



# MERHABA TEAM DoD-ANKARA

## Leadership Corner: *Brigadier General Marc H. Sasseeville, U.S. Air Force, Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché*

Welcome to the second issue of the Merhaba Team DoD-Ankara newsletter!

I want to take time in this issue to discuss important matters of our personal health, welfare, safety, and protection. In addition to our customary concerns for everyone's happiness and wellbeing during the upcoming holiday season, we should absolutely dedicate some thoughts to our safety and security here in Turkey.

I know that many members of the community are becoming more and more concerned about their personal safety in this region of the world, in Turkey, and even here in Ankara. Whichever way the regional security situation plays out, my bottom line on this matter is that the U.S. Government has numerous mechanisms in place to keep its overseas employees and family members informed and protected.

The United States' enduring relationship with the Government of Turkey is probably the strongest guarantee that I can offer in reassuring you of your safety. Our relationships with Turkey's civilian and military leaders, and its security services, are stronger now than they have been in several years. The standing agreements between the U.S. and Turkey, as well as NATO, bind all of us into a unified security effort. Our host nation will absolutely continue keeping us safe as we live and work within its borders.

We can confidently rely on several components of the Department of Defense and the Department of State — such as the DoD's Air Force Office of Special Investigations and the DoS' Diplomatic Security Service — to stay well abreast of security matters as they develop, keeping the decisions of our Ambassador and other leaders best-informed.

My final reassurances are the good personal security practices that our community members employ, themselves. All of us have received some training on security. We know to remain aware of our surroundings, to pay attention to alerts and messages, to vary our routines, and to employ a variety of other measures. If you have not already, please refresh your knowledge of these things over the course of this newsletter and consider how you can best employ them in your day-to-day activities.

Our membership in Team DoD-Ankara continues to be a source of energy and pride for Karin, me, and our family. Please let us know immediately if there are any ways that we can improve things for you. Thank you for all that you do!



## Military Family Life Consultant in Ankara through December

U.S. Air Forces—Europe has deployed a Military Family Life Consultant to provide assistance to the Team DoD-Ankara community through 6 December.

Ms. Rosalyn Rivkin is a licensed clinical counselor who specializes in providing non-medical counseling services to military service members and their family members. Eligible community members can schedule private meetings with Ms. Rivkin for assistance with a wide variety of issues including:

- Resiliency
- Relationships
- Military parenting
- Communication
- Home sickness
- Separation
- Conflict resolution
- Loss and grief

Ms. Rivkin is available in at the ODC in room 115, or at the following numbers.

DSN 314-672-3250 / Commercial 312-417-8556 / Cellphone 0537-384-8304



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## Celebrate **Halloween** at the U.S. Embassy!

Be on the lookout for upcoming announcements as U.S. Mission Turkey gears up for its annual Halloween party.

Eligible community members will be invited to participate in decorating, trick-or-treating and other family-focused Halloween activities on the Embassy's premises.

The ODC is currently collecting candy and treats on behalf of Team DoD, to hand out to trick-or-treaters. Collection boxes are stationed throughout the facility.

Additional information will be passed to the community as it becomes available, by way of the Ankara Scene and general announcements.



## Force Protection Corner: *ODC-Turkey Anti-Terrorism and Force Protection (AT/FP) Office*

The force protection posture in Turkey remains dynamic. Soon after his arrival, Brigadier General Sasseeville initiated a review of security procedures to ensure that Team DoD members are provided clear, concise guidance while planning their travel throughout the region. This review has resulted in the drafting of an updated policy — intended to be applicable to everyone under the authorities of the Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché — that best ensures Team DoD's ability to execute its mission while still balancing everyone's safety and wellbeing.



Team DoD can expect the following measures to become effective immediately upon the policy's publication:

- Security conditions will be periodically assessed, with force protection measures — including possible travel restrictions — being specified for each Turkish political province.
- The Senior Defense Official and Defense Attaché may have the final authority on a team member's travel. Official travel by service members and employees may be allowed for a particular area, while personal, unofficial travel by service members and dependents may not be allowed.
- Travelers may be required to coordinate their travel through the AT/FP office and U.S. Air Force OSI. The AT/FP office and OSI can provide updated information on regional threats and security matters. Travelers may be required to receive these updates prior to gaining approval for their travel.

### AT/FP Contact Information:

MSgt John R. Sweeney / John.Sweeney.2@us.af.mil / DSN: 672-6820 / Cell Phone: 0532-655-7382

### Dates & Events

• Team DoD Social Call	Friday, 24 October	• U.S. Embassy Halloween Party	Friday, 31 October
• DoDDS Parent Conferences	13 & 14 November	• Team DoD Social Call	Friday, 21 November
• Team DoD Pick-Up Football Game	Friday, 28 November	• Team DoD Holiday Party	Friday, 12 December
• DoDDS Winter Recess	22 December to 4 January		

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