

# Crossroads

www.lajes.af.mil



Vol. 16, No. 34 • September 2, 2011

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

## Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha  
Threat Level: Low

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

 **952  
SORTIES**

**19,740  
LODGED** 

 **5.25 million  
gallons  
FUEL ISSUED**

In a real-world emergency, call the Public Affairs Straight Talk Line, **535-3542**.

Don't drink and drive; call LADD: 295 57 LADD

**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 SE 10 mph  
W 10 mph  
High 79F / Low 70F

**Sunday (a.m. / p.m.)**  
Mostly Cloudy  
Wind SW 10 mph  
W 10 mph  
High 79F / Low 68F

## Lajes' own mentor USAFE commanders



New squadron commanders and their spouses pose for a photo during the U.S. Air Force in Europe's squadron Commanders and Spouses Seminar held at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Aug. 14-20. Col. Dave Parr, 65th Air Base Wing vice commander, and his wife, Liza, mentored the new squadron commanders and spouses during the seminar. Other Lajes personnel in this photo include Maj. Taona Enriquez, 65th Contracting Flight, her husband, Rick Enriquez, Lt. Col. Shawn Cotton, 65th Operations Support Squadron, his wife, Rika Cotton, Lt. Col. Mark Miller, 65th Communications Squadron, and his wife, Laura Miller. (Courtesy photo)

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

Is it possible a week-long seminar will fully prepare someone to be a new squadron commander? It's relatively understood that no amount of training could equip someone for the huge task, but it certainly helps to receive guidance and recommendations from those who have been in their shoes.

This is what took place during the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Squadron Commanders' and Spouses' Seminar at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Aug. 14-20, where both newly appointed squadron commanders and their spouses received key information, and heard reflections from past and present commanders.

The 65th Air Base Wing Vice Commander, Col. Dave Parr, and his wife, Liza Parr, mentored at the seminar.

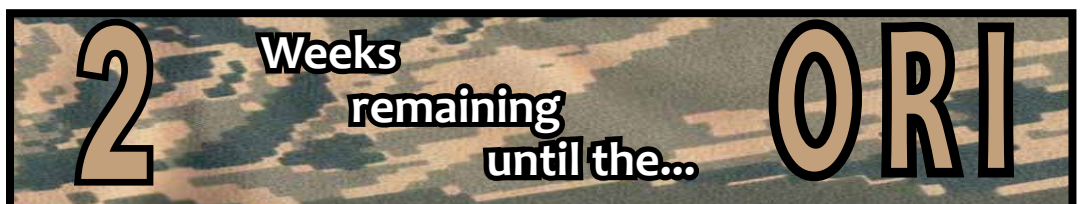
The USAFE Commander, Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, personally selected the Parr's for this vital responsibility.

"Training squadron commanders and their spouses to better serve our Airmen was a real honor--an absolutely humbling experience," said Col. Parr. "There is so much to learn as a new commander and you only get one chance to make that first impression; this course was designed to set new commanders and their spouses up for success."

While Col. Parr spoke to the new commanders, Mrs. Parr, a retired colonel after 22 years of service in the Air Force, mentored the spouses. During the seminar, she helped them prepare for their new positions by facilitating discussions and providing examples from her personal experiences.

"I spent the majority of my career in the business of

To read more on "Seminar" see page 3





# Is it over yet?

By Maj. Randall "Axle" Schmedthorst  
65th Air Base Wing Safety



The Critical Days of Summer Campaign is almost over and the kids are back in school. Now it's time to relax and enjoy the great Lajes weather, right? Before we let our guard down, let's take a look at how the summer went. The Air Force lost 15 Airmen during this year's Critical Days of Summer, which started on Memorial Day and ends on Labor Day. Although that number is down from 16 fatalities last year and 21 the year prior, it is still 15 deaths too many. Of those fatalities, seven involved motorcycles, four involved automobiles, two members drowned, and the last two involved pedestrians. Although there were a wide range of causes, many of these fatalities were preventable.



catch phrase in the Air Force, but at the end of the day it's about using common sense and making smart choices.

As the summer comes to a close and the Lajes fall and winter approach, we will be faced with new hazards. Like I said earlier, school has started back up. That means the trail of kids walking between base housing and the school has also returned. Don't forget to slow down when driving through base housing and past the school. Many of the kids haven't learned the concept of "self-preservation," so it's up to all of you drivers to keep a watchful eye out for that kid who may go running across the road without looking. Finally, inclement weather will soon return to Lajes, bringing additional hazards. The rain and wind often cause pedestrians to be less attentive to their surroundings. They may be shielding their eyes and not see an approaching car. These factors, when combined with reduced visibility and poor braking due to wet roads, can result in a deadly situation. Ultimately, it is up to everyone to maintain their awareness to prevent mishaps, but you don't want to be the one to let your guard down and hope the other person hasn't. So please, stay safe.

I mention these numbers because Lajes Airmen are exposed to these same hazards. Although the Summer Safety Campaign is over, it does not mean we should change our attitude towards safety. We must remain vigilant at all times and exercise good risk management. Risk management may seem like a

**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

## 9/11 5k Run and Remembrance Ceremony

By Capt. Mark Paine  
65th Medical Group

The first documented response to the Sept. 11th hijackings occurred at 8:19 a.m., when flight attendant Betty Ong contacted the ground crew from Flight 11. Only 27 minutes later her plane struck the World Trade Center. Alice Hoagland is a mother who received a phone call from her adult son, Mark Bingham, who was onboard Flight 93. At 9:57 a.m., Hoagland, who was watching the news, tried to get back in touch with her son and left him the first of two voicemails he would never receive. She said, "If you possibly can, try to overpower these guys...group some people and do the best you can to get control...I love you sweetie, good luck, bye-bye." The hijackers on his plane intentionally crashed it into the ground because the passengers revolted and they were winning. Betty, Alice, and Mark were all ordinary people who acted as heroes immediately when danger arose. They were our nation's sentries and avengers even though they had never sworn an oath to do so.

Next week, on Friday, Sept. 9, 2011, the 65th Air Base Wing will host two separate events to honor both the victims and heroes of 9/11. There will be a free 9/11 5k Run starting at 7 a.m. at the Chace Fitness Center, and ending at the track. Active duty personnel must register in advance with their squadron representatives to be eligible for individual awards or to count



toward the unit participation award. All other base pass holders may register the day of the race starting at 6:30 a.m. Non-registered individuals may run, but they won't be eligible for awards. The awards presentation will be at 8:15 a.m. at the track.

There will also be a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on the same day, Friday, Sept. 9,

To read more on "9/11" see page 4



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.

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# Lajes airfield driving program

By Jose B. Soares  
65th Operations Support Squadron

The Lajes airfield driving program is a wing program delegated to Airfield Management to establish responsibilities, requirements and procedures for the safe operation of motor vehicles within the airfield. It applies to all wing personnel assigned, attached or employed at Lajes, to include contractors and visitors who have a need to drive on the airfield.

The safe operation of all government and civilian motor vehicles on the airfield is absolutely essential to aircraft operations and maintenance. Motor vehicles present a clear and definite danger to both aircraft and ground personnel. Carelessness, haste, and disregard for established safety standards by vehicle operators are the primary causes of aircraft incidents and accidents, aircraft and vehicle mishaps, and personal injuries on the airfield.

Airfield facilities include runways, taxiways, aircraft parking and servicing areas, air traffic control facilities, airfield management operations, transient alert and air ground equipment operations.

As defined in airfield operations instructions, any portion of the airfield requiring aircraft, vehicles and pedestrians must obtain specific air traffic control approval for access, normally via two-way radio contact. Controlled movement areas include, but are not limited to,

areas used for take-off, landing and as required taxiing of aircraft.

A controlled movement area violation is the most serious airfield infraction, which can be caused by aircraft, vehicles, or pedestrians entering the controlled movement area without specific air traffic control approval. Most of the controlled movement area violations are caused by communication errors and lack of knowledge about the airfield environment.

Airfield vehicle operators must be familiar with the airfield environment, including airfield signs and markings, obeying speed limits in vehicle parking areas and aprons, airfield access roads, taxiways, runways and aircraft/equipment/trailer towing operations, procedures for proper radio communications and discipline, etc.

Standards and directives have been established within the airfield driving program to control motor vehicles and personnel operating on the airfield. It is very important personnel assigned to the airfield be knowledgeable of and comply with all the requirements. Careful attention and strict adherence to flight safety precautions will prevent damage to aircraft and personnel injury.

It is also important to maintain positive control over the airfield, and that personnel are complying with the directives and procedures. If you have any questions or concerns about the airfield driving program, do not hesitate to contact airfield management operations for support at 535-1361.

## Lajes... simply OUTSTANDING!

### "Seminar" from page 1

taking care of people," Mrs. Parr said. "I was a detachment commander and a services squadron commander, and my husband is also a former squadron commander. The experiences gained throughout my military career gave me the added perspective to be able to relate to the new squadron commanders and their spouses," she said.

Mrs. Parr stressed that each spouse decides how involved she or he will be as a volunteer. While some are comfortable being very involved, others may not for a number of reasons, she said.

"But either is all right!" she added. "Everyone should participate at the level they are comfortable and where there is a gap, someone will be asked to volunteer to assist."

Some of the areas covered during seminar were Airman and Family Readiness, library services, USAFE Military Child Education, and health-care in Europe to name a few. There were also panels on casualty, mortuary and the grieving process, taking care of people, first sergeants and key spouses, and a squadron commanders' spouses peer panel.

Gen. Welsh and his wife, Betty, spent a lot of time with the seminar participants. They ensured the new squadron commanders and their spouses were given the resources needed to be successful in their new jobs.

"We were able to look at Air Force programs in the context of using them as commanders," said Lt. Col. Mark Miller, 65th Communications Squadron commander. "I left Ramstein more focused on my role as commander, more confident that I had the skills and knowledge I needed to succeed, and more energized to confront the challenges of command," he said.

Mrs. Parr stressed that all Airmen, including active duty, families, and civilians should be given the tools needed for each individual to be successful. The Air Force is working on this through the Comprehensive Airman Fitness concept.

"I am really excited about this because the focus is not only on physical but also on mental, social and spiritual fitness," she said. "By providing

resources and programs that build on all four domains, the result will be resilient individuals who are able to overcome the challenges of life, or bounce back from adversity."

Like many other military families, the Parris have endured their share of family separations due to deployments and separate assignments. Leaving the active duty Air Force was a bitter sweet decision, according to Mrs. Parr.

"When my husband got the job as the vice wing commander, I was not thinking of retirement," she said. "Instead, I was thinking, 'Is there a position for me at Lajes so I can go with my family?'" Since there wasn't a position available, I decided that at this stage in our lives, keeping the family together is the number one priority," she said.

According to Mrs. Parr, the decision to retire was made easier by the thought she could still keep serving the Air Force by not only supporting her spouse and children, but also being a part of the Lajes community as a senior spouse with a background in taking care of Airmen and families.

The Parris were stationed at Lajes 18 years ago.

"I thought we took care of Airmen and families in a great way back then," she said. "Now, returning almost two decades later, I am really impressed with how much this place has evolved. The infrastructure, such as buildings, roads and housing are much improved and the services provided throughout the base are outstanding!"

But Mrs. Parr said what's most important to making a great community is the people.

"The people I have met on and off base are just as wonderful as before, and the sense of community within the military is even stronger now. It is really good to be back, somewhat older, but hopefully a lot wiser," she said.

The mentorship the Parris gave at the seminar will hopefully help new squadron commanders and their spouses better serve their Airmen.

"Liza and I continue to learn everyday," said Col. Parr. "But if we helped just one new squadron commander or spouse through our mentorship, then I would consider the busy week a success."

**Looking for financial help to go back to school?**

The Education Center may be able to help! Join us for the Spouse's Informational Brief. The following information will be covered:

- Spouse Tuition Assistance Program
- Military Spouse Career Advancement Account
- Scholarships
- School information...and much more!

Held in the Café Bean conference room Sept. 7 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Lajes Job Opportunity!**

The base Education office is in need of a facility monitor. This position would entail securing the facility during periods when classes are in session, and it requires night-time and weekend work. Please contact the 65th Contracting Flight at 535-6492 if interested.

**Did you know...**

**The Lajes Field Company Grade Officer's Council was selected the best council in the European Region for the second quarter! Congratulations, CGOs!**

**"9/11" from page 2**

2011, at 11:00 a.m. at the base chapel. The dress will be the uniform of the day for military members and business casual for civilians. Attendees are requested to arrive early and to walk if possible due to limited parking. The event will be broadcasted live on [www.lajesfss.com](http://www.lajesfss.com) and it will also be shown afterward, both on [www.lajesfss.com](http://www.lajesfss.com) and on the Commander's Access Channel.

The United States European Command will commemorate the tenth anniversary of the attacks by focusing on the resilience of our European partners and the resilience of the NATO Alliance. Across Europe, countries have responded collectively over the past ten years to reduce the threat of terrorism, working across borders to support the common good. The United States remains committed to working with its European allies to counter violent extremists and all transnational

threats. It will not be possible to prevent every terrorist attack, but the capabilities of terrorist groups have been sharply reduced through the collaborative efforts of the international community.

The heroes of 9/11 and Lajes Airmen are both guardians of freedom and justice. On that day we saw a flight attendant, with only minutes left to live, risking her own safety to contact ground crew to alert authorities of the hijacking. We also saw a mother call her grown son to support his effort to recruit fellow passengers and re-take control of the aircraft. The Airmen and families at Lajes Field do their part by enabling the expeditionary movement of warfighters, warplanes, and global communications to combatant commanders. On Friday, Sept. 9, 2011, we have the opportunity to commemorate the citizens of over 90 countries who perished in the 9/11 attacks by running in the 9/11 5k Run and attending the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. [www.911memorial.org](http://www.911memorial.org) was used as a source for this article.



Chaplain (Maj.) Hector Colon, 65th Air Base Wing chapel, and Hildeberto Cabral, Solid Rock Oasis director, work together in the newly-named facility, Aug. 20. The Solid Rock Oasis received its name after a two-week, base-wide contest. (Photo by Guido Melo)

**How did the Airman Ministry Center become the Solid Rock Oasis?**

By Hildeberto Cabral  
Solid Rock Oasis Manager

One of Lajes' best places--the Airman Ministry Center, now called the Solid Rock Oasis--received its new name after a two-week, base-wide contest.

All of Team Lajes was invited to participate, in which anyone could offer ideas for a new name of the facility. This culminated at noon, Friday, July 8, at the Airman Ministry Center, when seven judges determined the winner. While the 20 attendees enjoyed finger foods and soft beverages, the judges (made up of base leadership and Lajes Airmen) gathered in a separate room to choose the new name. The Lajes Field community submitted 25 names total.

The judges decided to combine three winning entry names together: Mrs. Alison Storms with Oasis, Mr. Patrick Fagundes and Ms. Maria Victoria Fonseca with Oasis in Azores, and Ms. Cynthia Burney with Solid Rock. The new name, "Solid Rock Oasis" was born!

Thank you all for the wonderful support from the Solid Rock Oasis team!

**LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK**



**Name:** Elizabeth Nagy  
**Rank:** Master Sgt.  
**Unit:** 65th ABW/EO  
**Hometown:** Florissant, Mo.  
**Duty Title:** Equal Opportunity Superintendent  
**Accomplishments:** Master Sgt. Nagy is an integral part of the Equal Opportunity Office. She has been here for a little over a year and is about ready to PCS. Whatever task she tackles, she gives 100 percent.

She can be found at various places around the base other than her primary duties in support of Equal Opportunity; she is a Self-Aid Buddy Care instructor and Wing Staff Agency Unit Control Center member. All this work is in support of the ultimate Air Force mission, which is to fly, flight, and win.



**Name:** Natacha Silva  
**Rank:** LGS-05  
**Unit:** 65th CPTS  
**Hometown:** Praia da Vitoria, Terceira  
**Duty Title:** Budget Assistant and Accounting Technician  
**Accomplishments:** Sra Silva was appointed Primary Government Purchase Card Program Coordinator for Lajes Field. Her detailed trend analysis ensures sufficient funding is available to support monthly, quarterly and

annual requirements. Sra Silva is also the Primary Merged Accountability and Fund Reporting Technician. As the MAFR Technician, she verifies the entire base funds budget account is in balance at the beginning of every business day. She is also the budget analyst for the Operational Support Squadron, 65th Communications Squadron and 65th Contracting Flight.

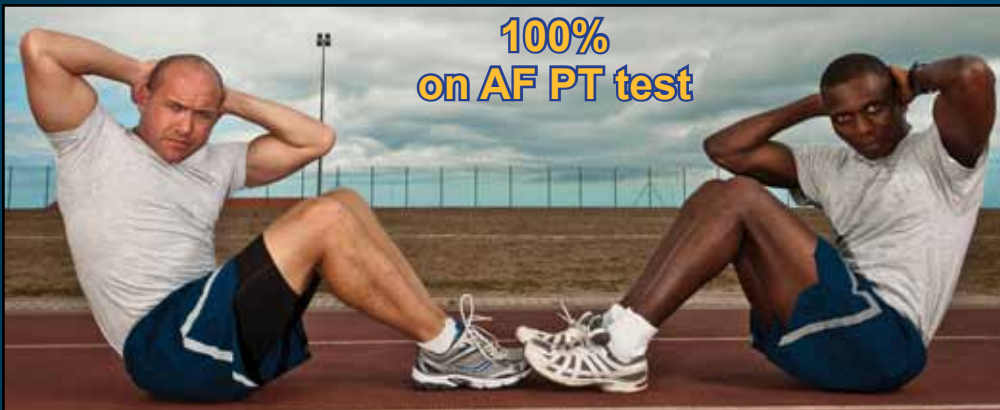
# "6-5...IN THE FIGHT!"



The Lajes Air Force Assistance Fund organizers (left to right), Master Sgt. Glendon Schmitz, 65th Communications Squadron, and Capt. Joe Newman, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, pose with Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, after Lajes Field received a check of \$2,500 for the most AFAF participation in the Air Force, Aug. 30. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Senior Airman Jason Kepner, 65th Operations Support Squadron, marshals a Gulfstream III, assigned to the U.S. Army Priority Air Transport - Europe Flight Detachment, during a refueling operation at Lajes Field, Azores, Aug. 29, 2011. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



1st Lt. Chris Lester, 65th Comptroller Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Olufemi Owolabi, 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs, pose on the Lajes Field running track after scoring 100 percent on their PT tests. Lajes Field leads the United States Air Forces in Europe with a 97.04 percent PT passing rate. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



The 65th Air Base Wing's Victim Advocates pose for a group photo after completing 40 hours of training, Aug. 22. The advocates volunteer to help augment the Sexual Assault Prevention Response program. (Front Row - Left to Right) Andrew Billman and Staff Sgt. Nichole Piazzi, 65th Wing Staff Agency, Staff Sgt. Andrea Mosly and Tech. Sgt. Justina Meyers, 65th Force Support Squadron, Staff Sgt. Yelida Kates, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, and Tech. Sgt. Mitchell Mercadal, 65th WSA. (Back Row - Left to Right) Staff Sgt. Ronald Vargas-Johnson, 65th Medical Support Squadron, Staff Sgt. Cylina Kendrick, 65th WSA, Staff Sgt. Natasha Kendrick, 65th Medical Operations Squadron, Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Washington, 65th Contracting Flight, Master Sgt. Shari Owoh, 65th MDSS, and Airman 1st Class Michael Johnson, 65th Communications Squadron. (Not shown) Donna Maler and Tech. Sgt. Jose Ramon, 65th ABW, and Master Sgt. Chantal Satterwhite, 65th Comptroller Squadron. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



## Mark your calendar

**5-K RUN COMMEMORATING SEP. 11:** On Sept. 9, there will be a 5K run; show time is 7:00 a.m. at the Fitness Center. Registration is required for military members to be eligible for awards. If you would like to be eligible for the awards given at the end, you must preregister with your unit's POC. Everyone else may register the day of the event. If you have any further questions, please call 535-5177.



**9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY:** A Sept. 11 Remembrance Ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. at the Base Chapel Friday, 9 September 2011. Uniform: UOD (Military) or Business Casual (Civilians) POC: Capt Mark Paine, DSN 535-6206.

**US AIR FORCE/PORTUGUESE JOINT PASS & REGISTRATION CENTER:** The 65th Security Forces Squadron and our Portuguese EPA partners are pleased to announce the opening of the new Joint Pass and Registration Office, which will be located at the Main Gate Visitors Center starting on Tuesday, 30 August 11. This new venture will process all U.S. licensing and vehicle registration procedures as well as base pass requests for visiting family and friends. The hours of operation are as follows: Monday - Friday: 0800-1145 and 1300-1535. Closed on all Portuguese Holidays. Please call 535-4786 or 535-3259 for more information.

**CLASSIC GUITAR CONCERT:** Ruben Bettencourt, a Terceira island classic guitar player, and winner of many awards, is performing at the Angra do Heroismo Museum church, Sept. 3 at 9 p.m.

**MUSICAL CONCERT AT "RAMO GRANDE":** The musical group "Diáspora Insular", four guitars and one flute, is performing at the Ramo Grande Auditorium, Praia da Vitória, on Sept. 7 at 9:30 p.m. All of the musicians have a classical music education, but they also play other types of music.



## BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE

Friday, Sept. 2: 6 p.m. Vila Nova  
 Saturday, Sept. 3: 6 p.m. Ladeira Grande  
 Saturday, Sept. 3: 6 p.m. Rua das Pedras, Cabo da Praia  
 Saturday, Sept. 3: 6 p.m. Serra Santiago (behind CE Compound)  
 Sunday, Sept. 4: 6 p.m. Casa da Ribeira



## Feature

### Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



**ENGLISH:** How was your weekend? Mine was very good.

**PORTUGUESE:** Como foi o teu fim de semana?. O meu foi muito bom.

**PRONUNCIATION:** Komu foy oo teio feem the semahnah? OO meyo foy muytoo bohnm.

### At the Movies



7 p.m. Friday - Transformers 3  
 7 p.m. Saturday - Horrible Bosses  
 3 p.m. Sunday - Transformers 3  
 7 p.m. Sunday - Horrible Bosses



**TRANSFORMERS 3:** A darker more introspective journey into the Transformers universe and their origins on Cybertron. There is also preview footage of the possibility of Unicron, the planet eater, in this sequel. Rated PG-13, 150 min.



**HORRIBLE BOSSES:** The only thing that would make the daily grind more tolerable would be to grind their intolerable bosses into dust. With the benefit of a few-too-many drinks and some dubious advice from an ex-con, they devise a seemingly foolproof plan to rid themselves of their employers... Rated R, 93 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



### Why were the Portuguese once called "Heroes of the Sea"?

The Portuguese were once called the "Heroes of the Sea" because of the discoveries and conquests they carried out some centuries ago.

During the 15th and 16th centuries, Portugal experienced a golden age of discovery, mainly due to the push of the Portuguese kings, princes and other renowned navigators.

One of the main reasons for Portugal's expansion seaward was because it was impossible to reach new markets except by sea, since the kingdoms of Castile and Aragon controlled the territory outside the land borders of Portugal at the time. This Portuguese expansion overseas resulted in the first and largest colonial empire of the 15th and 16th century.

The Portuguese empire began around 1415, when the Portuguese fleet organized by Henry the Navigator, prince of Portugal, explored the west coast of Africa and continued throughout the next century. In 1434, Portuguese navigator, Gil Eanes, went around Cape Bojador, South of Morocco. This deed marked the beginning of the Portuguese exploration of Africa, leading to the discovery of several uninhabited islands and the conquest of several African territories.

When the Portuguese navigator Bartolomeu Dias turned the Cape of Good Hope in Southern Africa in 1488, it opened the maritime route to India and contradicted Christopher Columbus' idea of reaching India from the west. As a result, some years later the famous Portuguese navigator, Vasco da Gama, sailed to India where he arrived in Calicut on May 20, 1498.

In 1500, Pedro Álvares Cabral sighted the Brazilian coast and ten years later Afonso de Albuquerque conquered the Indian State of Goa off the Malabar Coast, which was annexed by the Republic of India in 1962.

The Portuguese explorers also discovered, or conquered, other important territories in Africa, the Far East, and Southern Asia and reached China and Japan. Of all these territories and possessions, Portugal presently only owns the archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira. All other territories were either gradually lost to their respective peoples or granted independence after the 1974 military coup that restored democracy in Portugal, which had been lost 47 years before.

The last pillar of the Portuguese empire fell when Portugal handed the territory of Macao to China in 1999, under the terms of a negotiated agreement similar to the one Great Britain made when it handed over Hong Kong.