



# BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

## MR. MEHMET BIRBIRI

Mr. Mehmet Birbiri has served Incirlik Air Base for 48 years including 38 years as the Host Nation Advisor for the 39th Air Base Wing, Incirlik Air base, Türkiye. As host nation advisor, Mehmet is diligent at preparing daily news analysis for senior leaders, serves as translator at key decisional meetings for policy and partnership, and he is also responsible for guiding community engagements outside the base. In his capacity, he advises the wing on host nation issues as well as works as a liaison between the 10th Tanker Base and Turkish media.

Mr. Birbiri was born in Adana, Türkiye in 1951. He finished elementary and high school in Adana. He graduated from the Teachers Training College of Istanbul in 1972. He holds a master's degree in teaching English as a second language. After teaching for three years in Turkish high schools in Adana, he started working at Incirlik Air Base for the United States Air Force in 1975. He worked in the Base Cleaners, Law enforcement Desk and Customs Liaison before his current job as Community Relations Advisor for the 39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs office.



Mr. Birbiri has attended various seminars and courses on public affairs including a graduate course in communications at the University of Oklahoma. Mr. Birbiri had been an instructor for the University of Maryland-European Division between 1981-2013. He taught *Turkish Life and Culture* and *Turkish Language* classes for over 100 terms.

Mr. Birbiri is renowned for his expertise in the Air Force Public Affairs world with his *Ask Mehmet* column published in weekly paper of Incirlik Air Base.

Mr. Birbiri is married and has two children.

## EDUCATION

- 1972 Master's degree, teaching English as a second language, Teachers Training College, Istanbul
- 1994 Public Affairs Graduate Course in Communications, University of Oklahoma

## MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

- 1991 Department of Defense Desert Shield-desert Storm medal
- 1987 USAFE Outstanding Public Affairs Civilian
- 1991 USAFE Outstanding Public Affairs Civilian
- 1995 USAFE Outstanding Public Affairs Civilian
- 1996 USAFE Outstanding Public Affairs Civilian
- 1997 USAFE Outstanding Public Affairs Civilian
- 1998 USAFE Outstanding Public Affairs Civilian
- 1998 USAF Outstanding Public Affairs Intermediate Grade Civilian of the Year
- 1999 Incirlik Air Base Teaching Excellence Award

1999 University of Maryland European Division Teaching Excellence Award  
1999 USAFE Outstanding Public Affairs Host Nation Employee of the Year  
2000 USAFE Outstanding Public Affairs Host Nation Employee of the Year  
2000 USAF Outstanding Public Affairs Host Nation Employee of the Year  
2001 USAFE Outstanding Public Affairs Host Nation Employee of the Year  
2001 USAF Outstanding Public Affairs Host Nation Employee of the Year  
2004 39<sup>th</sup> Air Wing Staff Cat II Civilian of the Year  
2004 USAFE Public Affairs Achievement Award  
2005 39<sup>th</sup> Air Wing Staff Cat II Civilian of the Year  
2005 USAFE Public Affairs Achievement Award  
2006 USAFE Public Affairs Achievement Award  
2006 USAF Outstanding Public Affairs Host Nation Employee of the Year  
2008 USAFE Public Affairs Achievement Award  
2012 USAFE-AFAFRICA Outstanding Communication Intermediate Grade Civilian of the Year  
2013 USAFE-AFAFRICA Outstanding Communication Intermediate Grade Civilian of the Year  
2024 39th Air Base Wing Staff Cat II Civilian of the Year

(Current as of February 2024)