



TALKING TÜRKİYE

JULY 10, 2015

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9, No. 12

Serving Izmir Air Station, Türkiye

Clean bike, why should you care?

Story by Albert Stevens

U.S. Customs and Agricultural Inspector

If you have served overseas before, you may have wondered why the U.S. Department of Agriculture inspector was so picky about how clean your items were when inspecting. The inspector really doesn't care how good of a housekeeper you are; they are trying to protect the U.S. from invasion. Military members worry about and protect the U.S. against foreign militaries and governments. USDA inspectors worry about and protect the U.S. against another type of attack.

The USDA inspection program has a main mission of protecting the U.S. agricultural industry. The agricultural industry contributed \$775 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product in 2012. That is a good chunk of change. Farms, of course, are a major part of this industry and would suffer the most from an attack by an invasive creature.

You may have heard horror stories about the Gypsy Moth invasion that has decimated some forest land in America. Well, there are other invaders that can do more damage than that and have a greater impact on both the U.S. economy and you directly.

Let's look at the potential of the golden nematode. This little creature can sneak across borders on the heel of your shoe, or in the tread of a bicycle tire. If it ends up in a ripe environment, it will quickly reproduce and reduce a crop yield by up to 80 percent. What is one of the favorite targets of the golden

nematode? Potatoes. If 80 percent of the U.S. potatoes were wiped out, much of the economy of Idaho, Maine and other states would be destroyed. Also, with reduced potato production, fast food restaurants would have to reduce the number of fries served.

Some invasive species go after animal, not plant products. You have all heard of the more publicized invaders, such as Bird Flu and the West Nile virus. But have you heard of the Whirling Disease? This disease affects fish and if brought into an area where it can thrive, it could impact on both the fishing industry and recreational fishing.

As for birds, you have the Exotic Newcastle's Disease. If allowed to spread unchecked this deadly disease could potentially put chicken restaurants out of business.

(Story continued on Page 2)

Dear Turkish Employees,

On the occasion of Ramadan Holiday,
I would like to extend you, your family
and all your loved ones
my best wishes for health, happiness and success.

İyi Bayramlar!

John M. Thomas, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF
Commander, 425th Air Base Squadron

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 Varlıklı

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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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Clean bike

(Story continued from Page 1)

The beef industry is also a possible target for attack from over the border. The USDA is constantly protecting against Mad Cow Disease, as well as Hoof and Mouth Disease. If either of these gained a foothold on the U.S. the cattle industry could be devastated, but the small Khapra beetle could sneak in and devastate stored grains that many ranchers depend on to keep their herds profitable. The Khapra beetle is considered the world's most destructive insect for its ability to destroy stored grain, cereal, and stored foods; it is the only insect that requires regulatory action, whether encountered dead or alive. So, when a USDA inspector knocks on your door, don't worry about what they may see, worry about what they may not see.

Squadron announces awards

The winners of the squadron's quarterly awards (April through June) were announced recently.

Winners are:

Airman of the Quarter: Senior Airman Samantha Albalos, Security Forces

NCO of the Quarter: Tech. Sgt. Nancy Rouse, Commander's Support Staff

SNCO of the Quarter: Master Sgt. Edgardo Pineda, Contracting

CGO of the Quarter: Capt. Jeremy Bastian, Chaplain's Office

Civilian of the Quarter (Category I): Varol Can, Supply

Civilian of the Quarter (Category II): Elif Kaynak, Command Section

Education center announcement

University of Maryland is proudly presenting 2 lower level classes in Fall Semester, at the Izmir Hilton classroom.

- Speech 100
- Hybrid format evening class. (8 class meet only)
- History 156
- Live Streaming evening class.

Term dates: 17 Aug. to 11 Oct.
%100 AF-Army Tuition.

First time Air Force and Army students, this link is for you:
<https://www.europe.umuc.edu/services/steps-get-started>

Please visit the portal to complete your application process.



Photo by Tanju Varlikli

Candy and dessert sales normally skyrocket during the Sugar Holiday when it is customary to present family, friends and co-workers with delicious treats.

Ramadan holiday in Türkiye

Story by Tanju Varlikli

425th Air Base Squadron Host Nation Adviser

Ramazan Bayramı, or Şeker Bayramı, is the three-day religious holiday that follows the end of the holy month of Ramadan, a month of fasting.

The Sugar Holiday, which starts July 17 and ends July 19 this year, marks the end of Ramadan and is one of the two great religious holidays of Islam. The first day of the holiday is very important because it is the first time in a month that mid-day meals are eaten.

The holiday's Turkish name 'Şeker,' means sugar or candy. It refers to the custom of offering candy, sweets and desserts to visiting guests, family, friends and neighbors.

The Sugar Holiday is a time of visiting friends and paying respects to relatives and elders. People share candy and gifts with each other. After the hard days of fasting, everyone is in high spirits and in the mood for good food, visiting friends and spoiling children.

Children go door to door, ringing your bell asking for sweets and money. Families pay visits to friends, relatives and neighbors. During the three-day religious holiday, offices close for the half-day of Arife, the last day of Ramadan, and the three days of the holiday.

Wearing new outfits is customary during this religious holiday, so parents buy clothing and shoes for their children. A few days before the holiday, the house is thoroughly cleaned. Food and desserts are prepared for the first day and gifts are wrapped for the Sugar Holiday morning.

Everybody wakes up early, about an hour before sunrise, for the morning prayer. Fathers dress and go to the mosque for a special prayer session attended only by men.

When the calls of müezzin, a person who calls everybody to pray, are heard from the mosque's minaret, the faithful spread prayer mats and pray wherever they are. In the meantime, mothers and children prepare and wait for the fathers to return. When the fathers return, families congratulate each other and exchange gifts. Children kiss the hands of parents, and parents kiss children on both cheeks. Then, they open gifts and eat breakfast.

Some families visit the cemeteries to pay respect to relatives or friends who have died. This is usually done on Arife, (pronounced ah-ree-feih), which is July 16 this year. If cemeteries are visited on the first day of Sugar Holiday instead of Arife, a visit to family elders is in order next to wish them a happy bayram and say "iyi bayramlar," (pronounced e-yee bai-rahm-lahr).

The practice of gift giving during the Sugar Holiday is often extended to maids, doormen and building superintendents, as well. It is proper to present a box of candy, baklava or something else depending upon the relationship.

JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM THE SAFETY OFFICE:



Swimming Safety

- Make sure you have at least one "BUDDY" with you when swimming.
- Avoid staying in direct sunlight for extended periods of time.
- Avoid eating heavily before swimming.
- Do not go swimming while intoxicated.
- Do not use inflatable toys in the water under windy conditions.
- Make sure you drink enough water.
- Make sure you are prepared. Include sun block and other items with you.
- Know when to call it quits! Don't overdo it. Come back home in time to give yourself time to rest and recover.

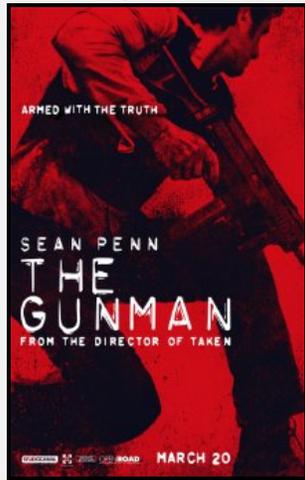
MOVIE NIGHT AT THE IZMIR CLUB THIS COMING SATURDAY

July 11, 2015



5.30 p.m.
Get Hard
(R)

July 11, 2015



8 p.m.
The Gunman
(R)

“Get Hard” Plot Summary: When millionaire James King is jailed for fraud and bound for San Quentin, he turns to Darnell Lewis to prep him to go behind bars.

“The Gunman” Plot Summary: A sniper on a mercenary assassination team, kills the minister of mines of the Congo. Terrier’s successful kill shot forces him into hiding. Returning to the Congo years later, he becomes the target of a hit squad himself.

Upcoming Services Events

USAF
SERVICES
Combat Support & Community Service

Karaoke Singing Contest

THURSDAY 16TH JULY 2015 @
1900 HOURS

Best talent wins
\$ 30—1st Place
\$ 20—2nd Place
\$ 10—3rd Place
Services Bucks!

- Ⓢ There must be a minimum of eight (8) registered participants!
- Ⓢ For more information or to sign-up, contact the Club staff at DSN: 675-6815.

SPECIAL CLUB EVENT

Turkish-American Night



**Saturday,
1st August**
The belly dancer
will perform at
2300 hours

Complimentary Food at Midnight!

AIR FORCE SERVICES
CLUBS

USAF
SERVICES
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USAF
SERVICES
Combat Support & Community Service

UPCOMING TRIPS

- ❖ JULY 11 **BOAT CRUISE AT ÇEŞME**
- ❖ JULY 18-19 **TRIP TO SAMOS**
- ❖ AUGUST 1 **BOAT CRUISE AT FOÇA**
- ❖ AUGUST 8 **TOUR TO A WATERPARK**
- ❖ AUGUST 15 **BOAT CRUISE AT ÇEŞME**
- ❖ AUGUST 22 **PARASAILING TRIP**
- ❖ AUGUST 29 **BOAT TRIP AT KUŞADASI**

TEAM COHESION CHALLENGE (SEPTEMBER 19, 2015)



Designed to offer the military members the opportunity to participate in adventure type events promoting mental physical and social fitness.