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Crossroads TRA

Vol. 17, No. 39 October 5, 2012

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

"6-5...
IN THE FIGHT!"
FY 2012

 11
SORTIES

00
LODGED 

 45 M
gallons
FUEL ISSUED



Don't drink
and drive
call
295 57 LADD

Medical Appointment:
Base: 535-3261
Off base: 295-573-261
Emergency:
Base: 911
Off base: 295-571-911



Weekend
Weather
Forecast

Saturday (a.m. / p.m.)
Mostly Cloudy / Rainshowers
Wind SW 23-35 mph
SW 23-40 mph
HIGH 23C / 73F
LOW 19C / 66F

Sunday (a.m. / p.m.)
Partly Cloudy / Rainshowers
Wind W 17-30 mph
W 12-23 mph
HIGH 23C / 73F
LOW 19C / 66F

Lajes stays busy with increased flying ops



The 65th Operations Support Squadron, transient alert team, preps an A-10 Thunderbolt for departure from Lajes Field. Although located on a small island, Lajes plays a vital role in transitioning aircraft between home stations and areas of operation. This installation is ideal for aircrews to stop when in need of crew rest, refueling or mechanical repairs. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

4th Quarter thoughts, focus areas

By Col. Chris Bargery
65th Air Base Wing commander

We're beginning the 2012 4th Quarter and there are exciting things happening at Lajes Field!

Most notably, the Team Lajes continues to support a number of fighter movements. Within recent days, we've all noticed the window-rattling F/A-18s, F-15Es, A-10s and tankers that have graced our ramp and kept our flightline personnel working hard.

You continue to demonstrate Lajes Field's strategic importance to America and our allies and your support to transiting aircraft and warfighters is outstanding.

October commences the 4th Quarter as Cancer Awareness Month and our community is actively raising awareness about this disease. Medical professionals

and countless volunteers are organizing a variety of creative events this month – all in the name of cancer awareness.

Whether you choose to run in this Friday's "Race for a Cure 5K" or stay up all night on Oct. 26 to honor those lost

to cancer during the Midnight Cancer Walk. And remember to obtain your tickets now for the popular Nov. 3 Pink Tie Gala and Silent Auction, with all proceeds benefiting the Combined Federal Campaign.

But more importantly, focus on what this month is truly about: cancer awareness, prevention, and taking care of yourself. Cancer Awareness Month is about Airmen and families bouncing back when cancer strikes.

Did you know that there's something every Airman can do to help prevent cancer? Whether it's eating healthier, quitting smoking, scheduling prostate or breast exams, or talking to your medical provider about something that seems amiss, you can save your own life.

October is also Energy Action Month and I need Airmen to think about energy conservation at every turn. The Earth's natural resources, to include coal, water, oil, and natural gas are invaluable, but unfortunately, they are also scarce.

As an Air Force – charged with maintaining the public

To read more on "Thoughts" see page 2





Re-defining 'home' while overseas

By Lt. Col. Shawn Cotton

65 OSS commander & 65 ABW political affairs chief

At some point after arriving at their first overseas assignment, most Airmen will have what I call their "Dorothy moment." That is the moment, just like Dorothy in the 1939 classic The Wizard of Oz, where they realize they're not in Kansas anymore, or any other part of the United States for that matter. In many cases you don't even have to leave the base to recognize that the language is different.

If you venture beyond the front gate, you'll discover additional cultural differences that add flavor to your overseas assignment. For some these differences may be a challenge. For all of us, it represents an opportunity to broaden our perspective as world citizens.

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta has said "We live in a global world. We have to understand that world if we are going to be able to not only defend this country, but to extend our relationships to others so that we can work together to defend the world that we live in."

At Lajes Field we build relationships with our Portuguese hosts from Air Base 4, as well as our Azorean hosts here on Terceira Island. This partnership has lasted for more than 60 years and is the foundation of our success as a wing. Each and every Airman, uniformed or otherwise, plays an important role.

In order to help develop your cultural competency and strengthen our host nation relationships, I offer three suggestions.

First, immerse yourself in the Portuguese language. Language is the key that opens the door to cultural understanding. Start by buying a basic English-Portuguese dictionary. Then dig in!

The wing sponsors a free monthly introductory

Portuguese language and culture class that is open to all US personnel. Taking it a step further, the Education Office offers Portuguese courses for college credit which count toward CCAF degrees and are eligible for tuition assistance.

For those more inclined to study on their own, the library has free language software that can help build your vocabulary and grammar skills. Once you have some tools to work with, just speak, listen, ask questions and don't be afraid to make mistakes.

Next, explore your surroundings. It may be a small island, but the opportunities for adventure are diverse and plentiful.

Outdoor Recreation is an excellent resource for finding interesting options you may not have otherwise considered. Ask for suggestions from your co-workers, neighbors and especially the local nationals with whom you interact every

day. Check out the numerous festivals and celebrations that happen throughout the year. When you think you've exhausted all options on Terceira, there are eight more islands, each with its own unique flavor and traditions.

Finally, read. A quick online search with the key word "Azores" brings up several book titles that will arm you with historical and cultural insights you just won't get any other way.

United States history and Azorean history intersect repeatedly. Understanding those linkages enhances our overseas experience and helps deepen relationships with our hosts.

Dorothy may have claimed that "there's no place like home." But as we develop cross-cultural competencies, our definition of "home" becomes a little broader and in the process we keep Lajes Field "In the Fight!"

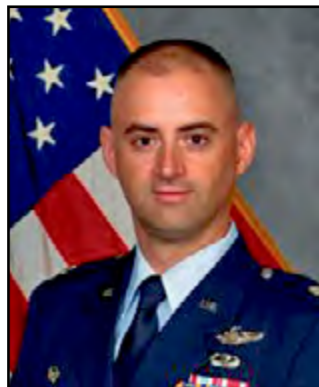
spirit that I've seen among squadrons as they've held internal fundraisers is inspiring. Military service requires giving more than what's expected of us - service before self.

People the world over have simple needs; needs that we can help fulfill. So take a look at where you can sacrifice a couple dollars each month and contribute to the CFC.

In closing I want to comment on the tremendous relationship that we share with our Portuguese hosts.

Last weekend we celebrated the Air Force Ball and the Air Force's 65th Birthday alongside leadership from Headquarters Azores Air Zone and Air Base 4. It's fitting that Maj. Gen. Ruiivo, Col. Ferreira, and Col. Faria joined us because every single operation and decision that's made at Lajes Field is done so through American and Portuguese cooperation.

Our mission at Lajes Field is meaningful, our people are outstanding, and our future is bright.



Commander's Action Line
535-4240
65abw.actionline@lajes.af.mil

The Commander's Action Line is your link to the commander for suggestions, kudos and as a way to work problems or issues within the 65th Air Base Wing for which you can't find another solution. Your chain of command should always be your first option - but when that's not the answer, call or e-mail the Commander's Action Line at 535-4240 or 65abw.actionline@lajes.af.mil.



Col. Chris Bargery

Col. Chris Bargery
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



The 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content in the Crossroads.

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Submissions can be e-mailed to 65abw.pa@lajes.af.mil or faxed to 535-6326 and are due the Thursday prior to the required publication date. Call 535-6161 for more details.

This Air Force funded newspaper is an authorized weekly publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas.

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"Thoughts" from page 1

trust in all endeavors - we should lead the way in energy conservation for our world.

Consider what you can do to better conserve energy at the office and at home. Do you really need to drive to your next meeting, or do you have time to walk? Did you fall asleep with the television on last night?

These actions might seem insignificant on a global scale. But, every action you choose or choose not to take has many secondary effects. If we all make a few positive changes to our energy habits, our world will benefit.

As we approach the holiday season, plan for a little extra giving this year as the Combined Federal Campaign continues through Nov. 16.

Team Lajes started things off right with an unheard of "Tuff Mudder" kickoff event. The warrior



Ricardo Silva and Antonio Moniz, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, fire truck maintenance specialists, reference a Retrofit Kit Installation manual before installing a fill system on a 1986 P-19 fire truck, Sept. 10, 2012, Lajes Field. The fire truck maintenance crew upgraded the 65th Civil Engineering Squadron's crash response vehicles enabling the use of a 'no-foam' system. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Transient alert maintenance technicians from the 65th Operations Support Squadron prepare to launch an F-16 Fighting Falcon from Lajes Field Aug. 3. The aircraft is assigned to the 187th Fighter Wing, an Air National Guard unit from Montgomery, Ala., and the unit is participating in joint training with the Romanians. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)



Senior Airman James Carson, 439th LRS, works with Senior Airman Doctavius French in the supply warehouse. Carson, who is also a stone mason and a student studying fire science, deployed to Lajes with his Reserve unit to perform on-the-job training for two weeks. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Angelique Smythe)



Members of Lajes' African American Heritage Committee played the roles of African hunters and warriors during the Praia Fest opening parade Aug. 4. The parade traced the roots of "Carnival" and showed the people of Terceira how celebrations began in the villages of Africa and then progressed through the years into festivals and carnival parades. (Photo by Guido Melo)



After marching from the Community Activities Center to the Youth Center, the children stand in formation for a briefing during the deployment camp at Lajes Field July 28. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)



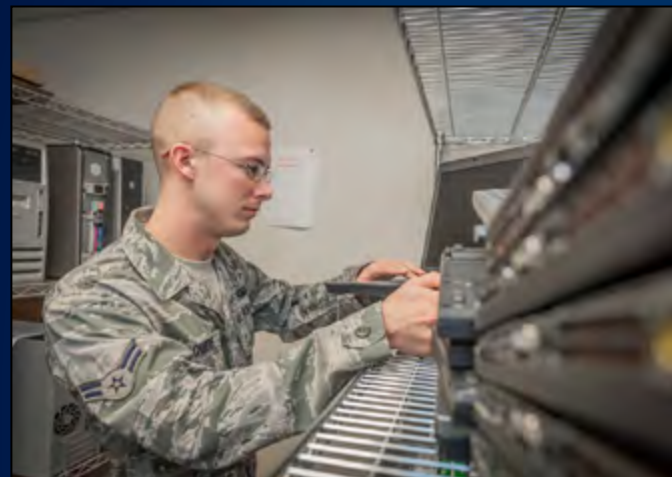
Best of 3rd Quarter Photos *Feature*



Airman 1st Class John Seuss, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, cuts a piece of metal utilizing plasma cutters Aug. 9. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)



Members of the 65th Air Base Wing supported an Open House event hosted by Portuguese Air Force partners at Lajes Field Aug. 5. The Open House provided an opportunity for Team Lajes to showcase military readiness and capabilities to the local community. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Airman 1st Class Matthew Blaquiére, 65th Communications Squadron, troubleshoots and repairs a computer, Aug. 31, 2012, Lajes Field. Blaquiére, a client systems technician, has currently served in the Air Force for 1.5 years and hails from Clarkston, Mich. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Senior Airman Thomas Taylor, 65th Medical Operations Squadron, dons a biochemical suit before entering a simulated contaminated scene to test a suspicious substance found during joint exercise Lajes Lighting 12-08 on Aug. 22. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Paulo Inacio and Marco Machado install in a new fence at the softball field Aug. 28. More than 700 local national employees help Team Lajes complete its mission. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Senior Airman Diamonde Garvin, 65th Operations Support Squadron, Aerospace Ground Equipment journeyman, checks the tubing for leaks on a hydraulic test stand, Sept. 5, 2012, Lajes Field. The AGE shop provides, maintains and inspects equipment necessary to get transitioning aircraft to their destinations safely. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Breast Cancer Awareness Month *Feature*

By Capt. Denise Dalton-Love
65th Medical Operations Squadron

According to the National Cancer Society the first national Breast Cancer Awareness Month observed in the United States was in 1985. The goal of the event was to increase awareness of early breast cancer detection followed by prompt treatment and intervention to save lives.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer to affect women. Approximately 38,000 women and 260 men are diagnosed every year. Early detection of breast cancer increases the chances of successful treatment. Today millions of women are surviving breast cancer as a result of early detection and improvements in treatment.

The American Cancer Society recommends women start breast self-exam (BSE) in their 20's and report any changes right away. Women in their 20's and 30's should have a clinical breast exam (CBE) as part of their regular health checkups at least every three years. Women in their 40's

should have a breast exam by a health professional every year. The American Cancer Society recommends women have yearly screening mammograms starting at age 40. Knowing what your breast normally feel and look like will help you become more aware of any abnormal

changes. Changes to be aware of are differences in the shape or outline of the breast, any pain, lumps, or thickening. If you experience any of these changes contact your primary care provider immediately.

There is no guaranteed way to prevent breast cancer however, certain lifestyle habits are linked to a lower risk of developing it. Research shows that regular physical activity reduces the risk of breast cancer and keeps your weight under control. A diet rich in fruits, vegetables, fish, poultry and low-fat dairy products reduces the risk of breast cancer and helps to maintain a healthy weight. Research shows having more than two drinks per day is linked to a higher risk of developing breast cancer. Take charge of your health by being physically active, eating a healthy diet and limiting the amount of alcohol you drink.



Cancer Awareness events

12 Oct. 1 - 4 p. m. Bowl for a Cure (\$40 a team)

26-27 Oct. Midnight Walk
Pancake Breakfast at the Chapel included (\$10 a person)

3 Nov. Pink Tie Gala, Silent/Live Auction TORC

All proceeds benefit CFC



Airmen told to check pay updates with system shutdown approaching

Courtesy article to 65th ABW-PA

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany, Sept. 26, 2012 (S&S) -- The Air Force in December will temporarily shut down its personnel data system for a major overhaul that could affect airmen's pay if they don't ensure critical updates are made to their records before the upgrade begins, officials say.

The Military Personnel Data System – better known as MilPDS – is scheduled to be down for about 23 days starting in early December, according to officials at the Air Force Personnel Center in San Antonio. They're urging airmen to submit paperwork for separations, re-enlistments, current enlistment extensions and retirements well in advance of the upgrade.

"If you have one of those life-changing events going on, get those things taken care of before we bring the system down," said Col. James Davis, director of the personnel center's Total Force Service Center.

MilPDS is the primary records database for personnel information and actions that occur throughout an airman's career, from rank changes to re-enlistment dates. It was supposed to be replaced in 2008 by a single Defense Department pay and personnel system, but that system was canceled, Air Force officials said.

The \$15 million upgrade is sorely needed, officials said, as MilPDS is outdated, making its hardware difficult to replace if something breaks, among other problems, said Anthony Delgado, an Air Force Personnel Center system manager.

The project will involve turning the current system off while data is migrated to a new software version that includes web-based access and will be hosted at the Defense Information System Agency, Air

Force officials said. "In the end, we're going to have an improved system" that's more reliable and secure, Davis said.

Airmen still will receive their base pay during the system shutdown, said Master Sgt. Christopher Murawski, manager of the personnel center future operations branch, but modifications will be put on hold and paid retroactively if not completed before the system goes offline.

"If you're promoted during the migration, or request some sort of special pay or allowance, such as a foreign language proficiency bonus, that will be transferred after the fact" to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to correct airmen's pay, he said.

The Air Force has a backup plan to ensure paychecks still flow during the upgrade to airmen who decide on short-notice to re-enlist or not to separate, for example, officials said. The service will be able to bypass the personnel database and go directly to DFAS to continue airmen's pay, if necessary.

But airmen should try to plan in advance as much as possible to avoid pay interruptions or not being paid properly during the shutdown, officials said.

The Air Force is cutting permanent-change-of-station orders faster than usual to ensure airmen will be able to move during the month of December with no problems, officials said.

At Ramstein Air Base, Germany, military personnel specialists are contacting the leadership of everyone with a move date in December to make sure they're prepared, said Staff Sgt. Andre Lewis, an outbound technician with the 786th Force Support Squadron, "so when the system does go down, it's, out-process and get on the plane."



Mark your calendar

RUN FOR A CURE: Come out to show your support for cancer awareness and CFC, and Run for the Cure on Oct. 5 at 7:30 a.m. at the Fitness Center. Make a \$5 donation to wear pink and/or run in a dress instead of PT gear!



COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND CATHOLIC

MASS: The Columbus Day weekend Catholic mass will be held on Saturday, Oct. 6 at the base chapel. On Sunday, Oct. 7, there will not be a mass.

HEART LINK ORIENTATION: The next Heart Link Orientation will be held on Oct. 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at the Airmen & Family Readiness Center.

BOWL FOR A CURE: Come to the bowling alley on Oct. 12 from 1p.m. to 4 p.m. and show your support for CFC and cancer awareness. Cost is \$12 per bowler with 5 bowlers per team. Sign up by Oct. 10.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK EVENTS(OCT. 7-13): Two person team Fire Muster on Oct. 12 at 8 a.m. Contact SSgt Dudden at 535-5166 for more information.

KIDS BOWLING WITH SPARKY for FREE Oct 12 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Fire Prevention Week Open House Oct. 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Fire Station

MIDNIGHT WALK: The Midnight Walk for Cancer Awareness will be held on Oct. 26-27 starting at 8 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person.

POSTAL VOTING MESSAGE 2012: The general election occurs this year on Nov. 6. The casted absentee ballots need to be collected and "postmarked" no later than noon on Oct. 30. This date provides the last possible time casted ballots have a "reasonable" expectation of reaching the appropriate voting office before the election. Due to our location and flight schedules the Lajes Post Office recommends dropping off your casted ballot no later than 5 p.m. Oct. 22.

THEATER ADMISSION INCREASE: The price of theater admission will increase by \$.50 for adults and \$.25 for children for regular release showings. Admission for adults is now \$5 and \$2.50 for children. For more information, call 535-1124.

TMO PERSONAL PROPERTY CLOSURE: TMO Personal Property will close every Friday at 12 p.m. for training. Our new hours will be Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. -12 p.m. TMO Passenger Travel Office will be open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MDG TRAINING EVERY 2ND TUESDAY: The 65th Medical Group clinic is closed for unit training every second Tuesday of the month. TRICARE On-line (TOL) is always available as an option for appointment booking. For more information, call 535-3261. In case of emergencies, call 911 on-base or 295-571-911 off-base.

Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: I am sorry you have the wrong number.

PORTUGUESE: Lamento ligou para o número errado.

PRONUNCIATION: La-men-too leego pah-raa oo new-marh-o ear-rhadew

BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE



Friday, Sept. 28: 5:30 p.m. Canada das Mercês, Feteira
Saturday, Sept. 29: 5:30 p.m. Canada das Mercês, Feteira
Sunday, Sept. 30: 5 p.m. Rua dos Moinhos, Agualva
Monday, Oct. 1: 5 p.m. São Carlos
Wednesday, Oct. 3: 5 p.m. Figueiras do Paim, Praia
Thursday, Oct. 4: 5 p.m. Figueiras do Paim, Praia
Friday, Oct. 5: 5 p.m. Figueiras do Paim, Praia
Friday, Oct. 5: 5 p.m. Serra da Ribeirinha



Lajes Against Drunk Driving 295-57-LADD (5233)

Every year the Air Force loses great Airmen to drunk driving. Please help save a life and your career by calling Lajes Against Drunk Driving. LADD is a base program that provides free rides for individuals who've had too much to drink. LADD will be available between the hours of 9:30 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. every weekend.

The LADD program is available to all Lajes Airmen, so if you are the one who ends up needing a ride this or any weekend, call LADD.

For more information, please contact your squadron representative.



AFN LAJES Radio 96.1FM
- The Morning Wake Up Call: 0600-1000
- The Double D MidDay Show: 1200-1300
- The Afternoon Drive: 1400-1800
Request Line: 535-3121 or 295-57-3121

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK

Name: Ualter Freitas
Rank: Technical Sergeant
Unit: 65 ABW Political Affairs
Hometown: New Bedford, Mass.
Duty Title: Political Affairs Advisor
Accomplishments: Since his arrival at Lajes Field, TSgt Freitas has processed and tracked more than 600 treaty-binding requests between the 65th Air Base Wing and our Portuguese Air Force hosts at Headquarters Azores Air Zone. He meticulously maintains a library containing more than 46,000 documents for historical reference. He recently coordinated with our Portuguese counterparts on seven wing construction projects valued at more than \$10 million to enhance quality of life and to improve infrastructure. TSgt Freitas is a "strategic Airman" who ensures success in one of the wing's four priorities: "Host Nation Relationships."



Name: Celina Cristóvão
Rank: GS-11
Unit: 65 ABW Political Affairs
Hometown: Pawtucket, R.I.
Duty Title: International Relations Specialist
Accomplishments: Celina has over 29 years of experience guiding wing commanders in their interaction with Portuguese Air Force counterparts. She plays a pivotal role in preparing the wing for the Technical Commission and the Standing Bilateral Commission, which are periodic meetings between the governments of the United States and Portugal. Most recently she coordinated Colonel Bargery's official introductory meetings with the Representative for the Republic of Portugal in the Azores, the President of the Legislative Assembly of the Azores and the President of the Regional Government of the Azores, and also accompanied him on the trips. Celina's unrivaled experience and cultural insight make her an invaluable part of the Lajes Field team.