



Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

**"6-5...
IN THE FIGHT!"
FY 2011**

 **295
SORTIES**


**5,170
LODGED** 

 **6.82 million
gallons
FUEL ISSUED**


Weekend

Weather Forecast (Lajes Weather Flight)


Friday (a.m. / p.m.)

Mostly Cloudy with isolated rainshowers
Wind W 23 mph
SW 17 mph
High 61F / Low 50F 

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

Mostly Cloudy with isolated rainshowers
Wind N 11 mph
SW 17 mph
High 63F / Low 54F 

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

Mostly Cloudy with isolated rainshowers
Wind SW 20 mph
High 62 / Low 53 

Lajes works with Lakenheath and Mildenhall for barrier certification



One of the two F-15s from Royal Air Force Lakenheath catches the south runway safety barrier as part of the annual barrier certification test at Lajes Field, Azores, Dec. 29. (Photo by Guido Melo)

By Staff Sgt. Olufemi Owolabi
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The holiday break didn't hinder the Lajes mission as two F-15 Strike Eagles visited the base to conduct an annual barrier certification test on the flightline here Dec. 29.

The F-15s, originally from Royal Air Force Lakenheath, United Kingdom, helped conduct the certification while Lajes deployed the Barrier Arrestor Kit, a standard emergency aircraft arresting system designed to stop high-speed aircraft on the runway.

"An aircraft may need the barrier to stop if a

hydraulic leak causes it to lose brakes," said Maj. Robert Sweeney, 65th Operations Support Squadron's director of operations. "If an airport does not have an arresting system, then a waiver is usually required to use it."

After the test was conducted, officials here deemed the operation successful because it went smoothly and there was no incident. Some of the officials that helped monitor the barrier certification were members of the 65th OSS and 65th Civil Engineer Squadron's fire department.

The officials were able to determine if the tape of the barrier needed repair. According to the 65th CES' fire

To read more on "Safety barrier" see page 4

Build wealth, not debt in the new year

By Mr. James McDaniel
Accredited Financial Counselor

How many Airmen at Lajes would like to make a New Year's resolution to improve their financial security and begin to grow wealth in just one year? I have met many successful Airmen who have been building wealth ever since they were assigned to Lajes. This New Year is a great opportunity for every Airman to build wealth, not debt. I would like to encourage everyone at Lajes to make your New Year's resolutions really count this year. Make the commitment to yourself to join the Military Saves Campaign, complete a financial assessment and follow through with a plan to accomplish your own stated financial goals.

As an Accredited Financial Counselor, I can provide you with free financial guidance and assistance. I invite you to schedule a personal financial consultation (or several) to assist you to define and develop a simple plan to reach your financial goals. Simply call the Airman

& Family Readiness Center at 535-4138 to schedule an appointment.

You can take the steps now to improve your financial situation no matter what your current financial situation, but first you need to know where you are financially. What is your "cash flow," "net worth," and what are your SMART financial goals? We will provide you with some basic tools to help you determine where you are and where you would like to go financially. If you commit yourself and your family to this plan, you will be on the road to financial success in less than one year.

What is a SMART goal? It has to be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-sensitive. Here is a good example of a short-term (1-2 year) goal to create an emergency savings, if you don't have one already. "I plan to save \$2,400 in one year by setting up an allotment of \$100/pay period from my pay into my savings account at (name of Bank or Credit Union). I will not spend this

To read more on "Build wealth" see page 6



Command Chief's advice to NCOs: Network, mentor and work hard



(Left to Right) Col. Eric Axelbank, 65th Air Base Wing vice commander, Tech. Sgts. Bryan Butsch, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, Lenita Robinson, 65th Medical Support Squadron, Matthew Offhaus, 65th Communications Squadron, and Chief Master Sgt. Samuel Hagadorn, 65 ABW command chief, pose during the completion of the Non-Commissioned Officer Academy at Ramstein AB, Germany, Dec. 16. (Courtesy photo)

By Chief Master Sgt. Samuel Hagadorn Command Chief, 65th Air Base Wing

(Excerpts of the graduation speech to the graduating class for Kisling NCO Academy Class 11-2, delivered on 16 December, 2010 at the Ramstein Officers' Club, Ramstein AB, Germany.)

Class 11-2, I have just three thoughts and challenges to share with you this evening, and I promise to keep my comments brief!

Thought #1: Network! Class 11-2 – you are represented tonight by 151 Technical Sergeants of 89 Air Force Specialties from locations all across Europe. You average 13 years time-in-service. If I've done my math correctly, you have a combined 1,963 years of military experience! There are many outstanding Airmen among you—quarterly and annual award winners at Wing, MAJCOM and even Air Force level. And you're educated—53 of you have earned associate's degrees, 11 have bachelor's, and 2 have even completed master's degrees. With diverse career paths and experiences, each of you has unique experiences to share. Now, add to your student body the incredible staff of the Kisling NCO Academy, and we have an environment that can only breed success!

Thought #2: Mentoring. Personally, I don't like the term because it has become a concept so convoluted in recent years, it has sometimes come to mean, "Teach me how to get promoted and to my dream assignment." This is the shallowest of interpretations. In this context, it disregards our core value of Service Before Self, and implies finding the 'shortcuts', or the 'unfair advantage.' I like Retired Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Sam Parish's view on mentoring. He says, "If you're looking for a mentor who will help get you promoted

and the assignment you want, you're missing the point!" "Mentoring," he goes on to say, "is about grooming subordinates to assume your duties." One of your primary duties as an NCO and leader is to train someone else so they can take your place without the mission missing a beat!

Thought #3: Hard Work. Sometimes there's just no substitute for hard work. Back in the late 80's, I missed a promotion to Technical Sergeant by less than one point – just 6/10ths of a point, to be exact. I could have blamed this on a supervisor who didn't submit a decoration when I PCS'd two years earlier, since this would have given me a high enough score to be promoted. But that wasn't the case—it was *my own* fault. If I had worked a little harder and answered *one more* question correctly, I would have been celebrating a line number, rather than "pass-over." It was all up to me, and I hadn't worked hard enough.

Three simple thoughts: networking, mentoring, and hard work. Now, I pose to you these very same thoughts as three challenges:

Network! Continue developing relationships, even after you return home.

Mentor those you lead. Keep this in mind: As an NCO, it's impossible not to be a mentor. One thing you can count on: When you return to work, they'll be watching you. They'll want to see what's different about you.

And finally, work hard. Whatever your profession, do it with all your heart! You all know by now, it's much more than a '9-to-5' job. Give 100 percent—if it's possible, give more.

So continue to deliberately develop your Airmen...I know you will. Class, I can say without reservation or apology, it is because of leaders like you – the graduates of Class 11-2 that we are the greatest Air Force in the world!

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. Jose Rivera

Col. Jose Rivera
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



The 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content in the Crossroads.

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Band members pave way for relationships

By 1st Lt. Mara Title
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

During his first visit to Lajes Field Dec. 15-19, Senior Master Sgt. Douglas Sheaffer, the superintendent of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Wings of Dixie Band, couldn't help his amazement at the overwhelming friendliness he encountered.

"Everyone from the wing commander down has just welcomed us as if we're part of the family," he said. "At Lajes, we were told right away, 'Glad you're here, here's what you're doing, and this is the kind of impact you're making.'"

Not that they need any validation, but he said it's good to know they've accomplished what they've set out to do. In the case of Lajes, the mission was straightforward: Provide the gift of music for Airmen and their families as well as their Portuguese hosts. Breaking the language barrier, bands can connect with people from other countries in a very unique way.

"Music opens that door," said Sergeant Sheaffer. "The band has been asked to come and play in some difficult situations where communication was strained, and after the band played, doors were opened to foster dialogue."

Someone who knows all too well about military bands playing a key role in foreign partnerships is Chief Master Sgt. Peter Aiello, the Air Force Band career field manager.

"Three days after the wall came down, we played at Templehoff Air station, the hub of the Berlin airlift during World War II."

Chief Aiello said the success of the concert in Berlin allowed them to perform in many Eastern countries, such as Poland, Hungary, the former Czechoslovakia and East Germany, where the band began to help build partnerships. He said the Air Force band broke the ice, enabling the U.S. to start exchange programs with foreign militaries of the countries they performed in. It costs the Air Force nothing to train its musicians, because after the instrumentalists audition and are selected (which is a highly competitive process), they head to Basic Training and immediately to their first base.

"You can't go to school for six months and learn this job," said Sergeant Sheaffer. "When we come into the military, the Air Force expects us to be fully qualified," added Sergeant Sheaffer, who started



The U.S. Air Forces in Europe Band Wings of Dixie performing on Dec. 18, 2010 at Ramo Grande Auditorium, Praia da Vitoria. (Photo by Manuel Martins)

playing at the age of 7. He spent many hours practicing, and his parents sacrificed financially for him to be a musician.

"While it can be difficult at times to look at a band member as a warfighter—because they may not be twisting the wrenches all day on the flightline—while we're out on deployments, we're put in some difficult situations," he said.

After all the extensive training band members go through to do their job effectively, it really pays off. For their last performance at Lajes in the community of Praia da Vitoria, the audience went wild with appreciation.

"And it was all because we took some music, we played it, and it really becomes almost a gift," said Sergeant Sheaffer. "When we show up, the only reason we're there is to give. We give a gift of music, and I think that breaks down barriers and opens up doors that may not have been there before." The Wings of Dixie celebrate the American tradition of Dixieland jazz at every performance and is the only ensemble of its kind representing the United States Air Forces in Europe. It has been in existence for more than a decade.

Building partnership capacity in Portugal

Compiled by 65th CONS staff reports

The men and women of the "small but mighty" 65th Contracting Squadron at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal, continue their national strategic impact on U.S. military operations and capability in Portugal.

The 65th ABW, the Air Force's preeminent expeditionary combat support wing, moved 15,000 aircraft carrying 22,000 personnel from 21 countries in Fiscal Year 2010. Key to this effort, 65th CONS gets what's needed to keep the runway operational, the planes flowing, and the transient personnel well cared for. Vital to the responsive and critical support 65th CONS provides the war-fighting mission, is our well developed local vendor base.

65th CONS has had some recent successes that highlight years of hard work building the vendor capacity in the Azores. In Fiscal 2010, nearly 79 percent of contract dollars were awarded to local vendors, and over 50 percent of GPC purchases are from the local economy year after year. These successes and the impact they have on the wing's mission effectiveness and quality of life haven't come over night.

Half of the 65th CONS family is Portuguese local nationals who work day in and day out, year after year, watching the military rotate every 15 to 24 months. They provide stability and the key link between the Department of Defense customers and the local business market.

Instead of relying on U.S. vendors and taking the lumps that come with waiting on supplies to ride the slow boat over, like contracting professionals worldwide, they made it happen—going door to door,

speaking to vendors, encouraging them to make provisions to do business with the U.S. government. In Fiscal 1999, only 7 percent of GPC purchases were made to local firms. Each year, through the hard work and determination of the local national contracting professionals, that number increased. The 65 ABW learned buying locally meant they got what they needed more quickly, often more inexpensively, and with real-time customer service. Local vendors learned that there was money to be made getting the U.S. airbase what we needed. In Fiscal 2010, a whopping 56 percent of GPC dollars were spent locally.

After many years of hard work, we have a strong local supply chain with robust competition and superb customer service. To continue to improve, 65th CONS leads a base-wide initiative to more closely partner with our host community. Beginning last May, 65th CONS chaired a forum of local government leaders and 65 ABW business organizations. During the first meeting alone, several ideas were raised that will save the wing money, improve the wing's mission capability, and improve the quality of life for members of Team Lajes, all while building our local supply chain even further and giving back to our Azorean hosts.

Just five months later, 65th CONS has increased our vendor base and the members of the 65th ABW now have more access to local goods, services, and community events. The 65th Force Support Squadron has seen a dramatic increase in the number of local businesses sponsoring base events and participating in the

To read more on "Partnership" see page 6



WING EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY

Feature

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
7	8	9	10 <i>College Football Championships.</i>	11 <i>Late Reporting 10 a.m.</i>	12 <i>Rising 6 Meeting</i>	13 <i>Assumption of Command AOC/ Reception (SFS)</i>
14 <i>Most Rev Frank Spenser & CMSgt Johnson Visit</i> <i>Lajes Has Talent 6 p.m.</i>	15	16	17 <i>US Holiday - Martin Luther King Day</i>	18	19 <i>Private Org Leaders Luncheon</i>	20

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chief, it met the required standards.

Sometimes when the tapes are not in good shape, the teeth in the cogs could break off, described Senior Master Sgt. Quentin Mulholland, the fire chief. According to him, members of his unit respond to operations like this all the time.

As emergency first responders, they are often tasked to do things like this, even when other members are on a holiday schedule. They take much pride in doing it since it ensures the safety of the mission at Lajes.

"Today we are actually making sure the barriers perform as they are designed, and we have to certify them every year," said Tech. Sgt. Andrew Wells, fire department assistant chief of operations. "This barrier certification is a critical part of the mission here because the barriers are a mechanical means of stopping the aircraft when their breaking system fails."

The barrier is an alternate break, added Sergeant Wells.

The use of the barrier on a runway is much like the use of arresting systems on an aircraft carrier. An aircraft will have a "hook" on the back of it that will catch the barrier during the landing roll, explained Major Sweeney. The

aircraft usually is stopped in 1000 feet, depending on the speed of the aircraft when it hits the barrier.

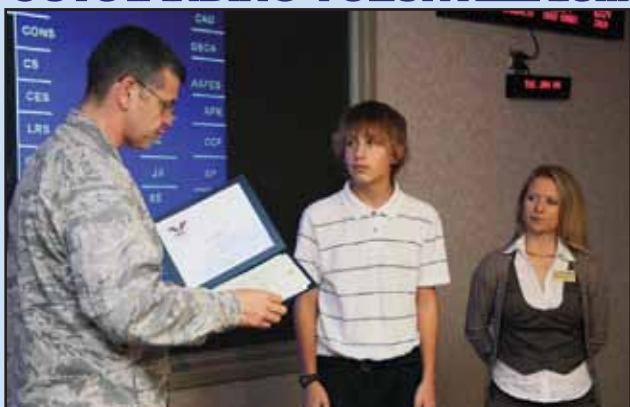
The barrier certification did not only test the breaking systems of an aircraft alone. The firefighters ensured the pilot came out safely. Once the aircraft was declared fire-safe, the 65th OSS Airmen came into play. They are in charge of clearing the aircraft off the runway and the cable in order for the fire department to complete the cable-rewind operation.

The barrier has to be rewound in a strong and tight manner in order to get the flightline operational.

"The barrier is a critical piece of equipment that is often overlooked because it is not used on a day-to-day operation," said Sergeant Wells. "It is only utilized during emergency situations so a lot of people don't really put into consideration how important it is to have them and make sure they work. That is why we're out here doing this once-a-year certification, and along with that certification, we have quarterly trainings that we have to do."

Without any doubt, Lajes Airmen and leadership take pride in the importance of the barrier certification, and the New Year break didn't stop them from getting the job done.

OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERISM



Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, recognizes Austin and Patty Gill, son and wife of MSgt Robert Gill, 65th Operations Support Squadron, for their outstanding volunteerism at a wing meeting, Jan. 4. Austin Gill received a Silver Presidential Volunteer Service Award and Patty Gill received a Bronze Presidential Volunteer Service Award. (Photo by Almerindo Azera)



Members from the 65th Wing Staff Agency went to a local orphanage at Lajes village to drop off items collected Dec. 15, 2010. Members collected and donated food items, clothes and shoes as part of a community outreach program. (U.S. Air Force photo By Guido Melo)

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



Master Sgt. Timothy Angermeier talks with base leadership and other Lajes members Dec. 27 as part of a gathering that honors Lajes Warriors deploying to the area of responsibility. Sergeant Angermeier is assigned to the 65th Contracting Squadron, and will be deploying to Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan. (Photo by Guido Melo)



The U.S. Consul in the Azores, Mr. Gavin Sundwall, presents a gift to the Wings of Dixie at Ramo Grande Auditorium, while Mr. Monteiro the Praia da Vitoria mayor and Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, wait to present their own gifts. (Photo by Manuel Martins)



Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, visits the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron Dec. 22 to announce to Airman 1st Class Eric Adams of his selection for promotion to a senior airman, below the zone. (Courtesy photo)



Chief Master Sgt. Samuel Hagadorn, 65th Air Base Wing command chief, punches on a technical sergeant stripe for Sergeant Pennington here Dec. 12, while Staff Sgt. Amber Pennington looks on, more than happy. The new technical sergeant is a quality assurance Airman assigned to the 65th Operations Supports Squadron at Lajes Field Azores. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)



LAJES' NEWEST CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT
Chief Master Sergeant Glen Robinson, 65th Air Base Wing, puts on his chief's stripes Dec. 30 at the Enlisted Promotion Ceremony held at the TORC. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Members of Team Lajes sing at the Cantata Ceremony held at the Lajes Field chapel, Dec. 19. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)



Mark your calendar



TRACK OPEN: The track has re-opened. All members due for their PFA test will now take their test on the track. We kindly request everyone to please KEEP OFF THE IN-FIELD.

HONORING THE NEWEST CHIEFS: Please come out and celebrate Lajes Fields' newest Chief

Master Sergeants Jan. 28. If you plan on bringing multiple people, you will need to go into the RSVP e-invite for each member you are bringing. Please be sure to click on the drop-down menu for meal choices. The price is the same, no matter the meal. Contact MSgt Jackson at 535-3150 for details or to receive an R.S.V.P. email.

CAN YOU PLAY THE BASS? The wing band is looking for an experienced bass guitarist. The member can be active duty, U.S. or a Portuguese civilian employee. Contact Tommy Brooks at Donald.Brooks@lajes.af.mil if you're interested.

TOBACCO CESSATION CLASS: A Tobacco Cessation class is scheduled for Jan. 5 and 12 at the Health and Wellness Center Where: CONFERENCE ROOM. Time: 1200-1300 HRS You may bring your lunch. To sign up call: 535 HAWC or email hortencia.ramon@lajes.af.mil

REFLECTIVE BELT ROE REMINDER: AFI 91-207 USAFE Sup: 3.5.2.1. (Added) In cases where separation of pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic is not feasible, military personnel in uniform must wear reflective accessories during periods of reduced visibility (hours of darkness, inclement weather, etc). Personnel in civilian attire are encouraged to wear light-colored clothing or reflective accessories. This requirement must be briefed during newcomers' orientation and addressed in the installation traffic code.

TAX VOLUNTEERS: The 65 ABW/JA office is looking for highly motivated individuals to be unit Tax Representatives. We are asking for two people per unit. These individuals will be responsible for tax preparation in their respective unit. Volunteers are asked to get approval from their respective chain of command and to contact TSgt Cohen or MSgt Wade at 535-3546.

WICO: The Women, Infants, and Children Overseas program helps ensure you child's nutritional needs are met. The program provides several important benefits for pregnant or nursing mothers, and children under 5 years old. Contact the Lajes WIC Overseas office, and give your child the healthy start they deserve. Open Tuesday-Thursday 0900-1400. Phone number: 535-1440

"Build wealth" from page 1

money unless it is a true emergency."

The keys to your financial success follow:

- 1) Make the commitment and take the pledge at: www.militarysaves.org
- 2) Write down your SMART financial goals.
- 3) Develop a spending plan and keep track of your spending for at least 30 days.
- 4) Commit to save & invest part of every pay check. (Pay yourself first!)
- 5) Identify money wasters that are keeping you from your goals.
- 6) Invest in the TSP or Roth IRA for retirement.
- 7) Use credit card only if you can pay the balance off each month.
- 8) Know and monitor your "cash flow" and "net worth" for 1 year.
- 9) Know your FICO or credit rating.
- 10) Stick with your plan for at least one year.

Make this New Year's resolution a real commitment to improve your financial security. I guarantee you will have an improved financial situation for you and your family, if you follow this easy, 10-step plan for at least 1 year. Sign the military savers' pledge and call the Airman & Family Readiness Center for a financial appointment.

"Partnership" from page 2

newcomers' programs. Azorean and Portuguese press has covered the wing's efforts several times, praising the efforts of the 65th ABW and the local business leadership to improve the working relationship between the two countries. The "small but mighty" 65th CONS is leading the way to a stronger relationship between the U.S. and Portuguese governments and between the men and women of Team Lajes and our Azorean hosts.

Phrase of the Week

A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: God bless you!

PORTUGUESE: Deus te abençoe!

PRONUNCIATION: Day ohsh teh ah ben so!

At the Movies

- 7 p.m. Friday - Morning Glory (PG-13)
- 7 p.m. Saturday - For Colored Girls (R)
- 4 p.m. Sunday - Morning Glory (PG-13)
- 7 p.m. Sunday - For Colored Girls (R)



Movie times and schedule are subject to change. Call 535-4100 for the latest update.

ASK ED

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



Eduardo Lima
Community Relations Advisor

Terceira Island, or the "Island of Jesus Christ," as it's known by some people, is very rich in traditions and festivals, which is 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 March 5-8, 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 comes 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 Oct. 15. 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 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.

In September, the Wine Festival takes place at the wine museum in the village of Biscoitos. This tradition gives 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, 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.

If you have any questions about the Azorean culture and customs, please ask. There's a good chance others are wondering the same thing, or at least, would benefit from learning new things about the Azores. Contact Ed Lima at: eduardo.lima@lajes.af.mil.