

# Crossroads

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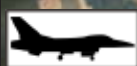
Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

## Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha  
Threat Level: Low

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



556  
SORTIES

10,240  
LODGED



2.9 million  
gallons  
FUEL ISSUED

### Appointment:

Base: 535-3261

Off base: 295-573-261

### Emergency:

Base: 911

Off base: 295-571-911



### Weekend

#### Weather Forecast (Lajes Weather Flight)

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

Partly Cloudy  
Wind N 30-45 mph

High 61F / Low 54F



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

Partly Cloudy / Mostly Cloudy  
Wind N 25-40 mph  
NE 25-35 mph

High 63F / Low 57F



## Lajes Field aids C-130...in the fight



A C-130 Hercules from Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., prepares for takeoff after receiving fuel at Lajes Field, Azores, April 11, 2011. The C-130, which is heading downrange, can fly clandestine or low visibility missions to provide air refueling for special operations aircraft. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)

By Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell  
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

A C-130 Hercules from Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., refueled at Lajes Field, Azores, before heading downrange April 11.

"This is my seventh deployment in my five years of being in," said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Rogers, 16th Special Operations Squadron aerial gunner.

Sergeant Rogers added that he picked the job because of the way it contributes to the Air Force mission.

The 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels unit provided the aircraft with more than 3,780 gallons.

"We provide an average of 280,000 gallons a month

to various aircraft," said Staff Sgt. Ashley Graham, 65th LRS fuels accountant.

U.S. military and foreign nations' aircraft pass through Lajes Field for fuel, crew rest and other aircraft support before continuing on their missions. Lajes Field's unique location aids aircraft in crossing the Atlantic.

The wing plays a vital role in contingency operations, by enabling expeditionary movement, and global communications to combatant commanders and supporting joint, coalition, and NATO operations.

Lajes' war cry, "6-5...in the fight," was demonstrated in action through the wing's uncompromising support of the C-130 aircraft from Cannon AFB.

## E3 AWACS at Lajes



An E-3 Sentry lands at Lajes Field, Azores, April 11, 2011, before continuing on its mission. The E-3, often referred to as the Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), received more than 2,000 gallons of jet fuel before departing Lajes for its mission downrange. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)



# Lajes leads the way with new tool for ORI

By Master Sgt. Yolanda Horsely  
65th Air Base Wing IG



What does it take to prepare for an upcoming Operational Readiness Inspection?

First, a commander, like Col. Jose Rivera, who sees the excellence in us, inspires and empowers us to "take it to the fight."

Second, Airmen that really want to excel. Third, the right tools to excel.

Our last self-inspection database was a good tool, but without the capabilities to upgrade, backup, or fix technical problems, it was of no use.

While searching for a new database, we discovered that the Air Force Inspection Agency, along with the SAF/IG had asked the Air Force Reserve Center to test the Management Internal Control Toolset.

They wanted to ensure MICT could support the future goals of integrating all inspection systems from cradle to grave. The Air Force Inspection Agency titled this concept, "TIGIRS" (The Inspector General Inspection Reporting System). TIGIRS is expected to be released a few years from now. The Air Force Reserve Command has been using MICT for several years to manage their self-inspections, but we

are among the three bases within the United States Air Forces in Europe being given the opportunity to actually test the program for the Air Force.

MICT is not just an inspection checklist or an application to track open discrepancies, but a way to help self inspection managers to control their entire program.

This system consolidates all inspection checklists into a centralized database (excluding the Health Services Inspection and the Logistics Compliance Assessment Program at this time.) MICT enables leaders at all levels to track and manage programs and discrepancies and will streamline the steps previously used to manage the SIP program.

Most of the checklists are pre-loaded but will need to be selected for each work center. MICT interfaces with Excel, XML, Acrobat (PDF), and other word files, which will give us the capabilities to create local checklists, if needed. The appointment letters, checklists, tracking and reports are all generated within the system so that leadership can generate a report to check the compliance of units at any given moment.

The MICT will be implemented during the April/May SIP. By the time the ORI rolls around in September, we will be "models of excellence" and proven by the results from work that will be documented in the MICT system.

**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's Action Line  
at 535-4240 or 65abw.actionline@lajes.af.mil.

**Col. Jose Rivera**  
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing

# Lajes Exchange promotes healthier living

By Judy Anstey  
Azores Base Exchange

According to the New York Times, one-third of Americans will have broken their New Year's resolutions by the end of January. Understanding that most resolutions center around a healthier lifestyle, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service is making it easier to live up to goals specific to health and fitness.

The Exchange School Meal Program, which provides more than 24,000 lunches daily to

overseas school children, has discontinued frying in all schools and even offers gluten-free and vegetarian meals. Among other menu changes, the schools serve whole grain breads, cookies and rice, 100-percent fruit juice, reduced fat and/or low sodium entrées as well as an expanded assortment of fruits and vegetables.

While the Lajes fast food selection is limited treating the kids to fast foods while traveling

**To read more on "Exchange" see page 4**



Ana Vieira, store worker, João Toste, store worker, and Daniel Pereira, store manager, hold some of the assortment of fruits available at the Lajes Shoppette. (Courtesy photo)



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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# New 'MoneyU' financial program helps Airmen plan for future, reduces impact on mission

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

Similar to an unending need to stay healthy and be physically fit, many people sometimes wonder if the struggle for total financial success will ever end.

There is good news. The Airman and Family Readiness Center's financial advisors, assigned to the 65th Force Support Squadron, are here to help members reach their financial goals.

According to an accredited financial counselor at Lajes, James McDaniel, financial readiness is a crucial part of military readiness, because it enhances mission success.

"Personal financial readiness has a direct impact on military readiness and mission accomplishment," Mr. McDaniel said. "Those Airmen who have financial problems and no plan to improve their financial situation often times feel hopeless, which has an adverse impact on military mission readiness."

Recently, a new online program called "MoneyU" was launched, and Lajes was selected as a "test-bed" for the training program.

This program requires Airmen in the ranks of E1-E4 to volunteer and participate for six weeks. The Airmen must agree to complete the entire program, according to Mr. McDaniel.

Apart from the "MoneyU" program, the A&FRC also offers other personal financial readiness programs at Lajes that have helped many Airmen who are on the road to building wealth and achieving their financial goals. Some of the programs are, "riding out the storm," which teaches members on how to invest in a turbulent market, "Money Management and Couples: (How to Make it Work!)," and financial planning for home buying.

One of the beneficiaries of Lajes' personal financial advice and training programs, Tech. Sgt. Seth Berry, said a visit with his spouse to a financial counselor at Lajes changed his financial status.

Sergeant Berry, assistant chief controller at the air traffic control tower, shared his experience during his visit to the financial counselor.

"Mr. McDaniel talked to us about an array of different financial subjects," Sergeant Berry said. "But if I have to narrow it down to the most helpful (based on our financial goal), I would have to say his advice on the Thrift Savings Plan, and the repercussions of taking the

REDUX installment, were the ones that stuck out the most."

Mr. McDaniel explained to the Berrys about all the different Thrift Savings Plan options and which funds would be best based on their goals.

"He showed us a projected path to retire as a millionaire," Sergeant Berry said. "He broke it down into simple and easy-to-understand terms; if we put X amount of dollars in per month, with X amount of return per year, the total would be this much at time of maturity."

For the Berrys, one of the repercussions of taking the REDUX installment is the \$30,000 lump sum (\$21,800 after taxes) would end up costing the family nearly \$300,000 in retirement pay.

"Of course, this situation depends on the length of your life and inflation," Sergeant Berry added. "In any case, he made it obvious the smart financial move would be to not take the REDUX."

Furthermore, the Sergeant said he implemented this as soon as they got home from talking with the financial counselor.

"I changed which funds I currently had my TSP contributions going into, to the ones that he suggested and also upped my monthly contribution to meet my long term goals," Sergeant Berry said. "I never planned on taking REDUX, but after speaking with him about it, that plan became even more cemented."

He said after understanding more about financial planning, it was clear to him that setting money aside for savings should not be an impedance for setting some aside for family vacations and special events.

"In other words, save enough to be comfortable when you retire, while keeping enough to be comfortable now," he advised.

Sergeant Berry was not the only person who benefited from a visit--six other Airmen also said they had a financial success story after their meeting with the counselor.

Apart from offering financial classes each week, Mr. McDaniel said more briefings, such as "Take Complete Control: Avoid Drowning in Debt," "Financial Preparedness: Safeguard Your Assets," "Better than a Budget" and "Raising Financially Fit Kids," among others, are scheduled between May and June-- and the counselor urged everyone to take advantage of them.

To read more on "MoneyU" see page 6

## ASKED

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

By Eduardo Lima  
Community Relations Advisor



### Holy Ghost Festival

Every year, the Azoreans, especially the inhabitants of Terceira, celebrate the Holy Ghost Festival. This religious celebration begins Easter Sunday and runs for eight weeks until Pentecost and Trinity Sunday.

This ancient religious tradition began on mainland Portugal around 1296 by the initiative of Portuguese Queen Isabel. She founded the first Holy Ghost brotherhood, whose intent was to honor the poorest man in the kingdom. According to tradition, the poorest man was placed on the king's throne and crowned "emperor" for one day during a ceremony held in his honor in the royal church.

Following the crowning ceremony, a royal procession took the crowned man from the church to the palace, where a banquet was then offered in his honor. Considered an act of humbleness, the tradition was first introduced in the Azores by the first settlers around 1432 and practiced through subsequent generations.

Though the tradition has disappeared on mainland Portugal, it is still actively celebrated in the Azores, as well as in Azorean immigrant communities in the U.S. (California, New England, Hawaii), Canada and Brazil.

Although royalty and noblemen originally celebrated this religious event, it was adopted by the common people. After they adopted it, the silver crowns replaced the royal crown. Traditionally, during natural catastrophes such as volcanic eruptions and earthquakes, or when someone is seriously ill, the Azoreans would carry the Holy Ghost crowns to the churches and pray for the Holy Ghost to save them.

If their prayers are answered, they host a week-long festival to honor the Holy Ghost. During the season, some members of the brotherhood -- previously selected by lot - are given the honor of keeping the Holy Ghost crowns and flags at their homes in a wooden altar decorated with white paper and flowers for one week.

In the evenings, the festival hosts, relatives and other guests gather in front of the altar to pray, using rosary, and worship the Holy Ghost.

Later in the week, on Thursday or Friday afternoon, it's time for the "festa do bezerro" (festival of the calves). The calves, usually two, are fetched from the pastures where they have been grazing year round and are paraded through the village streets, after being garlanded

To read more on "Holy Ghost" see page 6



## WING EVENTS

Friday, April 15

- AFAF Pie in the Face, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Cafe Bean

Thursday, April 21

- Earth Week begins

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Saturday, April 16

- Bullfight in Angra bullring, 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door two hours before the show.

Sunday, April 24

- Holy Ghost Festival, taking place all over the island

### "Exchange" from page 2

doesn't have to be a diet-buster as virtually every establishment offers healthy dining options. Subway's Fresh Fit menu provides eight sandwiches with less than six grams of fat, baked chips and a diet beverage. Burger King offers an online "Build-a-Meal" menu that reveals nutrition facts for various meal combinations. Burger King also allows diners to select a side salad instead of fries for the same price. In addition to Subway and Burger King, other options, including Taco Bell and Pizza Hut, offer a wide variety of resolution-worthy initiatives. Exchange restaurant nutrition information is available online at:

<http://www.shopmyexchange.com/docs/nutrition.pdf>

In line with the push for greater physical readiness there are indications the Lajes community is also buying healthier food in retail outlets. The Lajes Shoppette recently ranked number three in the sale of "Operation Be Fit" items. "Initially we weren't on the program," stated store manager Daniel Pereira. "We brought in the items on trial and already our sales beat those of Ramstein, Lakenheath, Aviano and other larger European communities. Now we're looking for other healthy snack choices for our customers." The latest addition to the healthy snack assortment at the Shoppette is fresh fruit.

## Sex Signals



"Sex Signals," from Catharsis Productions, mixed improvisational comedy, education, and audience interaction to educate more than 600 Team Lajes members during Sexual Assault Awareness Month at the Community Activities Center, April 11.

Catharsis Productions ensures all actors are certified rape victim advocates or are experienced in sexual assault prevention education.

"This was my first time seeing this performance, and it was not only informative but very entertaining," said Staff Sgt. Cyline Kendrick, 65th Air Base Wing Command Section NCO in charge.

Sergeant Kendrick is one of eleven trained victim advocates at Lajes Field.

"Please remember that if you are a victim of sexual assault, you did nothing wrong," said Capt. Fred Doehle, 65th Air Base Wing Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. "The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program is here for you 24/7."

If anyone is interested in becoming a victim advocate, and is active duty or on active status or a DOD civilian employee, he or she is encouraged to call the SARC office at 535-2124.

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# Weeks remaining until the...

# ORI

## LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



**Name:** Yolanda Horsley  
**Rank:** Master Sergeant  
**Unit:** 65th Air Base Wing IG office  
**Hometown:** Colorado Springs, Colo.  
**Duty Title:** Superintendent, IG Complaints & Inquiries  
**Accomplishments:** Sergeant Horsley manages and executes Inspector General Complaints Resolution & Fraud/Waste/Abuse programs supporting 1,600 military and civilian Personnel.

She educates and trains members of base populace on their rights and responsibilities in regards to the IG system. She conducts analysis and allegations of violations and informs wing commander of matters indicating systemic morale problems impeding mission efficiency. Finally, as the wing self-inspection monitor, Sergeant Horsley implements the new Management Internal Control Tool for the upcoming SIP and Operational Readiness Inspection.



**Name:** Monica Ritze  
**Rank:** GS-13  
**Unit:** 65th Force Support Squadron  
**Hometown:** Nekoosa, Wis.  
**Duty Title:** Civilian Personnel Officer  
**Accomplishments:** Monica Ritze is currently the Civilian Personnel Officer who is responsible for providing guidance and advice to commanders, managers and supervisors on all civilian personnel issues for all Lajes

Local National and U.S. civilian employees. The Civilian Personnel Office provides assistance for current and prospective civilian employees in a wide variety of areas. Services include, but are not limited to: staffing, classification, employee management relations, overseas allowances and civilian training.

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



## The Judge Advocate General visits Lajes

Lt. Gen. Richard Harding, The Judge Advocate General, greets members of the Office of Special Investigation, Det. 516, during the his visit to the 65th Air Base Wing headquarters building for an inspection of the Judge Advocate office April 12. (Photo by Guido Melo)

## Senior NCO of the Month



Master Sgt. Nikki Drago receives the Senior NCO of the Month award from his commander during his deployment to the 376th Air Expeditionary Wing. Sergeant Drago was deployed to the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan, from the 65th Security Forces Squadron. (Courtesy photo)



## Warrior Day

Staff Sgt. Mackenzie Stearns, 65th Security Forces Squadron, searches Staff Sgt. Michael Berish with a metal detector during a Lajes Warrior Day event held here April 8, 2011. (Photo by Guido Melo)



## Mark your calendar

### Lajes Field 2011 1st Quarter Awards Breakfast

**When:** Wednesday 27 Apr 11 from 0800-0900

**Where:** TORC Ballroom

**Uniform:** ABUs/BDUs for all nominees and attendees

**Cost:** \$10 members, \$11 non-members

**Menu:** Buffet w/ scrambled eggs, fried potatoes, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy, and fruit.

Contact your unit POC for tickets.

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

**MyCAA:** Spouses of service members in pay grades E-1 to E-5, W-1 to W-2, and O-1 to O-2 are eligible for financial aid up to \$4,000 to pursue licenses, certificates, certifications or Associate's Degrees. Contact Heather at 535-3355.

**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.

**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.

**FINANCIAL WORKSHOP SERIES:** Take one or all of the classes, which are offered by an Accredited Financial Counselor. Mr. McDaniel is available to provide one-on-one or couple's personal financial counseling. The next in the series includes: Money Management & Couples, Have You Fed Your Pig Today, and Financial Planning for Home Buying.

**EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY:** Romina Newman is the new on-site representative. ERAU offers a wide variety of degree and non-degree programs. For information and a copy of the University catalog, contact Romina in Bldg. T-146, 535-3375, or ecaz@erau.edu.

**MANGO LANGUAGES PROGRAM:** Mango Languages is an award-winning, highly acclaimed, self-paced online language learning system! Mango is designed to teach users simple, practical, and polite conversation skills in a foreign language. For more information, contact the Base Library at 535-3688.



## Feature

### Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



**ENGLISH:** My car will not start. Can you call a tow truck?

**PORTUGUESE:** O meu carro não arranca? Pode-me chamar um reboque?

**PRONUNCIATION:** Oo meyoH CARho bow ahRHANKa. Pode May shaMAR oom rheBHK?

### At the Movies



**7 p.m. Friday** - Gnomeo & Juliet (G)

**7 p.m. Saturday** - Justin Bieber: Never say never (G)

**4 p.m. Sunday** - Gnomeo & Juliet (G)

**7 p.m. Sunday** - Justin Bieber: Never say never (G)

**Gnomeo & Juliet:** Garden gnomes Gnomeo and Juliet have as many obstacles to overcome as their quasi namesakes when they are caught up in a feud between neighbors. But with plastic pink flamingos and lawnmower races in the mix, can this young couple find lasting happiness? Rated G, 84 min.

**Justin Bieber: Never say never:** Follows Justin Bieber with some footage of performances from his 2010 concert tour. Rated G, 105 min.

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



personal financial consultations until they are successfully on the road to getting out of debt.

This program has a lot of benefits, because it helps improve Airmen's self-confidence about making informed financial decisions.

It gives them a true feeling of financial security with little or no debt, an emergency fund, and money to meet their important financial goals, he said. It's a real plan for building wealth, instead of a life full of debt.

"Financial fitness directly affects personal readiness and therefore has a serious impact on military readiness," Mr. McDaniel said. "If Airmen are in debt, have no money in an emergency fund and are not saving and investing money for personal important goals, then their minds are often diverted from their military mission to their own money problems and issues. The financially successful Airmen are personally ready for any contingency, just as every Airman must be ready for any military contingency."

## ASKED

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

By Eduardo Lima  
Community Relations Advisor

### "Holy Ghost" from page 3

with flowers, paper ribbons and cowbells. The calves usually lead the parade followed by the hosts, guests and musicians.

Later in the evening, the calves are slaughtered and their meat is divided in different portions. Some is saved for the Sunday's banquet, while the remaining meat is given as alms to relatives and the town's poorest people.

On Sunday — the most awaited and important day of the celebration — activities start early in the morning with preparation of the food to be served later. At around 11:30 a.m., guests start arriving at the hosts' house and a Holy Ghost parade forms and heads toward the church with the crowns and flags for the crowning ceremony during Mass.

After the Mass, the priest blesses the crowns and the individuals who are "crowned" — usually the hosts' children or the hosts themselves. The procession then heads back to the house through the village main streets with the honorees carrying the crowns on their heads.

Later in the afternoon, hundreds of guests take a seat for the Holy Ghost banquet that is served with Holy Ghost soup, boiled beef, Alcatra, sweet bread and the local wine, "vinho de cheiro."

The last event of the day and of the long week is when the hosts and guests take the crowns and flags, again in a parade, to the next honoree's home, where a similar celebration begins for a new family.