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Crossroads



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Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

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

FY 2013



294
SORTIES

3423
LODGED



1,83 M
gallons
FUEL ISSUED

Popular Numbers

Medical Appointment:

Base: 535-3261

Off base: 295-573-261

Emergency:

Base: 911

Off base: 295-571-911

Lajes Against Drunk Driving:

Fri & Sat: 295-57-5233

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator:

24/7: 535-7272

Off base: 966-677-266

Weekend Weather Forecast

Saturday (a.m. / p.m.)

Mostly Cloudy / Partly Cloudy

Wind W 12 - 17 mph

(var.) 7 mph

HIGH 17C / 63F

LOW 14C / 57F

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

Mostly Cloudy

Wind (var.) 7 mph

SW 17 - 23 mph

HIGH 18C / 64F

LOW 13C / 55F

NASA aircraft refuels at Lajes



Crewmembers exit a WB-57F Canberra, owned by NASA, after landing at Lajes Field for a refueling mission on their way back to Ellington Field near the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, Dec. 3. The NASA WB-57 provides unique, high-altitude airborne platforms to US Government agencies, academic institutions, and commercial customers in order to support scientific research and advanced technology development and testing at locations around the world. (Photos by Lucas Silva)

729 AMS: Lajes' connection to the world

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

The 729th Air Mobility Squadron plays an important role in supporting and sustaining the mission of the 65th Air Base Wing on Lajes Field.

Its mission is to provide strategic, theater and contract commercial air mobility support for Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia.

It operates aerial port for all cargo and passengers entering, leaving, and transiting Lajes.

The 729th AMS is also responsible for command and control of all U.S. aircraft transiting the Atlantic.

"Anything coming in and out of Lajes goes through us," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Cassell, former NCOIC 729th AMS

Air Terminal Operations Center, who recently permanently changed stations. "We take them from TMO

(traffic management office) or LRS (logistics readiness squadron) and then process them for onward movement on our aircraft that transit out of here. We also receive process and get cargo out to the users on base."

Cargo services processes cargo, such as household goods, mail, general cargo, base supplies, commissary rations and medical items.

"We physically have a part in ensuring that the health and wellness of the base population is good; medical supplies and commissary rations that people need to sustain life come through us," Cassell said. "We take them right from the plane to the truck and to the commissary within 45 minutes of the planes coming in. We get them to the customer as quickly as possible."

Customers includes the commissary, post



To read more on "729th AMS" see page 3



Journey to success requires humility, commitment

By Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Storms
65th Air Base Wing command chief

In today's society, status, position and possessions often define success to those who are on the outside looking in. We see this in our Air Force to some degree. However, I believe success is also having a loving wife and family, a great job you're passionate about or great Airmen to work for, to name a few.

Recently, we welcomed our newest chief master sergeants and congratulated them on a hard earned promotion. Their journey to the pinnacle of the enlisted corps can be seen as success.

If I were to capture what success means to me, I would use the words that legendary basketball coach John Well used. He judged success by "being the best you can be." He also went on to mention the journey a person takes in pursuit of success is what is most important.

That journey to success will come with many challenges. For some of you, they have already happened. For others, they haven't yet caught up to you. We all face difficult challenges, but with the commitment to do the best that you can with all that is thrown your way, success can be yours.

A quote from an unknown author said, "There are only two options regarding commitment, you're either in or you're out. There's no such thing as life in between." Be committed to your training, superiors, mission, family and Airmen.

Opportunities and success may come your way in the form of awards. These awards may depict or show your success as an Airman, and you should be proud of your accomplishments. However, a word of caution... be humble. Your successes that have happened and will happen are a result of the many people around you.

I would not be as successful as I am if it were not for others who pushed and pulled me along the way. Everyday I thank many people who may have recognized something in me that I might have not seen in myself.

The journey also brings us face to face with many Airmen who inspire us and many who we

may want to inspire. They may be a general officer, a young lieutenant, a senior NCO, or even young Airmen who've just arrived from basic training.

Airmen of all ranks have encouraged and inspired me to be a better Airman. They do this through their servant leadership, passion, purpose and a very positive attitude. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It can be the inspiration to go further than you thought you could.

As your journey through the Air Force grows, you will find yourself getting a little older or seasoned. Yet, no matter how long the journey has been, our Airmen are counting on us to wake up everyday with enthusiasm. The energy and enthusiasm we bring from being part of the best Air Force in the world is contagious.

I look forward to driving through the base front gate and working with and for the finest sons and daughters that our Air Force has shaped into Airmen. Their enthusiasm and professionalism make me want to work harder than I did the day before and prove to them that I deserve to wear this uniform.

The journey to success also teaches us that to be a good leader you need to be a good follower. We all follow the orders of someone higher in rank than us, but do we do it to the best of our abilities? According to Webster's Dictionary, followership "is defined as the capacity or willingness to follow a leader." This is a responsibility that is no less important than that of leadership. In fact, I believe it enables good leadership and develops Airmen into leaders. I can remember my grandfather tell me that "you need to be a good follower before you will ever be a good leader." Those words are still with me today.

As you look back at your own journey, is your success defined by status, position or possessions? Or did the commitment you have in performing your mission define it? Was it the humility you showed when being recognized? Maybe it was the ability to inspire or be inspired? Could it have been the enthusiasm you displayed? Perhaps it was learning to lead through following?



Col. Chris Bargery

Col. Chris Bargery
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing

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.



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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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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Perspective



Career Development informs Airmen on importance of DEROS Option RIP

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

In order to prevent involuntary separation from the Air Force as a result of not knowing the importance of one's Date Eligible to Return from Overseas, the 65th Force Support Squadron's Career Development office strives to keep everyone educated.

Every Airman stationed overseas has a DEROS, but some who are serving overseas for the first time may not understand its importance.

"Your DEROS determines when you're going to leave for your next assignment, what assignments you're eligible for and what cycle you're eligible to compete in," said Tech. Sgt. Echo Best, 65th FSS Career Development NCOIC. "It tells you what windows of opportunity you have for applying for different assignments out of Lajes."

Enlisted members receive their DEROS Option RIP from the Career Development office via e-mail approximately 10 months prior to their DEROS for Lajes.

It is each Airman's responsibility to read and understand their DEROS Option RIP and take the appropriate actions.

After receipt of the DEROS Option RIP, Airmen have 30 days to return it to the Career Development office. They may select to keep their current DEROS, extend their DEROS or take advantage of one of the Overseas Tour Extension Incentive Program bonuses, which require a supervisor's and commander's approval.

"Your DEROS window is your time to re-enlist or extend your contract," said Staff Sgt. Jacob Williams, Career Development craftsman. "Airmen must have at least 12 months of retainability after their DEROS to be eligible for consideration of a new assignment."

At the latest, Airmen have until the 25th day of

the eighth month prior to their DEROS to get retainability updated within the personnel system. Without enough retainability, Airmen are involuntarily extended to match their Date of Separation and are separated from the Air Force from their overseas location.

"For example, if someone's DEROS is September 2013, and they do not possess 12 months retainability pass their current DEROS, they will have to obtain it by Jan. 25, 2013, or else their DEROS will change to match their Date of Separation," said Staff Sgt. Lizbeth Vaquero, 65th FSS Career Development craftsman.

This action forces the individual to face the fact they will be separated from the Air Force, and, for some, this may have not been what they wanted to occur.

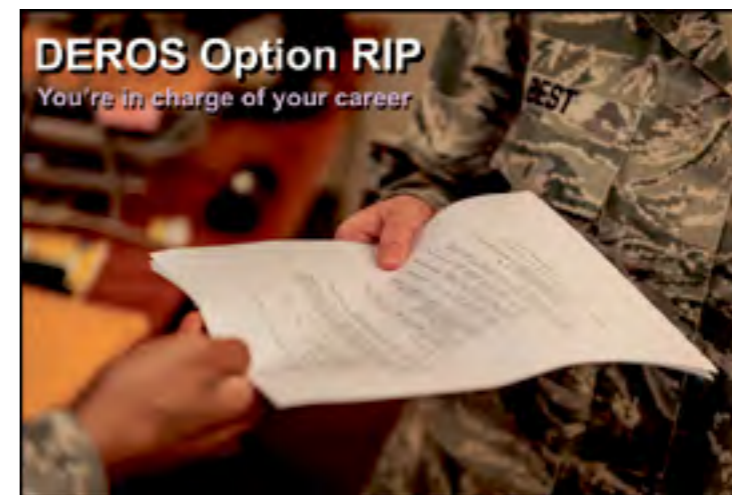
"There are people who don't read their DEROS Option RIP, don't take any action whatsoever, and we have to assume they don't want to continue their service in the Air Force," said Williams. "We don't ever want to assume that. We want folks to be in charge of their career. However, you

will have to sign an AF Form 964 stating you refused to attain retainability and you will be separated."

Inactivity is not an option in this process. If an Airman refuses to sign an AF Form 964 after neglecting to take the appropriate actions to keep retainability, the Career Development office will fill out the form on their behalf, making the individual ineligible to re-enlist.

"People think it's just a date, it's more than just a date," said Best. "It's a flag that says, 'Go!' and you have to take the proper actions. The Air Force has to project where people are going in time to allocate funds where they need to be. That's why this is very important."

The Career Development team is always ready to help anyone in need of assistance and can be reached at 535-1456.



Enlisted members receive their DEROS Option RIP from the Career Development office via e-mail approximately 10 months prior to their DEROS for Lajes. It is each Airman's responsibility to read and understand their DEROS Option RIP, take the appropriate actions, then return it to Career Development within 30 days of receipt. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



"729th AMS" from page 1

office and other agencies and squadrons on base that have any kind of cargo that come in on aircraft, such as the C-17s, C-130s, KC-10s and KC-135s.

When these aircraft, as well as fighter jets, stop at Lajes for fuel, they sometimes require maintenance. The 729th AMS Airmen support the crewmembers by offloading maintenance cargo to fix these broken jets.

"When they are ready to leave and go back home, we do a joint inspection on the cargo," Cassell said.

The NCOIC in charge of the aerial port aspect ensures the mission is accomplished on time, safely and correctly.

"We look at the aircraft for airworthiness, make sure it's safe to fly, and check the standards of any kind of hazardous materials that are going on the aircraft," Cassell said. "Once that process is done, we complete the cargo

processing function and get the aircraft and crew back home stateside or to the fight."

The 729th AMS also has a fleet services team which provides lavatory services on the aircraft.

"It's important to have clean, tidy latrines on the airplane during travel and full potable water for sanitization purposes," Cassell said.

There are a total of 49 personnel who make up the 729th AMS. During fiscal year 2012, they moved 15,500 passengers and 2,000 tons of cargo.

"We're small, but our main mission here is the lifeline of Lajes; 90 percent of everything that comes onto or leaves the island comes through us."

The 729th Air Mobility Squadron is a mission partner on Lajes Field. It falls under the 521st Air Mobility Operations Group, headquartered at Rota Air Base, Spain and the 521st Air Mobility Operations Wing, headquartered at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. AMC is its major command.



Lajes families embark on magical Polar Express ride

Feature

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

More than 300 family members experienced the joy of The Polar Express at Lajes Dec. 8.

A live action musical number opened up the festivities as Team Lajes joined together for a whole night of fun.

Dressed comfortably in pajamas, children and adults filled the seats of the Lajes theater to view the holiday movie "The Polar Express" produced by Warner Bros. Entertainment, Inc., and inspired by the award winning book by Chris Van Allsburg.

At the conclusion of the film, everyone took out their golden roundtrip tickets to board The Polar Express train, simulated by two holiday decorated buses, for an adventure through Winter Wonderland in the Nascero do Sol housing area.

"We created a Winter Wonderland with live action Christmas displays as well as had the area lit up with holiday lights," said Master Sgt. Greg Lee, 65th Medical Support Squadron, mastermind of the Lajes Polar Express.

"I'd done it before in Boston, Mass., several years ago, and I thought if there'd be any place we could do it, it would be Lajes just because of the community we have here," he said. "So I dreamed the whole thing up, pitched it to the wing leadership, and they fell in love with the idea."

At their last stop, the families disembarked the train for a holiday tree lighting ceremony complete with holiday entertainment, caroling, hot chocolate and cookies served for their enjoyment.

Toward the end of the night, a special guest made his grand entrance on a fire truck with lights and sirens.

Santa Claus came in to town.

Children had an opportunity to receive gifts and take photos on Santa's lap before heading home for the night.

A special invitation was sent to the Portuguese local national Girl Scouts as well as one of the local orphanages.

As the movie played in the base theater for the American children, there was a special showing in the Community Activities Center in Portuguese for the local national children as well.

"Community relations are really important, especially around Christmas time," said Lee. "Whether you're a fan of Christmas or not, it's about the spirit of giving. It's about reaching out and helping others and including them in your festivities, and we're really proud and glad to have them as part of this experience."

Portuguese local national leader of Portuguese Girl Scouts who visited Lajes for the Polar Express experience, Cidalia Dias, said



Santa Claus gives gifts to Lajes and Portuguese children as Santa Claus Dec. 8. More than 300 family members watched "The Polar Express" movie, enjoyed a simulated train ride through a Winter Wonderland and ended the night with a holiday tree lighting ceremony on Lajes. This was the kickoff to a series of December holiday events on Lajes. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Angelique N. Smythe)

the Portuguese children were very excited to be a part of the event.

"I think the most important thing is the friendship the kids make with each other," Dias said. "They can learn about American culture, and the American children can learn about the Portuguese culture. All the activities we do together are awesome for the kids."

Maria David, wife of Tech. Sgt. Jason David, American Forces Network-Lajes, and overseas committee chair of the American Girl Scouts, said she invited the local national scouts to join in on the festivities.

"As Girl Scouts, we've traditionally have had good working relationships together," said David. "We try to include them in every activity we can and they do the same for us so the girls get a little of the local culture. It's a good learning experience. It helps them to see things from a different perspective."

The Polar Express served as a kick off for a series of events scheduled to celebrate the holidays throughout the month of December. For a list of December holiday events on Lajes, visit Lajes Link at www.lajes.af.mil.

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK

Name: Stephanie Butler
Rank: Senior Airman

Unit: 65th Security Forces Squadron
Duty Title: Assistant Flight Sergeant

Accomplishments: As an Assistant Flight Sergeant with the Security Forces Squadron is responsible for leading, managing and mentoring 15 active duty members and protecting 2.3K personnel, along with securing \$1.3B in Air Force resources. Her team operates jointly with 10 Portuguese AF personnel. Together they execute the 65th Air Base Wing's Integrated Defense Plan. Along with directing all response activities, she oversees her flight's training programs, which includes evaluating physical fitness and self-improvement goals. Airman Butler's keen leadership and fundamental knowledge of operations enabled her to establish command and control for fence cuts, theft of government property, and vehicle accidents.



Name: Tanisha White
Rank: Airman First Class
Unit: 65th Security Forces Squadron
Duty Title: Patrolman

Accomplishments: As a Security Forces Patrolman is responsible for conducting vital security patrols for 854 buildings. Additionally, she is charged with executing the wing's Integrated Defense plan, by providing continued security and force protection for over 20K personnel and 2.8K aircraft transiting annually through Lajes Field airfield. Her leadership and actions have ensured that our force projection and global communication is well protected and goes unhindered on a daily basis. Protection of her fellow Airmen is also top priority for this Wingman. Airman White has racked up over 50 hours of volunteer time with Lajes Against Drunk Driving.



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

Feature



NASA's WB-57F Canberra refuels at Lajes

NASA's WB-57F Canberra crew chief, Jack Salter, refuels the aircraft with JP8 fuel provided by 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron refueling truck. The NASA WB-57 provides unique, high-altitude airborne platforms to US Government agencies, academic institutions, and commercial customers in order to support scientific research and advanced technology development and testing at locations around the world. (Photos by Lucas Silva)



Francisco Augusto, 65th Operations Support Squadron Aerospace Ground Equipment, checks the Dash 60 Generator power output for the WB-57F Canberra while providing airplane power support Dec. 3. (Photos by Lucas Silva)



At the conclusion of "The Polar Express" film, children dressed comfortably in pajamas took out their golden roundtrip tickets to board The Polar Express train, simulated by two holiday decorated buses, for an adventure through Winter Wonderland in the Nascero do Sol housing area. Their trip ended with a holiday tree lighting ceremony and a special visit from Santa Claus. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Angelique N. Smythe)



Maria David, wife of Tech. Sgt. Jason David, American Forces Network-Lajes, and overseas committee chair of the American Girl Scouts, sits with her daughter, Leinani, 3, as well as Cidalia Dias, leader of the Portuguese Girl Scouts, at the Community Activities Center Dec. 8. The Portuguese Girl Scouts as well as a local orphanage received a special invitation to experience "The Polar Express" in Portuguese on Lajes. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Angelique N. Smythe)



Children and adults filled the seats of the Lajes theater to view the holiday movie "The Polar Express." They then enjoyed a simulated train ride through a Winter Wonderland and ended the night with a holiday tree lighting ceremony on Lajes. This was the kickoff to a series of December holiday events on Lajes. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Angelique N. Smythe)



LAJES ON THE WEB



Lajes Field

6-5...
in the FIGHT!

"Lajes Link" - www.lajes.af.mil

Lajes Link is the base's official website and it's designed to serve your news and information needs.

Been interviewed for a news story or mission feature article? Check Lajes Link to find the latest news about Lajes Field produced by your Public Affairs team.

Looking for the latest operational photographs from Lajes Field? PA photographers post high resolution photos here, first!

Lajes Link is there to help you with links to the Wing Events Calendar, Air Force Portal, AAFES hours, movie theatre schedules, base phone numbers and the medical clinic.

If you've got a question, check out Lajes Link, your one-stop shop for all things Lajes!



Lajes Field, Azores

www.facebook.com/65abw.lajes

Lajes Field is one of the most popular Facebook pages in USAFE, with more than 4,200 fans!

Each day, we're interacting with you, answering your questions, sharing your content and bringing you the latest news and command information from the 65th ABW.

'Like' Lajes Field, Azores for the latest news stories, photos, videos and weather updates!



Lajes Field Photos

www.flickr.com/photos/lajesfield/collections

Looking for photographs from the latest promotion ceremony or Warrior Welcome?

Find us on Flickr to see all of the photos you've been looking for and more!

We're posting event photographs online so that Airmen, civilians and family members can access the photos anywhere.



AFN LAJES Radio 96.1FM

- The Morning Wake Up Call: 0600-1000
- The Double D MidDay Show: 1200-2300
- 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



Christmas traditions in the Azores

The Portuguese on mainland and the Azoreans celebrate Christmas much like some other European countries and the United States, although there are some differences that are related with local traditions.

These differences vary with the regions, especially when it comes to food and religious services.

Although decades ago it was traditional to have a nativity scene, most Portuguese families now have Christmas trees in their living rooms, although some families still set up a

On Christmas Eve, families and friends usually exchange of presents usually takes place after other time.

The menu varies with the region and the have boiled codfish or stuffed turkey accompanied. Many years ago the traditional dish was chicken expensive.

After dinner, many people go to the church midnight. Some families prefer to attend Mass

On Christmas Day and the days following, scenes around the island if there are any.

This Christmas visiting period usually runs from Christmas until the Epiphany on Jan. 6, also known to the Portuguese as the "Day of the Three Kings."

A long time ago in the Azores, people would make home-made liqueurs during the Christmas season and invite friends to go to their homes to taste the liqueurs, Christmas cakes or other sweets. Since these drinks were made in honor of Baby Jesus, whenever they were pouted into a glass it was referred to as the Baby Jesus urinating or "O Menino Mija" in Portuguese.

This tradition still continues nowadays. Although people don't make the home-made liqueurs anymore, they still invite friends and relatives to visit them during the season to participate in "O Menino Mija" and have a drink and taste the Christmas cake.



families' economic situation, but it's common to with red or white wine and other beverages. – codfish and turkey were scarce and too

for Christmas Eve Mass, normally held around on Christmas Day.

people visit relatives, friends and live nativity