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# Crossroads



Vol. 17, No. 45 November 16, 2012

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

"6-5...  
**IN THE FIGHT!"**  
FY 2013

 202  
SORTIES

1782  
LODGED 

 1,458 M  
gallons  
FUEL ISSUED

## Specialized communicators guide aircraft into Lajes Field



Airmen 1st Class Ashley Stupin and Marcus Dennin are airfield systems technicians assigned to the 65th Communications Squadron. They are part of the Air Traffic Control and Landing System section and help maintain ground radars, navigational aids and weather systems integral to our wing's mission to support combat airpower. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)

By Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory  
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

When most people think of a communications squadron they likely visualize rooms full of network servers, land mobile radios or computers. Well, there's a special team of communicators that's sometimes overlooked within the 65th Communications Squadron. That team, the ATCALs section maintains ground radars, navigational aids and weather systems integral to the wing's mission to support combat airpower.

The Air Traffic Control and Landing System (ATCALs) section consists of ground radar and airfield systems maintainers. Airman 1st Class Ashley Stupin, an airfield systems maintenance technician within the 65th CS, performs scheduled preventive maintenance inspections and repairs outages on the two tactical air navigation sites, commonly referred to as TACANs,

as well as other navigational aids.

"Our TACAN provides bearing and distance information to military aircraft up to 200 nautical miles out and up to 100 aircraft at once," said Stupin who was recently assigned to Lajes Field. "We work hand-in-hand with the Operations Support Squadron and air traffic controllers to ensure aircraft find and land safely here at Lajes."

Lajes Field was an emergency landing area for the NASA space shuttle program and the Lajes TACAN was utilized to support this mission, along with the wing's continued support to NATO and U.S. military aircraft.

While the TACAN guides aircraft safely to the island, another set of instruments maintained by CS helps the aircraft land safely on the ground.

"We have the instrument landing systems which are

To read more on "Communicators" see page 3



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.)

Partly Cloudy

Wind NW 17 - 23 mph

SW 12 - 17 mph

HIGH 17C / 64F

LOW 15C / 59F

### Sunday (a.m. / p.m.)

Mostly Cloudy / Rain

Wind SW 17 - 23 mph

WSW 23 - 35 mph

HIGH 19C / 66F

LOW 17C / 63F





## Hiring Portuguese domestic help? What you should know...

By 65th Air Base Wing  
Legal Staff

Domestic help on Terceira is an outstanding value, but you must strictly follow Portuguese law when hiring a domestic employee. Otherwise, at the end of your assignment to Lajes Field, you may find yourself with a large bill and possibly legal concerns. Knowing the law and acting in accordance with it can protect you and your employee.

Please note, this article is not a substitute for official legal advice and will only cover some highlights.

If you have questions or are considering whether to hire domestic help, please make an appointment to speak with the host nation attorney at the legal office.

The first thing to note is the information provided in this article applies to "regular" domestic employees, working either full or part-time. Nannies, maids and cooks are examples of such "regular" employees.

The next thing to consider is that there is a specific written contract you should utilize, due to your limited time on Terceira. Entering into the appropriate contract will help prevent potential future claims or complaints, and anything you mutually agree upon should be included in this written contract.

By entering into this contract, you will be obligated to pay more than just a monthly salary

for your full time employee.

Under Portuguese law, you are required to pay social welfare contributions at Seguranga Social. The legal office can assist with the applicable paperwork, but the important point to remember is that you are solely responsible for such contributions; your employee can not make these payments or waive such payments.

You should also be aware that you, as an employer, are also liable for on-the-job injuries – to include accidents in transit to and from work – as well as providing vacation pay and time, a Christmas bonus and Portuguese holidays off.

The host nation attorney can guide you through these important areas of concern and prepare you for your obligations as an employer.

Lastly, when it is time to terminate the contract, for cause or otherwise, you will need to understand the law in regards to severance pay, vacation pay, vacation time and Christmas subsidies, as well as justifying a termination for cause to withstand any possible arbitration or court action.

Although a lot of information, this is only a summary and may not address your particular case.

If you would like to discuss your concerns, please call 295-573-546 or DSN 535-3546 and make an appointment to talk to our host nation attorney.



Elisabete Machado, legal translator, and Dr. Nuno Lemos, host nation attorney, discuss legal matters at the legal office on Sept. 6, 2012, Lajes Field. Machado and Lemos are Portuguese professionals that are part of the 65th Air Base Wing legal office. They ensure all legal issues are handled in accordance with Portuguese law. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

## Perspective

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.

The Public Affairs Office (Unit 7710, APO, AE 09720) is located in Bldg. T-100, Room 240.

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## New Commander for 65th Contracting Flight

By 1st Lt. Mark Graff  
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Maj. Sarah Humphreys assumed command of the 65th Contracting Flight Nov. 9 in an assumption of command ceremony. Col. John Oliver, 65th Mission Support Group commander, presided over the ceremony.

"It is an honor to be here before you right now. We had the most amazing welcome when we arrived here... with the warm welcome," said Humphreys, who arrived at Lajes Field accompanied by her husband and two children. Humphreys recognized her family, the 65th Contracting Flight personnel and wing leadership during her assumption of command speech.

"This is a great day here at Lajes and... our (Chief of Staff of the Air Force) says every Airman has a story, so I'm going to try to tell her story," said Oliver.

Humphreys was notified by Oliver that she had been named the commander of the contracting flight on the same day that she gave birth to her second child. After missing Oliver's call to her cell phone, Humphreys listened to Oliver's congratulatory voicemail, and then, only a few hours later, gave birth to a daughter.

Humphreys expected that the voicemail was from the hospital at which she would give birth, but was surprised to hear Oliver's voice announcing that she had been selected for command and would soon be moving overseas.

"I'm listening and (the voicemail said), 'This is Col. John Oliver and I just want to congratulate you,' and there were so many thoughts going through my head. 'But how does this man know that I'm having a baby today' (was my first thought)," said Humphreys, as she described her confusion at hearing the message.

"In a roundabout way, here we are. It's an amazing experience to be here. We can't wait to be a part of this family, we've heard great things," said Humphreys.

Humphreys assumes command of the 'small, but mighty' flight



Maj. Sarah Humphreys receives the 65th Contracting Flight guidon from Col. John Oliver, 65th Mission Support Group commander, during an assumption of command ceremony Nov. 9, 2012, Lajes Field. (Photo by Guido Melo)

responsible for supporting the Lajes Field and Air Force mission through the management and execution of a wide-variety of contracts enabling completion of the wing's mission: supporting aircraft and warfighters transiting the Atlantic Ocean. The contracting flight is known for their motto: "pride in customer satisfaction."

The 65th Contracting Flight's unit heritage dates back to the early 1940's. After being disbanded in 1944, it was reconstituted and redesignated as the 65th Contracting Squadron on Jan. 1, 1992, and subsequently, activated on Jan. 27, 1992.

Humphreys, previously the executive officer for the Directorate of Contracting, Air Force Life Cycle Management Center at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., is a 2002 graduate of South Dakota State University. There, she earned a commission through the university's Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

Humphreys arrives at Lajes Field accompanied by her husband and their two children.

### "Communicators" from page 1

located at the ends of the runway and are comprised of localizers and glideslopes," said Master Sgt. Jeffrey Isenberg, ATCALS section chief.

"The localizers provide horizontal guidance to approaching aircraft, while the glideslopes guide aircraft to the optimum landing angle of descent."

Many of the communications technicians have to travel miles from the installation in order to perform their duties. These duties could range from repairing equipment used for communicating with incoming aircraft and guiding their approach to the island, to maintaining a radar system that helps with weather forecasting.

"The next-generation weather radar or NEXRAD is unique in that it's not an Air Force system," said Isenberg. "It's owned by the National Weather Service. We just utilize and maintain it here on the island."

"We have the only NEXRAD weather radar in USAF," said Isenberg. "It tracks all weather activity around the Azores and the mid-Atlantic. All the info gathered from this radar is transmitted to weather forecasters here and on Sao Miguel, another Azorean island."

Teams from the 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron and the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron also have a hand in maintaining these external radar sites.

"Among other things, LRS ensures we have vehicles to travel to and from the sites, as well as fuel for the generators," said Isenberg. "CE maintains our generators so the sites will function during power outages and also our HVAC units to keep all the equipment cool."

The radar maintenance and airfield maintenance technicians are a unique part of the 65th CS team.

"Most people think I change light bulbs on the flightline," said Stupin who enjoys maintaining the TACANs. "I feel like my job has a big part in the base's mission."

The 65th Communications Squadron provides full-spectrum communications to enable expeditionary forces; enables expeditionary forces by providing air traffic control, secure command, control, communication, computer information and world-wide weather systems supporting all U.S. and allied forces operating

at this remote location; provides all postal services for 65th Air Base Wing and its associate units and direct communications support to all in-flight emergencies transiting the mid-Atlantic.



Airman 1st Class Ashley Stupin, 65th Communications Squadron airfield systems technician, prepares a portable instrument landing system receiver to conduct ground checks on the glideslopes, Nov. 7, 2012, Lajes Field. Stupin is using the receiver to measure the properties of the radiation pattern from the glideslopes. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)



## Quitting? Great American Smokeout, local resources help you quit tobacco

By Maj. Brandon Morgan  
65th Medical Operations Squadron

Stop me if you have heard this before: every year hundreds of thousands of people around the world die from diseases caused by smoking. Smoking robs your body tissue of oxygen, making your whole body – especially your heart – work harder. In young people, three out of four deaths from heart disease are due to smoking.

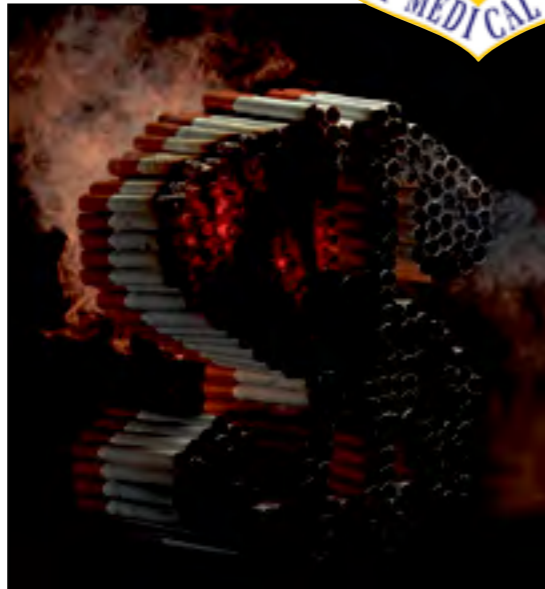
This sounds familiar because November 15 is the 37th Great American Smokeout. For the majority of us stationed at Lajes Field, we have been hearing this stuff for our entire lives. We have it pounded into us on a repetitive basis. One would think that with all the well-known ill effects of tobacco use that it should be easy to either never start or to quit once you have started. This simply is not the case.

According to the UK National Health Service (NHS) website, "addiction means not having control over doing, taking or using something harmful. You can't control how you use whatever you are addicted to and you become dependent on it to get through each day."

When we think of addiction most of us automatically think of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs. There are, however, many other addictions: gambling, caffeine, sugar, exercise, and sex to name just a few. The effects of some addictions are more harmful than others and that is why some addictions receive greater attention.

Some of you may be reading this with a Monster or coffee in hand; have you ever stopped to think why you drink those beverages and/or what you would feel like if you didn't have your daily, and sometimes several times a day, "fix." We sometimes half-joke, "You don't want to talk to me in the morning before I have my coffee."

For some it is really true because until they get that fix they may experience some discomfort and distress which may affect their emotions until it is satisfied (these are symptoms of withdrawal).



(U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Nathan Lipscomb)



So, what is this all about? Am I trying to tell you that you need to quit all of these substances and or behaviors? Nope. I am trying to give you some insight into how you might be able to empathize and truly support those around you that are trying to overcome a very harmful addiction.

Non-tobacco users often misjudge and misunderstand addiction and how difficult it is to overcome. We want, and need, everyone to quit using tobacco products for their own benefit as well as for the overall benefit of the Air Force and society. However, overcoming addiction is not an individual effort. We can all contribute to helping those around us overcome their addiction. Think about one of your own addictions, good or bad, and how you would feel if you had to give it up. Having this understanding puts you in a better position to empathize and support those around you who are trying to quit tobacco.

The American Cancer Society has set November 15 as a date for smokers to make a plan to quit, or to plan in advance and quit smoking by that day. This is not an occasion designed to single people out and try to guilt them into quitting tobacco. Instead, it is a time to educate and support. We have done a fantastic job at educating but we need to kick it up a notch or two in how we provide support. The Great American Smokeout is an opportunity for us to be true Wingmen.

For more information on Tobacco Cessation contact the HAWC at 535-HAWC. For information on overcoming other addictions contact the Mental Health Clinic at 535-5177.

Feature



## "6-5... IN THE FIGHT!"

Feature



Maj. Brandon Morgan, 65th Medical Operations Squadron, Physical Medicine flight chief, introduces the Running Clinic project to Lt. Gen. Noel T. Jones, United States Air Forces in Europe, vice commander during his visit to Lajes Field, Nov 6, 2012. The Running Clinic educates Airmen on proper physical training techniques to prevent injuries. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Airman 1st Class Ashley Stupin measures the properties of the radiation pattern from the glideslopes while Airman 1st Class Marcus Dennin calls in the readings during their ground checks, Nov. 7, 2012, Lajes Field. Both Airmen are airfield systems technicians assigned to the 65th Communications Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)



Children from the Child Development Center and Lajes Youth Center Program, render salutes after singing the national anthem during a Veteran's Day parade, Nov. 9, 2012, Lajes Field. Both centers teamed up to march around the base in a 'Salute the Troops' parade in honor of Veteran's Day. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



The construction site supervisor watches while the grounds are prepared for a new septic system during renovations at the old American Forces Network building, Nov. 8, 2012, Lajes Field. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

## LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK

**Name:** Latoya J. Johnson  
**Rank:** Technical Sergeant  
**Unit:** 65th Air Base Wing / JA  
**Hometown:** Johnsonville, SC.  
**Duty Title:** NCOIC, Military Justice



**Accomplishments:** Sergeant Johnson is responsible for processing all administrative and judicial disciplinary actions on Lajes Field, to include courts-martial and nonjudicial punishment actions as well as managing the administrative discharge program. Shortly after arriving Sergeant Johnson met the demands of assembling the record for a lengthy court; she rose to the challenge and produced five copies of a five volume general court-martial record of trial with zero errors. Recently she received a short-suspense on a high-visibility matter, and she quickly gathered two years of critical special interest data required by The Judge Advocate General. Additionally, you can't miss Sergeant Johnson's positive and upbeat attitude as she briefs personnel on various preventive law issues, or while notarizing powers-of-attorney for legal assistance clients.



**Name:** Elisabete M. Machado  
**Rank:** GS-11  
**Unit:** 65th Air Base Wing / JA  
**Duty Title:** Legal Translator  
**Hometown:** S. Sebastião, Terceira

**Accomplishments:** Senhora Machado is responsible for providing accurate and timely English and Portuguese translations on all legal documents sent by and received in the 65 ABW Legal Office. Sra Machado is a critical team player in building and fostering strong host nation ties with the Headquarters Azores Air Zone Command Legal Office through her translation skills and assistance in jointly processing all complaints in a timely manner, as well as interpreting and coordinating foreign claims re-enactments. Additionally, Sra Machado supports all Lajes "A"irmen by guiding legal assistance clients through the adoption and marriage processes on Terceira. She is instrumental in drafting correspondence to seek foreign criminal jurisdiction as well as helping people get married and assisting parents in registering their newborn downtown.



# Mark your calendar

**VETERINARIAN HERE NOV. 26:** The veterinarian will be on Island the week of Nov. 26. Appointments are available for health certificates, surgeries, and sick-calls. Slots are very limited. Call 535-3134 to set an appointment as soon as possible. The last week for appointments is Nov. 26 to 29.



**OPERATION SANTA:** Santa is coming early this year and he is visiting Lajes first! He will be doing home visits and dropping off presents to all the good little girls and boys! It will cost \$5 or 5 euro per child to deliver one present (per military child). Off base \$10 or 10.00 (per military child). Presents must be wrapped and dropped off by December 10.

**LAJES FIELD POLAR EXPRESS:** On Dec 8, at 4pm, children and parents are invited to watch the movie "Polar Express" at the base theater followed by a bus ride through 'Winter Wonderland' to visit Santa Claus at the base tree lighting. Parents and children are encouraged to wear pajamas (over thier clothes) just like in the movie. Check out the flyer for more details.

**EXTENDING THE APPLICATION WINDOW FOR RETIREMENT OR SEPARATION:** Due to the planned unavailability of the military personnel data system, SAF/MR has authorized a waiver to the Retirements and Separations AFIs, allowing eligible Airmen the option to apply earlier than the 12-month period for voluntary retirement or separation. For voluntary retirements, AFI 36-3203, Service Retirements, paragraphs 2.1.4 and 3.2, are waived allowing eligible Airmen the opportunity to apply for retirement immediately with a retirement date effective 1 December 2013 through 1 Feb 2014.

**FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE:** The flu vaccination is now available for all active duty, dependents, government employees and Tricare beneficiaries. Please call 535-3239 or 535-3584 for any questions or concerns.

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

## Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



**ENGLISH:** Where can I buy a Christmas tree?

**PORTUGUESE:** Aonde posso comprar uma árvore de Natal?

**PRONUNCIATION:** Ah-own-day po-ssu com-prahar uu-ma Arvooh-ray duh duh na-tAI?



### 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.**



# ASK ED

A column that looks at the culture and history of the Azores  
By Eduardo Lima, Community Relations Advisor



## Colombus' unexpected stop in the Azores

Although Columbus Day was celebrated by Americans more than one month ago, I would like to share with you a very interesting fact - Christopher Columbus sailed the Azorean waters!

After Christopher Columbus and his crew finally found what they believed to be India, but in reality were some islands in the Caribbean Sea, the Niña ship, with Columbus in command, and the Pinta ship began their homeward voyage in January 1493.

While sailing in the Atlantic, the two ships were forced to split due to a storm. The storm drove the Niña and Columbus to the southernmost part of the Azores, the Island of Santa Maria, where it is believed that Columbus and his crew arrived at in Feb. 15, 1493, while the Pinta found its way to Spain.

It had never actually been Columbus' intent to visit the Azores. He had carefully avoided all the Portuguese islands but his ship and crew had suffered so much hardship on their voyage back to Spain that he decided to take a chance with hopes of obtaining supplies and getting his crew some much needed rest.

To add to that, the Portuguese chroniclers of the period say that Columbus and his crew stopped on Santa Maria to fulfill a vow the crew had made on the high seas during the storm, promising to attend Mass at the nearest church of Our Lady on the

first land they should encounter.

In fact there's a small chapel located in the village of Anjos, on the northeast side of Santa Maria, where supposedly some of Columbus' men prayed and attended mass. There is also a statue of Columbus in that village commemorating the 500th anniversary of his stop on the island.



According to Silvio A. Bedini's Christopher Columbus Encyclopedia, a small group of Columbus men were attending mass when they were taken prisoners by a group of local villagers under the orders of the island's captain, João de Castanheira. It is also believed that there were some attempts to capture Columbus, but Columbus successfully evaded the presumable captors, sailing around the islands of Santa Maria and São Miguel for five days, awaiting the release of his men.

The island's captain finally decided to release the rest of Niña's crew, admitting he had failed to capture Columbus. The Niña was then able to sail again, sailing into another storm a few days later before finally reaching Spanish soil.

Although it's believed Columbus stopped at the island of Santa Maria, there is, however, no historical evidence that Columbus actually disembarked the ship and set foot in the Azores.