

Crossroads

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Vol. 16, No. 18 • May 6, 2011

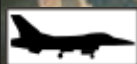
Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

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



597
SORTIES

11,208
LODGED



3.2 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.)

Showers and Winds
Wind NW 20-30 mph
W 25-40 mph
High 62F / Low 56F



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

Showers and Winds
Wind W 10-20 mph
NW 5-10 mph
High 64F / Low 57F



Transient alert Airmen from the 65th Operations Support Squadron, provide parking support for a Navy P-3 Orion during a "gas-n-go" at Lajes Field, Azores, May 3, 2011. The P-3 and its crew were going to Naval Station Rota, Spain. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

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

A Navy P-3 Orion and crew stopped at Lajes for a "gas-n-go" May 3, 2011, on their way to Naval Station Rota, Spain.

The P-3, assigned to Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Two, commonly referred to as VQ-2, was coming from Curaçao, an island in the southern Caribbean Sea, off the Venezuelan coast, when it transited Lajes.

During its short stay, the Navy aircraft, which helps deliver critical electronic combat information to U.S. forces, was marshaled and refueled by Lajes Airmen.

Staff Sgts. John Coleman and Chance Kimpton, 65th Operations Support Squadron, provided transient alert support for the aircraft.

"It's pretty cool working with a different military service," said Sergeant Coleman, a traditional C-130 crew chief.

"Once we received a call about an inbound aircraft, we would coordinate with the command post, to see if they had the flight plan," Sergeant Coleman said. "Once we do that, we would call the tower for access before receiving the aircraft."

According to the transient alert Airman, working with the Navy P-3 is just like working with any medium military aircraft. "P-3s are pretty much self-sufficient," he added. "This aircraft is considered to be a medium one, so they didn't require aerospace ground equipment, such as stands

and a power cart, like other bigger aircraft. When the crew got off the aircraft, we asked them what support they needed, and today, they are simply doing a 'gas-n-go.'"

As part of our job here at Lajes, we provide "follow me" service for the aircraft, said Sergeant Coleman. "The aircraft followed us to the parking spot, and we put chalk on it."

In no time the fuels section was informed about the approximate gallons of fuel needed by the P-3, and the team was on its way to the flightline from the 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

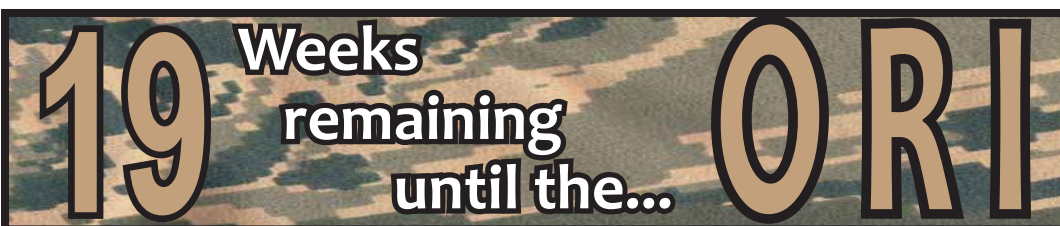
While waiting for the aircraft to refuel, some of the crewmembers commented on the services provided by Lajes.

"It's always good service every time we stop here," said one of the P-3 crew. "We've stopped through here a few times, and everybody enjoys sitting up and watching the whole island when we come in for landing. It's a beautiful place."

According to the crew, the service they receive at Lajes is exceptional. Every member of Team Lajes they have come across as always been helpful.

"We are the mission of the base," said Sergeant Coleman. "Without us they might not be able to continue or complete their mission."

The 65th Air Base Wing and Lajes Field is the U.S. Air Force's en-route, expeditionary-focused, combat support organization for aircraft and crew members traveling across the Atlantic.





Reluctantly saying goodbye

By Maj. Thomas Ringlein
65th Logistics Readiness Squadron

I was asked to write a commentary this week about anything in general--what I thought about this or that--and all I could think about was the fact I'm not ready to say goodbye yet, and I wonder what it is that makes me dreadful of my PCS date...June 3.

During my 685 days, 9 hours, and 44 minutes I have been on this island, I have routinely run across two kinds of people. There are those who anxiously circle the date on the calendar, announce their PCS date to anyone who will listen, post it on Facebook every day ("33 and a wake-up!"), and otherwise make sure everyone knows how happy they are to be leaving. Then you have the other type who cherish every single second on this island, and dread the day they will leave. They're usually quiet about their departure, until someone asks, and they're forced to think about it again. Can you guess the category I fall into?

Which category fits you best? Is your glass half full, or half empty? Do you know why you

fall into the category you do? Okay, this is looking like a pop quiz, so I will end there. The point is, if you really take a moment to think about the things that make you want to leave, chances are, you will find two or three that make you want to stay. My reasons for wanting to stay are probably similar to yours-- I live on a beautiful island, work in a diverse squadron full of world-class professionals, and am part of a wing with years of history that plays a vital role in the national defense of our country. I am surrounded by some of the best friends I (or anyone in my family) have ever had. I am also consistently rubbing shoulders with some of the best mentors I've ever known, who possess focus on the mission and a razor sharp vision that is second to none. I also want to stay because, in a moment of weakness, I promised my kids I would get them a dog when we got to Illinois. True story. What was I thinking?

But we also have good reasons for wanting to leave...great job opportunities at our new assignment, perhaps hooking up with old

To read more on "goodbye" see page 6

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



Members from the 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron pose on the Lajes Field flightline Apr. 8, 2011. 65 LRS enables expeditionary forces by providing all transportation, supply, and logistics planning functions at Lajes Field. (Photo by Guido Melo)

Anti-terrorism travel warnings and advisories

By Tech. Sgt. Jason Schieble
65th Air Base Wing Anti-Terrorism
Force Protection

On Oct. 3 2010, the state department released the following travel warning for Europe:

"The State Department alerts U.S. citizens to the potential for terrorist attacks in Europe. Current information suggests that al-Qa'ida and affiliated organizations continue to plan terrorist attacks. European governments have taken action to guard against a terrorist attack and some have spoken publicly about the heightened threat conditions. Terrorists may elect to use a variety of means and weapons and target both official and private interests. U.S. citizens are reminded of the potential for terrorists to attack public transportation systems and other tourist infrastructure. Terrorists have targeted and attacked subway and rail systems, as well as aviation and maritime

services. U.S. citizens should take every precaution to be aware of their surroundings and to adopt appropriate safety measures to protect themselves when traveling. We continue to work closely with our European allies on the threat from international terrorism, including al-Qa'ida. Information is routinely shared between the U.S. and our key partners in order to disrupt terrorist plotting, identify and take action against potential operatives, and strengthen our defenses against potential threats."

Some may think that bad things can't happen to us here at Lajes. Do you think the security forces Airmen that fell victim to a terrorist attack at the Frankfurt Airport Mar. 2, 2011 thought they would be attacked? They probably did not. It is imperative that we maintain our situational awareness when on and off the installation so we become more aware, and alert sensors.



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.

Submissions can be e-mailed to 65abw.pa@lajes.af.mil or faxed to 535-6326 and are due the Thursday prior to the required publication date. Call 535-6161 for more details.

This Air Force funded newspaper is an authorized weekly publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas.

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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Optometry team helps keep vision in focus at Lajes

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

The 65th Medical Group's Optometry Clinic is a crucial unit at Lajes—it takes care of about 70-90 ocular problems and appointments at Lajes every month, fulfilling its mission to provide clearer vision for Lajes customers.

Within the 65th Medical Group, the optometry clinic is the primary eye-care provider for base members, and is operated by a two-member team, led by Capt. Robert Carlsen, Lajes Optometry Clinic flight commander. Also on the team is a certified para-optometric technician, Tech. Sgt. Latoaya Cason, NCO in charge.

The captain is the sole optometrist at Lajes, and according to him, the job gives him a sense of accomplishment every day.

"I love to see when someone's quality of life is improved by correcting their vision deficiencies," said Captain Carlsen.

The optometry clinic takes care of active duty and dependents, civilians, contractors and DoDDEA teachers and their families.

"We provide pre-operative visits and paperwork for the PRK/LASIK refractive surgery for active duty members," the optometrist said. "We do color vision testing, as well as frame repairs/adjustments on a walk-in basis for all Lajes beneficiaries."

These are just a few of the services provided by the team.

According to Captain Carlsen, his team recently had several children, who had been in desperate need of glasses, come through the clinic.

"Their parents came in to give me feedback on the overall improvement that the child and parent noticed in the child's quality of life," the captain said. "I get to make an impact on things like that, and that's why I love my job."

The team said the favorite part of the job is being able to give their patients clear sight.

The maintenance of ocular health and correction of eye problems are two missions of the team. In order to get the job done, the optometry clinic works with an array of tools. Some of them include pressure reading and automated visual field equipment, and digital retinal photographing machines.

"We are a full scope optometry practice with tools to do everything a private practice could do," Captain Carlsen said. "We are also fully capable of treating basic ocular trauma, such as superficial ocular foreign bodies."

The clinic also provides services, such as color vision testing and surgical screening. The team helps prescribe, dispense and repair spectacles, fit soft contact lenses, refractive surgery pre and post operative care, and driver's license renewals. It also manages ocular disease with pressure readings, automated visual fields, and digital retinal photographs.

When an emergency situation arises, if Captain Carlsen and Sergeant Cason are not available at Lajes, the member has to go to a local provider or be transferred to either Germany or England for treatment.

"Having optometry here saves the Air Force the expense and hassle of having to send all active duty Air Force (members) to local providers or off island to accomplish the required vision testing for their jobs," Captain Carlsen said. "It also provides a convenience for those requiring spectacle or contact lens correction to get their annual exams and prescription updates."

While the team of experts at the optometry clinic is on Terceira Island working 24-7, Team Lajes rests assured the health of their vision will be properly maintained. The optometry clinic staff does not work alone when it comes to treating patients at Lajes. They work closely with other units at the medical group to ensure that patients are taken care of as a whole.

Captain Carlsen and Sergeant Cason said they make referrals as necessary to family medicine, and vice versa. They work closely with flight medicine to ensure all patients on flying/control status are current and their required vision requirements are met.

"Teamwork is the heart of our clinic," the optometrist said. "Since we have such a small clinic, communication and teamwork are very important to allow us to provide the best possible eye care and patient experience each time to any of our beneficiaries. Without teamwork, the responsibilities associated with running our clinic fall on one or the other unnecessarily and make it difficult and more burdensome to provide our patients with the customer service they deserve."

Captain Carlsen and Sergeant Cason make an impact on the Lajes mission, by taking care of an average of six patients each day. According to them, they get a sense of mission accomplishment when the needs or concerns of their patients are met.

Lajes members may get more information about the services offered by the optometry clinic by calling 535-3554.

Capt. Robert Carlsen, Lajes Optometry Clinic flight commander, uses a biomicroscope to check Melissa Schmidt's eyes during a routing ocular test at the Lajes Optometry Clinic April 26, 2011. The optometry clinic, the primary eye-care provider for members at Lajes, takes care of about 90 patients a month. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Olufemi Owolabi)





WING EVENTS

Friday, May 10

- Wing Exercise

Saturday, May 13

- First Sergeant dodge ball tournament at Chace Fitness Center, 7:30 a.m.

- Taste of Asia at Base Chapel, 11:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

A local group, consisting of 15-string guitar players, called "Grupo de Violas da Ilha Terceira," will be performing Saturday (May 7) in the Auditorium of Ramo Grande in Praia at 9 p.m. Admission is free. Everyone is invited.

Honor Guard training

The Lajes Field Honor Guard's primary mission is to pay respect to our fallen comrades who have served. Our secondary mission is to support ceremonial and protocol functions. We strive to enhance the unity, teamwork, professionalism, and esprit de corps of the 65th Air Base Wing.

Candidates will attend a week-long Basic, Honors, Protocols, and Ceremonies course. Once qualified, members are required to attend weekly proficiency training on Thursdays from 1500-1700 in the Command Post Building. No experience is required, and all are welcome to join! If you are interested, contact Tech Sgt. Jose Ramon at DSN: 535-2065 or at 65abw.honorguard@lajes.af.mil.



Team Lajes welcomes newest member!

Aaron Atlee Morgan-Craig was born Wednesday the 27th of April to Master Sergeant Phillip Craig and his wife, Ethel. **Congratulations!**

Share your newborn's photo! Just send it to 65 ABW/PA, and we'll happily place your newborn's photo in the Crossroads Xtra.

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



Name: Dawn Black
Rank: Major
Unit: 65th Medical Operations Squadron
Hometown: Niceville, Florida
Duty Title: Women's Health Nurse Practitioner/Clinical Medicine Flight Commander
Accomplishments: Maj. Dawn Black directs the Medical Group's Clinical Medicine Flight, to include Family Health, Ambulance Services,

Allergy/Immunizations, and Preventative Health Assessment. She also provides routine obstetric and gynecologic care to female beneficiaries at Lajes. Her contributions were key in the Medical Group's "Excellent" Health Services Inspection rating and American Association of Ambulatory Health Care.



Name: Ricky Baptista
Rank: LGS-11
Unit: 65th Medical Operations Squadron
Hometown: Toronto, Canada
Duty Title: Health Promotion Manager/Exercise Physiologist
Accomplishments: Sr. Baptista is the tip of the spear, leading Lajes preventative health initiatives and fitness programs. He has been

recognized as the Cat. II Portuguese Civilian of the year for 2008 and 2009. His contributions helped the Lajes Health and Wellness Center garner an "Outstanding" evaluation on its most recent Health Services Inspection, Feb. 2011. His efforts have led the 65th ABW to #1 status in the Air Force for fitness readiness, while also acquiring 50K in award money from USAFE for decreasing Body Mass Index.

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



Half Marathon 2011

Team Lajes members pose for a photo after participating in the 21st Half Marathon May 1, 2011. More than 30 members of Team Lajes participated in the race, which took the runners from Serreta to São Mateus. (Courtesy photo)



Women self-defense class

Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Nagy demonstrates a self-defense move on Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Washington during a self-defense class at the base fitness center April 28, 2011. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Family dining-out

Cynthia Burney speaks to more than 200 Team Lajes members at the Month of the Military Children dining out April 30, 2011. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)



Mark your calendar

REMARRIED FAMILIES' LECTURE: Dr. Avraham Scherman, professor of counseling at University of Oklahoma, will be presenting a short lecture followed by a question and answer period on the topic of remarried families, related issues and strategies to succeed. The presentation is on Wednesday, May 4, 12 p.m. at the Community Center. The session is open to everyone on base. Snacks will be provided.



65TH CPTS FINANCE AND DISBURSING OFFICES CLOSURE: On Friday, May 13, the 65th CPTS Finance Office will be closed at 11:30 a.m. and the Disbursing Office will be closed at 11 a.m. for an official squadron function. Questions concerning the Finance Office closure can be directed to MSgt Lana Miller at 535-CASH and for the Disbursing Office SSgt Evon Pierce at 535-2414.

MPS OFFICE CLOSURE: The MPS will be closed on Thursday, May 5, for Warrior Day training. In the event of an emergency contact 926-527-508.

AFSA BOSS & BUDDY NIGHT: A boss and buddy night organized by AFSA chapter 1653 is scheduled for May 11, 2011 16-18 p.m. at the TORC. There will be free wings for members/new members.

"goodbye" from page 2

friends, maybe moving closer to family, more sports opportunities for our kids, or getting back into a hobby you might have given up to move here. These are all good reasons. Are these the reasons you want to leave, or is there something else? Before you depart this island oasis in the Atlantic, take some time to think about the good times. Perhaps then, you'll no longer be inclined to Facebook "33 and a wake up." Instead, maybe you could post, "I've had 680 beautiful days in this wonderful place. May the goodness of Lajes live forever in my heart."

So long Lajes.... and thanks for the memories.

Monday Mentorship Lunch and Learns

The Lajes Field Career Assistance Advisor presents May's Monday Mentorship Lunch and Learn seminars. The third and fourth installments of this series will address time management strategies and overcoming test anxiety. These one-hour lunchtime seminars will be presented by the Lajes Military Family Life Consultant, so please come join us in the Education Center Auditorium (Bldg T-146, 1st Floor) at 1100. The seminar for Time Management Strategies--Helpful Hints will be held on May 16, and Overcoming Test Anxiety (Testing for Promotion) will be on May 23. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Master Sgt. Michael Hanks at 535-3276.

Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: Where is the bathroom?

PORTUGUESE: Onde fica a casa de banho?

PRONUNCIATION: ONdeh FEEkah ah CAHzah doo BAHNyoo?

At the Movies



7 p.m. Friday - Rango

7 p.m. Saturday - Mars Needs Moms

4 p.m. Sunday - Rango

7 p.m. Sunday - Red Riding Hood

Rango: A chameleon that aspires to be a swashbuckling hero finds himself in a Western town plagued by bandits and is forced to literally play the role in order to protect it. Rated PG, 107 min.

Mars Needs Moms: Milo embarks on a quest to save his mom - a wild adventure that involves stowing away on a spaceship, navigating a multi-level planet and taking on the alien nation and their leader. Rated PG, 88 min.

Red Riding Hood: For decades, the people of the village of Dagerhorn have maintained an uneasy truce with the werewolf, who prowls at every full moon, by offering the beast a monthly animal sacrifice to quench its appetite. PG-13, 100 min.

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

BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 7: 6:30 p.m. Cabouco, Fontinhas



ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima
Community Relations Advisor



Question: What's the name of the rock located off the coastal road on the way to Angra?



Answer: The name of the rock mentioned in the question is actually "Ilhéu das Cabras" (goats' islet) as it is officially known to the Portuguese and listed in the official maps.

The Americans call it "split rock" because of its configuration, which is actually split in two rocks. This private property received its name because the local farmers from the neighboring village of Porto Judeu and other surrounding villages used to take goats and sheep to the islet by boat for them to graze there.

The two small islets are actually part of an old and probably inactive volcano crater that is partially submerged. Nobody seems to know, however, how the rocks split, but this could have been caused by the maritime erosion and subsequent cave-in, or another volcanic eruption.

As far as the history of the islets goes, there are unconfirmed stories that a German U-boat used to hide between the two rocks to escape from the allied navy ships and aircraft during World War II, while it was hunting for the U.S. convoys that were bringing supplies to Europe. Regardless of the stories, it's a breathtaking sight for all who pass by, and just one of the many unique facets that make Terceira special.