



# TALKING TÜRKIYE

MARCH 13, 2015

## NEWSLETTER

VOL. 9, No. 5

Serving Izmir Air Station, Türkiye



Photo by Tanju Varlıklı

Lt. Col. John Thomas (right), 425th Air Base Squadron commander; Master Sgt. Shawn Tolar (left), 425th ABS first sergeant; Senior Master Sgt. select John Crane, 425th ABS superintendent; and MSgt Siam Bean (middle), 425th ABS security manager and the Air Force Assistance Fund representative; review Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign details and the AFAF affiliate websites, during preparation for the 2015 AFAF Campaign March 9, 2015.

## AFAF campaign is underway in Izmir

Story by Tanju Varlıklı

425th Air Base Squadron Host Nation Adviser

The Air Force Assistance Fund annual drive begins in Izmir March 24 and will run through May 1. This year's campaign, "Commitment to Caring," is in full swing, and anyone in the Izmir military community can contribute to the AFAF.

The AFAF was established as an annual effort to raise funds for the charitable affiliates that provide support to the Air Force family (active duty, retirees, reservists, guards and their dependents, including surviving spouses) in need.

"When you think of 'Commitment to Caring', you think of the Air Force Assistance Fund," said Master Sgt. Derrick Drennan, 425th Air Base Squadron

security forces flight chief and the AFAF representative for the squadron. "A time when active duty and retired Airmen can contribute to the four charities: the Air Force Villages, the Air Force Aid Society, the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation and the Air Force Enlisted Village. Helping our wingmen and their families is a part of our core values. By contributing an extra dollar, you can help a young boy or girl go to college, a widow mother feed her children, provide better health care for retired people and much more. Giving and reaping the benefits to see others happy is what the AFAF is all about."

The AFAF is known as the Air Force's effort to take care of their own with four separate programs:

- The Air Force Villages Foundation provides care to retired Air Force officer widows who need financial assistance.
- The Air Force Aid Society provides Airmen and their families with worldwide emergency financial assistance.
- The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation provides rent and financial assistance to enlisted and officer retirees and their spouses in need.
- The Air Force Enlisted Village provides homes to surviving spouses of enlisted Air Force members.

Members in Izmir can make contributions in cash, check, money order or allotment. Please see or call one of your points of contact to donate: MSgt Derrick Drennan, 425th ABS security forces, at DSN 675-6773 or MSgt Siam Bean, 425th ABS security manager, at 675-6705.

**Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Izmir Club**

(see details on Page 4)

## 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](mailto:action.line@izmir.af.mil), or complete a form at NATO Building # 1 or the Izmir Consolidated Center entry control point.

## Editorial Staff

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Lt. Col. John M. Thomas

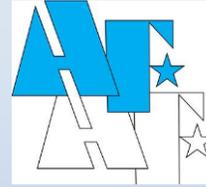
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The Talking Türkiye newsletter is published Fridays biweekly. Submission deadline for articles is COB Monday before the publication date; submission by deadline does not guarantee publication. All submissions must be e-mailed or provided on a computer disk in a document format. Articles are run at the discretion of the editorial staff on a space-available basis and are edited to reflect Air Force style and news format. News, feature and editorial material of the newsletter conforms to the *Associated Press Style Book and Briefing on Media Law*.



## Do you contribute to the Air Force Assistance Fund?



Staff Sgt. Chadd Smith,  
425th Air Base Squadron Finance

"Yes, I give to the Air Force Assistance Fund to support the Air Force family active duty, retirees, reservists, guards and their dependents, including surviving spouses in need."

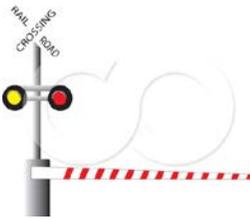


Tech. Sgt. Nancy Rouse,  
425th Air Base Squadron Commander's Support Staff

"Yes, I contribute to the Air Force Aid Society through the AFAS. The AFAS helps our airmen and their families during financial emergencies by either approving a no-interest loan or granting a lump sum for immediate emergencies. By donating to the AFAS, I feel I'm giving back to my Air Force family."

By Michael Zimmerman  
425th Air Base Squadron Safety Manager

The transportation infrastructure in Türkiye presents many challenges to all who drive. One such infrastructure system is the controlled railroad crossing.



One question I ask myself when coming to a controlled railroad crossing is "does this crossing gate actually work?" You should be asking yourself the same question. Do you really want to bet your life that it does?

I'll bet the driver of the team bus for the Samsunspor football club asked himself the same question on Feb. 7. The following is an excerpt from an article in the Feb. 8, 2012 edition of the Zaman newspaper:

*Recep Terzi said that while entering the city, he had to cross over a grade crossing where trains pass and added: "It was midnight. The ramps were up when I was about to cross. While slowly crossing, I realized a train was approaching and had its lights off. I immediately accelerated. After I stepped on the gas, the train hit the left back wheel of the bus and pushed us aside. If I had not seen the train at the last second, it would have hit the middle of the bus and that would have led to great damage and could have even cost many lives. The players awoke in panic; many later said they were lucky to have survived."*

There are many lessons to be learned from the real life experiences of others and this is a perfect example of such a lesson. The next time you come to a controlled railroad crossing, ask yourself if it is working, and how do you know? The simple answer is to try to minimize the risk. For example, in the U.S., school bus drivers are required by law to come to a complete stop, look both ways to ensure the track is clear, and proceed when able. You should use the same procedures as school bus drivers do. The potential cost of not doing so could be catastrophic.

No matter what, use caution at railroad crossings to prevent possible fatal accidents from happening.

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### Congratulations to Team Izmir's newest senior master sergeant selects:

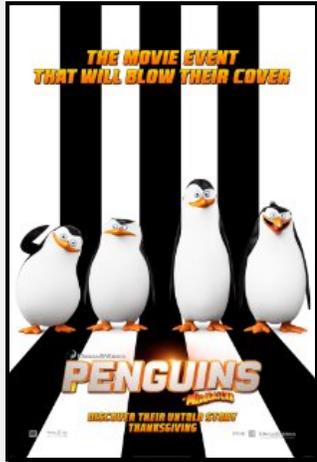
Master Sgt. John Crane, 425th Air Base Squadron Commander's Support Staff  
Master Sgt. Christopher Richards, NATO Communications and Information Agency



Lt. Col. John Thomas, 425th Air Base Squadron commander, presents a memento to Master Sgt. John Crane, 425th Air Base Squadron superintendent, for being selected for promotion to the rank of senior master sergeant at NATO March 6, 2015.

# MOVIE NIGHT AT THE IZMIR CLUB THIS COMING SATURDAY

March 14, 2015



5.30 p.m.  
Penguins of Madagascar  
(PG)

March 14, 2015



8 p.m.  
Horrible Bosses 2  
(R)

**"Penguins of Madagascar" Plot Summary:** Skipper, Kowalski, Rico and Private join forces with undercover organization The North Wind to stop the villainous Dr. Octavius Brine from destroying the world as we know it.

**"Horrible Bosses 2" Plot Summary:** Dale, Kurt and Nick decide to start their own business but things don't go as planned because of a slick investor, prompting the trio to pull off a harebrained and misguided kidnapping scheme.

## Out and About Izmir International Puppet Days Festival (March 5 - 22, 2015)



Photo by Tanju Varıklı

A view from a puppet exhibition of the Puppet Treasures from Burgas State Puppet Theater's Collection at the State Art and Sculpture Museum by the Lozan Gate at the Izmir International Fair as part of one of the venues of the ninth Izmir International Puppet Days Festival.

Forty theater companies from 23 countries are bringing 42 productions to Izmir with the ninth Izmir International Puppet Days Festival, which runs from March 5 to March 22. Thirty-eight venues across the city of Izmir will host 153 performances throughout the festival.

What can you find in the Izmir International Puppet Days Festival?

Numerous puppet performances, puppet-making workshops for children, workshops for adults, puppet exhibitions and many more puppets. Puppets, each of which are more fun than the other, are meeting at the festival to add new colors and excitement to the lives of puppet lovers.

For further information and the full program, visit the festival's website [www.izmirkuklagunleri.com](http://www.izmirkuklagunleri.com)

**SERVICES EVENT**

## Celebrate St. Patrick's Day!

### Saturday, March 14th

with a FREE Dinner (for Club Members) @ 8 p.m. at the Club ...  
Corned Beef & Cabbage; Green Beer (Reduced Price)  
Don't forget to wear something GREEN!

For more information,  
call the Club at Ext. 6815.

Daylight saving time starts March 30:  
Türkiye is springing forward.



Do not forget to set your clocks and watches  
ahead an hour at 3 a.m. March 30.