

Crossroads

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Vol. 16, No. 11 • March 18, 2011

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

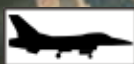
Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

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

FY 2011



491
SORTIES

8,460
LODGED



2.5 million
gallons
FUEL ISSUED



Appointment:

Base: 535-3261
Off base: 295-573-261

Emergency:

Base: 911
Off base: 295-571-911

European Union's Daylight Saving Time is **March 27**

The European Union will "Spring Forward" or change their clocks for Daylight Saving Time March 27. Members are, thereby, reminded to turn their clocks one hour ahead at midnight of March 27.



Lajes supports first set of A-10 coronet package in 2011



A coronet package of A-10 Thunderbolts transits Lajes Field, Azores, to refuel on their way to the area of responsibility March 8. This is the first unit of A-10s that Lajes has provided support for this year. Last year, Lajes supported more than 80 movements of the aircraft. (Photo by Guido Melo)

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

A coronet package of A-10 Thunderbolts transited Lajes Field, Azores, on their way to the area of responsibility March 8.

The aircraft were here to refuel while their crewmembers bedded down. There were more than 15 members, consisting of an aircrew and maintenance team. The last set of the team departed Lajes for their destination March 11.

This is the first unit of A-10s that Lajes has provided

support for this year. Last year, Lajes supported more than 80 movements of the aircraft, which is capable of surviving direct hits from armor-piercing and high explosive projectiles.

According to the 65th Operations Support Squadron coronet unit, these A-10s are unique because they still carry the historical "nose art" that dates back to World War II. The Tiger shark face, painted on them, is a trademark for the Flying Tigers.

To read more on "A-10s" see page 6

March is National Nutrition Month Eat right with color!

March is designated as National Nutrition Month, and this year's theme is "Eat Right with Color."

Since 1973, the American Dietetic Association has embraced this event as an opportunity to promote healthy eating habits to the public.

This year, the focus will be on emphasizing the importance of variety in our diets—ensuring each meal contains an exotic blend of flavors, textures and nutrients.

Our plates should comprise a rainbow of colors that is aesthetically pleasing to both the eyes and palate. Eating with colors is also a great way to highlight the importance all food groups play in providing a healthy diet. Remember, there are no bad foods, only bad amounts.

Here are three simple steps to a healthier lifestyle.

- Eating a rainbow of colors. Your focus should be on choosing nutrient-dense foods with a variety of colors from all the food groups. Make every meal a rainbow of colors.

- Balancing physical activity with a healthy diet is the best way to manage your weight and improve your overall health. Your Health and Wellness Center staff can provide you with exercise and nutrition prescriptions to help meet your goals.

- Weighing yourself monthly is one of the simplest preventative steps you can take to manage your weight. It is much easier to deal with a few pounds gained during the month than the 15 to 20 pounds gained over the course of a year.

Keeping it healthy means keeping it simple and your HAWC staff can teach you how.



Don't judge a book by its cover

By Master Sgt. Dominic A. Dumbra
65th Medical Group
first sergeant



"Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover"—one of the most popular idioms I can think of that has a significant meaning to the majority of Air Force members.

It identifies internal prejudices and how they tend to be used.

Anyone, having been in the Air Force for any stretch of time, cringes at the word, "prejudice." Yet think about this idiom. How often do our eyes lead our opinions, or our predetermined thoughts guide our actions?

Although the word, "prejudice," brings up some negative connotations, it, alone, is not negative. Instead, it is preconceived judgment of personal understanding. It is important to be able to look in the mirror and determine if and how it affects individual actions.

As we grow in leadership positions, we need to have the wisdom to understand what we can do and what we should do.

Sometimes actions, individuals or systems seem to portray a predefined outcome, the

proverbial "cover." As supervisors and leaders, we cannot become lazy or jaded to believe these issues are all the same. The point is to get "inside" the issue and determine what "it" is, or in other words, open the book, get smart and then judge.

These actions build more value and wisdom within a leader. The more wisdom a person has, the more willing they are to see the truth in the unopened books around them.

Looking back, it is interesting how a well-read book, the one with "dog ears," and notes written in the margins, has been put aside when a new book comes along.

Although it's put aside and appears forgotten, the book is remembered. As new concepts and practices are introduced, the tattered book is often relied upon as a starting point and guide to decipher new concepts, challenges, issues, etc.

In closing, never forget to open all of the "books" around you to learn more, as increasing one's knowledge is the best way to increase one's wisdom.

Never forget the best-selling book in the world does not boast a flashy cover—it tends to be battered and worn with a plain, boring cover.

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

Would a shutdown affect your commissary?

By Kevin L. Robinson,
DeCA Public Affairs specialist

In the event of a government shutdown, commissary customers are asked to check their local military installation news outlets before, during and after the event to determine if stores serving their area are open.

"As a matter of course, the Defense Commissary Agency plans for any event that could affect the operation of its stores," said Joseph H. Jeu, DeCA director and CEO. "We are currently updating existing plans to adjust commissary operations in case of a government shutdown. If this action does occur, we will use all available media to notify our customers of any specific changes in commissary operations. Customers should also stay abreast of the news that affects services on their installations."

If a shutdown occurs, commissary customers also should monitor the Department of Defense website, <http://www.defense.gov>, for any breaking news that affects service members and government civilians. During that time, customers can attempt to access <http://www.commissaries.com>, but the agency's website could be down.

When the federal government's fiscal year begins Oct. 1, operations and programs must be funded through appropriations enacted by Congress and signed into law by the



president. If Congress and the president have not approved annual funding, Congress may pass a continuing resolution to extend government operations for a period of time. As of Tuesday morning, Congress had yet to approve another funding extension granting continuing resolution authority. The current authority is set to end midnight March 18.

Since 1980, all agencies in the government have been required to plan for potential government shutdowns. Despite a shutdown, DOD would still continue support to its deployed troops and must continue operations necessary for the safety of human life and protection of property. These types of activities would be "exempt" from any temporary stoppage of government activities.



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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Contents of the Crossroads are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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Bessie Coleman: African-American aviation pioneer - Part 2

By Andrew Billman
65th Air Base Wing historian

Chicago seemed a world away from the Jim Crow South to a young African-American woman fresh from the state of Texas. Bessie soon gained employment as a manicurist on the south side of the city, where she would serve the most prominent members of the black community in Chicago. While working in a barbershop, her vision for flight would eventually take shape. While in the "Windy City," Bessie's dream to soar began with the stories her brother brought back from France of his experiences during World War I.

Walter's friendly taunting of his little sister concerning the superiority of French women, who could fly, hardened Bessie's desire to prove that she could measure up and fly just as well. The determined Ms. Coleman attempted to enter a number of American flying schools, and every institution closed its doors to this young aspiring flyer.

Bessie even tried to find pilots willing to give her private lessons, but her efforts were met without success. She expressed her frustrations to a regular customer of hers, Robert Abbott, the editor and publisher of the leading black newspaper in Chicago, "The Chicago Defender." Mr. Abbott suggested that Bessie should travel to Europe and learn to fly in France where there was less discrimination and prejudice. With her savings in hand, the intrepid Bessie took his advice and, in time, Robert Abbott would become a significant financier and benefactor for the budding aviator.

After seven months of flight training, Bessie Coleman received her Pilote-Aviateur license from the prestigious Federation Aeronautique Internationale on June 15, 1921. Bessie's dream to soar among the clouds as the first African-American woman aviator was realized through her singular determination to succeed, in spite of the obstacles placed in her path. Through the financial support and publicity of Robert Abbott, "Queen Bessie," thrilled thousands of black and white spectators across America over the next five years in dazzling shows of aeronautical skill. Tragically, her career and life were cut short in April



1926 when she flew as a passenger in a new Jenny bi-plane she had bought for an air-show in Florida. While leaning out of the cockpit to scout for potential landing zones for her parachute jump the following day, the aircraft suddenly dove, inverted, and Bessie Coleman was flung out of the aircraft. She plummeted to her death just before her bi-plane slammed into the ground, killing her mechanic/pilot as well.

Though Queen Bessie's life ended much too soon, her legacy lived on in the form of Bessie Coleman Aero Clubs, which helped pave the way for training institutions, like the famous Tuskegee Institute flying school. The school enabled even more African-American aviators to take to the skies.

In 1995, 69 years after her fatal accident, Bessie Coleman was honored with a commemorative stamp from the U.S. Postal Service in recognition of her pioneering work as the first female African-American aviator in history.

MTI changes people's lives, story

By Mike Joseph
502nd Air Base Wing OL-A Public Affairs

There's a commonality that unites the men and women who serve as the 737th Training Group's Military Training Instructors - service above self in transitioning the more than 35,000 civilians a year who enter Air Force Basic Military Training into Airmen.

It's an MTI's professionalism and commitment to Air Force core values in basic military training that molds those civilians into successful Airmen; role models to be followed and at the end of 8.5 weeks, often imitated.

Their effectiveness as leaders, teachers and mentors has changed lives and inspired Airmen for more than 60 years. Those attributes and mission objectives beyond just marching flights and teaching drill prompted the Air Force to quickly change from the original term in 1947 of "flight marchers" to "military training instructors."

It was the leadership, teaching, mentoring and recognition skills of an MTI that not only changed the life of Staff Sgt. Carmen DeLeon-Acosta but served as a catalyst to her Air Force career.

"My TI changed my life in a lot of ways, more personally I think,"



Sergeant DeLeon-Acosta said. "He was not only my mentor but someone in whose footsteps I wanted to follow."

Sergeant DeLeon-Acosta said her father left when she was a child, she had no relationship with her step-father or mother and was on her own at a young age.

It was her MTI who changed her perception that every man leaves their family and children.

"He changed that attitude in me," said Sergeant DeLeon-Acosta, now an MTI recruiter and a former instructor. "He showed me that not every man leaves (his family and children).

"I thought if my MTI could make me start talking to my father again and make my life better, I wanted to come back and do something similar.

And I have," she said.

"He changed my life. To this day we still talk (since entering BMT in February 2002). That's a long time to have someone in

your life."

Master Sgt. Eric Gaona, MTI recruiting team flight chief, agreed that not only did his MTI change him, but his time as an instructor also served as a career springboard.

"I clearly remember the day when I came to basic training with no

To read more on "MTI" see page 4

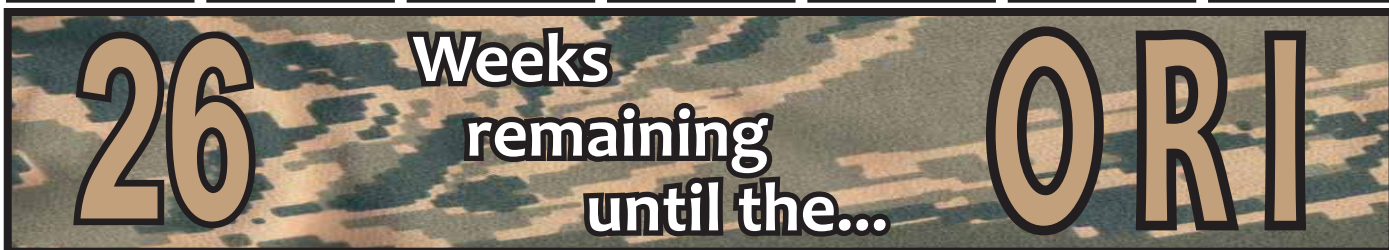


WING EVENTS CALENDAR

March

Feature

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
18 Warrior Day 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. TOP III meeting 3 p.m.	19	20	21 Dorm Dwellers Bash T-131 12 - 5 p.m.	22	23 HCAC meeting T-416 Conf. Room 1:30 p.m.	24 Wing Exercise
25 Goal Day AFSA Meeting TORC 3:30 p.m. Winter Campaign Closing TORC 5 p.m.	26	27 European Union's daylight saving time (spring ahead)	28	29 Women's History Celebration Chapel all day	30	31 Monthly Promotion Ceremony TORC 3 p.m. SUM Dinner (AFSA) Chapel 5:30 p.m.



"MTI" from page 3

discipline and didn't know where I wanted to go in life," Sergeant Gaona said. "That man (now Chief Master Sgt. William Dambacher, his current supervisor) made a difference. He inspired me greatly."

Sergeant Gaona, an instructor from 1993-1997, returned to the MTI Corps in a supervisory role last April.

"I had an itch again to make a difference before I retire," he said, adding the intangibles of the special duty assignment had a huge impact on his career.

"There is no measure of how much you get from being an MTI," he said. "I came in 1993 as a senior airman. When I left and compared myself to other senior airmen, the difference was amazing.

"The (MTI) experience is invaluable. Supervisors single you out because you're more professional. Your career just takes off."

Staff Sgt. Scott Weimer said the skill set he developed as an MTI and MTI recruiter would be beneficial when he returns to the missile maintenance career field in April.

"It doesn't matter what rank you leave (the MTI Corps), you leave performing two stripes higher," Sergeant Weimer said. "The different people to deal with, the responsibility, time management, work ethic and counseling skills you develop as an MTI will make you an unparalleled asset to whatever job you're assigned."

For more information on the MTI Corps, contact the MTI recruiting office at DSN 473-1018.

LAJES AIRMEN OF THE WEEK



Name: Jessica Roland
Rank: 1st Lt
Unit: 65th ABW Protocol
Hometown: Del Rio, Texas
Duty Title: Chief of Protocol
Accomplishments: As Chief of Protocol, she advises wing leadership for distinguished visitor/dignitary transit through Lajes. She manages itineraries, transportation, lodging, mess and other support and is responsible for a \$15,000 budget

each year. She provides guidance/quality review of base-wide event coordination, ensuring proper etiquette and decorum. Lt. Roland has served as Secretary for the Company Grade Officer Council, Decoration Committee Chair for the Air Force Ball 2010; participates in multiple intramural sports, and currently serves as the AWANA Commander for the Chapel. She is heavily involved at Lajes and takes an active role in the majority of events on base, beyond her protocol duties. When you need something done, Lieutenant Roland is there.



Name: Angela Holden-Worthen
Rank: Staff Sergeant
Unit: 65th ABW Protocol
Hometown: Natchitoches, LA
Duty Title: NCOIC Wing Protocol
Accomplishments: As the NCOIC of Protocol, "HW" provided support to the 65th ABW's two groups and eleven squadrons. She coordinated over 110 DV visits enroute to/from site visits/GWOT/NATO, to include itineraries, transportation, lodging, mess, and

other support accommodations. She was also responsible for performing technical and quality review screening for all official ceremony invites scripts, programs, seating, and other DV correspondence. Sergeant Holden-Worthen has served as a Girl Scout Troop Leader, Public Relations Rep for CDAC, and Mentor for ELHS. She was recently named the 65th Air Base Wing African American Heritage Award winner and will PCS to Yokota this month – she will be sorely missed.



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



Tech Sgt. Ryan Boyd, tax assistance volunteer, helps Tech. Sgt. Matthew Offhaus and his family (far right) fill out their tax forms during a tax drive held at the Airman Ministry Center at Lajes Field, Azores, March 14, 2011. (Photo by Guido Melo)

Lt. Col. Robert Dotson, 65th Operations Support Squadron commander, Jeff Adams, 65th Force Support Squadron director, and Maj. Juan Robinson, 65th FSS, pose for a photo during a March Mustache Madness kick-off event at Lajes Field Azores. (Photo by Josh Arends)



Col. Eric Axelbank, 65th Air Base Wing vice commander, congratulates Master Sgts. (far left) Ronald Freeman and Carlos Nurse, both of the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, for their selection for promotion to senior master sergeant. A ceremony was held at the TORC March 11 to honor all the SMSgt-selects. (Photo by Guido Melo).

Col. Eric Axelbank, 65th Air Base Wing vice commander, along with Chief Master Sgt. Marc Dowler, 65th Medical Group superintendent, presents the third-place trophy to Point Guard Eric Merkison, team captain of Lajes DODDS varsity basketball team and son of Master Sgt. Eric Merkison of the Lajes Defense Media Activity Center. The team, often called Falcons, recently won for the first time a trophy from a Department of Defense Dependents School-Europe Division III basketball competition. (Photo by Guido Melo)





Mark your calendar



WICO JOB OPENING: The Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Overseas Program to U.S. military beneficiaries at U.S. installations throughout Europe. We have vacancies for a Part-Time Nutritionist/Dietitian/Nurse in our Lajes Office. Requires a BS in Nutrition, Dietetics, Nursing or Home Economics. Experience in prenatal, maternal or infant nutrition required. Registered Dietitian preferred. Experience with WIC desirable. Must have current driver's license. Must be a U.S. Citizen. Choctaw Archiving Enterprise, a rapidly growing provider of health, social, mental health, and administrative services, will reward your efforts with an attractive hourly salary. For consideration, please e-mail your resume and cover letter to: April.parsells@europe.tricare.osd.mil or fax to: (210) 525-1398.

HEALTH CONSUMER ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 23: The 65th Medical Group is holding a Health Consumer Advisory Council (HCAC) meeting 23 March 23, 2011 at 1330 in the T-416 conference room. This meeting is vital to keeping beneficiaries informed of their benefits that we have to offer to our Lajes Community. All Lajes DoD beneficiaries and Private Organizations are welcome. Please contact Tech. Sgt. Deanne Jackson at 535-3017 for further information.

MARCH MUSTACHE MADNESS: For those participating in the March Mustache Madness competition, the following FSS events are also considered Mustache Madness checkpoints: St. Patrick's Day "The Green Party," March 17 at 7 p.m.; Community Center Wine and Cheese Tasting (members only), March 25 at 5 p.m. at the TORC E-Lounge For each event attended, the person's name will be thrown into a hat for a drawing to be conducted on Mustache Judging Day, March 31 at 4 p.m. at the TORC. For further questions, contact Lt. Col. Rob Dotson at 535-3613.

"A-10s" from page 1

While here, the Thunderbolts were given top-notch support by Airmen of the 65th Air Base Wing.

The transient alert Airmen coordinated parking spots for the aircraft prior to their arrival, then provided Follow Me service, to get the aircraft to the proper parking spot, where technicians were waiting to marshal them in for shut down.

As part of quality services rendered by Lajes Airmen, the 65th OSS members often help the pilots with their bags, answer any questions and give them a big Lajes welcome.

"It feels good getting to personally greet the pilots and be involved with the process of sending Iron to the Fight! We all know that they are heading away from their homes and families, so we offer as much hospitality as we can," said Tech. Sgt. Shannon Hughes, Lajes Coronet Liaison. "We appreciate and support the mission they are doing."

After the pilots go inside for debriefing, the TA personnel assist with servicing the aircraft, and coordinating any ground support equipment that is required.

The A-10s have self-sealing fuel cells that are protected by internal and

Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: Would you like to have a dessert now? No Thanks. Only the check please.

PORTUGUESE: Desejam a sobremesa agora? Não, obrigado. Só a conta se faz favor.

PRONUNCIATION: DehSEHzhahm ah sphbrehMAYsah ahGO-rah? Nawn, ohbreeGAHdoo. Soh ah CONtah, fahshfahVOR.

At the Movies



7 p.m. Friday - The Green Hornet (PG-13)

7 p.m. Saturday - The Rite (PG-13)

4 p.m. Sunday - The Green Hornet (PG-13)

7 p.m. Sunday - The Rite (PG-13)

The Green Hornet: Britt Reid, is a spoiled playboy. When his father dies, Britt meets a resourceful company employee, Kato who builds the ultimate weapon, an indestructible car with every weapon imaginable and Britt decides that in order to be heroes, they will pose as villains. Rated PG-13, 108 min.

The Rite: "The Rite" follows skeptical seminary student Michael Kovak, who reluctantly attends exorcism school at the Vatican. While he's in Rome, Michael meets an unorthodox priest, Father Lucas, who introduces him to the darker side of his faith, uncovering the devil's reach even to one of the holiest places on Earth. Rated PG-13, 130 min

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

CH. 40 (ON-BASE CABLE)
CH. 7 (OFF-BASE SATELLITE) & 96.1 FM

external foam. Manual systems back up their redundant hydraulic flight-control systems. This permits pilots to fly and land when hydraulic power is lost.

The first production A-10A was delivered to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., in October 1975. It was designed for the close air support mission and had the ability to combine large military loads, long loiter and wide combat radius, which proved to be vital assets to the United States and its allies.

"Due to our strategic location, and the services that we provide here, it makes trans-Atlantic crossing possible for the smaller or slower aircraft," said Sergeant Hughes. "We essentially enable 'Global Reach.'"

ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima,
Community Relations Advisor



Q: What is the statue that can be found at the scenic overlook on top of the mount, overlooking Praia bay?

A: The statue overlooking the city of Praia da Vitoria was erected in honor of the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin Mary and was inaugurated Dec. 31, 1999.

The statue is the result of an old project created by some Praia citizens, which goes back to 1983. This group of local religious people thought the scenic overlook at Serra do Facho--overlooking the bay and the city of Praia--would be a good location for the statue of the Virgin Mary.

This group of Praia citizens then sought and received the help and support from many immigrant citizens from Praia residing in the U.S. and Canada, who sent their monetary contributions throughout the years to help with the construction of the statue.

Currently, a radio amateur club has its headquarters inside the base or pedestal of the statue.

From the overlook area right in front of the statue, one can see a magnificent vista of the whole bay, the city, and surrounding areas. This is a very popular spot among the tourists who visit the island, especially during the summer months.