# Crossroads Vol. 16, No. 38 • September 30, 2011 Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

#### **Force Protection**



Current FPCON: Alpha Threat Level: Low



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 / Partly Cloudy
Wind W 15 - 20 mph
N 15 - 25 mph
High 75F / Low 66F

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

Mostly Cloudy / Partly Cloudy Wind NW 10 - 15 mph N 15 - 25 mph High 77F / Low 66F



Lajes "A"irmen and their Portuguese counterparts applaud as the U.S. Air Forces in Europe's Inspector General's team announces the overall "Excellent" rating for the 65th Air Base Wing during the Operational Readiness Inspection out-brief Sept. 19, 2011. (Photo by Guido Melo)

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

The unrelenting preparation of Airmen at Lajes finally paid off when the results of the combined Operational Readiness and Limited Unit Compliance Inspections were announced to a packed crowd at the base theater on the morning of Sept. 19.

After a five-day inspection, which was conducted Sept. 12-16, the U.S. Air Forces in Europe's Inspector General's team announced an overall "Excellent" rating for the 65th Air Base Wing during an out-brief at the theater Sept. 19. The crowd, consisting of Airmen and their Portuguese counterparts, jumped and applauded with excitement, and shouts of units' rally cries filled the air after the announcement.

"The Air Force standards are very high when it comes to an Operational Readiness Inspection; couple this with a Limited Unit Compliance Inspection, and many would say it's a formidable foe," said Col. Jose Rivera, 65th ABW commander. "But you, the Airmen of Team Lajes, didn't hesitate one bit when you took on the first combined ORI and LUCI in USAFE. You held your heads high and led us to victory with an 'Excellent' rating."

More than 45 inspection team members evaluated Lajes' readiness and how Airmen get the job done in accordance with Air Force guidance and instructions. Some of the major parts of the inspection evaluated how Airmen could respond to an incident in a Major Accident Response Exercise. A mass Deployment Exercise tested Lajes' readiness for contingency operations capabilities, which

focused on the wing's ability to mobilize and operate in a deployed environment, and force protection of the base.

#### Ratings for major categories are:

Reception and Beddown: Outstanding Positioning the Force: Excellent Sustaining the Force: Excellent Employing the Force: Satisfactory Ability to Survive and Operate: Excellent

Not only did Lajes get an overall "excellent" rating, some Airmen were also personally recognized by the IG team for providing superior support for the team. While Senior Master Sgt. Brian Holes, 65th ABW, was recognized for planning the wing OREs, 1st Lt. Alyson Busch, 65th Mission Support Group, was recognized for coordinating and bringing the IG team to Lajes. They were both given the IG Eagle Award for their outstanding support of the inspection team and as trusted agents.

"I had a really awesome opportunity offered to me by leadership to be the liaison for the IG. Receiving recognition for those efforts was above and beyond what I expected for simply doing my job," said Busch. "I was very flattered to receive the Eagle Award, and I thank all of the men and women in the 65th ABW who supported me in making the IG feel welcome and ensuring they had everything they needed to accomplish the dual inspections."

Other performers were further recognized for going above and beyond in the performance of their unit's mission. Superior Performers: Donald Brooks, Airman 1st

To read more on "ORI" see page 4

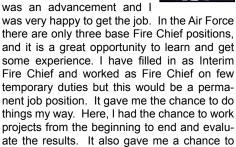
"The Active Duty Influenza stats as of 20 Sep 2011 has Lajes at 93.8 percent-Number 1 in Air Force" Also: " We bested AF goal of having 90% of the active duty population vaccinated by 15 December 2011 by 3 months."

## Taking care of inside and outside customers

By Senior Master Sgt Quentin Mulholland Lajes Fire Chief

I became Fire Chief here at Lajes last July. In a way this

mess things up for myself.



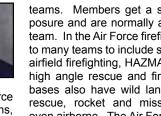
Like many other jobs when you take over a job, your focus is not the same as the person before or the person after you. In my opinion, there are two important areas. The areas are the outside customers and the inside custom-

The outside customers are the people we protect doing our job. We protect them by providing quality fire operations. This is not an easy task, as with many Air Force jobs and job skills combined. The Air Force Fire Emergency Services (FES) takes on many tasks that are often specialized jobs. In most fire departments, members are assigned to specialized

teams. Members get a small amount of exposure and are normally assigned to just one team. In the Air Force firefighters are assigned to many teams to include structural firefighting, airfield firefighting, HAZMAT, technical rescue, high angle rescue and fire inspection. Some bases also have wild land firefighting, water rescue, rocket and missile firefighting and even airborne. The Air Force FES is known as the best trained fire department in the world. Fire departments are directed and guided by the National Fire Protection Association. I was once told that there are over 2.5 million NFPA line items that a fire department must comply with. I have not counted them. But it sounds

The inside customers are the firefighters and the chain of command. These two items apply to any job. Taking care of your people is the most important. To me taking care of the firefighters is much more than just giving time off when people need it; is also making sure they are ready to go. We have all seen how important it is to take care of your people and that we must make sure they have what they need not only for work but also for their family. This also goes back to training; training is a very important part of taking care of a firefighter. Training the Firefighters for "now" and for "the future",

To read more on "Customers" see page 4



about right.

## Team Lajes exceeds AFAF goal, earns award By Staff Sgt. Olufemi Owolabi 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Service members at Lajes dug very deep into their pockets and wallets this year, which caught the attention of the 2011 Air Force Assistance

Fund officials, and Team Lajes was rewarded. After this year's AFAF drive, which ran from March 4 to April 17, Lajes was recognized at the Air Force level for exceeding the Lajes campaign goal. Team Lajes received a \$2500

This year's campaign goal was \$12,427, which Lajes exceeded by raising more than \$36,000.

award for going above and beyond.

"It's always a great thing when a base this size gets recognized," said Capt. Walter Newman, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron and the chief coordinator of this year campaign at Lajes. "It all comes down to the great folks at Lajes. We came up with some fun events, but the Airmen who donated are the ones who made this campaign a successful one."

The AFAF is the official charity of the Air Force intended to help Air Force members and their families in need. Contributions from this charity assist foundations and funds. These organizations are the Air Force Villages, Inc., the Air Force Aid Society, Inc., the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation, and the Air

Force Enlisted Village, Inc. These organizations help Air Force people with aid in an emergency. with educational needs, or to have a secure retirement home for widows or widowers of Air Force members in need of financial assistance.

Apart from meeting this year's monetary goal, Team Lajes also maintained a 100 percent contact, which the Lajes AFAF coordinator said



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, 2011. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

To read more on "AFAF goal" see page 4

#### 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.



Col. Jose Rivera

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

# Crossroads

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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#### MEET YOUR CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN

Chaplain, Captain, Rubén G. Covos is assigned to the 65th Air Base Wing here at Lajes Field, Azores, as the catholic chaplain. He came here from the 81st Training Wing at Keesler AFB, Biloxi, Mississippi, where he was the Command Chaplain for both the Navy and Marines Detachments on Base. Chaplain Covos will be supporting the Catholic Community and Ministries here at Lajes. Education and Experience: Chaplain Covos is a 2001 graduate of Conception Seminary College, Conception,

Education and Experience: Chaplain Covos is a 2001 graduate of Conception Seminary College, Conception, Missouri. In 2006 he became a graduate of Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, Texas. Chaplain Covos was ordained to the Priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church June 3, 2006.

Chaplain Covos served as Associate Pastor at Holy Family Catholic Church, Abilene, Texas from 2006 – 2008. He also served as Associate Pastor of St. Ann's/St. Joseph Churches in Colorado City and Loraine, Texas, 2008 – 2009. Chaplain Covos was accessed into the United States Air force April 2009. He became a graduate of Commissioned Officer Training School, Maxwell, AFB, Alabama, 2009.



## Boy Scouts of America is active at Lajes

By Lt. Col. David Scharf

65th Civil Engineer Squadron commander

Troop 1605 of the Boy Scouts of America is active here at Lajes Field. We have eight boys and six adult volunteers. You may have noticed us recently as escorts at the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony or at our August campout at Ocean View Park.

Boy Scouts is a program for Boys ages 11-17. In Troop 1605, we conduct weekly meetings, and monthly activities. During the months of April through October our monthly activity is usually a campout.

Our June campout was at Ocean View Park. The boys did a five-mile hike with map and compass and completed their swimming merit badge at the base pool. In August, we were also at the Ocean View Park, completing another hike, knots and lashings, knife and axe safety and fire building. We had a campfire and conducted a selection ceremony for one of our scouts to start the process to join the Order of the Arrow, the Boy Scout honor society. Last weekend we camped out

at the CEF site between Porto Martins and Sao Sebastiao, conducting a seven-mile hike, more scout skills and fire building. Next month, we plan to camp out near Raminho.

In addition to our campouts, the boys have worked on their Personal Fitness, Fingerprinting, Swimming, Computers, and First Aid Merit Badges with the assistance of volunteers from many different organizations on base. In the next few months, we will be working on Radio, Fire Protection, Emergency Preparedness, and Communications to name a few.

If you have a son who is interested in joining, or if you are interested in serving as a volunteer, please contact Mr. Chuck Ciranni at lcciranni@hotmail.com. If you have a son between the ages of seven and ten who is interested in being a Cub Scout, please contact SSgt Ken Lemanski at Kenneth.lemanski@lajes.af.mil. In order to have a Cub Scout program this year, we need adults to volunteer as Den Leaders.

## Education will take you places & open many doors

By Chief Master Sgt. Francisco Rodriguez 65th Force Support Squadron

America is the land of opportunity, we live in and serve a great country where anything is possible—if you work hard for it.

With the current military tempo, it would seem safe to say that by joining the military, new Airmen will be able to see the world. I have known many people who have joined to get away, to see new places, to expand their understandings and to gain independence.

I decided to join the Air Force because I wanted to see the world and get an education, with time I have become passionate about Education.

I was never the studying type, I guess I figured there were so many other things I would rather be doing, but because of my supervisors, I knew education was important. They gave me that kick in the you know where—when I needed one. They told me (Buck Sgt. back in the 80's) "Sgt Rodriguez, one day-- all this will be yours"

"Education can take you places," they would say. "Go to school, stay on top of your studies, work hard, believe in yourself and the rest will be history."

"Most people can only work and go to school...or have a social life and go to school, "A Supervisor/Mentor, once said during a feedback session —"you must seize the moment—this is your time for greatness-- all you need to do is take that first step".

I got my CCAF in 1997, and received my bachelors in 1999. From 1999 to 2009 I worked on my career (TSgt. to CMSgt.) by doing PME, Joint PME, training TDY's, deployments, special duties...

One of my goals when I arrived at Lajes in 2009 was to go back to school and get a Masters Degree. For sure three things you can do while at Lajes are; Get Fit! Wear many hats in the Org! And get a first class Education. I am happy to say I have done all three.

I am here to tell you that no matter how much you have on your plate, no matter how long it has been since you have taken your last

class and no matter how hard you think it will be, there is always a little room for a higher education. Putting forth just a little amount of effort is all that is required to succeed.

As Airmen, we have tools at our disposal to help us get an education. We have a great education center here at Lajes whom can take the time to point you in the right direction.

We have tuition assistance. We have awesome leadership who understand the value of a higher education; and while some are away from our families, we have the opportunity to get one or finish one we have already started. Here at Lajes Field you will have that opportunity.

Yes, it is tough being away from your family, but turn that tough situation into something positive.

Use the extra time you have to yourself to take a class or two. Being away is tough, but being away right now allows you to pursue educational avenues that may have been out of reach back home.

Ms. Maria Tristao, of the education and training section at T-146 is ready and willing to help you take the first step in getting to a new place in your life. And if you are not at Lajes Field, there is an education center on your base with people ready to help you too.

The education center is there to help service members reach their educational goals. The education center is there to help with what probably is the hardest part about getting a higher education, registering for that first class. Once you register, you are well on your way to achieving the degree you seek.

So, with the tools available to each of us, there should be no reason for not pursuing a higher education, right? Well, that is up to us to apply the values instilled in each of us: Integrity first, Service before Self and Excellence In All We Do.

I think we owe it to ourselves to improve who we are. I can honestly say that I believe most Airmen strive to be model citizens. We want

To read more on "Education" see page 4





#### 'ORI" from page 1

Class DeMarcus Duckett, Airman 1st Class Taylor McLeod, Senior Master Sgt. Gregory Rousey, Master Sgt. Scarlet Williams, Staff Sgt. Amber Steele

"I was surprised when I was recognized. It was truly unexpected," said Williams. "I knew my name was written down in a couple of areas by the IG team, but I wasn't expecting 'Superior Performer' at all."

Williams said one of the reasons Team Lajes earned an "excellent" rating is preparation.

"I believe the entire team was well prepared," she said. "We worked hard, practiced hard, and it all paid off in the end." Apart from individuals, two teams were also recognized -- Passenger Travel and Personal Property, and the Mobility Element

Knowing the value of Airmen's preparation before the inspection, the wing leadership expressed its gratitude to Team Lajes. Colonel Rivera and Chief Curtis Storms, 65th ABW command chief, thanked Lajes members for their teamwork and hard work, which earned the wing such high marks during the first Lajes combined ORI and Limited UCI.

"I am so proud of the 'A'irmen of the 65th Air Base Wing," Chief Storms. "As a team, we saw the challenge ahead of us and we buckled up, used the tools we were given and succeeded beyond one individual's capability. I am honored to be part of that team! 65...In the Fight!"

#### "Customers" from page 2

I was very lucky to get to work with some great Firefighters both US and Portuguese. It was fantastic getting compliments about how firefighters performed during the recent ORI/LUCI. There were many times that the IG Team was impressed by Lajes fire department.

I feel that they also took care of me. People are number one to me but it is also important to take care of your bosses.

Taking care of the chain of command is also important, this is done by supporting my leaders and keeping them informed. By taking care of your leadership and keeping them informed, you are allowing them to help take care of your workers.

Leadership wants to help and if they know how they will assist.

One of my goals as a Fire Chief is to keep leadership from getting any surprises and make sure they know what I need and want. I hate to make a call with bad news, but that is much better then getting a call from my boss with bad news.

I could not ask for a better job fit than working in the Fire Department. Having the opportunity to be Fire Chief does change the way I look at things.

I was very lucky to have a great group of firefighters and leadership to allow me to do my job. Being a firefighter is not just driving a cool truck with lights, blaring a loud siren and then spraying some water. There is much more to it than that.

There is the opportunity to help others and see some really cool things.

#### "AFAF goal" from page 2

was achieved through the radio and mass emails, and the effort of the unit representatives. "We also had great unit reps., who made sure that everyone in their units had a chance to contribute," Newman said.

Newman said the success of this year's campaign is a reflection of the Lajes "goodness" when it comes to helping others in need.

"It shows the sense of community everyone has on this little island," he added. "When someone is in need, we help each other, and I think this just carried over into this fundraiser. Everyone here knows that the AFAF helps Airmen in need so no one was shy about opening their wallet and giving."

#### "Education" from page 3

a higher rank, we want more responsibility and we want to live the best life possible.

I am not going to convince you to go register for a class, buy a textbook or take the first step and visit your base's education center to by writing this article. Getting an education is something you have to want to get for yourself. All I am asking is that you take a second to think about the opportunities you have, don't wait, seize the moment now and greatness will follow.

As Airmen, we have opportunities that most only dream of. Want better for yourself, get an Education and go further than you ever thought possible.

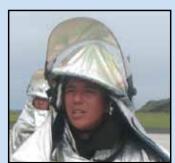
## AJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



Name: David Thal Rank: Senior Airman Unit: 65 Civil Engineer Squadron-Hometown: Glendale Ariz. **Duty Title:** Department Driver Operator

Accomplishments: Senior Airman Thal is part of a mostly Portuguese shift of firefighters. Together they act as the example of success as a team. As well as being a firefighter he is part of the Lajes Hazardous

Material Response Team. Airman Thal recently took over as HAZMAT equipment testing and inventory mmonitor. He is highly qualified and has completed several advanced training courses and often used in higher positions. This training includes the advanced Rescue Technician course and Confined Space Rescue course. As a stellar American Airman, he is the unit sports representative and has helped the squadron dominate Commanders Cup points.



Name: Tania Carvalho Rank: LGS-05 Unit: 65th Civil Engineer Squad-

Hometown: Praia da Vitoria Duty Title: Firefighter

Accomplishments: In addition to other structural and aircraft firefighting duties, Tania runs several programs such as aircraft pre-fire plans and firefighting protective gear. Aircraft pre-fire plans require compliance with technical

order 00-105E-9 and amendments. She has updated 15 amendments in the past year, which is an essential for airfield operations. She, with three other firefighters, tested and tracked the inspection of 75 sets of fire gears complying with over 300 line items. The protective gear program was recognized by U.S. Air Forces in Europe and the Inspector General team as the best in USAFE.



# 06-5...IN THE FIGHT?

## Feature



Lajes members and their families attend the Toyland grand opening Sept. 25, 2011 at the Base Exchange. (Courtesy photo)



Maj. Scott Hopper reads to children at the base library during a "Hearts Apart" Book Reading Sept. 24, 2011. Major Hopper is the 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander. (Courtesy photo)



Dr. Barbara Craig talks to Team Lajes members on how to conduct interviews to detect child abuse at Lajes Field, Azores, Sept. 27, 2011. A team from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland came to Lajes Field to conduct a two-day class. The class covered various topics and issues related to child maltreatment, internet stalking, protecting children from predators, and child abuse. (photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)



Col. David Parr, 65th Air Base Wing vice commander, swings at a golf ball during the post-operational readiness inspection golf tournament Sept. 23, 2011. The tournament was held after the Lajes 2011 ORI and Limited Unit Compliance Inspection which was held Sept. 12- 16. When the results of the inspection were announced, the 65th ABW received an "Excellent" rating. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Page 5 • Crossroads • September 30, 2011 Today's Fight—Airmen and Families—Host Nation Relationship—Future Challenges





## Mark your calendar

#### **HOSUING & FURNITURE MANAGEMENT**

**OFFICES CLOSURE:** Due to a Portuguese holiday, the Housing and Furniture Management offices will be closed on October 5. For emergencies please, call 96 793 23 76

#### OCTOBER FLEA MARKET POSTPONED:

The next Community Center's Flea Market will take

place November. The November Flea Market is scheduled for Nov. 19. Please, sign up now or call 535-5216.

SUNDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL: The Sunday Night Football is back at the Top of the Rock Club again. It is open from 1700 to 2200.



Today, Sept. 30: 5:00 p.m. Figueiras do Paim, Praia Saturday, Oct. 1: 5:00 p.m. Rua Gervasio Lima, Praia Saturday, Oct. 1: 5:00 p.m. Canada do Caldeiro, Biscoitos Sunday, Oct. 2: 5:00 p.m. Rua da Igreja, Lajes Monday, Oct. 3: 5:00 p.m. Rua da Igreja, Lajes Tuesday, Oct. 4: 5:00 p.m. Rua da Igreja, Lajes Wendesday, Oct. 5: 5:00 p.m. Rua da Igreja, Lajes

#### CANCER AWARENESS 2011

1 OCT, 1000 - Praia Walk for Cancer 14 OCT, 1500 - Bowl for the Cure 21-22 OCT, 1900 – Midnight Walk for Cancer 22 OCT. 0630 – Pancake Breakfast 29 OCT, 1000 – Angra Walk (City Center Area)

For more information about the October Cancer Awareness Praia walk, contact the following POCs: Fatima Almeida (535-6843) and Ana Lemos (535-3615). The POCs for the Midnight Walk are Amy Ennis and 1st Lt Beth Phillips. There will be an additional event held in November to support cancer awareness. Details will be announced at a later date.

### Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: Where is the closest ATM machine?

PORTUGUESE: Onde fica o multibanco mais proximo?

PRONUNCIATION: Un-day feeka - 0000 - mutibanko-my-isn-

## At the Movies

7 p.m. Friday - Cowboys & Aliens 7 p.m. Saturday - The Change-Up 4 p.m. Sunday - Cowboys & Aliens 7 p.m. Sunday - The Change-Up



Cowboys & Aliens: The Old West.. where a lone cowboy leads an uprising against a terror from beyond our world. 1873. Arizona Territory. A stranger with no memory of his past stumbles into the hard desert town of Absolution. The only hint to his history is a mysterious shackle that encircles one wrist. What he discovers is that the people of Absolution

don't welcome strangers. (Rated PG-13)



The Change-Up: Growing up together, Mitch and Dave were inseparable best friends, but as the years have passed they've slowly drifted apart. Following a drunken night out together, Mitch and Dave's worlds are turned upside down when they wake up in each other's bodies and proceed to freak out. Despite the freedom from their normal routines and habits, the

guys soon discover that each other's lives are nowhere near as rosy as they once seemed. (Rated R)

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



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

Community Relations Advisor

#### Portugal celebrates "Foundation of the Republic"

Wednesday, Oct. 5, is the Foundation of Portuguese Republic holiday that commemorates the establishment of a epublican form of government in Portugal.

The Republican government was founded on Oct. 5, 1910, after the monarchy, which had been in power since the 11th century, was overthrown in a bloodless revolution.

The implementation of the new political regime, through a revolutionary movement, was mainly caused by the profound crisis experienced by the monarchic institution and the nation at the time, which had been worsened by the murder of the former King Dom Carlos I in February 1908.

Another significant contributing factor was the ultimatum that was launched by Great Britain to Portugal in 1890, demanding the immediate withdrawal of Portuguese troops from the African territories of Angola and Mozambigue.

The submission of the Portuguese government to the British claims was negatively accepted by the population and was immediately exploited by the Republican movement, which led to an earlier insurrection on Jan. 31, 1891, in the City of Oporto, which was promptly subdued.

When the revolution was declared successful on the morning of Oct. 5, the last Portuguese monarch, King Don Manuel II, was in the town of Mafra, located north of Lisbon, where he was informed of the coup d'état. From there he headed to the coastal town of Ericeira, where he and the royal family embarked in the royal yacht to England where he sought exile.

The first elected President of the Republic of Portugal was Manuel de Arriaga, a native of the Azores, born in the city of Horta on the Island of Faial. When elected in 1911, he tried to reunite the Republican Party, which had split into many different parties following the 1910 revolution. The establishment of the Republic also originated a new national flag and national anthem.

Today, Portuguese continue to observe the Foundation of Portuguese Republic holiday to celebrate the end of the monarchy and the beginning of the Portuguese Republic.

