



Force Protection




Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

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

 426
SORTIES

7,234
LODGED

 2.2 million
gallons
FUEL ISSUED

Weekend Weather Forecast (Lajes Weather Flight)

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

Partly Cloudy
Wind SW 17-28 mph
SW 35-51 mph
High 62F / Low 55F



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

Mostly Cloudy with Rain
Wind SW 35-51 mph
SW 17-28 mph
High 62F / Low 53F



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

Mostly Cloudy
Wind SW 17-19 mph
SW 17-19 mph
High 62F / Low 53F



British 'Tornados' on a mission hit Lajes Field



Three Tornado GR4 aircraft, from Brize Norton England, United Kingdom, park at Lajes flightline Feb. 11, 2011. These aircraft are the first set of Tornados that have visited Lajes this year and were supplied with 59,000 gallons of JP8 fuel during their short stay. (Photo by Guido Melo)

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

After traveling hundreds of miles at supersonic speed across the Atlantic, nine "Tornados" touched down at Lajes Field, Azores, Feb. 11, 2011.

The Tornado has an all-weather-attack capability and is able to carry up to three enhanced laser-GPS guided bombs. But despite such damaging potential, no harm was caused to Lajes Field when the Royal Air Force pilots stopped to refuel.

The Tornado GR4, belonging to Brize Norton England,

is the first set of Tornado aircraft in 2011 from the United Kingdom to visit Lajes.

On a weekly basis, the Airmen at Lajes provide fuel and beddown support for aircraft and crew members trying to make it across the Atlantic. But this is the first time this year the base is supporting eleven aircraft transiting at the same time.

The aircraft were accompanied by two British VC-10 tankers as part of their short stay here. According to Maj. Robert Sweeney, 65th Operations Support Squadron's

To read more on "Tornado" see page 4

USAFE commander makes first visit to Airmen at Lajes



(Left) Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander, and (on the right) Chief Master Sgt. David Williamson, USAFE command chief, speak to the Airmen of the 65th Air Base Wing at a commander's call at Lajes Field, Azores, Feb. 16. General Welsh and Chief Williamson were on a two-day visit to the wing to see the men and women of Lajes Field, Azores, Feb. 15-16. This visit to Lajes was the team's first to the wing after General Welsh took command of USAFE. (Photo by Guido Melo)



The Tuskegee Airmen and the Struggle for Civil Rights

Part 1

By Andrew Billman
65th Air Base Wing
Historian



Sleek red-tailed P-51 fighters, the 99th Fighter Squadron, the 332nd Fighter Group—valiant men with air-combat prowess and a stellar combat record all come to mind with the mention of Tuskegee Airmen. But the Tuskegee story would be incomplete without addressing the experiences of the B-25 pilots, navigators, and bombardiers that comprised the 477th Bombardment Group. While their 332nd brothers-in-arms bravely flew their P-51s to glory in the skies over Europe, the men of the 477th BG courageously fought another enemy at home – racism and discrimination.

From 1941 through 1946, 994 pilots graduated from Tuskegee Army Airfield and earned the wings they hoped would finally silence the racist critics who thought black men lacked the necessary skills and abilities to fly. At this time even more African-American men broke racial barriers and received training as navigators, bombardiers, gunners, mechanics, and ground crew at various bases spread across America. By the spring of 1945, they would come together at Freeman Field in Seymour, Indiana as the 477 BG under all-white leader-

ship, as they prepared to enter the War in the Pacific. But they would not make history fighting the Japanese in the Pacific—their place in history was reserved for battling the forces of bigotry in the very country they were willing to defend with their lives.

When the 477th BG arrived in Seymour, the African-American members of the group soon felt the sting of discrimination as many of the grocery stores in the community would not allow them to buy goods and only one restaurant in town would serve them. The Seymour Laundry took this treatment a step further as they refused service to black airmen, while, at the same time regularly laundering the clothes and bedding of German prisoners of war confined in the area. This maltreatment continued on base as the group's commanding officer, Col. Robert Selway, issued an order on April 1, 1945, segregating the officers clubs at Freeman Field. A former dilapidated non-commissioned officers club was designated for the "black training personnel." Col. Selway attempted to circumvent Army regulations that maintained equal access to recreational facilities on post for all officers by categorizing all black officers in the group as "trainees." But the airmen saw this ploy for what it was and dubbed the run-down structure set aside as their officers club, "Uncle Tom's Cabin." (Part 2 of this article will be continued in the next issue of the Crossroads.)

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
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing

The Lajes runway repair—combined partnership at its best!

By 1st. Lt. Alyson Busch
65th Civil Engineer Squadron

Through a combined effort between the 65th Air Base Wing and Air Base 4, the entire Lajes runway is being repaved. This is an extraordinary undertaking—the Lajes runway has not been resurfaced since 1987 and is in dire need of some tender loving care. The contract was awarded for \$7.045 million, with a \$1.26 million contribution from the Portuguese Ministry of Defense. This is the first ever cost-share project in our mutual history!

The Lajes runway, which is 300 feet wide by 10,870 feet long, is capable of accepting any airframe in the world to include the space shuttle. A total of 3.5 million square feet of asphalt will be used to repave the runway surface as well as all eight taxiways. Because this is such a significant undertaking, the project has been broken down into four phases.

The first two phases, which involved repaving the overrun areas, are already complete. For the last two phases, the runway will be split down the center line, which divides the commercial and base sides. On March 1,



The Lajes flightline is currently undergoing pavement repair, and the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron is in charge of the project. (Photo by Guido Melo)

the third phase, of repaving the commercial side will begin, followed by the fourth and final phase, repaving the base side of the runway and taxiways.

Not only is this project combined across nations, it is also across squadrons. This involves coordination between the 65th Contracting Squadron, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, and 65th Operations Support

To read more on "Runway" see page 6



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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Airman's Can-Do Attitude Prevails

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

Most people in the Air Force would agree that opportunity abounds—and sometimes there are so many prospects; it's hard to know where to begin. Airman 1st Class Nicholas Fisher, a 65th Comptroller Squadron's customer service technician, didn't let that stop him from applying to the Air Force Academy in August 2010.

"I looked at many commissioning programs but decided to go big or go home," said Airman Fisher, "and I didn't apply anywhere else."

The Academy's admissions office started the Leaders Encouraging Airman Development Diversity Program to try and recruit a wide range of individuals. The LEAD diversity program allows an applicant or a potential candidate to go to the Academy to see what life is like, and it helps them to decide if they would continue their application process.

In response to this, Airman Fisher decided to apply. Civilians applying to the Air Force Academy need to have a Congressional endorsement, but enlisted members only need their commander's approval. Other application requirements include a candidate fitness assessment, SAT or ACT scores, high school transcripts, letters of recommendation, and an activity record of all important accomplishments.

Although Fisher was chosen to attend recruitment briefings at the Academy Jan. 13-15 through the Lead Diversity Program, he hadn't been officially selected to attend the Academy. During his visit, he found out that from the 25 candidates who'd been chosen into the program, he was one of 11 who would be attending the Academy in July. While he visited the campus, he stayed with prior-enlisted cadets and went to class with them.

"It was very eye-opening," said Airman Fisher.

He added that despite a lot of misconceptions of the Academy—about it being like four years of basic training and a really tough lifestyle, his visit to the Academy gave him a realistic point of view.

Apart from seeing the campus and how beautiful Colorado Springs is, Airman Fisher said he could also see the challenges ahead of time, and knew what he would be facing.

Some of those who attended the briefings were the Air Force Academy's Superintendent, Lt. Gen. Michael Gould, Dean of Faculty, Brig. Gen. Dana H. Born, and the Athletic Director, Dr. Hans Mueh.

"It was a really great experience," said Airman Fisher. "It inspired me to want to go even more."

Airman Fisher said some of the biggest challenge the cadets he stayed with mentioned was having a restricted lifestyle, like basic training. He said the biggest pro for them was the sheer amount of opportunities now available. There are numerous summer programs, including becoming a military training instructor at Lackland for a flight, being

in a language immersion program overseas, visiting any active duty Air Force base to shadow people in certain career fields, flying gliders and aided pilot flights, and more.

"I want to fly gliders—I think that would be amazing," said Fisher. "I want to jump out of a plane, too. I'm debating about which one I want to do first."

Airman Fisher will officially report as a student to the Air Force Academy July 13, and he has some advice to impart to his fellow Airmen.

"If you're thinking about going for a commissioning program, don't just tell yourself you're going to do it," he said. "Do it actually, and apply. The worst that can happen is they could say 'no.'"

Airman Fisher went on to say that as long as an applicant gets the leg work done, the chances of getting accepted into a commissioning program is a lot higher than some might think, and that everyone stands a chance.

He's also received some important words from his peers.

"The advice I've been getting most from people is to remember my enlisted heritage once I become an officer," said Airman Fisher. "I just want people to know that's always going to be in the back of my mind; I've seen what life is like as an enlisted person, and I won't forget it."



LAJES AIRMEN OF THE WEEK



Name: Kristopher Koelling
Rank: Staff Sergeant
Unit: 65th OSS
Hometown: Chicago Heights, Ill.
Duty Title: Air Traffic Control Watch Supervisor
Accomplishments: Sergeant Koelling recently completed his upgrade training to become a fully qualified air traffic controller at Lajes with 94% average throughout his extensive training.

As a Radar Approach, air traffic controller, he typically expedites and maintains a safe and orderly flow of air traffic in the global air traffic control system. As the 65th OSS OPSEC Manager, he has also provided training to six newly assigned Airmen. In addition to his many work accomplishments, Sergeant Koelling was also one of the narrators for the 65th ABW December 2010 promotion ceremony.



Name: José Faria
Rank: LGS-9
Unit: 65th OSS
Hometown: Angra do Heroísmo
Duty Title: Weather Forecaster
Accomplishments: Mr. Faria ensures accurate forecasts and timely resource protection is issued for over 2,000 personnel and their families as well as protecting DoD assets worth over \$1.5 billion. He serves as the USAF liaison to the Portuguese Air

Force weather forecasters. Mr. Faria is the weather flight focal point for the \$2 million dollar Doppler radar system. He is also responsible for providing weather support for NASA Space Shuttle launch operations, movements of fighter, attack and support aircraft to and from overseas contingency operations, known as Coronet packages, foreign military sales aircraft movements, and transient aircraft missions.



WING EVENTS CALENDAR

February

Feature

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
18 AAHC Luncheon TORC 11 a.m. Warrior Day	19 Boy Scout Ceremonies CAC 3-4:30 P.M.	20 Military Saves Campaign Teen Paintball 9 a.m.-12 p.m.	21 U.S. Holiday Presidents Day	22	23 Wing Exercise AAHC Healthy Cooking Class Chapel 11 a.m.	24
25 AFSA Meeting TORC 3:30 -4:30 p.m. Annual Awards Banquet TORC 5 p.m.	26 All-Night Bowling Bowling Alley Mother and Son Dance CAC 6 p.m.	27	28 Promotion Ceremony 3 p.m.	1 Women's History Month March	2	3

"Tornado" from page 1

director of operations, the aircraft and crew members were on their way to an exercise in the United States.

While at Lajes, more than 20,000 gallons of JP8 fuel were supplied to the Tornados and 39,000 gallons to the two VC10 tankers supporting the Tornados.

"It feels great to be a vital component of the mission here at Lajes," said Tech. Sgt. Justin Stellflug, fuels NCO in charge with the 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron. "It's a fact that a key reason for American military

presence at Lajes is trans-Atlantic aircraft refueling support."

A Tornado can fly automatically at low level using terrain-following radar when poor weather prevents visual flight. The aircraft is also equipped with forward-looking infrared and is night-vision goggle compatible, making it a capable platform for passive night operations. The aircraft also has ground-mapping radar to identify targets for the delivery of conventional 1000-pound bombs.

On average, more than 20 U.S. and international aircraft transit through Lajes Field each week from their home stations or the area of responsibility, making it a vital asset in the Atlantic.

A Tornado GR4 aircraft, from Brize Norton England, United Kingdom, parks at Lajes flightline Feb. 11, 2011. This aircraft is part of the first set of Tornados that have visited Lajes this year. (Photo by Guido Melo)



A little traveler's medicine

By TSgt Michael B. Young
65th MDOS NCOIC of Public Health

Have you ever wondered what kind of vaccinations you would need if you went to a foreign country? With the constant threat of new and emerging diseases, vaccinations are vital to remain healthy. When researching "fun things to do" at your desired location, it is highly recommended you research what vaccinations you will need to stay healthy and come back safe.

The internet is a great tool to use for health information, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention link will give you country-specific medical threats and required immunizations.

Please go to www.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list.aspx and www.travel.state.gov for additional information. The State Department link will also provide country-specific security threats and travel advisories.

The Immunizations Clinic is located in Building T-416 and is available Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. for normal business. Allergy patients have priority on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Immunizations Clinic can be reached by phone at 535-3584 (on base), or 295-57-3584 (off base). Public Health is located in Building T-425 and is available Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Public Health personnel can be reached at 535-3464 (on base) or 295-57-3464 (off base).

If you take the necessary precautions, you should have a safe and enjoyable experience to share with your friends and family. Public Health is also here to educate those being deployed. If you have additional questions regarding medications, such as malaria prophylaxis or allergy medications, Public Health will be glad to assist.

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

General Welsh visits Lajes Field

Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, U.S. Air Forces in Europe Commander, returns the salute of Portuguese airmen on his arrival to Lajes Field, Azores, Feb. 15, 2011. Airmen of the 65th Air Base Wing hosted the USAFE commander, Chief Master Sgt. David Williamson, USAFE command chief, and their spouses during a two-day visit. (Photo by Guido Melo)



NCO Academy Graduation

Three members of Team Lajes pose for a picture with the base leadership after graduating the NCO Academy Class 11-3 at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Feb. 10, 2011. Members in the picture are: (from left to right) Chief Master Sgt. Samuel Hagadorn, 65th Air Base Wing command chief, Lt. Col. Robert Dotson, 65th Operations Support Squadron commander, Tech. Sgts. Ronald Masters, 65th OSS, Mitchell Mercadal, 65th ABW (SARC Admin), and Paul Milinazzo, 65th Security Forces Squadron, Capt. Michael Alvord, 65th SFS, and Col. Eric Axelbank, 65th ABW vice commander. (Courtesy photo)

TASTE OF CULTURE



The African American Heritage Committee hosts a Taste of Culture at Lajes Field Chapel Feb. 10, 2011. More than 180 people attended the event. (photo by Guido Melo)



Members from the Blue Waves basketball team practice for their first game at Lajes Field, Azores, Feb. 18. Youth basketball season is until Mar 26. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)



Members of the 65th Medical Group perform a two-man carry on a simulated victim during their medical group challenge at Lajes Field, Azores, Feb. 11. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Mark your calendar



2010 WING ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET:
Come out and support the 2010 Annual Award Winners at the WING ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET scheduled for Feb. 25 at the Top of the Rock Club beginning at 6 p.m. Please contact your unit POC for tickets and further information
65 SFS TSgt Kasten 535-6239 / 65 FSS

TSgt Hernandez, E 535-1075 / 65 CS MSgt Schmitz 535-1503
Alt: MSgt Hawkins 535-3662 / 65 CES/MSG MSgt Rouse 535-5166
65 LRS SrA Perkins 535-2291 / 65 OSS SSgt Clark, Michael 535-3157
65 CPTS MSgt Brooks 535-5174 / 65 CONS SSgt Sherwood 535-1145
65 MDSS SrA Anas 535-3239 / 65 MDOS SrA Michalek 535-5177
65 WSA SSgt Holden-Worthen 535-2325 / Alt: MSgt Brooks 535-5174
SPECIAL CLINIC HOURS: Feb. 18, Friday (Warrior Day)--Limited service 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.. The Family Health Clinic will have limited appointment availability, whereas the laboratory, radiology, pharmacy, and immunization clinic will provide walk-in service. Dental, optometry, and physical therapy clinics will be closed during limited service hours. In the case of an emergency, please call 911 (on base) or 295-571-911 (off base). You can reach our appointment line at 535-3261 (on base) or 295-573-261 (off base). In addition, TRICARE On-line (TOL) is always available as an option for appointment booking. All beneficiaries must register at www.tricareonline.com for an account."

CAFE BEAN CLOSURE: The Café Bean will be closed on Feb. 19 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. due to maintenance and training.

CAIB MEETING: The next Community Action Information Board (CAIB) will be held April 28 at the Conference room in Bld. T-100 at 9:30 a.m. For details, call R.J. BAPTISTA, CIV, CAIB Executive Director, at 535-HAWC.

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.

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.**

Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: Can you recommend a good restaurant in this area?

PORTUGUESE: Pode recomendar-me um bom restaurante nesta área?

PRONUNCIATION: POH-deh rehcommhmenDAR-meh oom boom restahRONteh NESTa ahhreeah.

At the Movies



7 p.m. Friday - The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG)

7 p.m. Saturday - How do you know (PG-13)

4 p.m. Sunday - The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG)

7 p.m. Sunday - How do you know (PG-13)

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

"Runway" from page 2

Squadron. Contracting provides oversight, ensuring money is spent appropriately (and making sure none of us go to jail). OSS publishes notices to Airmen for pilots who will be landing here during construction. They've also prepared parking and taxi plans, taking into consideration closures and limitations due to construction. CES will be laying out an Emergency Airfield Lighting System, since the current airfield lighting will be insufficient once half the runway is shut down for construction. While this is only a broad overview of each squadron's involvement in the project, it gives you a good idea of how much is entailed in the planning of this project.

A major concern is whether or not the construction will impact our ability to launch and land aircraft. The answer to that is no—it will not affect Lajes Field's ability to launch and land aircraft.

Most importantly, the mail and commissary planes will still be able to land and take off as usual, as will the rotators. The runway will be closed nightly from 9 p.m. to 8 a.m. for uninterrupted work.

ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima,
Community Relations Advisor



Is there a type of song or music that is peculiar to Portugal?

The type of song or music that is most characteristic of Portugal is called "fado," a music genre characterized by mournful tunes and lyrics that originated some centuries ago, according to some chronicles.

The word "fado" means fate or destiny, and its music is at the heart of the Portuguese soul.

Fado's origin is difficult to ascertain, but according to the Wikipedia encyclopedia, it probably comes from a mixture of the laments of the African slaves blended with the traditional music of Portuguese sailors and Arabic influence. Other theories relate fado's origin to the music of the Brazilian slaves who were brought by sailors around 1820.

There are two main varieties of fado—from the cities of Lisbon and Coimbra. The Lisbon style is more popular and with more rhythm, whereas the one from Coimbra has the characteristics of ballads and is more romantic.

The modern style of fado is still very popular in Portugal and has produced many renowned musicians and singers. Fado is usually sung by men or women and accompanied by the Portuguese guitar, a 12-stringed instrument, and the classical guitar. In recent years, more instruments have been added to the performances such as the piano, violin and accordion.

Like other forms of music, such as the American blues or the Argentinean tango, fado cannot be explained; it must be felt and experienced. Fado has been often described as the Portuguese blues.

Portugal has had many famous fado singers like Alfredo Marceneiro, Maria Teresa de Noronha or Amália Rodrigues. The latter was considered the diva of fado, worshiped at home and celebrated abroad as the most famous representative of fado. Some of the famous musicians included Carlos Paredes, Artur Paredes or Antonio Portugal.

Fado music, although not as much celebrated now as some decades ago, is still popular. Today, there is a new wave of fado performers who have added a new style and brought international popularity to the traditional Portuguese music, such as Mariza, Mísia, Camané, etc.

This form of music can be heard throughout the country, but especially in the city of Lisbon, where there are restaurants and night clubs that present exclusively fado performers. Those are places where people can go and taste a good Portuguese traditional meal or just have a drink, while listening to this unique form of Portuguese culture.