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512th Airlift Wing, Dover Air Force Base, Del.



Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Roy send the following holiday message to the Airmen of the U.S. Air Force:

The holiday season is a perfect time to celebrate the many blessings that we enjoy in our country and spend time with the people who are most important in our lives. As we gather around those we love, we encourage you to strengthen the relationships that enrich your life and sincerely thank those who steadfastly support your service to our Nation's Air Force.

To those who will spend this special time of year far from family and loved ones, our thoughts are with you. The sacrifices you make earn the deep and abiding respect of your fellow Airmen and Americans. For those Airmen and members of our sister Services engaged in combat operations around the globe, we look forward to your safe return.

To those of us with the opportunity to celebrate the holidays at home, remember our deployed Airmen and extend heartfelt thanks to the family members and loved ones who miss them. We ask that you reach out to the families and friends of our deployed Airmen, and in the spirit of giving and support that defines our Air Force family, welcome them into your holiday celebrations.

In the many joyous ways we celebrate this holiday season, we wish you and yours the very best during this special time and throughout the New Year.

Just a click away

1. DoD releases 2013 BAH rates
2. Nominate employer for award

SecDef orders 400 troops to Turkey

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta has signed an order that will deploy 400 U.S. personnel to Turkey to support the deployment that NATO agreed to recently of Patriot missile capability there, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said Dec. 14.

Panetta signed the agreement en route to Turkey as he wrapped up a trip that included time in Kuwait and Afghanistan with civilian and military leaders.

"The United States has been supporting Turkey in its efforts to defend itself," Little said. "NATO has recently offered up Patriot missile battery capability to Turkey, [which] is a very strong ally of the United States."

Little said he expects the troops to be deployed in the coming weeks.

"I'm not going to go into precise locations at this time, he added, "but I wanted to let you ... know that we signed that order and that we

are prepared in the context of NATO to support the defense of Turkey for an unspecified period of time."

The personnel will deploy to Turkey to operate two U.S. Patriot missile batteries once they are in place, he said. "The purpose of this deployment is to signal very strongly that the United States, working closely with our NATO allies, is going to support the defense of Turkey, especially with potential threats emanating from Syria," Little said.

Incirlik Air Base is an installation of U.S. Air Forces in Europe and the air component of the U.S. European Command, a DoD unified command.

"Both the United States and Turkey share common concerns now about the violence in Syria and the threat that it poses to regional stability, he added.

Panetta said DOD has been working closely with Turkey on humanitarian issues, chemical and biological weapons issues, and missile defense.

(Courtesy of Air Force Press Service)

Coat drive underway

The 512th Company Grade Officers Council is collecting donated winter coats through Jan. 31. For questions about the drive and coat drop-off locations, please contact 1st Lt. Michelle Anderson, 512th Maintenance Group, at (302) 677-5507.

Don't miss Chiefs Banquet

A banquet, recognizing Team Dover's new chief master sergeants is at 6 p.m., Jan. 5 at The Landings here. The cost is \$25. To RSVP, contact Chief Master Sgt. Amy Campbell, 326th Airlift Squadron, by email.



New SFS commander arrives

Col. Gretchen M. Wiltse, 512th Mission Support Group commander (left), presents the 512th Security Forces Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Jennifer M. Aquinas, the new commander of the 512th SFS, during a change of command ceremony Dec. 1 at The Landing here. Aquinas previously served as Reserve forces director at the 9004th Air Reserve Squadron, Denver, Colo. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. William Yoder)