

# CROSSROADS

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Vol. 18, No. 5 February 8, 2013

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

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

FY 2013



480  
SORTIES

4,950  
LODGED



2,9 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.)

Mostly Cloudy  
Wind SW 14 - 23 mph  
NNE 17 - 29 mph  
HIGH 18C / 64F  
LOW 15C / 59F

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

Partly Cloudy  
Wind NE 14 - 23 mph  
E 12 mph  
HIGH 16C / 61F  
LOW 11C / 52F

## Lajes riders brush up on safety



Ricky Baptista, Lajes Field Basic Riders Course II instructor, briefs Maj. Joe Okasinski, 65th Operations Support Squadron director of operations, and Tech Sgt. Stewart Soper, 65th Communication Squadron Wing ComSec account manager, on the motorcycle-riding skills and techniques they must perform during the Basic Riders Course II, Jan. 30. For more photos, visit [www.lajes.af.mil](http://www.lajes.af.mil) or 65th Air Base Wing Facebook page. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

## A Spouse's Story: one woman's shift to the military lifestyle

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

Across the military, brave men and women in uniform sacrifice their time and efforts to serve this great nation. Alongside them, another group also makes tremendous sacrifices within this lifestyle – their spouses.

The transient military way of life has impacted the lives and goals of military spouses, and while uniformed members are trained to adapt to this life, spouses are often expected to transform effortlessly into their new role.

Megan Ramage-White, wife to Capt. Matthew Ramage-White, 65th Air Base Wing deputy staff judge advocate, shares her transition into the military lifestyle.

"When I came in, I thought being a military spouse meant having afternoon tea and keeping a perfect house," said Megan, University of Oklahoma site director. "My mother-in-law gave me a book that was written in the 50's titled The Air Force Spouse Handbook, and it taught how to correctly lay out a table. I thought 'Oh my gosh, I'm not cut out for this.'"

Megan and her husband have just entered their fourth year in the military. In the beginning, the transformation

into the military spouse role was a bit challenging, she explained.

"When we went to Offutt (their first assignment) I was really trying to be normal," said Megan, who was an Art major with piercings and colored hair. "I took all the crazy colors out of my hair – I was really trying to fit in."

In trying to be a "standard" housewife who planned meals, cooked and had dinner, she realized being who she wasn't made her really unhappy.

"The perception of military spouses is that we're all cookie-cutter spouses, and that's not true," she said. "I thought, 'if I'm going to be successful in my life, then I need to make it my own,' and my husband is so much happier when I'm crazy."

Megan said she initially believed all the friends she'd met at Offutt would be old-fashioned, but once she got to know them, they, too, were "crazy girls who had tattoos but still loved their life, the military and their husbands."

She quickly learned that successful spouses were ones who could adapt to the military lifestyle, make it their own and also have their own lives outside of being a spouse.

To see more on "Spouse's Story" see page 3

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



# Airmen keep their eye on the prize, leave it all on the field

By Major Sarah Humphreys  
65th Contracting Flight  
commander

During the 2012 NFL Honors program, Robert Griffin III of the Washington Redskins was awarded the Offensive Rookie of the Year Award. With his remarks he concluded that "sometimes it's not what you get for your team, it's what you are willing to give for them." As much as it pains me as a Giants fan to quote a Redskins player, his words were powerful. He reminds us of one of our core values "Service before Self".

The Air Force does a great job recognizing airmen for their contributions with the quarterly and annual awards. It is also great when airmen are recognized with a handshake or pat on the back from their coworkers and superiors. Those acknowledgements are meant to push us forward in our best efforts to succeed and create successes big and small in our daily work. One could say that Lajes Field and all Air Force installations are like an opera: all the instruments and singers synergistically working together and creating so much more than they would or could individually. A single person in the Force Support Squadron didn't earn them the prestigious Eubanks award, but the team as a whole and all the customers that they support gave them that honor. The same is true for the Medical Group and their small clinic of the year award. As Aristotle once said "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts".

Lajes excellence does not begin and end at our office or shop. Lajes excellence is also how we perform in other areas of our lives. We are role models. We are the example for others to look up to. This doesn't just apply while in uniform but also when you are at the store or on vacation. A simple trip to Praia or a lengthy trip home is an opportunity to shine and show that

we are part of the greatest organization. Being courteous and professional to all we encounter makes a strong and lasting impression. The reward may not be instantaneous and that is okay. The reward may come in the form of the next encounter having a positive influence from the last. A ripple that we started but don't see being carried across the day. Reasons to remember we are always representing team Lajes and bigger yet, team Air Force.

With this great responsibility it's important to ask ourselves how we recharge our batteries. How do we stay fresh? What's your fuel for success and how do you maintain a positive mental attitude? We cannot do it by ourselves. The success of Lajes Field relies upon the cumulative efforts of everyone that lives and works here. Of course our team would not be complete without the

constant support from our loved ones as they also contribute to the fight. Though they may not be the ones refueling the A-10's or signing the contracts, they are the ones helping run the errands, run the household, and lending their support at squadron functions when needed.

The Gestalt theory maintains that the human eye sees objects in their entirety before perceiving their individual parts. So it's only human to see Lajes Field as a whole clock and not several little cogs working independently for a different goal.

Common goals, interests, and a desire to make Lajes Field the best in the Air Force all contribute to this mindset. As we are recognized for our achievements, fulfillment increases as we maintain unit cohesion and support against things that might otherwise stand in our way.

On Super Bowl Sunday, two teams met in the biggest football game of the year. A lifetime's worth of hard work led them to that moment. With their eyes on the prize the players left everything on the field. A great lesson where everyone gave their best for the good of the team.



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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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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# Volunteers ready to assist service members with tax returns

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

- last year's tax return (if available)
- any additional tax documents

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance representatives are ready to provide Team Lajes with free assistance in filing their federal and state tax returns Feb. 5 through June 14.

Any servicemember, dependent, retiree or federal employee who is eligible for legal assistance through the 65th Air Base Wing Legal Office is qualified for this service.

"The tax center provides free tax advice, preparation and assistance, to include electronic filing for active-duty members, Reservists, retirees and military family members possessing a valid U.S. Uniformed Services ID card," said Master Sgt. Lynn Riffle, 65th ABW Legal Office superintendent and VITA site coordinator.

Drop-off and screenings are available Monday through Friday from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. in building T-100 at the Legal office.

Be sure to bring:

- social security cards for everyone on the return
- Forms W-2, 1099-INT, 1099R or 1098
- routing and checking account numbers for direct deposit
- dependent care information if claiming for children
- notarized power of attorney if a spouse is not present to file
- divorce decree or Form 8332 if claiming children due to divorce or separation



W-2s are available on MyPay.

Personnel who are in a deployment status January through April and cannot file during the open tax season will automatically receive a two-month extension if on duty outside the U.S. or 180 days after their last day in a qualified combat zone.

Lajes' seven VITA representatives are qualified with an IRS certification at the basic, intermediate and military level.

"It is a very complex and thorough course," said Riffle. "This year we have a superior group of volunteers, most of which have previous experience working at a base tax center. One of our volunteers was a site coordinator at an Army base in Europe, and we are grateful to have him here at Lajes Field."

Volunteers will process simple to intermediate tax returns.

"More complex returns may be out of the VITA program scope, so we ask that you see a paid tax preparer," Riffle said.

Depending on the difficulty of the return as well as the amount of tax returns which still need to be processed, the turnaround time generally take less than one week.

"At the time you sign your completed return, those who are e-filing will be given an approximate date of when to expect their refund," said Riffle.

For more information, call the 65th ABW Legal Office at 535-3546.

## "Spouse's Story" from page 1

And that's exactly what she did. Megan became a very active volunteer.

"I've never volunteered so much as I do here at Lajes," she said. "It is so empowering. I feel this base should be a training ground for all new spouses because it gives you the motivation and shows you the impact you have on the base, even as a volunteer."

At Lajes, Megan is the Lajes Field Girl Scouts troop leader, the Lajes Spouses Club social coordinator and corresponding secretary, as well as a Wing Staff Agency key spouse.

Megan said having a life outside of her husband relieves some of his stress and gives them something to talk about at the end of the day.

"Matt works a job where he works a lot of hours, and I think when he knows we're not at home waiting for him, it helps him," said Megan, who also has a three-year-old daughter, Charlie. "I think if we keep ourselves happy, then he's happy, and if he's working late, and I'm at Girl Scouts or an LSC meeting, I know when we get home, we're both excited to share our day."

Even though Megan has her days filled with extracurricular activities, she is still a huge supporter to her husband.

"Megan supports me in every aspect of my career," said her husband, Captain Ramage-White. "She's filled with patience when I have to deal with long hours and stress. I admire her flexibility during regular moves and uncertain hours. Her humor and laughter helps us to remember how fun everything is. And there's always love. To be honest, I don't support her nearly as much as she supports me and Charlie."

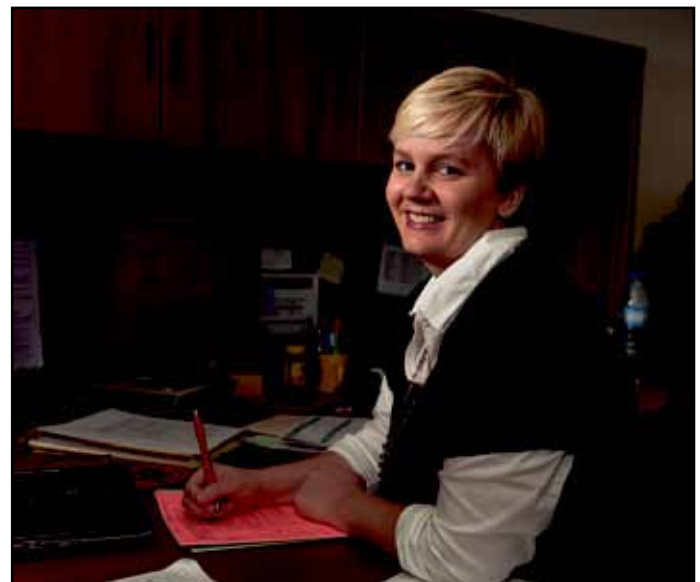
Megan said her goals before becoming a military spouse included traveling, earning a graduate degree and working in a non-profit organization.

"I'm still able to do the things I initially wanted to do, I just have to go about it in a different way," she said.

She's now pursuing a master's degree in Human Relations and hopes to someday work with a helping agency, such as the Airmen and Family Readiness Center.

In the meantime, Megan stays busy helping the community through the Lajes Spouses Club and the Key Spouse Program.

As part of the Lajes Spouses' Club, she gets to raise money to support the



Megan Ramage-White, wife of Capt. Matthew Ramage-White, is a University of Oklahoma site director at Lajes Field. Megan has learned that being herself while adapting to the military is key to happiness and success as a military family. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

Lajes community. The Key Spouse Program is an official Air Force initiative which enhances readiness and establishes a sense of Air Force community. Both programs help in teaching the spouses about resiliency.

"I had a lot of really great spouses when I first became a part of the military, and I want to do the same thing for new spouses," she explained.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Lajes Spouses Club can contact Christine Graham, the LSC Membership POC at 535-6104 and visit the Lajes Spouses Club Facebook page.



# On the job: 65 CES HVAC

Feature



Bruno Janeiro and Tiago Rodrigues, both HVAC Maintenance mechanics, check the air conditioning external unit internal compressor Feb. 22. The 65th Civil Engineer Squadron HVAC is responsible for maintaining more than 1,400 air conditioning units throughout the base.

Tiago Rodrigues, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron HVAC Maintenance mechanic, checks the air pressure of the air conditioning external unit Feb. 22.

Tiago Rodrigues, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron HVAC Maintenance mechanic, gives the customer an explanation of the main source of the air conditioning malfunction Feb. 22.

Bruno Janeiro and Tiago Rodrigues, both HVAC Maintenance mechanics, check the air conditioning external unit internal compressor Feb. 22.

(Photos by Lucas Silva)





# Lajes Unity Walk



Lajes Field members kicked off African American Heritage Month with a Unity Walk Feb. 1 in celebration of 150 years since President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, as well as the 50th anniversary since the March on Washington in 1963. Team Lajes, including members from the Lajes Elementary School, came out by the hundreds to march in unison from the Beira Mar gate to the Top of The Rock Club. Along the way, performers re-enacted moments from the Civil Rights movement, and other historic events. (Photos by Guido Melo)



## LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK

**Name:** Alexandra Azera  
**Rank:** LGS-07  
**Unit:** 65th Contracting Flight  
**Hometown:** Praia da Victoria, Terceira  
**Duty Title:** Procurement Assistant  
**Accomplishments:** Sra. Azera is an A+ Certified Functional System Administrator for the contract writing system, overseeing all aspects of the system including server operation and customer interfaces ensuring system functionality 24/7. She was a USAFE Tiger Team Member TDY to HQs during a major system release, her gained expertise was applied at Lajes, and most recently has assisted personnel through a smooth AFNET migration. She is also responsible for purchase requisition control for the Flight and during FY12 meticulously tracked and interfaced 330 Form 9 requirements worth 13.4 M dollars.



**Name:** Bethany West  
**Rank:** Staff Sergeant  
**Unit:** 65th Contracting Flight  
**Hometown:** Safford, Arizona  
**Duty Title:** NCOIC, Base Infrastructure  
**Accomplishments:** Staff Sgt. Bethany West is responsible for executing contracting actions in support of various construction projects throughout the base. SSgt West is a warranted contracting officer in which she is entrusted with \$2M authority to make sound business decisions and obligate funds that are in the best interests of the United States Government. In addition to her primary duties and responsibilities, she's also the Lajes Rising VI President.



# LAJES ON THE WEB



## Lajes Field

6-5...  
in the FIGHT!

"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'

"Lajes Commits to Recycling" video supporting the "I've Bin Recycling" Program

Got a question? Need detailed information? There's a tab for that!

Lajes Link has 7 newly redesigned tabs that take you directly to information that you need and want. Check them out today!



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



## 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



### Azoreans celebrate Carnival tomorrow through Tuesday

Carnival, or Mardi Gras as it's called in New Orleans, will be celebrated throughout Portugal, Madeira and the Azores tomorrow through Tuesday.

On Terceira Island, Carnival is mostly celebrated in the form of dancing groups called "Danças de Carnaval" or carnival dances.

These groups are usually comprised of 12 to 24 female and male dancers dressed with colorful costumes, some of them playing musical instruments. They travel from town to town for three or four days and nights almost without any interruption performing in community centers, theaters and other public locations.

Their performances are actually plays, which include three distinct parts: the "salutation" in which the dancers greet the audience; the presentation of the "theme" in which the plot of the play is described and developed; and the "farewell" part in which the dancers thank the audience for their attendance and wish them the best.

The dancing groups usually take advantage of Carnival to criticize the government's policies or to make fun of some situations or events that happened throughout the past year. Other groups choose, however, to portray more serious themes such as real life dramas.

This cultural and recreational event on Terceira Island is now considered one of the most important expressions of the peoples'

culture in the country.

Also, as part of the local Carnival, the Angra High School students will organize a traditional Carnival parade on Angra's main street Sunday at 1:00 p.m. followed by a comic bullfight in the bullring at 3 p.m.

The Portuguese Officers Club and the Sargento's Club on base will organize masquerade balls Saturday and Monday at 9:30 p.m. The Portuguese Officers' Club will also host performances by four local Carnival dances, Sunday beginning at 8 p.m. Admission is free for this event.

There are no special safety concerns during the Mardi Gras days, however people should be aware of the tradition for the locals to disguise themselves in funny costumes, wear masks and toss water balloons or use squirt guns to hit vehicles or passersby, so make sure your car windows are rolled up and try to avoid those pranksters if don't want to get wet.

People driving around the island during the Carnival days will probably find traffic heavier than usual and should drive cautiously and with patience.

For more information on these local culture events call the Public Affairs Office at 535-3413.