



Force Protection




Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

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

 **905
SORTIES**

**17,753
LODGED** 

 **4.98 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 / Mostly Cloudy
Wind S 10 mph
E 5 mph
High 73F / Low 73F
Sunday (a.m. / p.m.)
Mostly Cloudy
Wind SW 10 mph
E 5 mph
High 75F / Low 73F

Lajes Airman surprises family after seven-month deployment

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

August 4, began like every other day for Melissa Drago, spouse of a 65th Security Forces Squadron deployed defender. After a long hike which took almost all day, in the evening she planned to go to the airport to welcome the "Tibbals" family, a staff sergeant, named Alfred, his wife and two children.

As the 65th SFS Key Spouse, welcoming a new family to Lajes is a crucial tradition for Melissa, so she had to make herself available, even though the arrival notice was said to be "last-minute."

She arrived at the airport holding a welcome card for the Tibbals in one hand, and her 11-month-old daughter in the other. Suddenly, the visit took a dramatically different turn. She was surprised to see her husband, Master Sgt. Nikki Drago, who had been deployed for seven months and was expected back home in a few weeks.

"I was shocked! So happy, so surprised—I hadn't suspected a thing," Melissa said. "He was standing next to me talking to our daughter in my arms, and I had to focus and realize that I had been waiting for this moment for seven months now...to see her reaction to her daddy, and I was missing it because I was in such a shock!"

Drago and the 65th SFS first sergeant, Master Sgt. Daniel Guzman, planned the surprise reunion.

After Drago requested to surprise his wife with his return, Guzman and the unit's sponsor program coordinator cooked up a story about an inbound family coming in from Germany.

"I requested for our key spouse, Melissa, to come out and help us welcome the new family into our unit," Guzman said. "She bought into it since this is the summer PCS season, and we have lots of families coming and going from Lajes. Melissa is also

a very involved key spouse, and I figured she would make every effort to attend and be there to welcome in the new security forces family."

Melissa's neighbor, Cory, wife of the 65th Medical Group first sergeant, Master Sgt. Dominic Dumbra, was also an accomplice in the plan to ensure she was available at the airport on that day for the new members' arrival.

After the shock factor, all Melissa could say was, "You got me!"

"I felt 'punked' completely," Melissa said.

Because of her surprise, Melissa can't remember her first words to her husband, but she recalls saying, "I thought you were in a tent with poor internet?"

But her husband only smirked and said, "That's why I haven't talked to you today—I've been flying for two days."

And Melissa gave their 11-month-old daughter to her husband. "I know I said 'Carmen this is your daddy, say hi daddy, welcome home.'"

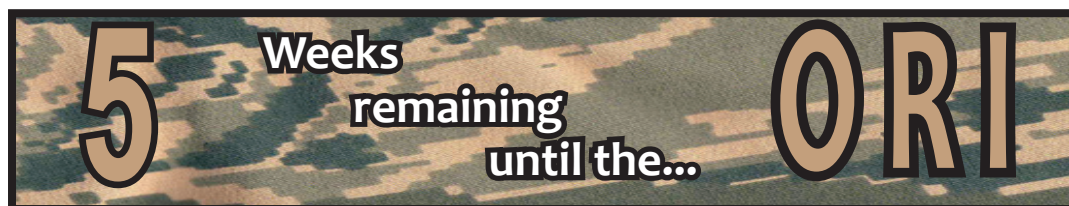
When Melissa was pregnant with their daughter, Drago was in Korea the entire time. Drago came back, and after spending just a few weeks together with his wife, he deployed to the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan.

"Like many other military dads, he missed ultrasound appointments and her first coos and crawls,"



Master Sgt. Nikki Drago, 65th Security Forces Squadron, his wife Melissa Drago, and their daughter, Carmen, pose at the Lajes Field Terminal after Drago surprised his family by returning early from his deployment Aug. 4. Melissa Drago is the 65th Security Forces Key Spouse, and is glad her husband is back home safe. (Courtesy photo)

To read more on "Deployment" see page 4





Air Force Warriors: A Team Identity

By Lt. Col. Mark Miller

65th Communications Squadron commander

In the few short weeks I've been here at Lajes, the experience of living and working on an island has highlighted for me what I consider the most important aspect of the success of our Air Force mission. More so than in the majority of assignments, we are reminded every day of our reliance on each other. Here, we are cut off from our usual network of friends, family and favorite businesses that usually support our daily lives. So, we turn to those who share our predicament--our fellow Airmen here with us at Lajes. All stand ready to help with solutions to the everyday problems we face from being far from the mainland. Yet, this is not a situation peculiar to the island of Terceira; it's just more evident than usual. We are all reliant on one another. It is how we are meant to operate in order to succeed in our Air Force mission. We must operate as a close-knit team.

The first lessons in our identity as a team are found in our initial training. In formation and drill, we begin to feel a corporate identity. We begin to march in step with one another. As we develop as a team, we become capable of executing complex movements as a large group. Each individual becomes part of something much larger than self--they've become a team. Each strives to execute each step and turn in perfect synchronization with fellow Air-

men. But those early lessons weren't limited to just drill. How many of our personnel can remember losing privileges in basic training for something someone else left undone? On the other hand, all of us have shared in privileges and celebrations for outstanding performance by others. It works both ways. The lessons paint a clear picture--we are responsible for each other's performance.

We share in success or failure because we are reliant on each other's support to succeed as individuals. Indeed, none of us individually can ever develop all the expertise necessary to ensure mission success. That is not to say that individual performance isn't important. All have strengths to offer, but something special happens when they're combined in the framework of a team--we become individually stronger. We count on one another to each do his or her part to achieve common goals. We react speedily to assist when our teammates need support. It is as a team that we succeed or fail.

As the U.S. Air Force, we have proven extremely adept at building our Airmen, though distributed around the globe, into a strong, cohesive team. Just as the key to being the most outstanding Air Force in the world has been a strong team, the key to succeeding in the upcoming operational readiness inspection will be through our outstanding teamwork. Be there for your teammates as we face our upcoming challenge.

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

US band rocks Lajes audience

By Staff Sgt. Olufemi Owolabi

65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

When a band from the United States took center stage in Praia to perform for the local community, hundreds of Lajes members attended the show, which was held as part of the events to celebrate Praia Fest, Aug. 2.

The band, Hoobastank, is an American rock band that was formed in 1994 in Agoura Hills, Calif., and best known for their 2004 hit "The Reason."

The band's lead singer, Doug Robb, said though they had performed in various international shows, Praia Fest is a show that drives a bigger audience, and they enjoy entertaining the servicemembers.

"It's really cool to be here," said the lead singer. "There are places in the world I never really thought that music is going to take me ... Lajes is one of those places."

Praia Fest is a tradition in the Azores, which first began in 1978.

It is celebrated with a food fair, featuring restaurants from Terceira Island and other neighboring islands, such as São Miguel.

Music concerts are organized with the main one, like Hoobastank, taking place in the area behind the Yacht Club.

According to the band, when they were invited to perform at Praia Fest, they didn't realize that they would be giving back to those who



Hoobastank, a U.S.-based band, entertains military and community members during a concert at Praia Fest Aug. 2, 2011. The Praia Fest is a tradition in the Azores, which first began in 1978.

serve. On arrival at Lajes, the show was full of servicemembers, and it made the event even more rewarding.

The lead singer of Hoobastank described their performance for military members overseas as a way of providing "a little bit of balance, which breaks the monotony." He said they are happy to be here doing something different for military members than what they

To read more on "US Band" see page 4

Crossroads TRA

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.

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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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Commander, 65th Air Base Wing

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Incredible Lajes Field Club benefits!

By Karen O'Camb
65th Force Support Squadron

Lajes Field offers fantastic benefits and discounts for its Air Force Club members. These are just some of the fantastic deals members receive:

- Meal discounts on daily buffets, menu items and catered meals
- Discount of 10 percent on personal catered events
- Evening meal specials: Tuesday-50-cent tacos, Wednesday-wings, Thursday-\$10 large pizzas, Friday- social hour, Saturday-75-cent sliders
- Quarterly wine tastings
- Monthly membership meals: \$2 breakfast and \$4 lunch (Last Wednesday of the month)
- Quarterly membership free dinner buffet (Last Wednesday of the quarter)

- Daily free lunch drawings
- Daily free coffee from 7 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Check cashing privileges
- Euro conversions
- Monthly membership activities: Texas Hold'em poker, Bingo
- Members only/member pricing seasonal events: Casino night, Thanksgiving buffet, New Years Eve party, Halloween costume party, Super Bowl party
- Free lounge entertainment and parties; pajama night, Mardi Gras, End of Summer Luau
- Membership discounts at all FSS facilities
- Membership card advantages: Blue star program, Military cash back, air mileage, gift cards
- Annual AF Club programs: Membership drive events, Football Frenzy and Scholarship program
- A top notch staff to deliver quality food, entertainment and services!!!

Lajes' newest Staff Sergeants



Lajes' newest staff sergeant selects and their family members pose for a photo after being recognized in a ceremony at Lajes Field, Azores, Aug. 5, 2011 (Photo by Lucas Silva)

CASTILLEJA, JOHN
DEBROSSE, PHILLIP
DIAZ, LARRY PABLO
ELLIOTT, RICHARD L
ENSLEY, KAMILINN
FAVELA, NICOLAS
HATTON, BRADLEY
HENRY, KERRIC DAVON
HINES, MARCUS
JACKSON, REGINALD
JOHNSON, JERMAINE
KING ALEEM, DARNELL
LEEDER, EMILY
MANNING, STEPHON

MARTINEZ, ERIC
MAURER, ROBERT
MCCURBIN, SEAN
MCKINNEY, CHARLES
MILIAN, JEZELLY
MOREY, JACY AVEDIS
NESTING, WESLEY
NEWMAN, EZEKIEL
ONEILL, DARIC
PARROTT, CODY JAMES
PERKINS, BRYAN RUSS
PERRY, SAMANTHA
PIOLUNEK, JUSTIN
PRESTIA, RICHARD

PURDON, JAMES
RANSAW, ALLEN
RHINEBOLT, KARL
ROBERTS, JAMES
SANDERSON, CORDERO
SCHUSTER, SARA
SIAUMAU, GREGORY
SMITH, TRAVIS JOHN
TOMEI, PATRICK
TONEY, ANDRE KAMAL
TOR, RAY PAUL
VALEN, WILLIAM JOSE
WILLMAN, MICHAEL



Members of Team Lajes led by Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, greet Master Sgt. Nikki Drago, 65th Security Force Squadron defender, during a "warrior-welcome" held for Sergeant Drago and his family at the Top of the Rock Club's entrance Aug. 11, 2011. Sergeant Drago returned to Lajes after a seven-month deployment to the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyzstan. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Olufemi Owolabi)

"Deployment" from page 1

Melissa said. "Carmen is days shy of taking her first steps, and I really wanted him here for that. It's great to know he will be here for one of her greatest milestones."

The surprise reunion, according to Melissa, made everything "even more memorable."

"Now I just have to figure out what to do with the 'welcome-home-daddy' balloons, and where Carmen should wear her welcome-home-daddy dress," Melissa added.

Drago's arrival came just in time for his daughter's first birthday, which the family plans to celebrate in New Jersey.

"We plan to take her to her first NFL football game, which just happens to be mommy's New York Giants versus daddy's St. Louis Rams at home! Go Big Blue! We can't wait," Melissa said.

"US Band" from page 2

are used to.

The band recently returned from performing a 10-day show in Iraq, and they said that was another wonderful experience.

"As far as playing for the troops, there is always an extra sense of appreciation," Robb said. "The people who enlist in the military have chosen to make a lot of sacrifice, potentially life-threatening sacrifices. They put themselves through a lot of physical and emotional stress, so it is very rewarding playing for them. I feel like I am doing

something cool for those who deserve it."

According to Hoobastank's drummer, Chris Hesse, this show is one of the most gratifying shows they have done because the Lajes audience has "great energy."

The appreciation goes both ways for the audience and Hoobastank.

As the band showed their appreciation of the audience with a music genre that "rocked" the entire city, the audience also showed their appreciation of the music with stomps on the floor, loud applause and cheerful ovations.

Lajes Thrift Store gives back to community

By Carolyn Rousey
Lajes Key Spouse Leader

What? You have too much stuff you say? Well I know just what you need... A trip to the Lajes Thrift Store. The Thrift Store has recently gone through a wonderful renovation and is now accepting furniture. Located in Building T-125, right behind the Airman and Family Readiness Center, the Thrift Store has just about anything you can think of. If you are new to the island and need household goods to get you through until your shipment arrives, we have numerous items. If you are shopping for school supplies and clothes for the kids, we have these, too. If you'd like to make a little money off the toys, clothing, and other "stuff" you don't use any more, bring everything over to the Thrift Store and you can consign your items.

The Lajes Spouses Club operates the Thrift Store, and all the money

raised goes right back into our Lajes Field community. The Spouses Club provides funds for the senior scholarships, sports trips, Boy/Girl Scouts, wing award ceremonies, and annual events such as the Pink Tie Gala, Air Force Ball, and others.

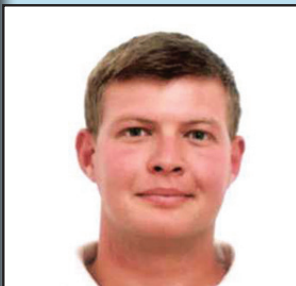
If it's happening here at Lajes Field, chances are the Lajes spouses are involved.

To celebrate our renovation, the Thrift Shop is hosting a fashion show on Sept. 1. We would like to cordially invite everyone to attend. The fashion show will start at 4 p.m., and will feature all sorts of items that can be found and purchased here. Bring your donations and consignments in between Aug. 23-31, and your name will be entered to win one of several fabulous prizes.

The Thrift Shop is open Tuesday, Wednesday and the first Saturday each month from 10 am-2 pm, Thursdays 2 pm-6 pm.

Call 535-4146 for details.

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



Name: Luis Aguiar
Rank: LGS-09
Unit: 65th CES
Hometown: Praia da Vitória
Duty Title: Construction inspector
Accomplishments: Luis is one of our premier construction inspectors. In the last year he has been responsible for over \$3 million worth of construction projects. He has inspected such projects as the ammo storage area, renovation on the network control

center and the demolition of six underground fuel storage tanks. He also helped inspect the \$3.2 million fuels project at the South Tank Farm. Without his attention to detail and persistence, we would not have quality construction projects on Lajes Field.



Name: Ryan McGraw
Rank: Staff Sergeant
Unit: 65th CES
Hometown: Odessa, Texas
Duty Title: Structural Journeyman
Accomplishments: Sergeant McGraw, his wife, and four kids have been part of the Lajes family for a year. As 65th CES Structures crew leader, he is responsible for repair and maintenance for 895 base facilities valued at \$1.7 billion. He is critical to our

outstanding recurrent work program rate of 97.1 percent on time completion, second in USAFE and well above the Air Force standards. In addition, as a 65th Air Base Wing Point of Contact for Warrior Days, he is preparing our squadron to achieve an "Outstanding" rating in the upcoming operational readiness inspection.

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

LAJES DEPLOYED WARRIOR



Master Sgt. Fabian Cardona, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, gets recognized as the squadron Senior NCO of the Month for July by Maj. Paul Cornwell, 407th Expeditionary Support Squadron commander, during his deployment to Ali Base, Iraq, 2011. (Courtesy Photo)



Col. James Regenor, 521st Air Mobility Operations Group commander, passes the 729th Air Mobility Squadron's guidon to the incoming commander, Lt. Col. Loren Graham, during a change of command ceremony, Aug. 08, 2011. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Lajes Field members check their Airman's Manuals for the right answers to the questions during an ATSO Test, Aug. 3, 2011. This training is in preparation for an upcoming operational readiness inspection in September. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



A Turkish air force F-16D (Peace Onyx III) does a "gas-n-go" on the Lajes Field flightline, July, 2011. Aircraft from around the world stop at Lajes to refuel before carrying out their mission. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



The Lajes 2nd Quarterly Awards winners pose for a photo after being recognized in a breakfast ceremony at the TORC Aug. 3, 2011. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Mark your calendar

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 Aug. 19. As of 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>

Free and Reduced Lunch Applications, and Bus Registration and Standards Available at the School Liaison Office/T-112, or Lajes Elementary/High School, or <http://www.lajesfss.com/About-Lajes--Newcomers.html>. For more information, please call 535-5711

BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE

Saturday, Aug. 13: 6:30 p.m. Cabouco, Fontinhas
 Saturday, Aug. 13: 6:30 p.m. Biscoitinho, São Mateus
 Sunday, Aug. 14: 6:30 p.m. Porto Judeu
 Sunday, Aug. 14: 6:30 p.m. Vila Nova
 Monday, Aug. 15: 6:30 p.m. Behind CE compound
 Monday, Aug. 15: 6:30 p.m. Lameirinho, Angra
 Tuesday, Aug. 16: 6 p.m. Agualva
 Wednesday, Aug. 17: 6 p.m. Agualva
 Thursday, Aug. 18: 6 p.m. Agualva



Feature

Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: Where is the public restroom?

PORTUGUESE: Onde fica a casa de banho?

PRONUNCIATION: Onda fee-ka ah cah-zah de banyo?

At the Movies



7 p.m. Friday - Super 8
 7 p.m. Saturday - Mr. Popper's Penguins
 4 p.m. Sunday - Mr. Popper's Penguins
 7 p.m. Sunday - Super 8



SUPER 8: In the summer of 1979, a group of friends in a small Ohio town witness a catastrophic train crash while making a super 8 movie and soon suspect that it was not an accident. Rated PG-13, 114 min.



MR. POPPER'S PENGUINS: Tom Popper grew up having very little interaction with his father who was off exploring the world. When he grows up he spends most of his time on his work and ignores his children. One day his father sends him an unusual gift: six penguins. Rated PG, 95 min.

Movie times and schedule are subject to change.

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



A brief history of Portugal's forcados



The "forcados," or the "suicide squad" as Americans here call them, are a group of brave young men who challenge the bull with their bare hands, grabbing it by the horns and neck in the arena bullfights, with the objective of immobilizing the animal.

The forcados are unique to Portugal, and unlike the matadors and horsemen (cavaleiros), they are not professionals.

They fight the bulls because they enjoy doing it, and want to continue a very old Portuguese tradition.

The forcados have been part of the Portuguese arena bullfights for many years and it's uncertain why or when this type of bullfighting originally started.

The exploits of forcados have even been used in films, including the 1951 movie "Quo Vadis," a classic film about ancient Rome and an imperial soldier's struggle to save a Christian woman he loves from the wrath of Emperor Nero. A Portuguese renowned forcado, named Nuno Salvação Barreto, appeared as the stunt double for actor Buddy Bear, who played the role of Roman gladiator "Ursus," and fought a bull alone in the arena.

Traditionally, the forcados are asked to jump inside the arena and seize the bull after it has just been fought by the cavaleiro (horseman). The leading forcado, wearing a green or brown cap on his head, starts walking toward the bull and tries to grab it by the horns and neck with the help of the other members of the group.

When the bull is to face the horsemen and the forcados, his sharp horns are covered with a protection made of leather so the horse and the forcados are not injured, but unfortunately injuries still do happen sometimes.

The name forcados comes from the word "pitchfork" in Portuguese, which the forcados use to carry in their hands when appearing in the bullrings.

Terceira Island has two groups of forcados, one from Praia and the other from Angra, who usually perform during the arena bullfights that take place throughout the summer months.