



TALKING TÜRKİYE

MAY 8, 2015

NEWSLETTER

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Serving Izmir Air Station, Türkiye

An unwelcome gift

Story by Albert Stevens

U.S. Customs and Agricultural Inspector

Recent conversations with some of the members of the Izmir military community have shown that there may be a knowledge gap in the area of gifts.

Military personnel in overseas areas have a unique opportunity to send their friends and family members in the U.S. a gift that they normally would not be able to receive making birthdays and Christmas special for the loved ones remaining in the U.S. Locally made items that are easily found in Turkey may be impossible to find in some parts of the U.S. These include some hand-carved meerschaum pipes, Turkish carpets and crafted gold and silver jewelry.

These are items that make great gifts for family members. Sending them through the APO or international mail systems is allowed and encouraged. Be aware that sometimes that gift could cost the receiver money they did not expect to have to pay.

This is because any foreign made gift someone in the U.S. receives from overseas is duty free only if the value is below \$100.00. If a received gift is valued at over \$100.00, the receiver is supposed to pay duty on the full value of the gift. The type of gift and the value will determine the duty that will be charged.

Since it is the daily value of gifts received that must be under \$100.00, sending several gifts that cost less than \$100.00 in the same box could still end up costing the receiver money if the total value is more than \$100.00. Mailing them separately on different days from here may help, or not. Due to bottlenecks in the mail system, packages mailed on separate days may arrive at the destination on the same day.

Many members think that if they buy an item from AAFES then it can be sent duty free regardless of value, which is not so. The only gift with a value over \$100.00 that can be sent duty free is a gift that was made in the U.S. or can be proven to be American Goods Returned. So, yes, the \$300.00 American made camera bought from the exchange can be sent duty free, but the \$120.00 earrings bought from the same exchange on the same day may cost the receiver money because they were made in Turkey.

The Customs Duty Rate is a percentage. This percentage is determined by the total purchased value of the article(s) paid at a foreign country and not based on factors such as quality, size, or weight. The Harmonized Tariff System provides duty rates for virtually every existing item. The Customs Border Patrol uses the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the U.S. Annotated, which is a reference manual that provides the applicable tariff rates and statistical categories for all merchandise imported into the U.S. This publication can be viewed at <http://hts.usitc.gov/>

SPECIAL EVENT

USAF SERVICES
Combat Support & Community Service

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S ARMED FORCES ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

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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.

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NATO and 425th Air Base Squadron members enjoy the Passover Seder Meal together that was hosted by the Izmir Liberty Chapel at the Izmir Club April 9, 2015. (Photo by Lt. Col. Mel Juan)

"Next year in Jerusalem!"

By Chaplain, Capt. Jeremy Bastian
425th Air Base Squadron Chaplain's Office

NATO and 425th Air Base Squadron members were immersed in the Jewish culture by participating in a Passover Seder Meal April 9, 2015. The chapel hosted the event and Senior Airman Samantha Burleigh, 425th ABS security forces base defense operations center, led the ceremony with many of the 20 people experiencing their first Passover Seder.

Izmir military community members experienced traditional Jewish customs and learned fascinating aspects of the Jewish culture while feasting on traditional Jewish food cooked by the 425th ABS club staff. Some of the authentic Jewish foods included Matzah (Unleavened Bread), Potato Latkes (Potato Pancakes) and Gefilte fish that were some of the foods offered during the evening meal.

"Growing up in my family, we ate Matzah, but I never knew it was so symbolical in the Jewish Seder meal," said Maj. Maurice Philogene, AFOSI DET 523 acting commander.

While enjoying the Seder together, Burleigh explained how the deliverance of the Israelites from oppression gives reason to celebrate by saying, "We are able to laugh and recline while eating because we are a free people." At the conclusion of the meal, as with tradition, everyone agreed, "La'shana ha'ba'a bi Ye'rushalayim ha'bnu'ya!" or "Next year in Jerusalem!"

Highway toll violations

By Mehmet Nur Tanışık

39th Air Base Wing Legal Office Attorney/Advisor

According to the amended and added provisions about highway toll violations, which was promulgated in the Official Gazette Number 29327 April 15, 2015, the owners of the vehicles that have passed motorways that are operated by the General Directorate without paying the tolls determined by the GD, will be subject to, in addition to the toll, an administrative fine equal to the 10 times of the toll that was not paid.

New rules regarding consequences of not paying tolls/fines related with use of the motorways are as in the following:

1. Law No 6639 which was promulgated at the Official Gazette Number 29327 on April 15, 2015, amended (or added new provisions) articles of various laws or decrees in effect of law.
 2. Article 33 of subject law added a new paragraph (paragraph 8) to the Law on the Organization and Duties of the General Directorate of Highways No. 6001.
 3. According to the amended and added provisions;
 - a. The owners of the vehicles that have passed motorways that are operated by the General Directorate without paying the tolls determined by the GD, will be subject to, in addition to the toll, an administrative fine equal to the 10 times of the toll that was not paid.
 - b. Subject administrative fine has to be paid within a month of following service of the related fine document. If not paid, related tax offices will start procedures for collection.
- c. The auto inspection or sale and transfer actions of the vehicles which have toll/fine debts will not be done until subject fines are collected.
 - d. If the normal toll is paid within 15 days following the date the violation was done, the above mentioned administrative fine will not be collected.
 - e. Whether the driver is a Turkish national or not, the fines or tolls stated above relating to vehicles with foreign license plates are collected by verbally notifying the driver about the toll/fine without the requirement of an official service of process.
 - f. Such foreign vehicles will not be permitted to leave the country without payment of said tolls/administrative fines. The detail rules regarding implementation of this provision will be governed at a Regulation which will be jointly prepared by the Ministry of Customs and Commerce, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Transportation, Maritime and Communication, within 6 months. Provisions of international agreements are reserved.

BOTTOM LINE:

- A. Don't try to use tolled motorways without payment of the tolls. Electronic/automatic toll stamps that are affixed to the windshield can easily be bought from Turkish banks or at the entrance of most of the tolled highways.
- B. If somehow, a motorway was used without payment of the toll, make the payment within 15 days of the violation, to prevent being subject to 10 times administrative fine.
- C. Non-payment of the tolls/fines may cause preventing your car' leaving Turkey.

MOVIE NIGHT AT THE IZMIR CLUB THIS COMING SATURDAY

May 9, 2015



5.30 p.m.

The Woman in Black 2
(PG-13)

May 9, 2015



8 p.m.

The Boy Next Door
(R)

"The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death" Plot Summary: 40 years after the first haunting at Eel Marsh House, a group of children evacuated from WWII London arrive, awakening the house's darkest inhabitant.

"The Boy Next Door" Plot Summary: A recently cheated on married woman falls for a younger man who has moved in next door, but their torrid affair soon takes a dangerous turn.



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SPECIAL EVENT

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STARTS 15th APRIL TO 31st MAY 2015
MILITARY FAMILY MEMBERS AND CHILDREN 6-18
YEARS OLD ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE



**USAF
SERVICES**
Combat Support & Community Service

UPCOMING TRIPS

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| ❖ MAY 9-10 | TRIP TO BODRUM |
| ❖ MAY 16-17 | TRIP TO SAMOS |
| ❖ MAY 19 | BOAT CRUISE AT ÇEŞME |
| ❖ MAY 23-25 | TRIP TO MARMARIS |
| ❖ MAY 30 | BOAT CRUISE AT ÇEŞME |
| ❖ JUNE 12-14 | TRIP TO CAPPADOCIA |
| ❖ JUNE 30 | DIVING TRIP AT ÇEŞME |