

NATO SOFA BRIEFING FOR TDY/TAD PERSONNEL -- GREECE

INTRODUCTION FROM THE SDO/DATT & ODC CHIEF: On behalf of the Ambassador, we welcome you to Greece. Our relationship with the Greek Military is strong, forged by decades of mutual cooperation and longstanding relationships. Whether you are here for an exercise or other project, we greatly appreciate your dedication and professionalism which helps to bolster our bilateral ties. **To help the country team here maintain awareness of the great work you've performed while in Greece, it is imperative that you: (1) Provide all required information in APACS prior to your arrival in Greece, and (2) Follow back with your DAO/ODC sponsor to provide feedback on issues, observations, and accomplishments while you were here.**

GENERAL INFORMATION: For general information on Greece, see the Department of State travel guide (<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/greece.html>) and the World Factbook (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gr.html>) The Greek National Tourist Office website also provides some helpful information (http://www.visitgreece.gr/en/before_you_travel/travel_tips).

SECURITY: Be sure that your in-country contact information is in APACS. Prior to travel, all TDY/TAD personnel are required to complete Level One Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection training and obtain a security briefing from our Force Protection Detachment (FPD). If you are here during a heightened threat condition, based either on crime, terrorism or political violence, you are advised to be vigilant, avoid mass protests/demonstrations/migration areas, avoid wearing uniforms in public and promptly report suspicious activity to FPD. For more information, see <http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/2013/224822.htm> or contact FPD at [+30] 210-720-2245/2313.

COUNTRY ENTRY: Please consult the Foreign Clearance Guide (<https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/fcg.cfm>). In general, no visa is required for official travelers. Military members must have their military ID card (or No-fee passport), and US travel orders, **and** NATO travel orders (<https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil/static/natoform.pdf>). Civilian employees must have a No-fee passport and orders (both US and NATO travel orders). Dependents who are traveling with the TDY/TAD spouse must possess their personal passport, entering on a 90-day tourist visa.

MILITARY INSTALLATIONS: For access to Greek military installations, coordinate with your DAO/ODC sponsor. At least ten days in advance, we will need to provide traveler information, including full name, birthdate, place of birth, military ID/passport (#, issuance date, expiration date), and flight details (arrival & departure flights and times). If you intend to bring a computer you will also need to complete a MoND form prior to entry on the installation. Photography on military installations is strictly prohibited.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION: Public transportation in the Athens area is reliable and reasonably priced. [See <http://www.ametro.gr/> & <http://www.athenstransport.com/>]. Many areas are accessible by metro, including most hotels and the airport (Airport), U.S. Embassy (Megaro Moussikis) and the Greek Ministry of Defense (Ethniki Amyna). Taxis are readily available. Airport-to-Athens center is a taxi-union fixed fare of €38 (daytime), €50 (night). It is advised that you review and print out the information at <http://www.athensairporttaxi.com/> and confirm with the taxi driver before booking the taxi. You can also contact the Embassy receptionist or your hotel for a list of reliable taxi companies. If you require a vehicle, the NATO SOFA (Article IV) permits operation with a license which is U.S.-state issued or military-issued. Because many rental car companies are not familiar with the SOFA provisions, we recommend investing \$15 in an intr'n'l driving permit (<http://www.aaa.com/vacation/idpf.html> or <http://www.nacroadservice.com>). Even if you are familiar with European road signs and rules of the road, we recommend you review the information at <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/go/safety/road.html>. For example, Greece grants the right-of-way to individuals entering a rotary/roundabout. Greece also prohibits cell phone texting/talking and has severe DUI provisions (.02%+ BAC is punishable).

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENSES: The NATO SOFA requires personnel to "respect the law of the receiving state" (Article II). If you are involved in a car accident or detained by local law enforcement, remain courteous and contact the Embassy (+30) 210-729-4444) as soon as possible. A legal advisor will brief you regarding procedures and due process protections under the SOFA.

EXEMPTION FROM VALUE-ADDED TAX (VAT): The NATO SOFA provides an exemption from VAT (currently 23%) for purchases of official travelers. If you anticipate a specific purchase (i.e., hotel or rental car), and that purchase will be in excess of €70, please contact your ODC or NSA Souda Bay sponsor BEFORE making the purchase. We require the following details: vendor (name and address), traveler's full name, traveler's passport or military CAC#, and anticipated purchase (i.e., "hotel stay from 5 to 17 May 2016"). We will assign a control number, sign, and return to you for presentation to the vendor.

HELPFUL CONTACT INFORMATION:

U.S. Embassy Athens	DAO: (+30) 210-720-2200
91 Vasilisis Sophias Avenue	ODC: (+30) 210-720-2653
10160 Athens, Greece	http://athens.usembassy.gov/odc.html
Tel: +(30)(210) 721-2951	After hours, contact the Embassy
EMERGENCY/AFTER HOURS:	Receptionist at +(30)(210) 729-4444 /4301
Receptionist: +(30)(210) 729-4444/4301	
athensamericancitizenservices@state.gov	