

Crossroads

www.lajes.af.mil



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Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

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



889
SORTIES

17,753
LODGED



4.94 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.)

Partly Cloudy
Wind W 10 - 20 mph
W 10

High 79F / Low 73F

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

Partly Cloudy
Wind W 15 - 20 mph
W 10

High 81F / Low 73F



USAFE vice commander makes first visit to Lajes

Lt. Gen. Stephen Mueller, U.S. Air Forces in Europe vice commander, gets an overview of the 65th Operations Support Squadron during a visit to the operations support unit July 28, 2011. During his visit to Lajes Field, the general toured various units, and also met and shook hands with Airmen participating in a mass deployment exercise. (Photo by Guido Melo)

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

"There is only one real word you can say, and that is fantastic for an impression [of Lajes]."

These are the words Lt. Gen. Stephen P. Mueller, U.S. Air Forces in Europe vice commander, used to describe Lajes Field, Azores, when he visited the men and women of the 65th Air Base Wing July 28.

This is Mueller's first visit to Lajes after he became the USAFE vice commander in 2010.

During the visit, the general received a wing mission brief and a snapshot of the daily mission while touring various wing shops and meeting the Airmen carrying out the mission.

Some of the units visited by Mueller were the 65th Operations Support Squadron's air traffic control tower, and the 65th Medical Group facilities. He was escorted by Cols. Jose Rivera and Dave Parr, and Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Storms, 65th ABW commander, vice commander,

and command chief respectively.

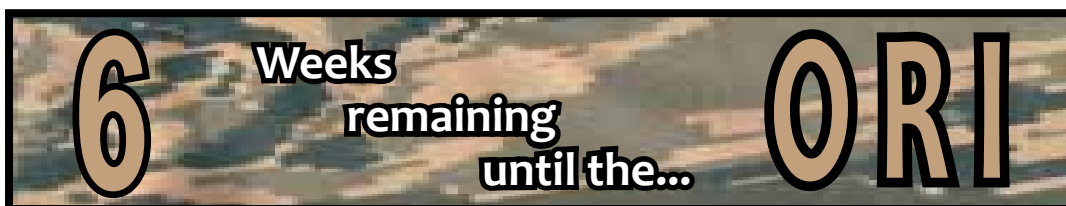
Mueller's visit coincided with two important occasions at Lajes—a warrior send-off and deployment exercise, which was held in preparation for the upcoming Lajes' operational readiness inspection in mid September.

During the warrior return, Airmen of the wing gathered at the Top of the Rock Club to welcome Master Sgt. Timothy Angermeier to Lajes.

As part of his trip here, the general had the opportunity to attend an exercise, in which more than 200 Lajes Airmen simulated a mass deployment to Afghanistan and processed through all the supporting agencies on base via a one-stop deployment line. When the Airmen were ready to board the buses that would take them to the flightline, all had an opportunity to greet and shake hands with the general.

With these activities, Lajes is fulfilling its wing commander's mission pillars, which include winning today's

To read more on "first visit" see page 4





A warrior returned from the past

By Andrew Billman
65th Air Base Wing historian



When you look out at the inviting blue Atlantic waters surrounding Terceira Island, it's hard to imagine that in the not-too-distant past these waters hid a menace, which threatened the future of freedom. A recent visitor to the 65th ABW lived through the threat posed by German U-boats during World War II and he shared his war-time experiences hunting these German warships that lurked under the Atlantic in and around the Azores.

Frederick "Ted" Hedges served as a flight engineer with the Royal Air Force Coastal Command 206 Squadron flying B-17 Flying Fortresses out of what the British called "Lagens Field" on Terceira Island. In 1943 the British extended the existing Portuguese dirt runway and placed pierced metal planking (also known as "Marston Mats") to accommodate the heavy bombers stationed on the island. The entire RAF worked to lay down the runway, including all of the commanders, in four-hour shifts before American units arrived at the beginning of 1944 to build the first asphalt runway in the Azores. According to Mr. Hedges, when the Americans arrived "the first two tents they assembled were for the cinema and ice cream production." British personnel witnessing these developments thought "they had their priorities completely correct." Unfortunately, most of their time was not spent watching movies and eating ice cream. After all, they were here on Lajes Field to hunt, locate, and strike down German U-boats.

Mr. Hedges flew a total of 37 missions off the island in a B-17 filled with 2,500 gallons of fuel and only four 250-pound depth charges in the

bomb-bay. The extra fuel allowed the aircraft an extended range of 2,500 miles. Ironically, the first mission "Ted" Hedges flew was not to find German U-boats, but to locate an RAF B-17 lost at sea. One hour out from Terceira they found the remains of the wrecked aircraft floating in the water, but they were unable to locate any surviving crew members. Though Mr. Hedges never fired on a German U-boat in any of his missions, he did escape one particularly perilous experience. While photographing the coastline of another Azorean island "we were ringed by anti-aircraft fire coming from radar-controlled AA batteries provided by the British to the Portuguese. It was a wonderful piece of work [while] they ringed us continually [with fire] until we moved away from the area." While the British and American air forces were allowed to use Terceira and Santa Maria for air operations, they were forbidden to approach the other Azorean islands without specific authorization in order to preserve Portuguese "neutrality" during the war. Not all RAF airmen were as fortunate to escape calamity while flying in and out of Lajes. A reminder of their ultimate sacrifice may be seen in the graves at the British cemetery on the island, including a "dear" friend of "Ted" Hedges – Joseph Eduoard Boudreault, a French-Canadian wireless operator and gunner, who died in an aircraft accident Dec. 4, 1943.

So, the next time you enjoy the friendly waters around the island, or when you happen to see a fragment of the original metal planking from the British runway serving as a fence for a farmer's field, take a moment to thank Mr. Hedges and those who passed this way before. Their sacrifices during perilous times ensured our safety and fortified the freedoms we benefit from today.



Frederick "Ted" Hedges as a flight engineer with the Royal Air Force Coastal Command. (Photo by Guido Melo)

The British flag is retrieved and substituted by the Portuguese flag on June 6, 1946, officially ending Royal Air Force presence on Lajes Field. (Photo by Guido Melo)

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

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

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Lajes CDC team helps parents focus on mission

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

Providing a happy place away from home for children could sometimes be difficult for working parents. A team here offers peace of mind for military and DoD families by providing a home-like experience for their children, while they are away from home.

The Lajes Child Development Center is in charge of helping Team Lajes parents focus on the mission, knowing their children are receiving adequate nurturing care.

"I feel honored to know that I am making a difference in the parent's life, especially their child," said Shemekia McMillan, child development program technician. "It lets me know that I am not only helping each child be successful, but also the parents in their careers as well."

There are so many agencies that help parents focus on the mission... the CDC is a crucial one, especially when it comes to meeting a child's individual, social, emotional, and intellectual development needs.

"Parents can't be successful in their careers without assistance from others," McMillan added. "I am a parent, and I don't know what I would do if I didn't have the support system that I have from the CDC and others."

As CDC program technician, McMillan's job is to develop and implement activities that stimulate the children's interest and contribute to their social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development.

The center can currently accommodate 29 children, ages 12 months to 5 years old. When at full capacity, the center accommodates eight infants, 10 pre-toddlers, 14 toddlers, and 24 preschoolers.

"Fees are calculated by totaling the family income to include base pay, BAH, and BAS," said Arnessa Jeffery, administrative assistant at the center. "Currently, there are nine categories, ranging from \$44 to \$137 per week."

The members at the CDC simply get the job done because they all agree that working with children is great, and they enjoy it.

"I love the children; they make my day," said Linda Cleveland, the CDC's director. "I am a child at heart, so being able to interact with them could make a bad day a great day."

Apart from the interaction with children, Jeffery, who has been working at the Lajes CDC for more than a year, said the camaraderie between the team at the CDC is exemplary, which is one of the reasons



Samantha Smith, a Child Development Center's staff, helps children color at the center during a classroom session at Lajes Aug. 1, 2011. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

she enjoys her job.

The programs technician often conducts conferences with the parents and the program assistants and provides technical guidance to the program assistants. The director of the CDC, on the other hand, makes sure the CDC is up and running for the mission.

The staff members work together as a team while they offer programs that improve and enhance Lajes children's well being.

"I feel wonderful this is a career that I chose to be in, and I wouldn't change it for anything," said the director. "If the children, staff, and parents are happy, then I feel we have accomplished the mission for the day."

Every time Lajes parents stop at the CDC after a long day at work to pick up their children, and they leave with smiles on their faces, this gives the team at the CDC a sense of accomplishment.

The Lajes CDC offers hourly care from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. "Also we do offer 'Give Parents A Break' the third Saturday every month," said Cleveland.

For more information about the Lajes CDC, call 535-3188.

Computer tool enhances work efficiencies

By Alessandra Mings
U.S. Air Forces in Europe Public Affairs intern

"If I only had more hours in the day, I could get so much more accomplished," is a statement many people often say to themselves.

U.S. Air Forces in Europe Airmen have the "power at their desktop," said Tim Gowens, USAFE Communications Directorate Knowledge Operations team lead.

A seemingly simple chat program installed on unclassified and classified government networks is a fast and efficient way to reduce e-mails and help manage time more effectively, he said.

Office Communicator provides more than chat capabilities, though. It's a collaboration tool helping enhance government employees' ability to be more effective while on the job. It saves time by receiving real-time feedback or answers via instant messaging, global address search, a contact availability feature, forms of callback, conference calls, Web chat, simultaneous file sharing and editing, screen sharing, as well as expanding emergency notification capabilities.

"The goal is to collaborate more and save time," Mr. Gowens said. "In a single screen, you can see if the person you need to work with is available, message them on an issue and share the document you

want them to help with. If you need somebody else to get in on the conversation, you invite them to the same session and multiple people can work together. It eliminates the back and forth e-mails, and allows each shareholder to see the changes immediately."

Communicator is secure software that is accessible from a work desktop. It allows people to instantly cross flow information with people across USAFE and people assigned to Air Combat Command, Air Education and Training Command, Air Forces Central Command, Air Force District of Washington (District of Columbia), Air Force Materiel Command, Air Force Reserve Command, Air Mobility Command and Air National Guard Bureau.

For example, the USAFE Knowledge Operations staff, located at Ramstein, coordinated with the 700th Contracting Squadron staff at Rhine Ordnance Barracks about six months ago to secure a contract to upgrade the USAFE Director of Staff's Task Management Tool.

"We were under a short timeline to execute end-of-year funds and had about three weeks to pull together a solution," Mr. Gowens said. "By using Communicator, we 'tagged' all the pertinent contracting POCs so the moment their status changed to 'online,' we knew their

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phone would be answered. The deadlines were met and TMT was upgraded on time."

Without Communicator, the Knowledge Operations staff would have spent two weeks working face to face contracting staffs. Communicator saved everyone many hours through eliminating wasted phone calls and travel time between sites, allowing other projects to be completed.

Just the facts:

What is it about this tool that users need to know?

Bottom line: Communicator saves time.

Communicator is an application that provides desktop sharing, presence awareness, teleconferencing, audio/video calls, and instant messaging capabilities. Communicator is integrated with all Microsoft Office applications. With presence awareness, an indicator "light" shows whether or not a person is or is not online. Before making a call, USAFE members can look up the person's status they want to contact. If the person is in, then they can simply send a short instant message and save the effort put into sending an e-mail. If the person is out, then that person can be "tagged" in Communicator and receive a user notification on their desktop when that person is back in.

How can it help them in the long run?

By using IM, presence awareness, and tagging, time normally wasted on e-mails and phone calls is reclaimed which boosts productivity. Communicator is a way to connect people who are geographically separated. For example, Communicator connects the 435th Air Communications Group's squadrons that are spread across the Kaiserslautern Military Community.

Why should people use this tool?

The best thing people can do is to use the tool as soon as they log onto the network. Users just click on the Communicator icon in the lower right-hand corner of the screen. No additional sign-in or password is needed. In the address bar, users simply enter an e-mail

to find someone. From there, those contacts can be organized quickly and easily through grouping. Additionally, it can save people time and enhance productivity and collaboration. Desktop sharing allows for real-time collaboration. Multiple people at remote locations throughout USAFE can review the same document, eliminating multiple copies of the same document from being e-mailed and getting the job done now rather than hours later. This form of instant collaboration also eliminates the need to merge comments on a document, too.

How a person can use this tool:

Instant Messaging: Recently, a doctor contacted a patient using IM to reschedule an appointment. Presence awareness let the doctor know the patient was online, so he sent the patient an IM requesting to reschedule. No phone calls were made and the burdens of playing phone tag weren't an issue.

Presence Awareness: By using Communicator's presence awareness, a user will no longer have any unanswered calls. You simply don't call the person who is not already online.

Integration with Microsoft Office applications: By taking advantage of Communicator's integration with Outlook, people can say "thank you" by replying with an instant message instead of an e-mail. Doing so, helps eliminate e-mail clutter.

Desktop sharing: By using Communicator's desktop sharing features, people can share slides with anyone in USAFE and several other major commands. Desktop sharing is a great way to share information in meetings and provide training to others.

Saving conversation history: Although it is not possible to obtain a record of a phone call, all IMs can be saved as e-mail in Outlook.

Training: Desktop sharing is a great way to train others without ever leaving your desk.

Contacts: Groups can be created in people's Communicator contact lists to organize your contacts.

(Editor's note: Tech. Sgt. Francesca Popp, USAFE/PA, contributed to this story.)

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fight and building relationships with the host nation. After seeing the deployment exercise, Mueller said that with this type of event, Lajes is right on track with the USAFE commander's priorities.

"At USAFE, we often talk about our commander's priorities...win today's fight, build the partnerships that are out there, and shape the future," Mueller said. "Clearly when you come to a base like Lajes and the wing here, 65th Air Base Wing, you'll see all those [priorities] in action. The good example today is the practice that we saw for preparing people to deploy. That is a 'Win the Fight.'"

He gave further kudos to Airmen carrying out the mission every day for their "great energy."

"The energy is something great," he said. "You can feel it as soon as you land on the Island here. The energy the Airmen have for doing the mission-it oozes from them, right off their backs."

After meeting the Airmen at Lajes for the first time, the general had nothing but a positive impression of Lajes. He left a parting word for them about how critical the work they do everyday impacts the USAFE mission.

"Lajes is a huge, critical part of our team," Mueller said. "The mission that the [Airmen] do is great and helps us out in our everyday activities. They are key to our success."

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



Name: Takashia Rouse
Rank: CY-03
Unit: Lajes Youth Center
Hometown: Goldsboro, N.C.
Duty Title: School Age Program Assistant
Accomplishments: Mrs. Takashia Rouse arrived at Lajes Dec. 4, 2010, and began her duties in February 2011. She always brings a fresh face to existing projects and classroom decor. She helped the Lajes Youth Center

achieve an "Excellent" rating during the last Air Force inspection of the Lajes Youth Center, and has been a devoted worker of Child and Youth Programs since 1999. Her main goal is to allow the children to reach their full potential and explore social, cognitive and physical potentials equally given to all who attend the CDC.



Name: Jose Leal
Rank: LGW-04
Unit: Lajes Youth Center
Hometown: Lajes Field, Portugal
Duty Title: Lajes Youth Center Chef
Accomplishments: Prior to Sr. Leal working as the Lajes Youth Center chef, he worked for the Portuguese Army Reserve. He also worked eight years for the Lajes dining facility and is currently providing delicious, nutritious meals for the school-age

program and the Open Recreation children. His contributions to the Lajes Youth Program give parents a sense of security knowing their children are eating healthy meals cooked from scratch. His dietary knowledge and know-how led to an "Excellent" rating during the Lajes Youth Center's last Air Force inspection.



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



Chaplain (Maj.) Hector Colon, 65th Air Base Wing, speaks with Lt. Gen. Stephen P. Mueller, U.S. Air Forces in Europe vice commander, as Master Sgt. Ronald Freeman looks on during a single-unaccompanied-members' dinner held at the base chapel July 28. The visit was Mueller's first visit to Lajes after he became the USAFE vice commander in 2010. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Staff Sgt. Adam Crane 100% PT test

Staff Sgt. Adam Crane, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, performs push-ups near the Lajes Field track during a physical training session Aug. 2, 2011. Crane scored 100 percent on his PT test. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



While entering the United States Marine DC-9, Lt. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., former commander of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, gave a "thumbs up" to Lajes leadership for an outstanding reception of his team during a "gas-and-go" at Lajes Aug. 1, 2011. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Lajes' newest enlisted promotees pose for a photo after being recognized and tacking on their new stripes in a ceremony at Lajes Field, Azores, July 29, 2011. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Mark your calendar

HMO/FMO CLOSURE AUGUST 11: Due to Portuguese Holidays and lack of manpower, Housing Management Office will be closed on August 11th. On August 15th, Housing Office will be open but with reduced manning. Furniture Management Office will be closed both days. For more information please call 535-3507.



729TH AMS CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY AUG. 8: The 729th AMS will be having a Change of Command on Monday 8 Aug, 2011. You are all invited!

SOCCER TOURNAMENT: The fitness center is hosting a soccer tournament, Aug 22 to 26 at the running track, You still have a chance to sign –up; we extended the registration deadline to 19 Aug 2011. As right now, we have 5 teams signed up (CES, SFS, BA4, SMAC and COMM). Remember the tournament points garnered will count toward the Commander’s Cup Program. For questions, call 535-2424.

WEATHER CAMS

Travelling around the island and want to know the weather before you go? The Azores Meteorology Center has weather webcams throughout all nine islands. They are accessible from your home and you can see the weather in Angra, Biscoitos and Praia before leaving the house. Visit the following link to view the webcams: <http://www.climaat.angra.uac.pt/WebCams/index.htm>

BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE



- Friday, Aug. 5: 6 p.m. Rua Gervasio Lima, Praia
- Saturday, Aug. 6 p.m. Areiro, Cemetery Road, Praia
- Sunday, Aug. 7: 6 p.m. Praia beach
- Monday, Aug. 8: 6:30 p.m. Terreiro, Terra Chã
- Tuesday, Aug. 9: 6:30 p.m. São Bento, Angra
- Wednesday, Aug. 10: 6:30 p.m. Doze Ribeiras
- Wednesday, Aug. 10: 6:30 p.m. Quatro Ribeiras
- Thursday, Aug. 11: 6:30 p.m. Estrada 25 de Abril
- Thursday, Aug. 11: 6:30 p.m. Quatro Ribeiras

Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: I do not speak Portuguese, do you speak English?

PORTUGUESE: Eu não falo português, você fala inglês?

PRONUNCIATION: Ew now fah-low port-ou-geash, vo-say fa-la en-gleash.

At the Movies



- 7 p.m. Friday - Green Lantern
- 7 p.m. Saturday - X-Men: First Class
- 3 p.m. Sunday - X-Men: First Class
- 7 p.m. Sunday - Green Lantern



GREEN LANTERN: A test pilot is granted a mystical green ring that bestows him with otherworldly powers, as well as membership into an intergalactic squadron tasked with keeping peace within the universe. Rated PG-13, 114 min.



X-MEN: FIRST CLASS: In 1962, Charles Xavier starts up a school and later a team, for humans with superhuman abilities. Among them is Erik Lensherr, his best friend... and future archenemy. Rated PG-13, 132 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

ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima
Community Relations Advisor



QUESTION: Are there any camping sites on Terceira? And if so, are they free or do I have to pay a fee to use them?

Terceira Island offers local residents and visitors some camping grounds they can use during the summer months. They are the camping grounds of Salga, located next to the swimming area at Salga Bay in the beautiful village of Porto Judeu; Salgueiros, also a popular swimming area located just after the village of Porto Martins; Cinco Ribeiras, next to the ocean; Biscoitos, next to the swimming hole and green vineyards; and Mata da Esperança, between Cabrito and the highway to Angra.

The well-maintained camping ground of Salga is run by Angra’s City Hall, while the one in Cinco Ribeiras is run by a private business. Both camping grounds feature showers with hot water and electricity that can be used inside your tent with the use of an extension cord. There is a daily fee for each occupant—children under 10 are free, and a fee for a spot to set up your tent, which varies according to the tent’s size.

The use of Salgueiros camping ground is free, but it doesn’t provide all services available to the other camping sites, such as showers and electricity. While water is available for cooking and washing purposes you will need to bring your own drinking water. This area is available on a first-come first-served basis.

Biscoitos camping ground, located close to the swimming hole in the village with the same name, also offers the same features as Salga and Cinco Ribeiras.

The other authorized camping site, Mata da Esperança, is frequently used by the local boy and girl scouts during their campouts. This is a forested area located between Cabrito and the highway to Angra. It is the only area under the jurisdiction of the Regional Forest Services. This is also the only camping site that doesn’t provide water and restroom facilities. Camping there is free and campfires are allowed as long as people take necessary precautions to prevent forest fires.

Although people still camp in the area of Duck Lake, in the center of the island, it is not an authorized camping ground. According to the Regional Forest Services, it’s just a picnic area.

In addition to these camping sites, people are also allowed to camp on private property, such as an open field or a forest area, provided they have permission from the owners.

For more information on the featured camping grounds, call the following numbers: Salga – 295 905 451, Cinco Ribeiras – 295 907 087, and Biscoitos – 965 235 417.