



Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

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

 **858
SORTIES**

**16,741
LODGED** 

**4.7 million
gallons
FUEL ISSUED** 

In a real-world emergency, call the **Public Affairs Straight Talk Line, 535-3542**, or visit the **Lajes Facebook page** for instructional information.

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 NE 5 mph

High 75F / Low 68F

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

Mostly Cloudy
Wind SE 5
E 5

High 72F / Low 70F

USAFE Band Touch 'n Go makes impression on Terceira



The United States Air Forces in Europe's band, "Touch 'n Go," performs for a Portuguese audience at the Main Square, Angra, July 14, 2011. (Photo by Guido Melo)

By 1st Lt. Mara Title
625th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

During the week of July 10-16, the United States Air Forces in Europe Band, Touch 'n Go, took the island of Terceira by storm after five crowd-pleasing, fun-filled rock concerts. They performed at Lajes Field during the base open house, in the town of Praia da Vitoria, twice in the city of Angra, and a final base concert at the Community Activity Center.

"It's a great place to be," said Tech. Sgt. Mark Frandsen, acoustic and electric bass player, as well as non-commissioned officer in charge for Touch 'n Go. "The people are friendly and we've had great responses from the audiences we've played for. We've felt very welcome here," he said.

The Touch 'n Go band is one of nine of the USAFE Band ensembles now stationed at Ramstein. Getting to perform off base is typical for band members, and they look forward to it.

"There's kind of an extra special feeling when you get to do a gig off base in the local community, because none

of them know about the Air Force band," said Staff Sgt. Craig Bowman, professional vocalist for the USAFE Band. "A lot of them don't even know about the Air Force, so we are kind of the poster child for the Air Force presence here, and it's fun."

As people shouted, "Encore, encore!" they seemed a little surprised at the level of musicianship in the show, but if they understood the amount of training each USAFE Band member goes through, they wouldn't give it a second thought.

Frandsen, referred to as "the doctor" on stage, does indeed have his doctorate--in music theory. Between temporary duty assignments and rehearsals, he also acts as the USAFE Band's assistant director of operations, administratively making the decisions of who goes where. Needless to say, he keeps pretty busy. The other band members help take care of transportation, finance, computer operations, orders, etc., to support the 45-person USAFE Band.

"We're a self-sustaining organization," said Frandsen,

To read more on "USAFE band" see page 4

8 Weeks remaining until the... ORI



Saluting our military children

By Maj. Taona Enriquez
65th Contracting Flight



Given that we are in the high PCS season, I thought it fitting to take some time to thank and recognize our families—specifically our children. The month of April is the month of the military child; however, it's during these times where they could use a little more thanks. When we think of military children, we think about how lucky they are to live in different cities and countries, and how they have the opportunity to experience other cultures. What we as parents call "opportunities," our children describe as something different. Every time we PCS they are forced to make new friends, set up a new house (the dreadful unpacking), start a new school and then face the challenges of their new assignment head on. While there may be some grumbling, frustration or even a few episodes in which they lash out, they quickly strap on their boots, face the challenge and conquer their new assignment. For their every effort and for their resiliency, we are thankful.

Through a bit of research I was able to find some comparisons that illustrate perfectly the challenges our children face, as compared to traditional civilian children.

■ A civilian child might rarely leave his hometown for anything other than vacation. A military child will rarely see his "hometown" for anything other than vacation.

■ A civilian child can read and write in English. A military child can read and write in acronym.

■ A civilian child gets to see things other kids would love to see. A military child gets to see things world leaders would love to see.

■ A civilian child only sees the plane flying over. A military child can not only identify the type of plane flying, but knows someone who



works on it.

■ A civilian child has a best friend in his hometown. A military child has a best friend on almost every continent.

■ A civilian child supports our soldiers. A military child IS a soldier.

In my ten short years in the Air Force it is seldom that I meet a fellow Airman who separates because they don't like their job or they're not challenged. Nine times out of ten it's because of their family-- whether it's to provide stability, to support their spouse's opportunities or to be closer to their families. Children impact every decision we make and they are our true soldiers. It's not a secret the active duty members receive accolades for a job well done and their hard work is usually recognized through awards, letters of appreciation or even a thank you from the boss. Let the truth be known--all of our successes wouldn't be possible without the support and sacrifices of our spouses and children. So on behalf of my fellow service members, I thank each and every military child for being that soldier and the rock upon which we stand. Thank you!

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



The 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content in the Crossroads.

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Editorial Staff

Col. Jose Rivera

Commander, 65th Air Base Wing

1st Lt. Mara Title

Editor in Chief

Staff Sgt. Olufemi Owolabi

Editor

Mr. Eduardo Lima

Community Relations Adviser

Mr. Manuel Martins

Layout Designer

Military Spouse Employment Partnership

By Linda Foshee

Chief, Airman and Family Readiness Policy,
The Pentagon

The Office of the Secretary of Defense launched a new program, the Military Spouse Employment Partnership, on June 29, 2011.

MSEP directly addresses the spouse employment pillar of Michelle Obama's "Joining Forces" initiative, and is also specifically cited in the President's Strengthening Our Military Families (PSD-9) report, signed in January, 2011.

The purpose of the MSEP program is to create a partnership with national and international corporations, non-profit organizations, and federal agencies to enhance career and educational opportunities for military spouses. MSEP connects spouses to 21st century job opportunities that are portable, flexible, virtual, mobile, in high demand, and in growing career fields.

The vision of this program is to gain a mutually beneficial, self-sustaining and expanding

partnership between military spouses and organizations from the public and private sectors where these corporate partners can establish strategic relationship with employment personnel assigned to military communities. This allows them to tap into a readily available, diverse and talented pool of candidates. This program will assist in developing career and education opportunities for military spouses. It will also develop and implement successful communication and marketing plans, share best practices, leverage information and resources, and networking.

The website, www.ourmilitary.mil, is used as the centralized information point for corporations, spouses and others (ie., Wounded Warriors, Veterans) seeking information on MSEP. This page provides information that enables individuals to go to the most appropriate site for their specific interests and is an overall information portal for DoD.

For additional questions, please contact the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 535-4138.



Lajes Fire Department: A brief history

By Gus Simoes
Deputy Fire Chief

Most people have seen the Lajes Fire Department in its updated facility. Despite the new façade, the department has a rich history stemming back to 1945, when the world was faced with a communist threat and the Cold War was in its infancy. To meet the needs of this growing threat, the young U.S. Air Force positioned aircraft in Western Europe as a deterrent, and the creation of the department was critical to protect aircraft and supporting facilities.

Small airfields in Europe became large air bases, and the flow of aircraft, personnel, and material was continuous across the Atlantic. The importance of Lajes as a mid-Atlantic refueling station proved valuable. This was a great time of expansion for Lajes Field and consequently for the Lajes Fire Department.

On Aug. 11, 1952, the Headquarters Atlantic Division initiated correspondence to Headquarters, Military Air Transport Service requesting the 1605th Air Base Group be permitted to enlarge to Wing status. The justification was that the group organization was unrealistic and inadequate to effectively accomplish the mission of the Azores Air Transport Station (as Lajes was referred to). Also, the Headquarters Atlantic Division felt the prestige of the command would be greatly enhanced by the establishment of a Wing.

From around 1945 to 1950, the fire/crash station was located directly south of the Portuguese Headquarters facility. There are no records of this facility except in the memories of those who remember it as a very basic wooden construction. Around 1950, the fire/crash station was moved to Building T-712, which had four single bays for crash firefighting vehicles, office spaces and sleeping accommodations for



The Lajes Field fire department at its new facility, 2011. (Courtesy photo)

21 firefighters. The Lajes Fire Department management, technical services, the first run structural pumper and a rescue vehicle were moved to T-202. This facility had good office space, four bays and a hose drying tower that still exists. T-202 is currently occupied by the Pentagon Federal Credit Union.

At the start of 1952 there were 1,020 U.S. military personnel at Lajes Field. Permission was granted and on Feb. 1, 1953, the 1605th

To read more on "Fire" see page 4

Lajes 'Shirts' show appreciation for junior NCOs

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

The Lajes first sergeants set some time aside to show their gratitude for Lajes' junior noncommissioned officers during a lunch held at the base chapel July 14.

The two-hour Junior NCO Appreciation Day lunch, attended by more than 70 NCOs, featured free food that included barbeque chicken, potato and pasta salads, and ice cream.

"The NCO Appreciation lunch was all about taking some time to thank and mentor the backbone of our Air Force...our junior NCOs," said Master Sgt. Daniel Guzman, 65th Security Forces and Logistics Readiness squadrons' first sergeant.

According to the security forces "first shirt," sometimes most of the appreciation-type events here at Lajes often target the junior enlisted, airmen basic to senior airmen. The Lajes First Sergeant Council thought it wasn't a bad idea to recognize individuals that are often overlooked. Thus, the council held the special event to thank its front-line supervisors, who motivate the airmen on a daily basis.

Guzman, who'd been part of a similar event in the past at a previous assignment, brought the idea up in a meeting, and the council thought it was a great one.

"The luncheon was a great experience, and the food was excellent," said Tech. Sgt. Jessima Richards, 65th Force Support Squadron's

NCO in charge of force management. "I liked everything about it; all the first sergeants were very friendly and personable."

According to Guzman, this is the first time Lajes sponsored such an event for the junior NCOs.

"This was a complete team effort of the First Sergeants' Council, and the great work and cooking skills of our 'executive chef,' Master Sgt. Jason Miest, really helped to make it a success," he added.

"They showed us that they appreciated us by preparing a great meal and by their warm and sincere words of encouragement and 'Thank you' for all our dedication and hard work," said Richards.

The Lajes Field First Sergeants' Council said it will keep striving to look for opportunities to put events like this one together in the future in order to keep morale across the base up, especially with the upcoming operational readiness inspections and even after the ORI.

"The lunch was prepared with sincere appreciation from

the Shirts," said Tech. Sgt. Selina Motu, 65th FSS. "It was much appreciated. It showed that the Lajes Shirts really know how to take care of their junior NCOs. Thank you Lajes Shirts."

This first Junior NCO Appreciation Day was able to show the leadership here truly cares about the NCOs and appreciates their hard work.

"There is no doubt our military has the most professional and motivated NCOs in the world, and our NCOs here at Lajes make that evident day in and day out," said Guzman.



Col. Dave Parr, 65th Air Base Wing vice commander, speaks to some of the junior NCOs during the Lajes Junior NCO Appreciation Day lunch held at the base chapel annex July 14. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



"USAFE band" from page 1

"and nobody outside of the band knows that or understands that."

In fact, when most servicemembers think of an Air Force band, they think of Tops in Blue.

"A lot of people in the military don't even know about military bands," said Bowman, "so raising awareness is always something that we love to do. We want people to know that this is what we're best at doing, and so we want to give the gift of music. It's a real honor and a treat to be able to serve in that way."

According to Bowman, the Air Force is different because bandsmen have an Air Force Specialty Code of Professional Musician, whereas in other branches, playing music is not within a specific career field, but a secondary duty.

"So we want people to know that if you're going to choose to spend your time to come and see an Air Force band performance, it's going to be really great," said Bowman.

With the overwhelming majority of bandsmen having their bachelor's degrees, and many with their master's in music-related fields, it's no wonder it's their primary AFSC. Even the "sound guy" is professionally trained. With an associate's degree in audio-recording technology, and experience working at a professional sound company, Staff Sgt. Nick Wellman serves as the audio engineer for Touch 'n Go.

"My overall role is to make sure that what the band is performing up on stage sounds the best that it possibly can for the audience," said Wellman. "A positive thing is that I can influence the sound, and that I actually do have the control to influence the emotions of the audience almost as much as the musicians on stage."

This can readily be seen by the opened jaws of crowd members as they listen to unique renditions of popular music. During one composition, each band member ends up singing a different Michael Jackson song at the same time, as the melodies harmoniously blend together for a very impressive effect. They've also blended Lady Gaga favorites into one arrangement,

bringing something unexpected to the audience.

But the audio engineer can only technically master the effects of these songs once he's been given the vision from the music director, Staff Sgt. Matthew Peacock, who is also the pianist and keyboard player for Touch 'n Go.

"We want to perform music that the audience will appreciate and can relate to," said Peacock. "A lot of that is taking popular music and adapting it to our group, which is challenging at times, because we are a small group. When everything is very technical and so produced, it can be difficult adapting that for a live performance," he said.

Judging by the positive reactions of the people they performed for on Terceira, they manage to adapt very technical popular songs to their smaller band extremely well.

"I think it's apparent we spend a lot of time running this show, and perfecting this show," said Peacock. "We videotape ourselves in rehearsals, we watch it back, and have constructive criticism, so that it is a polished show."

Aside from wowing people internationally with their musical and technical abilities, the real strategic importance of having trained musicians representing the Air Force is the partnership initiatives they help build.

"Our job allows us to go out in communities and put a face on the Air Force, and the way we do that is to be the absolute best musicians we can be," said Wellman. "I can honestly say that the musicians I work with on a daily basis are some of the finest musicians in the world."

Most Air Force members don't realize the bands are part of the Public Affairs career field, as they help foster community relations.

"The band is one of the most important tools that Public Affairs has," said Peacock. "I've worked in many different embassies and state departments—Indonesia, Malaysia, everywhere—the outreach stuff that we can do...it's a great mission."

Other Touch 'n Go band members include Staff Sgt. Dustin Trimble, guitarist, and Staff Sgt. Jonathan Friedman, drummer.

"Fire" from page 3

Air Base Group was re-designated as the 1605th Air Base Wing. In 1959, U.S military personnel at Lajes Field reached 3,020 U.S. military personnel. This increase in personnel served to support the increasing use of Lajes Field. Lajes had been instrumental in providing support to many exercises and operations in the 1950s and 1960s.

Around 1985 all fire department services were relocated to T-717. Built in 1961 as an aircraft hangar, it had been the home of the Lajes Fire Department until August 2008. Over the years, firefighters worked hard to modify and make the old aircraft hangar as livable as possible, and a tremendous amount of self-help was accomplished to enhance our living conditions. The sleeping quarters were converted from an open bay sleeping area to individual rooms through the hard work, dedication and talent of many firefighters over the years. As hard as our firefighters worked, they could not overcome the substandard

conditions they were faced with. Many aspects of the old station no longer met the new demanding challenges of the Air Force. With completion of the new fire station, our firefighters are not only more comfortable, but also safer. This new facility was specifically designed to meet all of the safety requirements of the National Fire Protection Association Health and Safety Standards. Ground was officially broken for this station on Oct. 19, 2006, by Col. Robert Winston, 65th Air Base Wing commander. This new \$10.3 million, 25,000 square-foot facility is the largest and most advanced, state-of-the-art fire station in Portugal and one of the best in the United States Air Force.

Currently, Lajes has no aircraft assigned, other than three EH-101 Merlin helicopters, and two CASA C-295 owned by the Portuguese Air Force. However, including the commercial international airport, Lajes Fire Emergency Services protects over 15,000 transient aircraft and over 1,000 facilities worth over \$1.7 billion annually.

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



Name: Lucia Rodrigues
Rank: Civilian
Unit: 65th Contracting Flight
Hometown: Praia Da Vitoria
Duty Title: Contracting Systems Specialist
Accomplishments: Sra Rodrigues manages the contract writing system and congressional reporting for the Flight. Due to her expertise and knowledge, she was asked to assist the Air Force in building a

new contract writing system. Lucia is an exceptional performer and is critical to the success of the Wing's acquisition program. Lucia enjoys traveling, listening to music and caring for her dog and four cats.



Name: Carolyn Sherwood
Rank: Tech. Sgt.
Unit: 65th Contracting Flight
Hometown: Yuba City, Calif.
Duty Title: Contract Specialist
Accomplishments: Tech. Sgt. Sherwood manages \$4 million worth of contracts for many units across Lajes Field. She recently earned the Pitsenbarger Award for outstanding achievements in education and leadership. Also, she directed a flawless

unit Change of Command and Redesignation ceremony for 65th CONF. Sergeant Sherwood enjoys hiking, scuba diving and trying new things.

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



Col. William Parker, 65th Medical Group commander, and other Lajes leaders help Tech. Sgt. Lothlorien Ellis (left, center) and Tech. Sgt. Edward J. Procek II (right, center) celebrate during the Noncommissioned Officer Academy graduation at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Sergeant Ellis is assigned to the 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, while Sergeant Procek is assigned to the 65th Communications Squadron. (Courtesy photo)



Staff Sgt. Craig Bowman, lead vocalist of the United States Air Forces in Europe Band Touch 'n Go, interacts with members at Lajes Field during a concert held at the Community Activity Center July 15. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



A Lajes Field's Dash 86 power engine belonging to the 65th Operations Support Squadron provides external power to a Turkish air force KC-135 July 19. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



"It was a great experience witnessing the inner workings of our government and the thousands of nameless contributors that make sure it is a fine-oiled machine. There is something majestic about the halls of the Pentagon and Capitol—it was then I realized I was walking through time." Staff Sgt. Victor Castro

(Left to right) Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, Staff Sgt. Victor Castro, 65th Medical Group, and Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Storms, 65th Air Base Wing command chief stand in front of the U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C., July 12. This annual visit to Capitol Hill is part of the Air Force Commander Capitol Hill Visit Program, established in 1998 by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. (Courtesy Photo)



Mark your calendar

RECYCLING OF TONERS AND INK CARTRIDGES

Used toners and ink cartridges must be returned to the businesses that sell them, however there's an alternative on base to get rid of them. The Civil Engineer Squadron's Environmental Flight staff has volunteered to receive those toners and cartridges at no cost in Bldg. T-575, and will forward them to the Portuguese International Medical Assistance organization (AMI) for posterior recycling. AMI makes a little profit for each used toner and cartridge, and amount will be used for its humanitarian services worldwide.

Also, all old electronic devices, i.e. televisions, computers, monitors, etc., can be taken to the Base Exchange warehouse, Bldg. T-800, also for recycling. For questions, please contact Senhor Duarte Fainha at 535-6557.

PIANO PLAYER: The Youth Center needs a piano player for the Missoula Theatre camp/production on August 17, 18, & 19. This is always a huge success for the youth on the base. If they cannot find a piano player, they will have to cancel the camp/production for this summer. Please contact Patty Gill at the Youth Center if interested, at 535-3273.



Feature

Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: I would like to order a... (coffee, mei de leite, etc.)

PORTUGUESE: Eu gostaria de pedir um... (café, meia de leite, etc.)

PRONUNCIATION: Go-shta-reha de padeer um... (kay-fay, maya de late, etc)

At the Movies



7 p.m. Friday - Hangover, Part II

7 p.m. Saturday - Pirates 4

3 p.m. Sunday - Pirates 4

7 p.m. Sunday - Hangover, Part II

HANGOVER PART II: *Phil, Stu, and Alan travel to Bangkok for Stu's wedding only to find themselves in another post-blackout misadventure. Rated R, 105 min.*

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES: *When Captain Jack Sparrow crosses paths with the enigmatic Angelica, he's not sure if it's love -- or if she's a ruthless con artist who's using him to find the fabled Fountain of Youth. When she forces him aboard the "Queen Anne's Revenge," the ship of the legendary pirate Blackbeard, Jack finds himself on an unexpected adventure in which he doesn't know whom to fear more: Blackbeard or Angelica, with whom he shares a mysterious past. Rated PG-13, 137 min.*

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

Team Lajes welcomes newest member!

Tamia Grace Collins was born Sunday the 26th of June to Staff Sgt. LaSorsha Collins and her husband, Dave. Congratulations!



BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 23: 6:30 p.m. Santa Barbara
Saturday, July 23: 6:30 p.m. Feteira
Sunday, July 24: 6:30 p.m. Bairro Joaquim Alves
Monday, July 25: 6:30 p.m. Terra Chã
Tuesday, July 26: 6:30 p.m. Fontinhas
Wednesday, July 27: 6:30 p.m. Fontinhas
Wednesday, July 27: 6:30 p.m. Fonte São Sebastião
Thursday, July 28: 6:30 p.m. Santo António, Fontinhas



ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima
Community Relations Advisor



Mount Brazil

Mount Brazil, standing next to the city of Angra do Heroísmo, is actually an inactive volcano. This destination, although small, is a very pleasant area offering visitors some interesting vistas and a relaxing leisure spot.

One of the main attractions of the Mount Brazil area is the big stone wall that is part of the São João Batista Fortress. This wall is more than three miles long and partially surrounds Mount Brazil, separating it from the rest of the island. Built by order of Philip II of Spain when he took the Portuguese throne in 1580, it's one of the largest former Spanish bulwarks in the whole world.

The fortress' construction began in the beginning of the 17th century and concluded in 1640, when the people of Terceira rebelled against the Spanish occupation of the island. During a year-long siege, a number of famous and prominent Portuguese people were imprisoned in the fortress, including King Alphonso VI and the father of the former President of the Republic, Mario Soares. The Portuguese Army's Regiment of Garrison No. 1 is currently occupying the fortress.

Another spot worth visiting is a monument on top of Mount Brazil. This monument is actually a larger replica of the stone monuments early Portuguese explorers placed in the different territories they discovered. Engraved with the dates 1432 and 1932 on its west and east sides, it was erected to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the Azores by Portuguese navigators. The monument is located in a place called, "Pico das Cruzinhas" (Little Crosses Peak). This is where the Spanish installed the gallows where some of the island's leaders were hanged during the Spanish occupation, as retaliation for the resistance offered by the island's population against the Spanish occupation. This monument is a must-visit place, not only for its historical significance, but also for the stunning panoramic view of Angra and surrounding villages.

Not far from this monument visitors can also find a picnic area and a small zoo. The picnic area is a very enjoyable place, especially during the summer months. It offers some barbecue grills with tables and benches and has plenty of trees and shrubs to provide a pleasant shade to picnickers. The zoo can be found next to the picnic area and features some exotic birds and other animals.

The center of Mount Brazil is actually a huge volcano crater used today as a firing range for the Portuguese Army personnel stationed at the fortress, and is the only area usually off limits to visitors.

Monte Brazil can be visited everyday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Admission is free.