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Crossroads



Vol. 17, No. 46 November 30, 2012

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

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

 240
SORTIES

2815
LODGED 

 1,63 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
Wind (var.) 7 mph
SE 12 mph
HIGH 18C / 64F
LOW 12C / 54F

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

Mostly Cloudy
Wind S 12 mph
SE 14 mph
HIGH 18C / 65F
LOW 13C / 56F

"We're Thankful for Lajes Airmen"



Commanders and chiefs from the 65th Air Base Wing serve a Thanksgiving meal during the Single and Unaccompanied Members dinner at the base chapel Nov. 19. This month's SUM dinner was hosted by the Native American Heritage committee. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

Career Development: Changing the Air Force 1 career at a time

By Staff Sgt. Angelique N. Smythe
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

When it comes to 100 percent accuracy on all Personnel Action Reports, Lajes' Military Personnel Section holds the number one spot Air Force-wide for the third quarter of 2012. The MPS also maintained first place in U.S. Air Forces Europe for the entire year as well.

PAR includes five categories: Personnel Reliability Program, Category 1, Reenlistment, Evaluations and Air Expeditionary Forces.

One group of Airmen that has contributed to the MPS' success is the Career Development team, who keeps charge of three of the five categories within PAR - PRP (ensures only the most reliable individual performs duties associated with nuclear weapons and their critical components), Reenlistments (ensures selection and retention of individuals who maintain standards) and Category 1 (ensures individuals arrive at their gaining locations mission ready.)

Lajes' 647 military members heavily rely on this four-man team to handle every aspect of their careers. This small

team works very hard daily to tackle this big workload.

"We do promotions, DEROS, assignments, reenlistments, extensions, career status bonuses, command sponsorships, early return of dependents, initial enlistment bonuses, and NATO orders," said Tech. Sgt. Echo Best, 65th Force Support Squadron Career Development NCOIC.

With so many topics of responsibility, the team members consistently stay busy from the beginning to the end of each work day.

"The first thing we do each morning is check our emails that have processed in from (the Continental U.S.) while we were asleep (due to time differences)," said Staff Sgt. Jacob Williams, 65th FSS Career Development craftsman. "(The Air Force Personnel Center) bombards us with responses to questions that fall into all the categories we've mentioned. So, we spend our mornings following up."

This process itself can take just about any length of time. The team goes through great lengths to assist servicemembers, first sergeants and leadership in getting all the responses they need.

To read more on "Career" see page 4



Confession of a chaplain: "I shouldn't be here"

By Ch, Maj Jeff Granger
65th Air Base Wing

My secret is I shouldn't be here. I was disqualified from becoming a chaplain. Now that I have that off my chest, let me share with you why that is helpful to know. The Enlisted Force Structure, AFI 36-2618, says that Airmen must be spiritually ready to accomplish the mission. Spiritual readiness is described as "the development of those personal qualities needed to help a person through times of stress, hardship, and tragedy." The definition is clear, but it begs the question, "What are 'those personal qualities,' and how do we develop them?" This is where my story serves as an illustration.



I was a line officer for 10 years. God called me to ministry very clearly in 1998. I separated from active duty in 1999 with the plan to return as a chaplain. As I was getting out, I met a promotion board for major. I received incorrect advice from the personnel office which told me that my date of separation (DOS) would be "masked" from the board. This was incorrect, and I was not selected for promotion because I had a DOS, and the Chaplain Corps said I was ineligible to return as a chaplain because I was passed over.



I was crushed by the news, but I had faith that ministering for God was more important than whether or not I was an Air Force chaplain. I completed seminary and began to seek placement in a church. However, I was in my late 30s by this time and while I had extensive vocational experience, I didn't have church experience. I made the short list for a number of church positions, but was never the one chosen because the desirable choice was either a younger pastor for youth ministry, or a more

experienced one for adult ministry.

My discouragement is hard to describe, and I slowly declined into depression. My wife thought I might have to find secular employment, but I had faith that God intended to use me in ministry. This was an important time in my spiritual development, because I would not know how committed I am to be a pastor unless I went through these difficulties. It was just a matter of enduring until I found the right place.

I still had a passion to serve the military so, I returned to the Air Force as a chaplain recruiter. It turned out that the door to the Air Force opened back up. While in seminary, I had joined the Inactive Ready Reserves, and I was promoted to major. That promotion eliminated the non-selection from my record. This, and many other factors, all showed me that it is only by God's grace that I am an Air Force chaplain, because I shouldn't be here.

So, what personal qualities did I develop to enable me to be spiritual ready? Since I know that this is the place God wants me to serve, I am able to persevere despite facing frustrations and disappointments. When I face challenges, I know God will also work beyond my power to help solve them. In addition, God built my spiritual strength through the difficulties I endured before returning to active duty.

You may have a spiritual perspective different than mine. But in general, when we have a spiritual perspective, we have a perspective that there is more to life than immediate circumstances—there is a big picture that extends beyond what we can see. When we have this perspective, we can handle hardship and tragedy with strength that is beyond our own abilities.

My experience and my ongoing spiritual exercises have prepared me to be spiritually ready for the mission. Are you?

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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Caution: Road Construction Continues on Lajes

Rua da Cantina – from Building T-324 (Post Office) to Building T-308 (Arts & Crafts Center)

Rua 25 de Abril – from Building T-100 (65th ABW Headquarters) to Building T-624 (Power Plant). This street is the large hill that runs from the flightline to the top of the hill by 65th ABW Headquarters.

Please use extreme caution while driving through construction areas. Reduce speed and look for signs redirecting traffic. Be on the lookout for flaggers as streets might be down to one lane.

For more information, contact the 65th CES Contract Management Office at 535-6839.



Marketing department: Bringing the community, families together



While videotaping the most recent episode of *Lajes Now*, Paulette Burnard, 65th Force Support Squadron marketing department director, interviews Santa Claus about his upcoming visit to Lajes Field children. *Lajes Now*, shown on the Lajes Commander's Access Channel, is an informal talk show that is aimed at bringing the community together. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Erica Horner)

By Staff Sgt Erica Horner
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

LAJES FIELD, Azores -- The 65th Force Support Squadron marketing department is always busy informing the Lajes community. From producing the monthly Accents magazine to designing various flyers publicizing events to filming videos for the Commander's Access Channel, the marketing department is focused on enriching the Lajes community.

Even on a small island, the marketing department puts a premium on frequent communication.

"No matter how big or small the base is there's always a great need to communicate with the people that are here," said Paulo Feliciano, 65th Force Support Squadron videographer. "The CAC is a very affordable and an efficient way of reaching the community."

One unique facet of the CAC program is a televised broadcast of the *Lajes Now* show. *Lajes Now*, which is similar to popular morning talk shows, is hosted by Paulette Burnard, 65th Force Support Squadron marketing director.

The show is intended to be an informal and entertaining forum to discuss and highlight unique human interest stories at Lajes Field.

One way that *Lajes Now* helps reinforce the Lajes community is that community members - military or civilian - frequently appear on the show. The community participation is what makes the show so popular, said Burnard.

"Since Lajes is such a small community, we are able to incorporate a lot of people on the base (in the show)," said Burnard.

The idea for this community-enriching show, which is filmed at Lajes' Café Bean, oddly enough, was originally planned as Café Bean opened.

"Lajes Now originated one morning when we were having coffee and we thought 'wouldn't it be fun if we interviewed different people on the base in an informal setting just like this,'" said Burnard. "And just as we were putting this together, the Café Bean opened up and the venue was perfect."

Since its launch in 2009, *Lajes Now* has aired 90 shows on the CAC. Just last year alone, 50 episodes - or more than half the *Lajes Now* shows ever recorded - were videotaped, said Burnard.

Lajes Now, like other marketing products, is just another way to get the word out, said Burnard.

"It just gives a real nice forum for people in our community to talk about their program or event," said Burnard. "If they have a message that they want to get out, this works out very well for them. The more our community views *Lajes Now*; they get to see their families, friends, neighbors and co-workers so this is a really great opportunity to get the word out."

Lajes Now has expanded to not only interviewing people on the base, but people visiting the base as well.

"We've interviewed people from almost everywhere," said Burnard. Interviews with everyone from astronauts to key leaders to entertainers have been featured on the program.

While programs like *Lajes Now* are tailored to local audiences, some features of the CAC program can and have been enjoyed by distant audiences, specifically extended family members of military families stationed at Lajes.

Thanks to the creative energy of the marketing department staff and the state-of-the-art capabilities associated with the CAC program software, family and friends that live in the United States were able to watch the Lajes High School seniors graduate a few months ago.

"We did (a live stream of) the high school graduation and we got a lot of feedback from families that were able to watch their seniors graduate," said Feliciano. "They were able to watch everything that was going on here with a multi-camera set-up and see everything as it was happening as if they were here."

Comments poured in from across the United States applauding the marketing department for their efforts and the amount of money the families were able to save by viewing the graduation live, as opposed to buying plane tickets.

"We had one viewer state that... they were going to use that money to put towards their families' college fund," said Feliciano. "Without even knowing it, we were contributing to these families with our live stream."

Therefore not only does the CAC program bring the Lajes community together, it is evident that this benefit extends beyond the island of Terceira.

For more information regarding the CAC channel or to become the next guest on *Lajes Now*, call the marketing department at 535-3624.



"Career" from page 1

"This week alone we had a lot of hot issues for which we had to spend half the day on the phone with AFPC," said Best. "Now, we have to get that information back to the members' leadership. I was in a meeting for an hour and a half on one case, and these guys here had to do a lot of following up to get information back to the unit."

If it's during an assignment cycle, for which there are eight a year, the Career Development team goes through at least two days of receiving assignments from AFPC.

"There are four assignment cycles for overseas and four for CONUS annually," said Williams. "We'll come in that morning and there will be all of these assignments in our inbox, and we're loaded. We'll begin the initial eligibility process for those assignments, and then by the end of the day, we're sending requests back to AFPC or making phone calls. Then we're notifying the members as quickly as possible about what actions they need to accomplish."

The Career Development team also spends a lot of time referring to official Air Force policies for many types of special situations a servicemember may encounter.

"We dabble in at least a dozen (Air Force Instructions) all day long," said Williams. "We're kind of the 4-1-1 on personnel actions."

The Career Development team conducts a lot of research to help others find the exact guidance they may need, as well as educates individuals on how to understand and take control of their careers. They expertly break down information so that others may learn as well as help the next generation of Airmen.

"We also have a continuous working relationship with our (traffic management office) and finance office on a daily basis, for processing orders and dealing with all of those things that would affect a member's pay," said Best.

Despite the fact that most personnel actions seem as simple as a system-generated e-mail, nothing occurs automatically.

"Somebody behind the scenes is pushing a button to make that update happen, and that's us," said Best. "This includes promotions."

By 2 p.m. the Career Development team shuts their door to all customers, but the behind-the-scenes work continues.

"That's our key couple of hours to get on the computer or on the phone with AFPC and get the answers we need, such as for unique family situations," said Best.



Staff Sergeants Lizbeth Vaquero, Chrisanna Walton, Jacob Williams and Tech. Sgt. Echo Best (not shown) make up the 65th Force Support Squadron Career Development team. Lajes servicemembers in need of career development assistance may contact either of the four individuals at 535-1456. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Angelique N. Smythe)

Although Air Force regulations may be black and white, they only serve as a guide.

"When special conditions exist, a lot of times we have to call and ask AFPC exactly what they need from us to make certain things possible, and we make it happen," said Williams.

This Career Development team takes care of people from the beginning to the end of their tours here at Lajes.

"Sometimes it's before they even arrive and well after they're gone," said Williams. "For example, we may have to correct erroneous records found by AFPC on a member's reenlistment contract. We create a paper trail from when the record may have disappeared years ago then send everything back to AFPC to close out the loop."

To prevent themselves from becoming burnt out with such a demanding career, these four individuals, which include Staff Sgt. Lizbeth Vaquero and Staff Sgt. Chrisanna Walton, stay motivated with a sense of accomplishment, teamwork, food and laughter.

"We have a really (great) team with awesome NCOs," said Best. "They are all leaders. They make it enjoyable to come to work every day, and I'm glad I get to work with such amazing people."

"I enjoy seeing the right thing happen," said Williams. "When you know you've done your work and you've found the policy that someone needs in order to make things right for them, it's like a light switch. We were able to help someone where they got a 'no' all around, and we got them a 'yes.'"

The team also enjoys breakfasts, off-site lunches and Boss & Buddy Wings Night together.

"When you feed your people, they are happy people," said Best. "We also have a time when we just vent, talk about situations, brainstorm, and work together. Sometimes we don't even have to talk about work. We enjoy talking about things that give everybody a laugh and lighten the mood of situations."

The Career Development team stands ready to help anyone in need of career development assistance until 2 p.m. each day and may be reached at 535-1456.

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK

Name: Ruben Covos
Rank: Captain
Unit: 65th Air Base Wing / HC
Hometown: Odessa, Texas
Duty Title: Chaplain
Accomplishments: provides pastoral care, advice to leadership, and confidential counseling to the Airmen of Lajes Field. His fluency in Portuguese allows him to maintain host base relations with AB4 personnel, in particular, our Security Forces counterparts. He pastors the Catholic community of 125 parishioners; and directs the parish coordinator, 9 ministry leaders, and 48 volunteers. He maintains outstanding host nation relations by assisting local parishes. Recently, he led the CFC campaign, exceeding last year's total funds raised.



Name: Hildeberto Cabral
Rank: LGS-04
Unit: 65th Air Base Wing Chapel
Duty Title: Airman's Ministry Program director
Hometown: Fontinhas, Terceira
Accomplishments: Plans, organizes, and executes resiliency programs for Lajes Field Airmen. Directs programs such as weekly Dorm Resident lunch, and monthly chapel sponsored Airmen outings

to help create a sense of community and build relational support for Airmen. Leads a team of dorm residents to provide support for fellow Airmen, and coordinates with the Dorm Counsel for program support.



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

Feature



Leland Livingston, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron real property specialist, speaks about culture and traditions from his Navajo tribe of New Mexico during the Single and Unaccompanied Members' dinner at the base chapel Nov. 19. Livingston also shared a Thanksgiving message in his native language. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Lewis, 65th Medical Group superintendent, serves food during the Single and Unaccompanied Ministries dinner hosted by the Native American Heritage committee at the base chapel Nov. 19. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Single and unaccompanied Airmen eat a Thanksgiving dinner at the base chapel, Nov. 19. The Single and Unaccompanied Members' Dinner is held the last Thursday of the month and sponsored by different units and private organizations. This month the Native American Heritage committee hosted the Thanksgiving dinner. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Tome Carvalho, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron environmental specialist, stands by one of Lajes' two hazardous waste portable shipping tanks. Lajes Fields' Environmental team has saved approximately \$50,000 in transportation costs this year by shipping approximately 80,000 kilograms of hazardous wastes to a landfill on mainland Portugal for the first time October 2012. This was done in accordance with a new European Union law that legislated all hazardous wastes be disposed of within their original countries. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Angelique N. Smythe)

Lajes contributes \$98K to CFC

By Staff Sgt. Angelique N. Smythe
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Surpassing their goal by thousands, Team Lajes joined together to raise more than \$98,800 during the Combined Federal Campaign, which closed out Nov. 16 with a basewide Bowl-a-thon.

CFC provides an opportunity for federal employees to improve the quality of life for all through numerous worldwide non-profit organizations.

At this time, donation forms will no longer be solicited from individuals; however, those who were provided a form during the campaign have until Dec. 15 to turn them in. On Dec. 15, the accounts will be audited and the campaign is officially closed.

The campaign ran from Sept. 17 through Nov. 16, during which time up to 94 percent of Team Lajes, including deployed members, participated in a number of events and provided contributions in support.

"We've left a very positive footprint this year," said Master Sgt. Keith Morales, 65th Security Forces Squadron operations superintendent. "Our goal was 90K, and we reached that, plus some. The generosity of Lajes had been proven once again."



CFC Project officers, Morales and Chaplain (Capt.) Ruben Covos, 65th Air Base Wing Chapel, said they are very grateful to have such a great team of Airmen to work with.

"Without them, this goal could not have been achieved," said Morales.

Anyone willing to donate to CFC can visit their unit coordinator or www.cfcverseas.org.



Mark your calendar

CTO CLOSED NOV. 30: The Commercial Travel Office will be closed for training Nov. 30. For emergencies, please contact 535-5168.

BASE EXCHANGE OPEN DEC. 1: The Base Exchange will be open on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 1 is a Portuguese Holiday and the BX would normally be closed but they'll remain open to facilitate holiday shopping. All other AAFES locations will be closed as usual.

MDG HOURS TO CHANGE DEC. 3: Starting Dec. 3, the 65th Medical Group clinic will be open Monday through Friday from 8a .m. to 5 p.m. Acute Care appointments will be available from 8 to 9 a.m. each day (to include Training Days) and can be booked by calling the appointment line which will open at 7 a.m. each morning. Please call 535-3261 or 535-1089 to make an appointment or for more information.

MILITARY SERVICE STATION CLOSURE: The Military Service Station will be closed Dec. 3-15. Set operation hours for the temporary service station are Monday-Friday from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 2 to 3 p.m. Weekends: Call 535-4218 or stop by the Fuels Service Center located in building T-767. The location for the temporary service station will be in the fuels yard adjacent to the military service station. Please plan accordingly. For emergency fills call the Fuels Service Center at 535-4218. For more information, contact MSgt Tracy Ford at 535-6450, MSgt Anthony Gaines at 535-3522, or TSgt Albert Black at 535-0300.

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 their clothes) just like in the movie.

OPERATION SANTA: Santa will be visiting homes and dropping off presents to all the good little girls and boys! Cost \$5 or 5 euro per child to deliver one present (per military child). Off base is \$10 or 10 euro (per military child). Presents must be wrapped and dropped off by Dec. 10.

CHRISTMAS 5K RUN IN PRAIA: There will be a free Christmas 5K Run in the Praia Open Skating Rink (located across from the military port entrance) Dec. 16 at 10 a.m. Anyone can participate. Participants can sign in for the run 30 minutes before the run at the Open Skating Rink. For more information call Sr. Nelson Coelho at 915 772 393.



Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: God bless you.

PORTUGUESE: Deus te abençoe.

PRONUNCIATION: Day-oshteh ah ben so?



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

ASK ED

A column that looks at the culture and history of the Azores

By Eduardo Lima, Community Relations Advisor



What do the Portuguese commemorate on their Dec. 1 Holiday?

The Portuguese holiday on Dec. 1 is to celebrate the "Restoration of Independence Day." It commemorates the revolution of Dec. 1, 1640, when a small group of patriotic noblemen conspired to put an end to 60 years of Spanish rule and reestablish Portuguese sovereignty.

The Spanish Kings Phillip II, III and IV had ruled Portugal since 1580 after the Moors and Turks defeated Portuguese King Dom Sebastião and his troops in North Africa at the battle of Alcácer Quibir. The Spanish took over the Portuguese throne as the Portuguese royal family was too politically weak due to the North Africa disaster and family internal struggles to resist the occupation.

Portugal was governed by the Spanish monarchs under a principle of dual monarchy, which recognized the existence of two crowns in the hands of the same king.

The Spanish monarch appointed Margaret of Savoy, Duchess of Mantua, and her Secretary of State Miguel de Vasconcelos to represent the Spanish kings in Portugal.

However, the Portuguese resentment against the Spanish rule



Obelisc at one of Lisbon, Portugal, main street to commemorate the restoration of Portuguese independence.

increased over the years as the Spanish kings discriminated against the Portuguese people and officials and lost the Portuguese territories of Malacca and Ormuz in the South China Sea.

Taking advantage of the unpopularity of the Spanish representatives, a group of 40 noblemen headed to Lisbon on the morning of Dec. 1, 1640 and managed to restore Portuguese independence. Moments after the insurrection, Dom Miguel Almeida announced the end of the Spanish rule and proclaimed the Duke of Bragança, Dom João, as the new king of Portugal.

As a side note, it's worth mentioning Terceira Island was a center of resistance during the Spanish occupation and it was the last national territory to fall to the Spanish domain. It was during this period that the Spanish built the fortress of St. Phillip at the base of Mount Brazil in Angra to defend themselves from the island's population.

The fortress was later renamed with its current name, Saint John the Baptist as homage to the new King of Portugal.