



TALKING TÜRKIYE

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NEWSLETTER

VOL. 9, No. 8

Serving Izmir Air Station, Türkiye



Photo by Tanju Varlıklı

Children from Latvia dance during a National Sovereignty and Children's Day celebration in Karşıyaka.

Türkiye celebrates National Sovereignty and Children's Day

Story by Tanju Varlıklı

425th Air Base Squadron Host Nation Adviser

The 95th anniversary of the foundation of the Turkish Parliament will be observed during the National Sovereignty and Children's Day on April 23.

Türkiye celebrates both the anniversary of the Turkish National Assembly, which opened in 1920 during the Turkish War of Independence, and the country-wide celebration of International Children's Day on this holiday.

Celebrated since 1986, National Sovereignty and Children's Day was dedicated to children on the same day the Turkish Parliament was established by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Turkish Republic. When the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization declared 1979 as "Children's Year," the Turkish Republic decided to share this day dedicated to Turkish children with the children of the world.

This year, around 650 children from 45 countries will participate in the Turkish Radio and Television 37th International April 23 Children's Day celebrations. Elementary school students all over Türkiye are interviewed by the press as they symbolically take the places of governors, mayors, police chiefs and military commanders on April 23. The president, prime minister and provincial governors all turn over their positions to child representatives from schools. For example, in Ankara, some elementary school children selected from different cities of Türkiye pay a visit to the president's and the prime minister's offices and conduct a short interview with them.

During the celebrations here in Izmir, elementary school children symbolically sit in for Mustafa Toprak, governor of Izmir; Gen. Galip Mendi, the Aegean army commander; Aziz Kocaoğlu, mayor of Izmir; and Celal Uzunkaya, the police chief of Izmir. In addition, a number of dignitaries will be present at the wreath-laying ceremony which will be held at the Cumhuriyet Square in front of the Atatürk Monument at 9.30 a.m.

April 23 National Sovereignty and Children's Day celebrations start at 10 a.m. at the Cumhuriyet Square and continue throughout the day and will be broadcast live on national TV. Celebrations will continue throughout the week in the districts of Izmir with participants from 45 countries including: Türkiye, India, Germany, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China, Georgia, Northern Cyprus, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Kazakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Hungary, Macedonia, Malaysia, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Iraq, Morocco, Japan, Liberia, Thailand, Mexico, Venezuela, Indonesia and many other countries.

For more information about the program, call the 425th Air Base Squadron Public Affairs office, at DSN 675-6698.

Action Line



The Action Line is your direct link to me. I use the Action Line to help identify and address your concerns when normal command and agency channels haven't been able to resolve them. To submit an action line, e-mail: action.line@izmir.af.mil, or complete a form at NATO Building # 1 or the Izmir Consolidated Center entry control point.

Editorial Staff

425th Air Base Squadron Commander
Lt. Col. John M. Thomas

425th Air Base Squadron Director of Operations
Capt. David J. Bresser

Host Nation Adviser
Tanju Varikli

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The editorial staff can be reached by phone at DSN 675-6694 and DSN 675-6698; and by email at 425abs.cc@izmir.af.mil and at 425abs.pa@izmir.af.mil.

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U.S. Customs, you

By Albert Stevens

U.S. Customs and Agricultural Inspector

Everyone assigned to Izmir will eventually have to ship personal property back to the U.S. even if their next assignment is another assignment outside the CONUS. This could be in the form of a package mailed to a family member or the eventual return of a member's property when they do return to the U.S. Most people know the general restrictions that are faced by military members overseas. Members cannot, of course, ship alcohol or fresh food through the postal service to the United States. Members should also know that they cannot ship canned meat through the postal system, to include soups containing meat. While on the subject of mailing items, if a member plans on mailing gifts back to their family, keep an eye on the prices. If the value of the gift is over \$100.00 the member will have to pay duty on the gift. Members may want to reconsider the gold bracelet they were going to send their wife for her birthday. Any duty that is owed will be collected at the receiving end, never at the sending end. This could make that gift seem more like a burden.

When a member returns to the U.S. they can carry up to \$400.00 worth of foreign goods on them in person with their duty free. There are quantity limitations that apply to tobacco and alcohol that is no more than 100 cigars and 200 cigarettes and only 1 liter of wine, beer or liquor (only if they are over 21). In a member's personal property shipment, a member may have fewer limitations on quantities, but still face the same restrictions on prohibited items like fresh food and meat. Also, alcohol is still limited to 1 liter duty free. If a member includes more than one liter of alcohol in their personal property, they need to make sure they have paid the appropriate state taxes or can provide proof that the state does not charge any. Since this varies with each state and changes are frequent, it is on the member to make sure they are legal in that regard. A good starting website to see what a member may owe in taxes is: <http://www.ttb.gov/wine/state-ABC.shtml>

Other items can be prohibited as well such as Kinder eggs chocolate which has small parts that have been declared a choking hazard for small children. In 2011, 60,000 of these treats were seized by U.S. Customs personnel. Pirated copies of trademarked items are also prohibited and could be seized, and a fine levied. Lastly, some items a member may buy that are unique to Turkey. Everyone has been told that the government of Turkey does not allow a member to ship out antiquities, to include carpets. Many people don't know that it may also be prohibited to import those items into the U.S. even if a member gets them out of Turkey. Some items would require an export certificate from the country of origin.

For more information, contact the local USDA/U.S. Customs Agent, at DSN 675-6723.



Photo by Tanju Varlıklı

Locals of Izmir sit by the water at Pasaport and enjoy their breakfast and the perfect view in the serene morning silence as ferries are coming and leaving.

Enjoy a hearty breakfast in the serene morning silence of Izmir

Story by Tanju Varlıklı

425th Air Base Squadron Host Nation Adviser

When the seasons change and the weather becomes warmer with the first signs of spring, there are a lot of places to go for your early morning meal.

In Istanbul, for example, the Sultanahmet Square is surrounded with little cafeterias in front of the historic structures. In Ankara, people get their breakfast in the Kızılay Square. In Izmir, the best breakfast spots in the city center are the First Kordon and Pasaport.

Locals of Izmir often sit by the water and enjoy their breakfast before going to work. The workers, who take the morning ferries from Karşıyaka to Pasaport, typically stop by at the gevrek, kumru, boyoz and börek stands in Pasaport.

From 8 to 9:30 a.m., there are lines of people trying to get their morning breakfast – usually a gevrek or boyoz, a piece of cheese, and an egg – while sitting at one of the coffee-houses or cafeterias along the water. Additionally, they can order their first çay of the morning while enjoying the perfect view in the serene morning silence of Izmir as ferries come and go on the water.



Photo by Tanju Varlıklı

A local vendor sells gevrek, kumru, boyoz and börek to locals of Izmir at a stand at Pasaport.

Two of Izmir's favorite breakfast delicacies are kumru and gevrek. Kumru is a sandwich originating from Çeşme which can be enjoyed at any time of the day. As people make their daily walk to work, they may find several stands selling kumru, please take the time and enjoy this delicacy.

The second favorite breakfast in Izmir is the gevrek, a ring shaped, short bread covered in sesame seeds and sold in almost every district of Izmir. If the kumru or the gevrek does not spark your interest, you may want to try a Börek, a flaky pastry filled with thin layers of food (usually cheese, spinach, potato or cooked ground beef) or a Boyoz, a plain börek that goes well with egg, cheese and çay. Finally, there is also Bergama "tulum" cheese, which is solid, a little salty and tasty.

While in Izmir, try to have breakfast at one of the ferryboat stations or at one of the local cafes. Ask for a glass of hot Turkish tea, some Bergama (Pergamum) "tulum" cheese (cheese encased in a skin) and some gevrek. A healthy breakfast consisting of all these delicious items will not cost you more than 4 Turkish Liras.

While the specific items served in each region may differ, the world-famous Turkish çay plays an important role in the daily lives of Turkish people. Do not be surprised when offered tea by waiters after finishing your meals; it is just a sign of hospitality and friendship.

Afiyet olsun!
'Enjoy your meal!'
'May it do you good!'

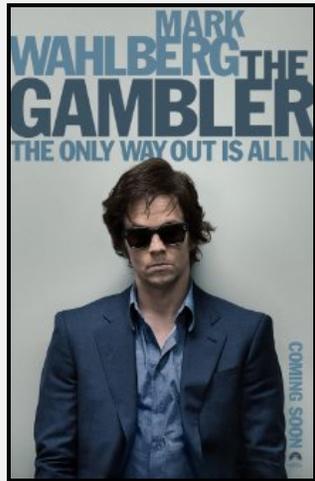
MOVIE NIGHT AT THE IZMIR CLUB THIS COMING SATURDAY

April 25, 2015



5.30 p.m.
The Wedding Ringer
(R)

April 25, 2015



8 p.m.
The Gambler
(R)

"The Wedding Ringer" Plot Summary: Two weeks shy of his wedding, a socially awkward guy enters into a charade by hiring the owner of a company that provides best men for grooms in need.

"The Gambler" Plot Summary: Lit professor and gambler Jim Bennett's debt causes him to borrow money from his mother and a loan shark. Further complicating his situation is his relationship with one of his students. Will Bennett risk his life for a second chance?

Spring Egg-stravaganza



A view from the Spring Egg-stravaganza at NATO that was hosted by the Izmir Liberty Chapel April 11, 2015.

By Traci Williams
425th Air Base Squadron Youth Director

Izmir Liberty Chapel hosted a Spring Egg-stravaganza at the NATO soccer field April 11, 2015. The event was well attended by the 425th Air Base Squadron and NATO families, and began with an Easter egg hunt of more than 1,000 eggs. Following the egg hunt were games and activities for children as well as adults. The egg toss, bunny hop, cake walk, and spring hat competition were some of the highlights of the event. The children were able to earn tickets by participating in events and then turned the tickets in for small prizes. There were drawings for Easter baskets, cakes, and a balloon bouquet.

It was a beautiful spring morning and everyone had a great time playing games and being able to relax with a family friendly event. Master Sgt. Derrick Drennan, 425th ABS security forces flight chief, summed it up best when he said, "This was a great event! It showed the NATO community that we care about them and are here to serve them!"



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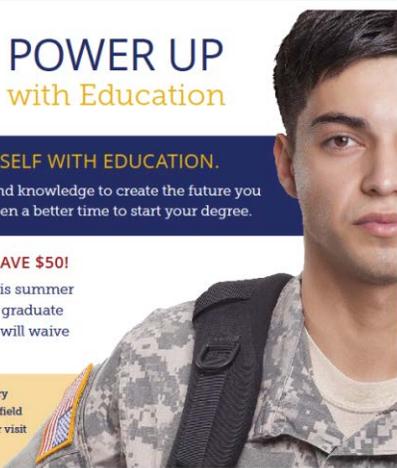
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COURSE	TITLE	DAYS	TIMES	START	END	Class Number	GoArmyEd Number
TURK111	Elementary Turkish 1 (E 321)	M, T, Th	18:00 - 20:00	1 June	26 July	53100	89415

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