



Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

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

FY 2011

**714
SORTIES**

**13,749
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 SW 15 - 25 mph
SW 20 - 30 mph

High 66F / Low 59F

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

Mostly Cloudy
Wind S 15 - 25mph

High 75F / Low 63F

Troop bed down, the Lajes way

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

On May 28, 2011, during Memorial Day weekend, Team Lajes demonstrated its true capabilities of uncompromising logistical support, after a DC-10 broke down with 271 Army and Marine troops onboard. The 65th Force Support Squadron accommodated for the surge by utilizing the 73 remaining rooms in base lodging, while the 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron and the 729th Air Mobility Squadron transported the remaining troops to available quarters in the city of Angra.

But the night was just beginning. At 10:30 p.m. an Omni Air International Boeing 767, carrying 191 Army and Marines, also stopped at Lajes with mechanical issues. Jeff Adams, 65th FSS Director, immediately initiated a recall of his personnel to help with the troop surge. Personnel from the 65th Operations Support Squadron and 65th LRS also came out to help.

"FSS military, civilians and dependents, along with some folks from OSS and LRS, began to load 200 each of cots, blankets and towels onto vehicles for transportation to the Fitness Center," said Mr. Adams. "We bedded down all the males in the gym and all females in the downstairs aerobics room."

The Soldiers and Marines were also allowed to use Fitness Center phones for morale calls, and the 65th FSS provided approximately 200 bottles of water. The supporting squadrons completed the bed down at 12:30 a.m.

After the recall, Mr. Adams contacted the staff at the base club, The Top of the Rock, and had them begin putting together breakfast and lunch buffets to feed the troops the next day.

"Even though they'd been working since seven that morning, they immediately began the prep of the buffets," said Mr. Adams.

The TORC served all 191 troops, who had stayed in the Chace Fitness Center, breakfast at 7 a.m. and lunch at 11 a.m. According to Mr. Adams, the servicemembers raved about the food, saying it was the best meal they'd had in six months. He also heard many comments from the troops going through the buffet line about having real eggs. The club staff hand-cracked over 500 of them that night, along with all other meal preparations.

Rest assured all the effort put forth from Lajes personnel was recognized and acknowledged, as can be seen by the comments of Col. Tim McAteer, 82nd Airborne Division.

"I want to thank you and your entire team for the assistance and hospitality shown to our soldiers," wrote Col. McAteer. "Everyone we came in contact with was helpful, professional and went out of their way on a weekend to assist us...from the civilians working the terminal area, driving the busses, billeting

(on and off post), and in the dining facilities to all the Air Force personnel on base. They all made a difference."

If it's rain, shine or even Memorial Day weekend, rest assured Team Lajes stands ready to assist. 6-5...In the Fight!



Members of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, leave a DC-10 after landing at Lajes Field, Azores, May 28 2011. Members of the team were headed to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn.

14 Weeks remaining until the... ORI



In a Word: Opportunity

By Chief Master Sgt. Samuel Hagadorn
65th Air Base Wing
command chief



I remember the day like it was just last week: I was sitting in my seventh-period high school English class in Turlock, California, late summer of 1980. The windows were open, but that offered no relief from the sweltering heat. I had done my homework, but many others hadn't, so the teacher was going over the lesson in excruciating detail. This was the last class of the day, and I just wanted to get out of there!

Breaking the monotony, the intercom buzzer rang. After a short conversation, the teacher told me I was excused because a visitor was waiting for me in the career center. I wasn't expecting anybody, but I was happy to leave.

As I entered the career center, a sharply dressed Navy recruiter greeted me, and asked me to consider joining the team. He had plenty to offer--valuable training, education benefits, and travel to exotic places. It was enticing, and presented a real opportunity to escape the slow-paced dairy and farming community in California's San Joaquin Valley. However, I wasn't thrilled about the probability of living on a ship, so I said I would think about it. As I exited the building, an Air Force recruiter was headed in. I asked him, "Do you have a few minutes?" He had a similar pitch, but with no

ships in the equation, I was hooked.

I had never before considered a military career, but I figured a four-year stint couldn't hurt. Perhaps I could travel to a place or two and pick up some useful skills before moving on to a civilian career. But from that day forward, the one constant that has never faded since I joined is opportunity.

Even in the initial hours at Basic Training at Lackland AFB, opportunities to excel began to present themselves. Those who volunteered generally received more desirable details than those who keep silent. Airmen who demonstrated maturity were challenged with leadership roles.

By its very nature, the Air Force offers its members opportunities to mature, learn valuable skills, travel, pursue off-duty education, and advance, among many other things. My career has been no different, and opportunities have been limited largely only by my desire to seek them.

I met my wife during my first assignment, and she has shared the challenges and joys along the way. My children received a high-quality education largely in Department of Defense Dependents Schools overseas, where they maintained a margin well ahead of their peers in average U.S. schools. There, they also gained a 'world' perspective and appre-

To read more on "Opportunity" see page 3

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

Lajes High School students get surprise guests at prom

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

The Lajes High School prom of 2011 was comprised of only 11 people, nine of whom were students, and the other two just happened to be Miss USA 2010 Rima Fakh and Miss Teen USA 2010 Kamie Crawford.

Eric Merkison, Jr., son of Master Sgt. Eric Merkison, American Forces Network-Lajes, was crowned king by Miss Teen USA herself after votes were tallied by the students.

"It was great being crowned by Miss Teen USA, because not many people can say they were crowned by someone as beautiful as her," said Eric Merkison, Jr., Lajes High School senior class vice president and Lajes varsity boy's basketball team captain.

The United Service Organization hosted Miss USA 2010 Rima Fakh, and Miss Teen USA 2010 Kamie Crawford tour, which stopped at Lajes Field to visit base members and have a meet and greet on May 28, 2011. Their evening plans of just dinner and relaxing in lodging changed when they found out about the Lajes High School prom that night.

Talia Case, daughter of Tim Case, 65th Force Support Squadron, was crowned queen by Miss USA.

"It was a great opportunity and awesome to not only be voted queen, but being crowned by Miss USA," said Talia Case, student council president and team captain for Lajes varsity



(Left to right) Miss USA 2010 Rima Fakh, Lajes High School prom queen Talia Case, prom king Eric Merkison, Jr., and Miss Teen USA 2010 Kamie Crawford pose at the Portuguese Officer's Club, Lajes Field, Azores, May 28, 2011. (Photo by Goldie Williams)

girl's basketball and volleyball teams.

After crowning the king and queen, Miss USA and Teen USA talked to the new royalty about their future plans.

"Talking to Ms. Rima Fakh and hearing about her journey to become a professional wrestler helped me to see that I can do anything with hard work and dedication," said Case.

"They were very nice and gave us good advice," said Merkison, Jr., who plans to become a music producer. "They not only crowned us king and queen, but talked to the seniors and danced with them at the prom, making the event special to the Lajes High School senior class."



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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Lajes High School athletic banquet recognizes students

By Carter Hoff

Lajes Elementary/High School Teacher & Athletic Director

The annual Lajes High School Athletic Banquet was held in the Community Center ballroom on Friday, June 3, 2011. The event celebrated the success of the school's varsity cross country, volleyball, basketball, and soccer student-athletes. Over 120 students, parents, and coaches attended the event and were provided a delicious meal by the school's Booster Club. The evening's agenda included a slideshow of the year's athletic activities, team recognitions, team awards, and a presentation to the senior student-athletes.

Lajes Elementary/High School provides the unique opportunity for students of any talent level to participate in a variety of intramural and varsity sports. The school offers cross country, volleyball, golf, and tennis in the fall; basketball and cheer in the winter; and soccer and softball in the spring. Over three quarters of the students at Lajes EHS participated in a varsity sport this year.

"Playing sports at Lajes is unique, because everyone gets to be on the team," said Yasmine Weddle, the Most Valuable Player in both volleyball, and girl's basketball. "Everyone learns to become a team player, and the team members build bonds making the team closer and stronger."

During the regular season, varsity teams are able to compete against local Portuguese clubs as well as base and squadron teams from Lajes. While competition can be fierce on the island, the real battle begins when the students travel to the DoDDS-Europe championships held at a variety of locations in Germany. There the students compete against other Division III schools from Belgium, England, Italy, Turkey, and Spain.

"I think the beauty about traveling to the tournaments is that we travel to Europe," said student Eric Merkison. "Everybody travels to states

and counties to play, but we travel to countries to play in tournaments and championships to compete."

With just over 40 high school students, Lajes is the smallest school to send a team to the tournament, but we've had a great deal of success. Most recently, the boy's basketball team beat the odds to take third place in the DoDDS-Europe Basketball Championships, and last year our boy's cross country team also took home the third place trophy for the DoDDS-Europe Cross Country Championships. Our teams are small but mighty, and they have a lot of heart. Our coaches and student-athletes pride themselves on their work ethic, perseverance and sportsmanship, and it was these outstanding traits that we honored at the athletic banquet.

Both teams and individuals were recognized at the athletic banquet. A special congratulations is due to the outstanding coaches and student-athletes that were recognized for individual awards for each team.

"It's a great end to the school year, recognizing the students and the coaches," said student Nikole Mount.

In cross country, coached by Randy Stumler, the Most Valuable Player was DeMarkus Hodge, the Most Improved Player was Nicolas Miller, and the Coach's Award went to Alex Ciranni. In volleyball, coached by Julie Sorrell, the MVP was Yasmine Weddle, the MIP was Candice Miller, and the Coach's Award went to Sarahjane Stumler.

For boy's basketball, coached by Carter Hoff, the MVP was DeMarkus Hodge, the Offensive Player of the Year was Toderick Stevens, and the Defensive Player of the Year was Seth Aamodt. For girl's basketball, coached by Glynn Black, the MVP was Yasmine Weddle, the OPY was Talia Case, and the Coach's Heart Award went to Sarahjane Stumler. And lastly, in soccer, coached by Ian Birch, the Hardest Worker award went to Alex Ciranni, the Best Attitude award went to Justin Aamodt, and the Coach's Award went to Tyler Storms.

"Opportunity" from page 2

ciation for cultures that can't be obtained in the Continental U.S.

Just as I'd hoped when I spoke to the very first recruiter, I've had extensive opportunities to travel around the globe, visiting some 57 or so nations either on leave, or pursuant to duty.

When I was an Airman, I didn't know at first if the military was the right thing for me. I figured I had four years to figure it out, and if I was enjoying it, I would reenlist. I was definitely enjoying what I was doing, so four years turned into eight, then 12, 20, and so on until high year tenure now requires me to leave at 30.

As the first member of my family to join the military for any significant period of time (my father was drafted into the Navy, but served only a few short months), I wasn't sure what to expect. When I realized I might wish to remain in long enough to retire, I thought master sergeant might be a lofty goal. I feel greatly blessed to have attained

past that. Opportunities are all around us, and can lead us to, and even past our dreams.

As I am in the 'twilight' of my Air Force career, I am cognizant that many visionaries before me paved the way for the benefits I now reap. A successful career is the culmination of not only the member's efforts, but to a very large degree, the opportunities created by the efforts of many supervisors, coworkers and even subordinates along the way. Opportunities are all around us—we only need to recognize, and act upon them.

I am thankful to have had the privilege and opportunity to serve shoulder-to-shoulder with some of America's finest citizens throughout my career. Furthermore, I couldn't have been blessed with a better place to cap off a wonderful career than Lajes. There's no doubt, opportunities abound in an Air Force career; it really is a great way of life. So make it count! Thank you for serving, and thanks for all you do!

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



Name: Arnaldo Candido
Rank: WG-11
Unit: 65th CS
Hometown: Lajes, Praia da Vitoria
Duty Title: Cyber Transportation
Accomplishments: Sr. Candido is a highly-motivated member of the 65th Communications Squadron. He is responsible for the maintenance and operation of four base telephone switches. In addition, he provides continuity and acts as a liaison

between Base Telephone Operations and PT Telecom. After 32 years working on base, his outstanding performance and service is a prime example of the excellence of the 65th Communications Squadron.



Name: Sharonda Williams
Rank: Airman 1st Class
Unit: 65th CS
Hometown: Dayton, OH
Duty Title: Client Systems Apprentice
Accomplishments: Airman 1st Class Williams is a motivated and skilled technician. She arrived at Lajes Field approximately six months ago from Tech School at Keesler AFB, Miss.

She has hit the ground running by quickly learning many aspects of her job, while still being involved in other base agencies, including the base Honor Guard and Girl Scouts. Her upbeat attitude is well received and she is an important member of the Client Systems Team.

Lajes High School

Senior Class

2011



Caje Cobb

Caje Edward Cobb, son of Senior Master Sgt. Sean Cobb, American Forces Network-Lajes, and Laura Cobb, Lajes Elementary/High School, is the senior class treasurer, and is from Fairfax, Virginia. At Lajes High school he played varsity basketball for two years, and participated in the International Student leadership Institute for one year. He plans on attending college and pursuing a career in sports medicine with an emphasis in physical therapy.



Candice Miller

Candice Miller, daughter of Master Sgt. Terry Miller, 65th Civil Engineering Squadron, and Cynthia Miller, is the senior class president. She grew up within the military environment and has lived at many assignment locations. "All of these moves, changes and adjustments have allowed me to value different cultures," said Miller. Her plans after graduation are to attend either the University of Texas in San Antonio or the University of Central Florida. She wants to work in a hospital as a pediatric nurse.



Eric Merkison

Eric Merkison, son of Master Sgt. Eric Merkison, American Forces Network-Lajes, and Tamika Merkison, Lajes Elementary/High School, is vice president of the senior class. His hometown is Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He has been a member of the future Educators Association for one year, played basketball for three years, competed in track for one year, and played football for one year. He's also been active with the Future Business Leaders of America for one year. He plans on attending Georgia Tech University in Atlanta.



Garrett Hall

Garrett Hall is the son of Karen O'Camb, 65th Force Support Squadron. He hails from Warrensburg, Missouri. At Lajes High School he participated in boy's basketball for 2 years, Creative Connections in 2010, and soccer in 2011. He plans on attending the University of Missouri to pursue a career in automotive repair and to later join the Marines.



Kathryn Mount

Kathryn Nikole Mount is from Ocala, Florida. Her parents are Army Sgt. James Hays, Lajes Veterinary Treatment Facility, and Kathryn Hays. At Lajes High school she played soccer for four years and volleyball for one year. She plans on attending Northeast Lakeview College in San Antonio, Texas, to study photography.



Nicholas Toppa

Nicholas Toppa is the son of Senior Master Sgt. Richard Toppa, Jr., 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron and Emily Toppa, who works at the Lajes Field Commissary. Unlike most American students, he did not attend only one school, but eight schools, ranging from the countries of Japan, South Korea, England and Portugal. After graduation he plans on attending Boston University. "I just want to be in Boston," said Toppa. "It's a big city full of history and I love it." Nicholas plans to major in ROTC so he can hopefully join one of the major services as a helicopter pilot.



Sarahjane Stumler

"I was born in Floyds Knobs, Indiana, where I resided for 15 years, so moving to Lajes was quite a change for my four siblings and me," said Sarahjane Stumler, the senior class secretary. Sarahjane is the daughter of Randy Stumler, a teacher at Lajes Elementary/High School and Karen Stumler. "At Lajes High School I experienced many opportunities that I never would have been able to achieve at a larger school, including traveling to Germany several times." Stumler plans to attend Ball State University on scholarship, and afterward join the Peace Corps.



Seth Aamodt

Seth Aamodt, son of Senior Master Sgt. Haakon Aamodt, 65th Force Support Squadron, and Lorrie Aamodt, is from San Antonio, Texas. He loves sports and has played varsity basketball and soccer since he was a sophomore. He plans on attending Wentworth military Academy in Lexington, Missouri.



Talia Case

"Being in this small school has provided me many opportunities," said Talia Jean Case, daughter of Tim Case, 65th Force Support Squadron, and Anna Case. She plans to attend the University of Central Oklahoma and major in web design; she's also inspired by photography. "My dream is that I will minor in photography and have my own company," she said. "I will return home to Oklahoma, but sadly my family will remain here at Lajes Field. I am thankful that my mom has impacted my life and has shown me how to be an independent, determined young woman.

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



Nine of Team Lajes members were honored in a wing promotion ceremony at Lajes Field, Azores, May 31, 2011. The wing promotion ceremony is conducted on the last duty day of the month and celebrates the members' transition to the next rank. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Former 65th Air Base Wing Vice Commander, Col. Eric Axelbank, assumes command of the 37th Training Wing, Lackland AFB, Texas, from Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog, Commander, 2nd Air Force, Keesler AFB, Miss. The 37th Training Wing is the largest training wing in the U.S. Air Force. (Courtesy Photo)

Rui Leal, 65th Force Support Squadron aerobics contractor, demonstrates an arm stretch during Recon at the gymnasium at Lajes Field, Azores. The Recon, short for reconditioning, program is to help people pass their physical fitness tests and get back into shape. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)



Carter Hoff, Lajes High School varsity boy's basketball coach, talks about the team's accomplishments during the Athletic Banquet at Lajes Field, Azores, June 3, 2011. The team won third place in the DoDDS-Europe Division Basketball Championship in February 2011. (Photo by Lucas Silva)





Mark your calendar

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

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. Call Outdoor Recreation, 535-4140 for reservation information.



WEBINAR: To better serve our customers and allow more direct communication between the members and AFPC, we prepared several webinars on retirement issues that we will be broadcasting on a recurring basis. The next scheduled webinar is designed to cover, "Navigating the vMPF to Submit a Retirement Application." We've also prepared other webinars which cover things to consider when contemplating retirement, the application process, and pertinent data on benefits and entitlements, retired pay, and so forth, and what to expect once approved. We will broadcast these briefings on a rotating basis the third Thursday of every month. The upcoming schedule is as follows: 16 Jun. 11 - Retirements-101 for Enlisted Members 2011 21 Jul 11 - Retirements-101 for Officers 2011 18 Aug 11 - Navigating the vMPF to Submit a Retirement App 2011

65th MDG INTERACTIVE CUSTOMER EVALUATION (ICE): The 65th MDG wants to hear from you! Please go to <http://ice.disa.mil/> to evaluate the services provided by the 65th Medical Group. Your feedback is used to improve our products and services. Thank you for your feedback.

REFLECTIVE BELT ROE REMINDER: AFI 91-207 USAFE Sup: 3.5.2.1. (Added) In cases where separation of pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic is not feasible, military personnel in uniform must wear reflective accessories during periods of reduced visibility (hours of darkness, inclement weather, etc). Personnel in civilian attire are encouraged to wear light-colored clothing or reflective accessories. This requirement must be briefed during newcomers' orientation and addressed in the installation traffic code.

65th MDG TRAINING DAY & TRICARE ONLINE: The 65th Medical Group and the appointment line will be closed on the 2nd Wednesday every month from 0800-1300 for unit training. Normal operations will resume at 1300 hours. As a reminder, TRICARE On-line (TOL) is always available as an option for appointment booking. All beneficiaries must register at www.tricareonline.com for an account. If you have any questions, please call 535-3261.

Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: How do I get to the hospital?

PORTUGUESE: Como chego ao hospital?

PRONUNCIATION: KOHmoo SHEHgoo aoo ashpitohl?

At the Movies

4 p.m. Sunday - Arthur



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.

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

BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE



- Friday, June 10: 6:30 p.m. Boa Viagem, Corpo Santo
- Saturday, June 11: 6:30 p.m. Rua da Pereira, Angra
- Saturday, June 11: 6:30 p.m. S. Mateus
- Sunday, June 12: 6:30 p.m. Bairro Joaquim Alves, Praia da Vitória
- Monday, June 13: 6:30 p.m. Praia Beach
- Monday, June 13: 6:30 p.m. Terreiro da Terra Chã
- Tuesday, June 14: 6:30 p.m. Terreiro de S. Bartolomeu
- Tuesday, June 14: 6:30 p.m. S. Luis, S. Bento
- Wednesday, June 15: 6:30 p.m. Terreiro, S. Mateus
- Wednesday, June 15: 6:30 p.m. Terreiro do Paço, Ribeirinha
- Thursday, June 16: 6:30 p.m. Rua do Rossio, Praia da Vitória

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

ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima
Community Relations Advisor



Sanjoaninas Festival

The Sanjoaninas Festival is the largest non-religious festival on Terceira and the Azores dating back to the 16th century, although in the beginning it had a religious connection.

Sanjoaninas honors St. John the Baptist and is a legacy of a secular tradition on the island which has evolved over the years and now includes parades, concerts, arena and street bullfights, expositions, sports activities as well as other cultural events.

Below is the schedule of events for June 17-18 of Sanjoaninas 2011 highlights. Events will take place through June 26, and be mentioned in upcoming issues of the Crossroads Xtra.

June 17

5:30 p.m. – Streets bullfights at Lameirinho and Terra Chã

9:30 p.m. – Rock Night – Performance by three rock bands (Location: Bailhão parking lot).

Midnight – 80s' Night featuring DJs (Bailhão parking lot)

June 18

9 a.m. – Sanjoaninas racing show (Veredas, Terra Chã)

1 p.m. – Children's bullfight (Angra's small beach)

10 p.m. – Parade of two marching bands from Angra (main street)

10:30 p.m. – Opening parade of floats (main street)

Midnight – Concert by Angra Jazz Orchestra (stage next to the marina)