

# CROSSROADS

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Vol. 18, No. 1 January 14, 2013

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

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

FY 2013



349  
SORTIES

5769  
LODGED



2,06 M  
gallons  
FUEL ISSUED

## Popular Numbers

### Medical Appointment:

Base: 535-3261

Off base: 295-573-261

Base Alt: 535-1089

Off base Alt: 295-571-089

### 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.)

Cloudy and Rain

Wind SE 17 - 29 mph

SE 21 - 35 mph

HIGH 18C / 64F

LOW 15C / 59F

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

Cloudy and Rain

Wind SE 23 - 40 mph

SE 23 - 40 mph

HIGH 19C / 66F

LOW 16C / 61F

## Lajes senior leaders, Airmen ring in New Year, make plans for 2013



65th Operations Support Squadron Airmen work with A-10 Thunderbolt pilots and crews during a fighter movement through Lajes Field. Lajes Field Airmen are back to work after the holiday season and have their sights set on high performance and continued excellence in 2013. (U.S. Air Force photo by Lucas Silva)

## Life-saving actions earn Lajes Airman recognition while deployed

By Tech. Sgt. Rachel Martinez

376th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

An Airman assigned to the Transit Center at Manas was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal during a ceremony today for her quick and deliberate actions in saving a fellow service member's life.

On Aug. 23, 2012, Staff Sgt. Lora Begley, 376th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron security escort, was on a flight in route to her deployed location when another deploying service member experienced severe convulsions and was unable to breathe.

The award citation reads, "Without hesitation, Sergeant Begley immediately responded upon hearing surrounding service members call for a medic. Rushing to the victim through the crowded airplane, she arrived to find the victim unresponsive and in distress. Sergeant Begley helped maneuver the individual into the confined airplane aisle where she expertly applied self-aid and buddy care techniques by rendering cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Shortly thereafter, the patient regained a pulse and began to breathe on his own."

A medic at her home station of Lajes Field, Azores, Sergeant Begley said she didn't think twice about helping when she heard calls for a medic.

"Your training just kicks in," she said. "I thought to myself, 'This guy needs help and I'm a medic.' So I go and help him. It was an automatic response."

Sergeant Begley and a lieutenant colonel flight surgeon on board the flight continued to monitor the service member and treat him for shock until they arrived at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, where his care was handed off to a local flight surgeon. With the service member taken care of, Sergeant Begley continued on to her deployed location. Four months later, Sergeant Begley said she was surprised to hear she would be receiving an award for her

actions on the plane that day.

"The lieutenant colonel, who's downrange now, submitted me for this award," she said. "I was just doing what I was trained to, but I think this is awesome. I'm very thankful for it."



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



# AF releases new 'vision' document

By Master Sgt. Jess Harvey  
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

The Air Force released a new Vision document today outlining the force's vision and way forward.

"Focused on 'Airmen, Mission, and Innovation,' I believe this short document captures what today's Air Force is all about and where I think we ought to focus on for tomorrow," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III in an email to all Airmen.

"We are the greatest air force in the world because of our Airmen-- Active, Reserve, Guard, and Civilian-- to remain the greatest, we must make our team even stronger," the Vision states.

The Vision discusses the Air Force's enduring contributions of air and space superiority; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; rapid global mobility; global strike; and command

and control and the need to strengthen them. "We already combine our air, space, and cyber forces to maximize these enduring contributions, but the way we execute these five calling cards must continually evolve as we strive to increase our asymmetric advantage," the Vision says. "Our Airmen's ability to rethink the battle while incorporating new technologies will improve the varied ways our Air Force accomplishes its missions.

"Every Airman should constantly look for smarter ways to do business. The person closest to the problem is often the one with the best solution. Leaders should empower Airmen to think creatively, find new solutions, and make decisions," according to the Vision.

The Vision concludes with a call to action for all Airmen to tell their story, being proud of who they are, what they do, and how well they accomplish the mission.



Senior Airman Ryan Ott and Staff Sgt. Tim Sullivan, 36th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron F-22 Egress and Systems specialists, guide an F-22 canopy onto a Raptor at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

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.

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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## AF officials reschedule MilPDS upgrade

By Tech. Sgt. Steve Grever  
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

Originally slated for December of last year, Air Force officials will perform a major upgrade to the Military Personnel Data System, or MilPDS, in March.

The Air Force Personnel Operations Agency here will upgrade and transfer MilPDS to the Defense Information Systems Agency Defense Enterprise Computing Center. The project is expected to take 23 days. During the upgrade, MilPDS will not be available.

The delay allowed officials to complete testing and validation to ensure the new system performs properly. Upgrades to MilPDS have not been accomplished previously because the system was scheduled to be replaced in 2008 by a new Department of Defense military personnel system. When the DOD program was cancelled, Air Force officials made the decision to bring MilPDS up-to-date in order to reduce risks.

"We are confident that we will be able to upgrade MilPDS in March so we can address security, reliability and sustainability risks with the current system," said Robert Corsi, the Air Force Assistant Deputy Chief Of Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services. "We will

have processes in place to ensure personnel and pay service providers are able to work critical transactions for their customers during the upgrade."

Total Force Service Center representatives in San Antonio and Denver worked with Air Force component headquarters agencies and base-level personnel and pay service providers to develop procedures to accomplish critical functions for all Airmen during the MilPDS upgrade. Critical personnel and pay processes related to accessions, reenlistments, Guard and Reserve unit training assemblies, mobilization/activation, casualty and immediate separations will continue to function during the scheduled system downtime. Other personnel and pay processes will be held during the cutover period and processed once the upgrade is complete.

Air Force officials will release additional information and guidance to the Air Force's manpower, personnel, services and pay communities and total force Airmen to explain how the service will perform personnel and pay tasks during the upgrade and scheduled system outage.

For more information about personnel services and self-service applications, visit the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>.



# 4th Quarter Award Winners



Airman of the Quarter

**Airman 1st Class Jacob Thompson**

Aerospace Medical Services Apprentice, 65th MDOS  
Assisted medical providers with 20 minor procedures, leading to the 65th Medical Group being named the Air Force's Best Performing military treatment facility for 2012's 3rd Quarter.



NCO of the Quarter

**Staff Sgt. Jacob Williams**

Career Development, 65th FSS  
Processed 55 assignments and 53 passport and visa applications leading to zero TDY or PCS departure delays leading to the 65th FSS's career development flight being recognized as the AF's top career development team.



SNCO of the Quarter

**Master Sgt. Justin Williamson**

Section Chief, Infrastructure, 65th CONF  
Led 69 construction contracts valued at \$10 million and liaised with 16 agencies to ensure much of Lajes' 50-year-old infrastructure is maintained, critically supporting the wing and base's mission.



CGO of the Quarter

**1st Lt. Rebecca Hernandez,**

Manpower and Personnel Flight Commander, 65th FSS  
Supported the officer promotion management program by staffing 6 promotion release packages for the wing commander, ensuring that the promotion program is in 100% compliance.



# 4th Quarter Award Winners



U.S. Civilian Cat I

**Ms. Jennifer Amaya**

Commander's Secretary, 65th OSS

Designed a comprehensive welcome package for new Airmen, supporting the smooth transition of 9 Airmen and dependents. One of 15 Lajes employees selected to complete Covey's 'Speed of Trust' training.



U.S. Civilian Cat II

**Ms. Pamela Potts**

Human Resources Officer, 65th FS

Revamped the Smooth Move program, incorporating a priority placement employment briefing, serving to familiarize 30 personnel with key employment benefits.



LN Civilian Cat I

**Mrs. Ana Lemos**

Referral Management Assistant, 65th MDSS

Scheduled 172 medical appointments during regular appointment hours, averting costs associated with 344 overtime hours worth of appointments. Her efforts are key to the 65th MDSS garnering USAFE's 2012 Outstanding Health Plans Management Team of the Year award.



LN Civilian Cat II

**Mr. Ricky Baptista**

Health Promotion Manager, 65th MDOS

Selected by the wing commander as the Community Action Information Board executive director to lead 10 base agencies. Also served as the keynote speaker during a prenatal class briefing five mothers on proper techniques for physical activity.





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

Feature



Lt. Col. Kevin Parker, 376th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron commander, presents the Air Force Achievement Medal to Staff Sgt. Lora Begley, 376th ECES security escort, during a ceremony at the Transit Center at Manas, Dec. 31, 2012. Begley was recognized for her actions in saving a fellow service member's life while on a flight in route to her deployed location. She is deployed from Lajes Field, Azores, and is a native of Irvine, Calif. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Stephanie Rubi)



(Left) Tech. Sgt. Kristopher Smith, one of the coaches for the Lajes ladies varsity team, gives a pep talk prior to their basketball game against the Vitorinos, a ladies team from Praia, at the Lajes Field fitness center, Dec. 27, 2012. Lajes' ladies team defeated the Vitorinos 44-39. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)



Staff Sgt. Cassandra Nutter, Lajes ladies varsity team guard, shoots a free throw after being fouled during an intramural basketball game against the Vitorinos, a ladies team from Praia. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)



Senior Airman Ashley Corkins, Lajes ladies varsity team shooting guard, drives the ball to the basket during an intramural basketball game against the Vitorinos. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)



(l-r) Tech. Sgt. Kristopher Smith, one of the coaches for the Lajes ladies varsity team along with Brittan Sanderson and Ameerah Leach watch intently as their team runs plays against the Vitorinos (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)

# LAJES ON THE WEB



## Lajes Field

6-5...  
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"Lajes Link" - [www.lajes.af.mil](http://www.lajes.af.mil)

Here are some of the latest web highlights from the 65th Air Base Wing on 'Lajes Link'

"New Year resolutions: Make a plan, stick to it" - a 2-part series

"Lajes to remember MLK Jr. Jan. 18"

"Lajes women's basketball team tops Portuguese team" photographs

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



**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](http://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](http://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: 1200-1300  
- 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



### Cultural Year in Review

Terceira Island, or the "Island of Jesus Christ," as it's known by some people, is very rich in traditions and festivals so the reason it's often called "an amusement park" by the people of the other Azorean islands.

This epithet is an allusion to the number of festivals and cultural events that take place throughout the year with special emphasis on the summer months.

The first major cultural event of this year will begin next month (Feb. 9-12) with the celebration of Mardi Gras or "Carnaval" as it's known to the Portuguese people. This deeply ingrained tradition takes place almost non-stop for four days and three nights in theaters and community centers around the island.

With Easter Sunday arrives the beginning of the colorful Holy Ghost Festival which will extend for eight weeks, until Pentecost Sunday. This celebration happens throughout the Azorean islands but has bigger visibility and impact on Terceira Island.

With warmer weather also comes the street bullfight season. This old tradition begins every year on May 1st and runs until 15 October. This is probably one of the most loved traditions with the bullfights taking place at almost any village on the island.

The series of cultural events is followed in the last two weeks of June by the largest non-religious festival called "Sanjoaninas." This week-long event takes place in the city of Angra's main streets and usually attracts thousands of locals and visitors from abroad and the other islands.

Beginning in the first week of August the city of Praia will host its renowned festival called "Praia Fest." This event is also particularly enjoyed by the American community from Lajes Field since it's very close to the base.

The Wine Festival takes place every year during the first weekend of September at the wine museum in the village of Biscoitos. This tradition gives the visitors a chance to watch the locals pick up the grapes in the local vineyards and crush the grapes with their bare feet to produce the local wines.

Meanwhile, between May and October, and in addition to the cultural events mentioned above, all the island's villages will host their festivities in honor of their patron saints, with the village of Lajes having the honor to close the festival season.

To find out more about the Azorean culture and customs call the Public Affairs Office at 535-3413 or e-mail [65abw.pa@lajes.af.mil](mailto:65abw.pa@lajes.af.mil).