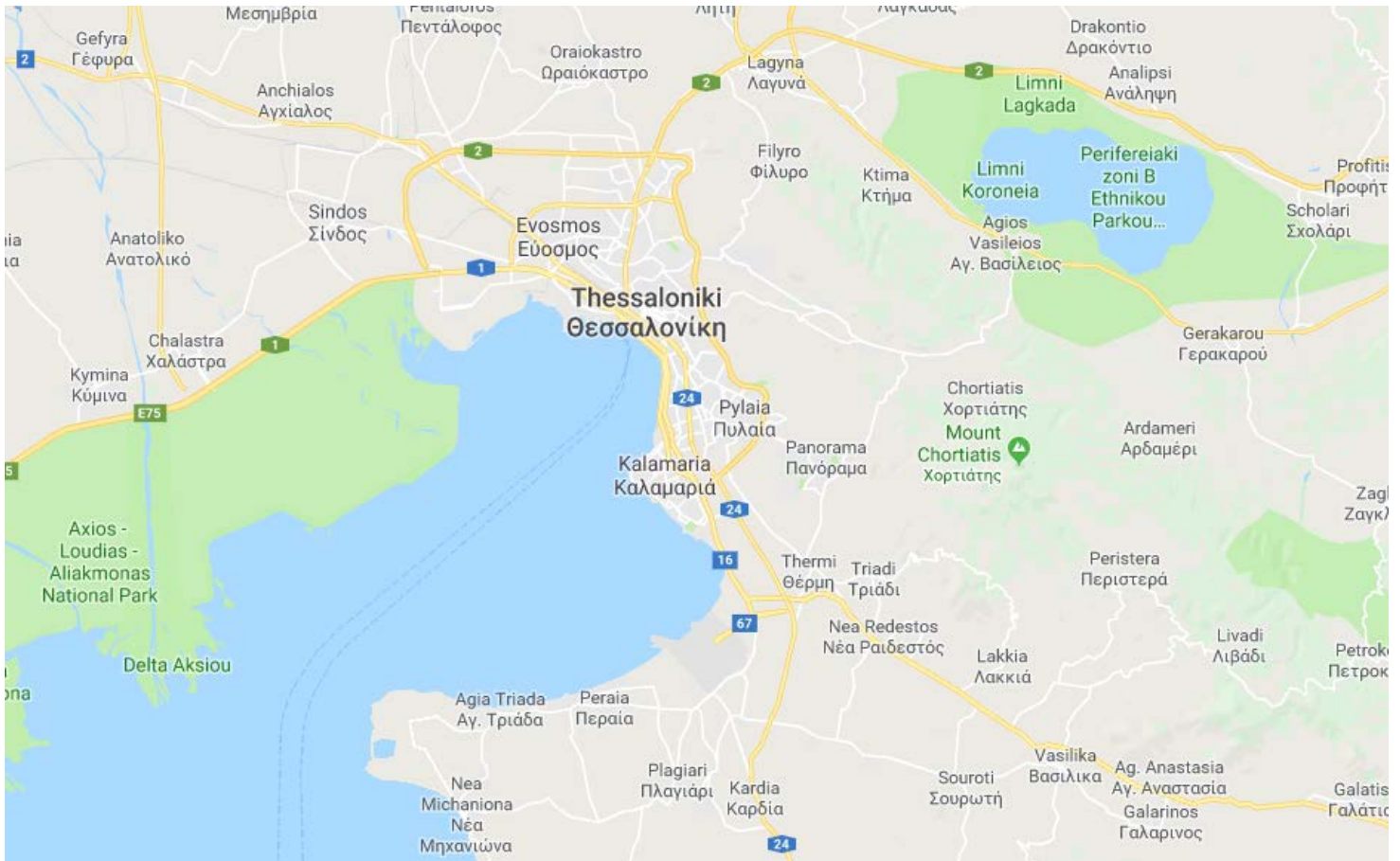


# Thessaloniki, GR

## NATO Rapid Deployable Corps – Greece (NRDC-GR)



## Contact Information

**AFSOUTH Battalion: DSN: 314-637-7357**

**Com: +39 335 644 0344**

**A Co Commander: DSN: 314-675-6830**

**Com: +90 532 311 0150**

**1st Sergeant: DSN: 314-675-6500**

**Com: +90 532 680 8954**

**PUBLIC WEBSITE: <http://nrdc.army.gr/>**

## **Welcome**

Welcome to US Army NATO (USANATO). A smooth transition to USANATO begins with good sponsorship. It is imperative that you initiate and maintain contact with your assigned sponsor immediately. You will be assigned a Greek NRDC-GR sponsor (primary) and a USYour sponsor (alternate). 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, NRDC-GR Greek 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 is a highlight of what you can expect at your country of assignment. The information here is not all inclusive and may change over time. It is especially important to have your official (maroon) passport as the SM and your family has the US No Fee Blue Passport with the SOFA Stamp. Ensure you check and verify a country's requirement for passport and visa as soon as you receive your orders.

## **Resources**

### **Garrison Support**

Limited US support. Army National Support Element in Izmir, Turkey provides admin and supply support.

### **Closest Military Installation**

The closest military installation in Greece is Naval Support Activity Souda Bay on the island of Crete, however that is a closed installation within a Greek Navy Base, - with need to enter access-.

### **Port Call**

None

### **Commissary/Post Exchange**

The closest Commissary is located in Izmir Turkey. The closest Navy Exchange is located in Souda Bay, Greece. No access to Post Exchange in Greece. Shopping can be done in the local economy.

### **Commissary Hours of Operation:**

Izmir Commissary:

SUN 1000-1800

MON CLOSED

TUES 1000-1800

WEDS 1130 - 1930

THURS 1130 - 1930

FRI 1130 - 1930

SAT 1000 - 1800

## NEAREST TREATMENT FACILITY/HOSPITAL

### Medical/Dental

MEDICAL CLINIC NAME: Interbalkan Medical Center

MEDICAL CLINIC PHONE: +30 2310 400000

### Dental facilities

DENTIST NAME: Dr. Stefania Kotridou

DENTIST PHONE: +30 2310 341910

### Veterinary Services

There are many reputable veterinary clinics in and around Thessaloniki. Check with your sponsor for an English speaking Veterinarian.

The Greek law changed on pet ownership, so it is important for SM to check for latest updates prior to shipping a pet.

### Schools

Incoming personnel must get in contact with their sponsor promptly upon notification of assignment in order to get the appropriate documents to apply to the school: Original Birth Certificate, Student ID (if current students), Guardian/Parent ID, School transcript or report cards from the past 2 years (with Apostille), Official Health Form (completed with a doctor, download this from the school's portal), and Vaccination/Immunization records. The Greek Ministry of Education requires an annual physical examination that includes the routine US physical, blood work, eye exam, and ultrasound of the heart, in order for children to continue attendance in the school and participate in PE/Sports. Such an exam, considered a comprehensive exam, is not covered by Tricare on a yearly basis. The average cost for this exam is approximately 260 Euros per child (2016 data).

### Housing

Finding an English speaking broker is difficult especially when the application is discussed. Speaking Greek is helpful or a translator must be present that understands the US requirements/waivers etc. US housing support is not available locally. **Broker fees are a reimbursable cost under MIHA Rent but many brokers try to avoid paying taxes and as a result receipts are not issued.** Currently a SM, MAJ Wooten is writing, translating and help execute contracts for incoming US personnel. Not viable after her departure. NRDC-GR family support section does not have an affiliation with or promote local businesses. There is an independent broker that has been used by them with no ties or liability to the military. **NRDC-GR does not have a functioning housing support office as is customary in most US military locations.** US personnel must be independent in their search of the house and ensure that receive the US Consulate General Force Protection checklist in order to find a house that meets Force Protection requirements. This is applicable only if the SM serves an accompanied tour.

### Mail

There is no USPS or APO military post office support. Mail services are provided through the U.S. Consulate here in Thessaloniki after the SM is found eligible to receive such services. MAJ Wooten, coordinates with the US Embassy to add the service member to ICAAS. Be sure to

keep track of your estimated weight of received and out-going mail. This is how the Army is billed through the Department of State.

## **Drivers Testing**

The nearest driver testing facility for a USAEUR driver's license is located in Vilseck, Germany. SM must possess a valid US driver's license. This license will be translated by the NRDC-GR family support office to Greek.

## **Transportation**

Greece has a sophisticated bus, ferry and train network. However, the latter is not used as heavily as the bus and ferry services. All cities and most villages also have a Taxi service available.

## **Driving Directions to Thessaloniki**

Driving to Greece is possible from almost everywhere. You can even take the ferry across the sea from Italy. It is recommended to avoid driving through areas with possible unrest, such as Kosovo. Always consult your security management office to receive country briefs and security considerations when traveling.

## **Child Care**

If SM has small children or infants there is no facility validated and approved by a US professional to ensure that the local daycares meet safety/health standards for SM children to use. This can result in extra stress for the SM and spouse when such service is needed. Note: Typically, the Greek culture does not rely on daycare services as much, since they have families close by that can support them in such instances. Most daycares will not take children until they are trained to use the bathroom or they are minimum of 1 years old (Maternal leave is typically 14 months).

## **FAMILY SUPPORT:**

NRDC-GR has a limited family support office. This is not even a close as a typical Army ACS facility. The NRDC-GR family support office mostly provides tax free purchasing support. Contact your sponsor for further help with any other issues. -

**FEML/EML AUTHORIZED: NO**

**CONSUMABLE GOODS ALLOWANCE: NONE**

<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/faqconsumablegoodsallow.cfm>