

# Crossroads

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Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

## Force Protection




Current FPCON: Alpha  
Threat Level: Low

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

 **714  
SORTIES**

**13,360  
LODGED** 

 **3.9 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.)**  
Mostly Cloudy  
Wind SE 15 mph  
E 10 mph

High 73F / Low 59F

**Sunday (a.m. / p.m.)**  
Mostly Cloudy  
Wind E 15 mph  
NE 10 mph

High 70F / Low 55F

## Historic Puma mission ends at Lajes

By Eduardo Lima  
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Another example of extraordinary partnership between the U.S. and Portuguese Air Forces took place here May 23, 2011, through the support of the 65th Air Base Wing and 729th Air Mobility Squadron.

The support involved the use of a 60K loader from 729 AMS to help pack spare helicopter blades and other parts from three SA-330 Puma helicopters that were once assigned to Air Base No. 4, into a Portuguese air force C-130 aircraft.

"The Puma helicopters have already returned to mainland Portugal after serving in the Azores for more than 30 years, but the spare blades stayed behind because they were too big and needed the help of a K-loader to be put inside the C-130," said Alferes (Lt) Fernando Silva, Military Air Transportation's officer in charge at Air Base No. 4.

The Puma helicopters, which were recently replaced by two EH-101 Merlin helicopters, first arrived to the Azores in 1977, and have since provided invaluable service, not only to the Azorean people, but also to distressed sailors, saving numerous lives.

During the mission in the Azores, the Puma helicopters logged an impressive record of accomplishments. They were used to evacuate 2,602 patients from other Azorean



The Puma helicopters, which were recently replaced by two EH-101 Merlin helicopters, first arrived to the Azores in 1977, and have since provided invaluable service, not only to the Azorean people, but also to distressed sailors, saving numerous lives. (Photo by Guido Melo)



The 65th Air Base Wing and 729th Air Mobility Squadron supported the Portuguese air force mission by helping load Puma helicopter components on a Portuguese C-130. The Puma was retired recently after several decades of distinguished service. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

islands to the archipelago's main hospitals, extract 401 injured or sick crewmembers from ships in a total of 348 medivac missions, and also carry out 351 search and rescue missions. Over the course of these missions, an interesting accomplishment was also logged: 17 babies were born aboard Puma helicopters while en route to a nearby hospital. These helicopters also played a major role supporting relief efforts during natural catastrophes, particularly in the aftermath of the Jan. 1, 1980, earthquake that rocked the islands of Terceira, Graciosa and São Jorge, as well as the mudslides in Ribeira Quente on the Island of São Miguel, Oct. 31, 1997.

Although the new EH-101 Merlin helicopters are newer and more capable, the Azoreans will always remember the silhouette of the dependable Puma flying over the Azorean skies with feelings of nostalgia.

**15** Weeks **remaining** until the... **ORI**



# Mighty fine...729!

By Master Sgt. Elliott G. Weir  
729th Air Mobility Squadron



Have you ever wondered who keeps track of the multiple aircrafts you see traveling through Lajes Field? The answer is quite simple: The men and women of the 729th Air Mobility Control Center. The AMCC is the focal point of operations, providing mission monitoring support to all aircraft and aircrews throughout their journey. It does this by coordinating ground support activities, to include maintenance, aerial port services, aircrew support, etc., and the reporting of all mission movements. Many of the missions that come through Lajes Field are derived from 18th Air Force. The Lajes command post has the task of command and control of these missions. Air Force doctrine outlines command and control as "the process of planning, directing, coordinating, and controlling forces and operation." AMC's command and control framework is to provide immediate and effective operational response.

A typical AMCC includes the command post, Maintenance Operation Center, and the Air Terminal Operations Center. Since the draw-down of the 729 AMS back in 2008, the AMCC consists solely of the command post. The ATOC is located down the road, across from the passenger terminal. Another unique facet of the Lajes command post is the unification of the 65th Air Base Wing and 729th Air Mobility Squadron controllers. This partnership has been in place for almost a year and has proven highly successful. When aircrew and personnel come to the command post, they don't see a 65 ABW or 729 AMS controller—they see a command post controller! This means the controllers have to be efficient with U.S. Air Forces

in Europe and Air Mobility Command operating procedures, since there are different requirements for each.

Accurate command and control of all missions assigned to Lajes doesn't only rest with the command post. The Lajes Field tower has the responsibility of monitoring all air traffic, Air Field Management Operations relays the in-traffic information to the applicable agencies, Transit Alert directs the aircraft to the appropriate parking location, and ATOC has the responsibility of servicing the aircraft upon arrival. There are other agencies the command post interacts with to ensure accurate command and control of aircraft arriving and departing Lajes Field. These agencies include transportation, the passenger terminal, fuels, security forces, and lodging.

Upon arrival, the aircrews check-in at the command post, and receive vital mission information, such as lodging assignments, and departure coordination to ensure mission success. If an aircrew has mission critical assets they need stored, the command post is their focal point. Before the aircrews depart, they check-out with the command post, and any changes in mission or flight information are discussed. Also, aircrew and aircraft requirements are coordinated at that time if needed. Once departed, the command post keeps full command and control of the aircraft until it arrives safely at its next destination.

The next time you see an aircraft arriving or departing Lajes, rest assured the men and women of the 729 AMCC have complete control of the mission. Whether midnight or midday, Thanksgiving or New Year's Eve, the command post remains mission-focused. Mighty fine...729!

## 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

## Business Information Meeting and Products Exposition

By Filomena Meneses  
65th Contracting Squadron

The 65th Air Base Wing will host its annual Business Information Meeting and Products Exposition on June 8, at the Top of the Rock Club from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The objective of these events is for the 65th Air Base Wing to explain requirements for doing business with the U.S. government and to give local and regional Azorean vendors an opportunity to showcase their products and services. These events will make it easier for U.S. personnel and Portuguese business owners to interact with one another.

"This is a mutually beneficial event aimed toward informing the local business community how to do business within the structure of U.S. requirements, as well as an opportunity for members of the base organizations to meet with local businesses and become aware of what's available locally," said Senhora Filomena Meneses, the 65th Contracting Squadron's Director of Business Programs.

"Last year we had 39 vendors participating in the Products Exposition and we hope to surpass that number this year," Senhora Meneses added.

The Products Exposition will help business owners in Portugal to advertise their products and services to the American component on base, creating more opportunities for U.S. servicemembers to purchase items locally and regionally. In fiscal year 2010, the 65th Contracting Squadron awarded 78.74 percent of the total dollars to the local economy, the highest percentage since 1994, the first year tracked.

The Products Exposition is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend, especially Lajes Field government purchase cardholders and unit requirement generators, because the event will give them a chance to see the variety of items available and also enable the 65th Air Base Wing to continue its support to the local economy.

For questions or information on how to participate, please contact Senhora Filomena (Phyllis) Meneses at 535-1465.



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.

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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# One stone at a time keeps Lajes flightline safe

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

In an effort to improve safety and eliminate damage to Air Force assets, the 65th Operations Support Squadron Airmen and several volunteers participated in a Foreign Object Elimination walk at the Lajes Field flightline May 19.

More than 30 members helped with the event, which involved picking up stones, rocks, nails, screws, bolts or any material that could cause damage to aerospace equipment and aircraft on the flightline.

"The purpose of FOE is to reduce the hazard of FOD to aerospace equipment and aircraft," said Tech. Sgt. Eric Boyd, 65 OSS quality assurance craftsman. "It is the responsibility of all personnel to ensure FOE is practiced during all aspects of local maintenance, flight operations and supporting functions."

Sergeant Boyd said all personnel, including military, civilian, and contractors working in or traveling through areas near aircraft, munitions, aerospace ground equipment, engines, or components are required to comply with Foreign Object Damage prevention.

The walk started at 8:30 a.m., but volunteers were at the rally point about 30 minutes earlier in order to be briefed on the ground rules and procedures to follow while conducting the walk.

The early morning gathering wasn't just about ground rules—it also involved socialization of volunteers with a treat of breakfast snacks and coffee provided by 65 OSS.

When it was time for the walk, the volunteers lined up in a side-by-side formation with a FOE monitor in front to ensure the walk was

conducted effectively.

Volunteers put every potential FOD found in sealable plastic bags, and in about 30 minutes, they returned to their initial rally point to drop off all debris collected.

According to Crew Chief Tech. Sgt. Johnathon Pennington, the FOD removal process, although a seemingly simple procedure, could save the Department of Defense millions of dollars in terms of damage it could cause to an aircraft if not removed.

Sergeants Pennington and Boyd agreed FOE is critical to the mission here because of the large amount of aircraft transiting in and out of Lajes. As a result, 65 OSS reports all information from FOE walks to the wing FOE monitor, to include weight of FOE collected and number of personnel attending.

One of the volunteers echoed his comment about how vital the weekly FOE walk is to transiting aircraft. "We need to do the FOE every week in support of the mission here to gas up the visiting planes, because a small rock can

destroy the engine," said Chaplain (Capt.) Dominic Vitaliano, 65th Air Base Wing. "This is why I volunteered to do it. Also, it gives us a chance to visit with the 65 OSS personnel."

Sergeant Boyd said the FOE walk isn't restricted to members from the 65 OSS; every Airman at Lajes, including civilians, can volunteer to be part of the walk, as long as they adhere to the flightline clothing policy.

Volunteers aren't authorized to wear metal insignia or badges while on the flightline, hats, wigs, hairpieces, metal hair fasteners, earrings or any other jewelry that may fall off.



More than 30 Team Lajes members participated in the foreign object elimination walk at the Lajes Field flightline May 19, 2011. The FOE process, although a seemingly simple procedure, could save the Department of Defense millions of dollars in terms of damage it could cause to an aircraft if not removed. (Photo by Guido Melo)

## Eagle Eyes update

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

What does this mean to you? In the months of March and April there was a huge spike in the Eagle Eyes reports to our local Security Forces. Typically, we will see a drastic decline over some time. Why? Complacency is the answer. We are usually more aware of our surroundings after a major event has taken place, like the Frankfurt Airport incident and our role in Operations Odyssey Dawn and Unified Protector. The Air Force Office of Special Investigations runs an aggressive Eagle Eyes program and is always willing to help squadrons get the word out. If you observe something suspicious, send your input using

the appropriate local number to the authorities: 295-57-3937 or 535-EYES. When reporting suspicious activities, ensure you gather as much detailed



information as possible... a good acronym to remember is S.A.L.U.T.E. (Size, Activity, Location, Uniform, Time and Equipment) It's in your Airman's Manual, on page 91. It's up to you to keep Lajes safe!

## UMC registration and scholarship

University of Maryland University College Europe announces registration for the summer session. Registration for on-site (face-to-face) courses is available now through June 5, with classes beginning on June 6. Registration for Europe online (distance education) courses continues through June 12, with classes starting on June 13.

This summer, UMUC Europe is offering a \$500 Military Family Member Scholarship. Created exclusively to help military spouses and dependents of all active-duty servicemembers obtain a quality education, the scholarship may be used toward UMUC tuition and textbook fees for the summer 2011 session. Both new and current students are eligible to apply. For active-duty enlisted servicemembers, UMUC is also offering the \$100 Orkand Family Military Book Award. Details can be found at [http://www.ed.umuc.edu/financial\\_aid](http://www.ed.umuc.edu/financial_aid).

Field study courses give students the opportunity to explore fascinating locations in Europe while earning university credit. Upcoming field study courses include The Cultural History of London II, held on July 30 to Aug. 6 in England, and Picasso in Paris, held on Aug. 6-13 in France. Visit [www.ed.umuc.edu/fieldstudy](http://www.ed.umuc.edu/fieldstudy). For more information on registration, scholarships, and services, contact a local UMUC Europe field representative, visit [www.ed.umuc.edu](http://www.ed.umuc.edu), or contact UMUC at DSN 314-370-6762 or CIV +49-(0)6221-3780. UMUC Europe is also on Twitter and Facebook providing news, information, and updates.



# Lajes' Newest NCOA Graduates



Team Lajes graduates Tech. Sgt. Michael Young, 65th Medical Group, Tech. Sgt. Raynard Polk, 65th Communications Squadron and Tech. Sgt. Kevin Cozad (Distinguished Graduate), 65th Operations Support Squadron, pose with fellow Lajes members at the Kisling NCO Academy graduation at Kapaun Air Station, Germany. In addition to learning about communication, leadership skills and the profession of arms, students also participate in ceremonies such as reveille and retreat. (Courtesy photo)

## Lajes Field contest: Renaming the Airman Ministry Center

By Hildeberto Cabral  
Airman Ministry Center Director

One of the best places to hang out and relax is looking for a new name. All members of the Lajes community are invited to participate in a contest to rename the Airman Ministry Center. Participants may submit their entries from June 3-19, 2011. All entries should be creative and easy to translate into Portuguese.

For those who have never visited the AMC, it is located inside the Community Center, Bldg. T-307. It is a comfortable place with

a family environment, designed for kicking back and hanging out with family and friends. In addition to abundant seating, there are multiple televisions and a pool table. It is located just steps away from the Café Bean.

The winner will get a grand prize of lunch for two at the traditional Portuguese restaurant, Tichoa, and transportation to the restaurant will be included.

For more information regarding the contest, contact Hildeberto Cabral at 535-4019, or e-mail 65abw.hc.@lajes.af.mil.

## LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



**Name:** Gerard Ritze  
**Rank:** GS-9  
**Unit:** 729 AMS  
**Hometown:** Cincinnati, Ohio  
**Duty Title:** Budget Analyst  
**Accomplishments:** As the 729th Air Mobility Squadron's Budget Analyst, Mr. Ritze prepares and executes a multi-million dollar budget in support of AMC's global reach mission. In his short time at Lajes, Mr. Ritze has won numerous awards,

to include the 521st Air Mobility Operations Wing Civilian of the Year Category II for 2010! His contributions led the "Port Dawgs" of the 729 AMS to earn an "Excellent" rating during the Logistics Compliance and Assessment Program Inspection. In Mr. Ritze's free time, he enjoys golf, gardening and metal detecting.



**Name:** Donald Barneac  
**Rank:** Senior Airman  
**Unit:** 729 AMS  
**Hometown:** Streator, Ill.  
**Duty Title:** Air Transportation Specialist  
**Accomplishments:** Senior Airman Barneac has distinguished himself as a top-notch Airman in the 729th Air Mobility Squadron. He has taken on many additional duties that would be more fitting of an NCO and has

produced flawless results. As the Unit Fitness Program Manager, he led the squadron to achieve over a 91 percent pass rate, and achieved an incredible 45 percent "Excellent" fitness rating. Senior Airman Barneac was selected to represent the 521st Air Mobility Operations Wing in the Air Mobility Command RODEO 2011. Senior Airman Barneac is mission-focused and ready to support his wingmen.

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



Members from Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 122 check the tire pressure of the F-18 Hornet on the flightline, Lajes Field, Azores, May 31, 2011. Ten F-18 Hornets arrived at Lajes Field on their way back to their home station after their deployment to the area of responsibility. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



More than 50 Team Lajes members participated in the Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 1653 half marathon relay at Lajes Field, Azores, May 31, 2011. The money raised went to the Children of Fallen Patriots and the Wounded Warrior Project. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Sofia Rivera, daughter of 65th Air Base Wing Commander, Col. Jose Rivera, and Madison Bruns, daughter of 65th Mission Support Group Commander, Col. Arch Bruns, pose with Miss USA 2010 Rima Fakhri, and Miss Teen USA 2010 Kamie Crawford during a meet and greet at Café Bean at Lajes Field, Azores, May 28, 2011. United Service Organizations, Inc. sponsored the Miss USA and Miss Teen USA 2010 tour to various military bases. (Photo by Guido Melo)



More than 190 of 467 Soldiers and Marines onboard a 767 returning from downrange spent the night at the Lajes Field gym, after their planes were delayed for mechanical issues. The remaining servicemembers were transported by the 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron to off-base lodging until they departed on May 29, 2011. (Photo by Heather Abbott)



# Mark your calendar

**SWIMMING POOL:** Open now to September 5 (Labor Day) Monday & Tuesday closed.

Wednesday - Saturday noon - 7 p.m.

Sundays noon - 6 p.m.

Daily Fees

Children \$2.50; Adult \$3.75

Season Passes

Single \$50; Couples \$70

Family(5) \$100 + \$5 for each additional child; pool parties with water slide: \$75/hr without water slide: \$60/hr; swimming classes 1st child \$45; additional child: \$25 535-3363.

**MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION NIGHT:** Thursday, June 9, 6-8 p.m. FREE! Open House Social with heavy hors d'oeuvres, live entertainment/music & prizes! Open to all military spouses. RSVP by June 6. Call 535-4138 or 295-57-4138.

**Call Outdoor Recreation, 535-4140 for reservation information on the following events:**

**SAILING:** Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m. \$60/person. Relax on a sailing trip as you sail along the spectacular coast of Terceira Island. Take the helm, if you wish, trim the sails, or simply sit back and enjoy the voyage.

**GEOCACHING TOUR:** Saturday, June 4, 9 a.m. FREE.

Hunt for hidden treasures as you cross trails and wooded areas. Geocaching is a high-tech treasure hunt. It's an outdoor activity that combines hiking and exploring, using a hand-held Global Positioning System (GPS) to locate actual treasure caches.

**BOAT TRIP AROUND TERCEIRA ISLAND:** Saturday, June 11, 10 a.m. \$75/person, learn about volcanic eruptions at sea, coastal fortifications as well as the history of our local lighthouses. Sandwiches, chips, sodas and water are included.



## Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



**ENGLISH:** What are you doing this weekend?

**PORTUGUESE:** O que é que vais fazer este fim de semana?

**PRONUNCIATION:** OO key eh key vije fazeyrd eeshte feem dee SSemana?

## At the Movies



7 p.m. Friday - Arthur

7 p.m. Saturday - Your Highness

4 p.m. Sunday - Arthur

7 p.m. Sunday - Hanna

**Arthur:** Arthur Bach has always relied on two things to get by: his fortune and the good sense of lifelong nanny Hobson to keep him out of trouble. Now he faces his biggest challenge -- choosing between an arranged marriage that will ensure his lifestyle or an uncertain future with Naomi, the only woman he has ever loved. Rated PG-13, 110 min.

**Your Highness:** Danny and James team up for an epic comedy adventure set in a fantastical world-Your Highness. As two princes on a daring mission to save their land, they must rescue the heir apparent's fiancée before their kingdom is destroyed. Thadeous has spent his life watching his perfect older brother Fabious embark upon valiant journeys and win the hearts of his people. Rated R, 102 min.

**Hanna:** Raised by her father, an ex-CIA man, in the wilds of Finland, Hanna's training have been geared to making her the perfect assassin. The turning point in her adolescence is a sharp one; sent into the world by her father on a mission, Hanna journeys stealthily across Europe while eluding agents dispatched after her by a ruthless intelligence operative with secrets of her own. As she nears her ultimate target, Hanna faces startling revelations about her existence and unexpected questions about her humanity. Rated PG-13, 111 min.

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

AFN LAJES  
**ISLAND 96**  
 CH. 40 (ON BASE CABLE)  
 CH. 7 (OFF BASE SATELLITE) & 96.1 FM

## BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE

Friday, June 3: 6:30 p.m. Largo S. João, Lajes

Friday, June 3: 6:30 p.m. Ladeira Branca

Saturday, June 4: 6:30 p.m. Ladeira Branca

Saturday, June 4: 6:30 p.m. Largo S. João, Lajes

Sunday, June 5: 6:30 p.m. Canada Nova, Santa Luzia, Angra

Monday, June 6: 6:30 p.m. Pico da Urze, S. Pedro

Tuesday, June 7: 6:30 p.m. Espigão



## ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima

Community Relations Advisor



### Exploring Terceira Island's caves, Part 2 (continued from last week's issue)



Both the Algar do Carvao and Gruta de Natal caves are maintained by "Os Montanheiros," the local spelunking group, and underwent renovation works some years ago with the purpose of improving access to the visitors, including a reinforced electric lighting system and background music.

The spelunking group also organizes special visits to the caves between Nov. 1 and Oct. 15 for groups with more than 10 people. Interested parties should call 295-212992 or 961 362 215 for reservations.

The Balcões and Agulhas caves are unattended and not lighted, so be careful going inside because of slippery floors and low ceilings. Flashlights and appropriate clothing are recommended for exploration of these two caves.

Also located near the Algar do Carvão are the sulphur pits which are definitely worth a visit. These are not caves, but just spots where one can see steam coming out of the ground, a demonstration of the volcanic activity in the area.

For more information on the caves, visit the Os Montanheiros website at [www.montanheiros.com](http://www.montanheiros.com).