



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEFENSE OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS**



In the matter of:)	
)	
REDACTED)	ISCR Case No. 16-02228
)	
Applicant for Security Clearance)	

Appearances

For Government: Robert B. Blazewick, Esq., Department Counsel
For Applicant: *Pro se*

12/19/2017

Decision

MENDEZ, Francisco, Administrative Judge:

On November 25, 2016, the Department of Defense (DOD) sent Applicant a Statement of Reasons (SOR), alleging that her familial connections and other ties to Turkey raised a security concern under the foreign influence guideline. Applicant answered the SOR and requested a hearing to establish her eligibility for continued access to classified information.

On December 7, 2017, I convened a hearing. After the record closed, I informed the parties that the case appeared appropriate for summary disposition in Applicant's favor. Department Counsel did not object. (Exhibit I.) The transcript of the hearing was received on December 18, 2017.

Applicant mitigated the security concerns raised by her foreign connections and contacts. She and her husband were born in Turkey. They immigrated to the United States over 25 years ago, and both have held security clearances for over 20 years. Applicant reported and candidly discussed her foreign connections, contacts, and travel during the course of multiple security clearance reviews over the years. She recently turned down a lucrative job offer to relocate to Europe, where she would be closer to her country of birth, because she does not want to live so far away from her children

and grandchildren – all of whom live in the United States. Applicant and her husband’s total net worth, which includes multiple U.S. properties and U.S. investment accounts, exceeds five million dollars. Applicant’s substantial ties to the United States and favorable security record show that she can continue to be entrusted to place the security interests of the United States over her relatively weak foreign connections.¹

In evaluating the security concern at issue, I weighed the evidence as a whole and considered if the favorable evidence outweighed the unfavorable evidence or *vice versa*. I also gave due consideration to the whole-person concept and considered the country at issue. After considering the entire record evidence, I conclude that Applicant met her burden of proof and persuasion. It is clearly consistent with the interests of national security to extend Applicant’s eligibility for access to classified information. Applicant’s request for a security clearance is granted.

Francisco Mendez
Administrative Judge

¹ Specifically, the mitigating conditions listed in Adjudicative Guidelines ¶¶ 8(a) – 8(c), 8(e), and 8(f) apply.