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Vol. 17, No. 49 December 21, 2012

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

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

FY 2013



294
SORTIES

3654
LODGED



1,91 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

Lajes mission, strong host nation relations endure despite coming changes



A Portuguese Air Force security forces member shakes hands with a member of the 65th Security Forces Squadron during Lajes Field's Open House 2012. "Host Nation Relations" - partnering closely with our Portuguese Air Force and Azorean counterparts - is one of the 65th Air Base Wing's focus areas and of the utmost importance during the planned reductions at Lajes Field, said Col. Chris Bargery, 65th Air Base Wing commander, during an informative briefing to the base populace here, Dec. 14. (Photos by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)

By 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

U.S. Department of Defense officials announced last week that Lajes Field will transition from an air base wing to an air base group with a reduction of more than 400 military personnel and 500 family members by the end of fiscal year 2014. The drawdown of the 65th Air Base Wing is part of a larger Air Force effort to shape the force, said Col. Chris Bargery, 65th Air Base Wing commander.

"The U.S. force posture is being adjusted to meet fiscal challenges, while maintaining a strong, capable relationship with our Portuguese allies and Azorean partners," said Col. Bargery. "Lajes Field's strategic mission is important and valuable, and will not change. But, the footprint with which we accomplish our mission will change."

In addition to the reduction of military and civilian

positions, future assignments to Lajes Field will change. In the future, all Airmen assigned to here will receive 12-month, unaccompanied assignments.

Due to the assignment status change and the natural attrition of families from Lajes, a Department of Defense Dependents School will no longer operate at Lajes Field after the 2014 school year.

"We expect all families to depart by summer 2014 or shortly thereafter," said Bargery. "We are committed to implementing these changes in the right way, and to taking care of our Airmen, families and Portuguese local national employees throughout."

To explain these changes to the base populace, Col. Bargery hosted a series of briefings on Dec. 13 and 14 to explain the changes. The briefings were focused on explaining how Lajes Airmen - both military and civilian - will be affected by

To read more on "Drawdown" see page 3



Today's Fight—Airmen and Families—Host Nation Relationship—Future Challenges



"Every Airman a Sensor"

By Gen. Philip M. Breedlove
U.S. Air Forces Europe commander

attack two of our most troublesome problems. Our Air Force has changed drastically since its creation, and I've witnessed our force adapt to countless challenges since I took the

I would like to have a few moments of your time to tell you something of great concern to me. I have had the privilege of serving in the Air Force for 35 years and there is nothing more important to me as your commander than your safety and your welfare.

I recently began visiting your wings and many have heard me say that every Airman is a sensor. Let me explain what I mean by this and what I'm asking you to do.

By now most of you have seen news reports about sexual assaults and suicides in our Air Force. In my heart I know you agree with me that these incidents are tragic and often preventable. This is where YOU enter the picture.

"Every Airman a Sensor" is focused on empowering you to act when you suspect a fellow Airman may fall prey to a sexual predator or when you see signs of suicide. It signals a fundamental shift towards a more proactive posture. Essentially, I want you to take the offensive and help



oath in 1977. However, one thing remains the same--an Airman's uncompromising bond to fellow service members is rock solid, whether on the battlefield, in the shop, or in the squadron. Now more than ever, there is nothing more important than being there for friends, coworkers and family members who need help. YOU are the key.

I'm asking the entire USAFE-AFAFRICA team to step up, step in and be part of the solution. Granted, telling a sexual predator to back off or helping someone who is distressed may make you feel uncomfortable. But that is what I am empowering you to do. Be a sensor, trust your instincts and take action!

I'm counting on you to go on the offensive. If we play defense against suicides and sexual assaults we are going to lose. There is no place in our Air Force for these tragedies. Do what Airmen do - fight and win.

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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Dorm renovations help Airmen stay connected

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

A dayroom in one of Lajes' dormitories, building T-131, was recently renovated to help keep Airmen interacting with one another as well as to stay connected with friends and families back home.

"A lot of folks aren't able to go home for the holidays, and we needed an avenue for which they could interact with other residents and reach out to their folks at home," said Master Sgt. Jesse West, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron dormitory superintendent.

Within a 3-month period, Airmen and members of the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron changed an ordinary dayroom into one with a multipurpose table, wooden counters, Lajes Pride wall art, desktop computers and wireless internet.

"We took the pool table and made it a multipurpose table so folks with laptops could sit and use Wi-Fi," said West. "We also constructed the chair rails and redid all the old furniture to match."

'Connection' is the theme Airmen selected for the new internet café.

"It's mainly to get folks out of their rooms," West said. "This particular dayroom on the first floor was selected because of its ease of access, and it's the one place where everyone coming in and out actually travels past."

"This is also great because Airmen who are new to the dorms and just coming in won't have to worry about getting internet right away," said one resident, Airman Basic Barry Harshbarger, 65th Operations Support Squadron. "They can get in touch with their families as soon as they get here and maintain contact with the people they care about."

On the walls are stickers that represent each squadron, a large map



of Terceira Island and, at night, a mural of the world can be seen on the dayroom's windows.

"The squadron logos show that they're not only connected to the island, but they're connected to each other within the squadrons," West said. "There's also a night mural. At night, the world map lights up and you can really see all the points we can reach from within the internet café."

This project was completed by civil engineer professionals to aid in providing a better quality of life for the 83 people who live in building T-131.

"It's hard to put a dollar value on this project because so much was done in house and through self-help projects," West said. "I spoke with the CE structures guys and gave them an idea of what we were looking for. Once we started talking about it, the guy who was building all of this also built the chairs. It took him about a week to build all eight. All of this didn't come under one big price tag."

There are other quality of life improvement projects that the 65th CES members have recently completed within the dormitory. This includes redoing the entryways and stairwells with slip resistant tiles and repainting the walls to brighten up the hallways, giving it a feeling of home. There are also future plans for other projects, such as bathroom renovations with bigger showers and individual kitchens for each Airman, as there are currently only three kitchens in the dormitory, one per floor.

Lajes Field has three dormitories. One is slated to be renovated; another is a space-available dormitory; and building T-131 is a space-required dormitory for E-4s with less than 36 months time in service.

Even a Tiny BIT Counts

By 1st Lt. Erica Peat
65th Air Base Wing Sexual Assault Response Coordinator

Bystander Intervention Training wrapped up recently, but it doesn't mean the lessons on being respectful Airmen should be forgotten. Recently, we completed a wing-wide health and welfare inspection. The inspection reminded me of what BIT emphasized: that individuals and an institution can foster a culture of respect.

Is there anything in our current organizational climate that fosters disrespect and promotes sexual violence? That's what the no-notice inspection was looking for. The inspection's purpose was to ensure that an environment of respect, trust and professionalism is maintained and standards consistent with our core values are reinforced.

An environment of respect directly relates to sexual assaults and BIT. It relates by starting with our environment—one full of respect for one another and trust in our wingmen to intervene in certain situations. We need to look at what behaviors, attitudes and language we think are acceptable, and what's tolerated in and out of the workplace. Sexual assaults are often committed by someone who believes their environment justifies their actions.

Gen. Breedlove recently described Airmen as "sensors." We are the sensors to subtle remarks about the way an Airman dresses. We sense when others encourage or tolerate negative behaviors such as making denigrating or sexist jokes. Most importantly, our sensors should alert us when an Airman is in danger of being taken advantage of. These are just a few situations that call us to act, yet there are many reasons we do not. Sometimes, Airmen don't intervene because they believe it's not their business, that others would think less of them, or they don't want to make the situation worse.

But, we should be part of the solution and bystander intervention training helps us recognize potentially harmful situations and how to diffuse them using various strategies. Leaders should know their Airmen and get in their business, because a leader's business it to take care of people. When we know what we're looking for and know how we can make a difference, then intervention can prevent a sexual assault from occurring.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of sexual assault or for information on how to become a Victim Advocate, please contact your Team Lajes Sexual Assault Response Coordinator at 535-7272 or 966-677-266 or stop by our office in T-202 next to Pentagon Federal Credit Union and Equal Opportunity.

"Drawdown" from page 1

the transition, and to ensure attendees got firsthand information from wing leadership.

Supporting all Lajes Airmen during the transition is the priority for base officials, said Col. Bargery.

"We will do our best to support and help prepare anyone affected by this transition. We value and recognize the relationships that we have with our local national employees and all Azoreans affected by this change," the wing commander said.

A planning team from United States Air Forces in Europe at Lajes this week will work with 65 ABW officials and partner units to discuss the reductions. Together, they will deliberately plan the reductions of the American presence at Lajes Field.

Position reductions are not expected until the 2014 calendar year. An immediate elimination of positions is not planned. Future mission requirements will determine which positions will be retained.

Reduction of the number of military and civilian employment positions required to meet the new group's mission will be conducted in a phased approach, Col. Bargery said.

"We have yet to officially identify the military and civilian positions that will be eliminated as part of this drawdown. Our intent is to scrutinize every, single position and fully understand how it helps us meet our mission," said Col. Bargery. "We will abide by the law, labor regulations and civilian personnel processes while determining which positions will remain and who fills them."

Lajes Field is scheduled to achieve its end-strength in personnel and footprint by mid-2014.

"We recognize that this transition will be challenging. Our legacy and reputations are at stake in how we handle this transition," said Col. Bargery. "But, we arrive at this new chapter in Lajes history as a team, and we will navigate this transition as a team. Together, we'll move forward with the goal



Master Sgt. Julie Gutierrez, 65th Force Support Squadron, listens as Col. Chris Bargery, 65th Air Base Wing commander, answers a question during an informative briefing to the 65th Air Base Wing here Dec. 14. Department of Defense officials announced the 65th ABW will transition from an air base wing to an air base group with a reduction of more than 400 military personnel and 500 family members by the end of fiscal year 2014. "We will do our best to support and help prepare anyone affected by this transition. We value and recognize the relationships that we have with our local national employees and all Azoreans affected by this change," said Col. Bargery.

of taking care of one another and continuing to operate an excellent wing." The Secretary of Defense has mandated cost-cutting efficiencies across the U.S. forces. In turn, the United States Air Force identified potential structure changes to fulfill the mandate. Force-structure changes at Lajes Field are estimated to garner savings of \$35 million annually.



"Bullets on Target" Defenders qualify Lajes Airmen on M-4

Feature



65th Security Forces Combat Arms instructors conducted a weapons qualification course on Dec. 5, 2012 with new course standards targeted to train and equip Airmen for today's fight. Left: Master Sgt. Scarlet Williams, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, reviews her shots during a practice firing round with Senior Airman Matthew Campanelli, 65th Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms Instructor. Airmen are required to complete the new small arms qualifications course which includes movement while engaging targets. Below: Williams fires the M-4 rifle from a kneeling position while wearing the M-50 gas mask. (Photos by Lucas Silva)



Above: Staff Sgt. Jesus Duquerodriguez, 65th Security Forces Squadron Combat Arms NCOIC and Tower Operator, takes note of the firing scores. Right: Tech. Sgt. Durrell Edwards, 65th Air Base Wing Chaplain's Assistant, switches firing targets to prepare for table two firing standards. (Photos by Lucas Silva)



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

Feature



40 Years of Civil Service

Col. Chris Bargery (left) 65th Air Wing Base commander present Manuel (Manny) Martins with a pin and certificate for 40 years of civil service with the U.S. Air Force, Dec. 17, 2012, Lajes Field. Manny, a native of Terceira, started his service on Sept. 16, 1972 as a teletype operator at Weather Communication Center. He worked there for 8 months before moving over to Billeting after 3 months waiting for a new job at Lajes Field. Nine years after he moved to Civil Engineering to be a draftsman and later a land surveyor. In 1992 he moved to 65th Communication Squadron to be an illustrator, now he does the layout designing of the Crossroads at 65 ABW Public Affairs. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Dorm renovations help Airman connect

Airmen 1st Class Timothy Gager, Jr., 729th Air Mobility Squadron, Courtney Graffius, American Forces Network-Lajes, and John Seuss, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, play pool in the newly renovated internet café in dormitory building T-131. Graffius uses Wi-Fi in the newly redesigned room. Within a 3-month period, Airmen and members of the 65th CES changed an ordinary dayroom into one with a multipurpose table, wooden counters, chairs, Lajes Pride wall art, desktop computers and wireless internet. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Angeliq N. Smythe)



Guards keep South Tank Farm secure

Bruno Miguel Santos Melo, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron South Tank Farm security guard, performs a routine C-300 ground products refueling unit vehicle inspection. After performing a security sweep of South Tank Farm, Daniel Linhares, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron South Tank Farm security guard, calls in the status of the sweep to the Base Defense Operations Center and verifies all is secure. (Photos by Guido Melo)



LAJES ON THE WEB



Lajes Field

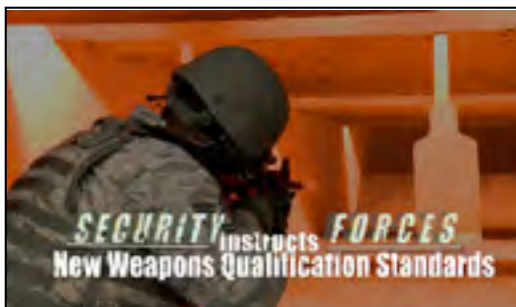
6-5...
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"Lajes Link" - www.lajes.af.mil

See the latest Lajes Field videos online! Call Public Affairs at 535-3467 for video support.



"Be Safe These Holidays" Video: Check out Lajes Link to see a hilarious new safety video telling Lajes Airmen how to get through the holidays safely. From the 65th CES Fire Department singing a little off-tune to the 65th ABW Legal Office wearing their reflective belts, this video conveys an important message and entertains all at once. (Video by Staff Sgt. Erica Horner)



New Weapons Qualification Standards Video: Go behind the scenes at the 65th Security Forces Squadron firing range to learn about how CATM instructors are getting Lajes Airmen up-to-speed on new qualification standards for the M-4 and M-9. (Video by Staff Sgt. Erica Horner)



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!



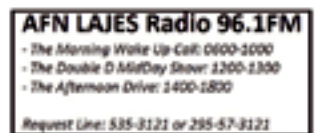
Lajes Field Photos

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.



ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima, Community Relations Advisor



Use of fog lights and cell phone while driving...

Now that we are going through frequent periods of bad weather due to the winter months, I would like to remind everybody on the appropriate use of the fog lights installed in your vehicle while driving on the local roads.

The use of fog lights in the front and rear of a vehicle is only authorized when it's foggy and visibility is diminished. As a matter of fact, according to article 61 of the Portuguese Traffic Road Code, drivers must turn on the fog light in the rear of their vehicles when visibility is reduced due to intense fog conditions so other drivers can notice the presence of the vehicles in front of them, but only under these conditions.

The use of fog lights in the front is not mandatory and is only intended to help increase drivers' visibility during situations of intense fog.

Also, but not related with weather conditions, is the rule that bans the use of a cell phone while driving. Article 84 of the Portuguese Traffic Road Code states it's strictly prohibited to use a cell phone while driving a motor vehicle. If the driver needs to receive a call or place a call on a cell phone while driving, he or she needs to pull over to the side of the road, come to a complete stop and then receive or place the call. However, the use of a free-hands kit (microphone and earphone) while driving is authorized.

Currently, violators of this law will be charged a fine, but the Portuguese government has already announced new legislation regarding the use of cell phones. According to these rules, drivers caught using a cell phone while driving will not only be charged with a fine but may also lose their driving privileges for a certain period of time.