



Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

"6-5...
IN THE FIGHT!"
FY 2012

68
SORTIES

2,576
LODGED

400K
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.)

Mostly Cloudy/Rainshowers
Wind SW 15 - 25 mph
NW 25 - 35 mph
High 70F / Low 63F

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

Mostly Cloudy/Rainshowers
Wind NW 25 - 35 mph
NW 25 - 35 mph
High 70F / Low 63F

Healthy Competition during Fire Prevention Week



Participants don fire gear as quickly as possible during the Fire Muster Competition, Oct. 14, at the Lajes Fire Department. The competition was one of 20 events that took place during Lajes' Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 9-15. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

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

Amidst fire hoses spraying, and people cheering, one could feel the true sense of camaraderie during the Fire Muster Competition, Oct. 14, one of 20 events held during Lajes' Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 9-15.

The competition consisted of seven different stations, where participants worked in teams to display their firefighting skills as quickly as possible. The activities consisted of assembling hoses together and spraying a ball off two cones, rolling out and re-rolling fire hoses, getting mustered into fire gear and taking it off, dragging a dummy around two cones and back, filling a pail full of water and dumping it into a drum, using a sledgehammer and hitting a full-size truck tire to move it across the ground, and the firefighter's version of volleyball—two teams, each holding one hose, facing each other and spraying a ball hanging from a rope to move it across the other team's line.

"We were both volunteer firefighters back in South Carolina in neighboring counties," said Tech. Sgt. Michael Anderson, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, regarding he and

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Lemanski, 65th CES, both members of the first-place team, all from 65th CES.

Other winning team members were Staff Sgt. Christian Delos-Reyes and Airman 1st Class Anthony Roberts, who hadn't participated before, but wanted to experience the competition. Also, Staff Sgt. Hector Sanchez had done many of these kinds of challenges, and felt they really encourage teamwork.

Everyday firefighters, along with their family members, helped out the competitors by manning each station and giving out helpful tips and advice. One of the assistants was Jason Rinehart, spouse to the only female active duty firefighter and first female station captain at Lajes Field, Staff Sgt. Cori Rinehart. There is only one other female civilian firefighter on the team of 73, made up of 56 civilians and 17 military members.

"My wife asked if I would come out and help in Fire Prevention Week, and I'm a former medic, and medics and firefighters go hand-in-hand," said Mr. Rinehart.

Medics and firefighters also go well together in raising

To read more on "Prevention" see page 4

Tops in Blue performance
Portuguese Hangar, Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m.



Meet the 65th Air Base Wing Vice Commander, Col. "Bogey" Parr

What motivated you to join the AF?

When I was in 5th grade, I went to the Dayton Airshow and saw the Thunderbirds and I knew immediately I wanted to be part of this incredible Air Force team of warriors.

What was your previous assignment?

Before coming to Lajes, I was in Washington D.C. teaching at the Inter-American Defense College on Fort McNair, but due to my deployment to Afghanistan, I was deployed my final 8 months of that assignment.

What is your hometown?

I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio but I call Honolulu, Hawaii home since I went to both high school and college in Hawaii before joining the Air Force.

How many members are in your immediate family?

My wife Liza is here at Lajes along with our daughter Kaitlan (16) and son Christopher (13).

How did you commission?

I was commissioned from the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps, Det 175 at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

What's an aspect about the 65th Air Base Wing you think would be interesting for people to know?

I was here at Lajes as a lieutenant from 1991-1994 and I've seen the wing transition from Air Mobility Command, to Air Combat Command, to now United States Air Forces in Europe. Through it all, the mission has remained constant in supporting aircraft flying across the Atlantic. It's great to see the mission at Lajes expand and contract on a constant basis, depending on which air assets are parked on the flightline. The size of the Lajes ramp definitely gives the United States and its allies tremendous options in carrying out "global reach" around the world.

Could you list one or two main highlights of your Air Force career?

The highlight of my career was probably my squadron command tour where I was the 72nd Ops Support Squadron commander supporting seven flying wings at Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., but I have also enjoyed the travel opportunities the Air Force has afforded me. I was married in Hawaii, my daughter was born in Panama, and my son was born in Virginia. I have worked in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Japan, Thailand, and others...only in the Air Force would I have been afforded these rare opportunities to share American "goodness" across the globe. Last year's deployment to Afghanistan was also memorable as I got to work for Maj. Gen. Lyon, who was the senior Air Force Commander in Afghanistan. Despite the many setbacks, it was encouraging to see firsthand the important work our airmen are performing in Afghanistan and throughout the Middle East.

How would you say Lajes differs from other bases you've been assigned?

The sense of teamwork and cooperation is unlike any place I've seen. I think the isolated nature of living in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean helps us pull together, regardless of obstacles. We don't make excuses here.

What's one piece of advice you could give to young airmen?

Success is a "marathon, not a sprint." Setbacks happen to all of us, so success is learning to persevere through the tough times and to find ways to stay focused on the ultimate goal. Attitude and determination win out every time. I've seen so many great airmen get discouraged and falter just before reaching the finish line. Don't let that be you.

Are there any particular quotes you live by?

One simple quote I try to live by is, "Lead, follow, or get out of the way." We all need to be part of the solution regardless of our assigned role. Not everyone can lead every task, so followership is often just as important towards mission accomplishment as leadership... know your role and give it 100 percent.



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



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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HOLA events end with a bang!

By Master Sgt. Monica Strong
President, Hispanic Organization of Latin Americans

The Hispanic Organization of Latin Americans promotes cultural awareness and diversity through numerous activities and events throughout the year, culminating in the celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, Sep. 15 - Oct. 15. HOLA is an organization, without political or religious affiliation, that works in conjunction with other cultural organizations. This past year, HOLA supported and promoted the following events and organizations: Latin Night at the Top of the Rock Club, a college scholarship for Department of Defense Dependent School students, cultural awareness activities, Lajes Annual Awards Banquet, and the list goes on. Additionally, HOLA has had several fundraisers in preparation for the upcoming Hispanic Heritage Month. The committee planned, organized, and coordinated several activities to ensure a memorable month for all. The month kicked off with the SUM dinner, with several diverse dishes from North, Central, and South America, and included Europe. It was a resounding success! HOLA continued spreading the Hispanic culture during the "Know my Country" library event for all Team Lajes children. They learned how to Peruvian dance, make piñatas, and received information about different countries. Of course, to top it all off, the children enjoyed hitting a piñata and gathering up the candy.



Col. Mario Troncoso, Chief of Contracting Division, Headquarters United States Air Forces in Europe, speaks at the Annual Hispanic Organization of Latin Americans Luncheon, Oct. 13, 2011, at the Lajes Field Top of the Rock Club. (Photo by Guido Melo)

Finally, all these activities led up to the main event of the year, the Annual HOLA Luncheon. The committee prepared this event

by utilizing the National Hispanic Heritage Month theme, "Many Backgrounds, Many Stories, One American Spirit." The event started with some interesting facts on how Hispanic Heritage Month was created, along with the history of the many Hispanics who have contributed to our nation. Before lunch was served, each table became a team, pitted against the others in a battle to identify the country depicted on each table with pictures and country facts. The second game had people identify which country certain Hispanic Team Lajes members were from. The two games had people running around working as a team and mingling with others. "I noticed all in attendance enjoyed the luncheon, especially our games," said Master Sgt. Kenneth Bond, 65th Political Affairs. "It was satisfying to me, seeing everyone participating, enjoying themselves and learning at the same time. It has been one of the highlights of my tour here at Lajes."

"It was a well embodied event," said Staff Sgt. Evelina Wyland, 65th Medical Support Squadron. "Everyone played a role, whether a guest or spokesperson. There was a great positive vibe throughout the luncheon, and it was well worth the hard work!"

The guest speaker at the luncheon was Col. Mario J. Troncoso, Chief of Contracting Division, Headquarters USAF Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Troncoso's family was originally from Cuba, yet he was born in Puerto Rico, and raised in the United States. The committee thought he would be a perfect person to ask because of his diverse background. Together, we celebrate our diversity! Many backgrounds, many stories, one American Spirit!

New rifle course prepares Airmen for combat

By Staff Sgt. Benjamin Wilson
U.S. Air Forces in Europe Public Affairs

The combat environment Airmen currently face during deployments has fueled the need for an updated, more intense rifle qualification course.

"Our combatant commanders identified over the last 10 years that we needed to move away from the cold-war-era style of qualification and give our Airmen quality training," said Master Sgt. Scott Brown, U.S. Air Forces in Europe combat arms program manager. "More and more Airmen are actively engaging the enemy down range. And they need to have a higher standard of weapons training."

However, higher standards don't come easy. The new course, which has a mandatory implementation date of Dec. 1, 2011, will be longer, more difficult and include requirements many Airmen have not seen before.

During the 9- to 11-hour course, Airmen will still learn the basics of rifle safety, operation, assembly and cleaning; however, now students will be required to demonstrate practical application of this knowledge before stepping up to the firing line.

"Progress checks are to make sure that you understand what you

are doing with the weapon before you head up to the line," said Staff Sgt. Brian Carpenter, 569th U.S. Force Protection Squadron combat arms instructor. "In this new course of fire, if you do not pass your progress check, you do not go to the line, you do not fire that day."

Once an Airman completes the classroom portion of training and is familiarized with the weapon, it is time to step on the range and begin firing live rounds. However, the new course of fire has some very distinct differences from what Airmen used to experience.

Depending on specialty code, Airmen are designated as Group A or Group B. Group-A Airmen are those in combat-oriented career fields; Group B is the majority of the base populace.

During a 200-round qualification, Group-B Airmen will complete semiautomatic and three-round burst fire, threat discrimination and tactical engagement of the target. Threat discrimination requires students

to engage targets based on instructor commands and tactical engagement of the target requires students to move forward, left and right before firing.

The new requirements for movement during fire give Airmen the



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four children--ages 2, 6, 9, and 11--so they're in luck. The Rinehart's brought their family to Lajes Field from Elmendorf, Ala. When Sergeant Rinehart began at Elmendorf, there were six females; when she left, there were just two.

"Females are very rare in the fire department," said Sergeant Rinehart. "For me, it takes a lot of upper body strength, and a lot more willpower to be in a man's world, really. You've just got to have the mindset of, 'I'm gonna' do it!'" she said.

She's always been a firefighter in the Air Force, too.

"I actually came in open general," said Sergeant Rinehart. "I did not have a job and I just wanted to be in, because I lived in a small town, and I wanted to travel--the Air Force to me was the way to go," she said.

Although her tech school training was a bit daunting at first (she had to learn to lift additional weight), she said she was raised to see things through until the end, and she said she's glad she stuck with it.

"It's just nice to get all of the different shops out, just for the competition, just to have fun," said Sergeant Rinehart.

Fire Prevention Week allowed for 500 students to get a tour of the fire station and listen to safety briefings, and over 2,000 people were reached through the various activities. But the healthy battle between the teams made the Fire Muster Competition one of the most popular events of the week.

"It was fun going against other squadrons as well as our own," said Anderson. "This was a full team effort and the motivation between each other encouraged being the winning team."

Although 65th CES' team came out victorious during the competition, the everyday Lajes Field firefighters--made up of moms, dads, Americans, and local nationals--are a testament to looking past barriers of gender and nationality, to not only making it work, but thriving in a very demanding environment.

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tools needed to perform in combat, but there is also an added element of danger during training.

"It is dangerous if people don't pay attention to what they are supposed to be doing on the line," said Carpenter. "If you move the wrong way, bump into the guy next to you, there's a round in the chamber and, if your weapon's on fire, (the round) can accidentally discharge. If there is any type of safety infraction, you are going to be removed because we can't have that out on the line when there is going to be moving and shooting."

In addition to increased movement, the course includes a section with dummy rounds. These dummy rounds force students to perform remedial actions and correct a stoppage before they can continue to engage a target.

If a student has been identified by a commander as being dual armed, there will be a requirement to dry fire an unloaded M-4 Carbine, transition to a handgun and fire two rounds on target.

Group-A Airmen have additional requirements on the range. Night firing with laser aiming devices, night scopes and weapon-mounted lights are included in the 280-round course of fire for Group A.

For all students the standards for qualification have increased.

"In our old course of fire, to qualify you only had to score 50 percent and now you have to score 70 percent," said Brown. "It's going to be hard and people need to be ready."

Though the course is more difficult, it is not impossible.

"The instructors here are going to give you exactly what you need to qualify," said Carpenter. "Pay attention in the class, listen to your instructor and you will do fine. If you are willing to come and learn, you are going to pass."

Customer Satisfaction Survey

Team Lajes, did you know you now have a say in which moving companies the Department of Defense will use more or less frequently? The Customer Satisfaction Survey you receive after completing a household goods or unaccompanied baggage move is a crucial component of the Personal Property Program.

You will have the opportunity to rate the service you received from the Transportation Service Provider (your mover). The survey consists of 12 questions. Your survey accounts for 50 percent of the Best Value Score for the TSP for each shipment they move. The results are also provided to the TSP for their quality control efforts. Your participation in the survey helps ensure the quality of service will increase as TSPs strive to improve their scores based on customer surveys. Simply put, the higher the score - the more business for the TSP.

You are encouraged to complete your survey within 7 days of your delivery. If your survey has not been completed within 7 days, you will receive e-mail reminders at 7, 14 and 21 days after delivery.

For more information and other valuable moving information visit www.move.mil or contact Traffic Management Office at 535-5168.

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



Name: Jason Wondoloski
Rank: Master Sgt.
Unit: 65 ABW/CAG
Hometown: Shamokin, Pa.
Duty Title: Superintendent, Commander's Action Group
Accomplishments: Master Sgt. Jason Wondoloski is a true professional! He serves as superintendent of the 65th Air Base Wing Commander's Action

Group, centrally managing wing awards, higher headquarter taskings, mission briefings, and wing events. He is responsible for executing special wing projects to directly support wing leadership. As the wing's primary 'Gate Keeper,' Sergeant Wondoloski tracks and de-conflicts higher headquarter visits and inspections to ensure seamless operations. His recent efforts as the Crisis Action Team facilitator greatly contributed to the wing's overall "Excellent" rating on the 2011 Operational Readiness Inspection.



Name: Andrew Billman
Rank: GS-11
Unit: 65 ABW/HO
Hometown: Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
Duty Title: Wing Historian
Accomplishments: Mr. Billman has been an Air Force Historian for the past five years. In that time he has served as historian at Malmstrom AFB, MacDill AFB, CENTCOM, and since 2008 he has been the wing historian for the 65th

ABW. In 2009 he became the first civilian historian to deploy from Lajes to Afghanistan, and he deployed again in 2010 to Iraq, which made him the only historian to deploy twice out of Lajes. During his time at Lajes he finished the first complete wing heritage pamphlet while completing wing histories for 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010.



Members of the Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 1, with the help of the 65th Operations Support Squadron, service the EA-6 at the Lajes Field flightline, Oct. 5, 2011. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Mr. Jorge Fontes, 65th Comptroller Squadron, bowls during the Cancer Awareness Bowling Tournament, Oct. 14. The tournament was sponsored by the Company Grade Officers Council, and all proceeds went to 2011 Combined Federal Campaign charities and cancer awareness. Overall, \$350.00 was raised for the CFC. (Photo by Guido Melo)



The Lajes Team "Falcons" mascot smashes an old vehicle during the Lajes High school homecoming celebration at Oceanview Park, Oct. 15, 2011. (Photo by Lucas Silva) Check out more homecoming photos on the Lajes Field Facebook page.

Lajes Warrior Send-off / Welcome



Airmen 1st Class Mark Jenkins (front left) and Sam Culberth (right) cut the cake to commemorate the first anniversary of the Solid Rock Oasis, Oct. 14, 2011. The Burn Service band provided entertainment, and artwork by Chrisinda Swede, spouse of Master Sgt. Gregory Swede, 65th Communications Squadron, adorned the walls. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



(Front right) Capt. Rui Amaral, 65th Communications Squadron, gets saluted by Team Lajes, led by (left) Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander and Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Storms, 65th Air Base Wing command chief, during the Lajes Field Warrior Send-Off and Welcome, Oct. 12, at the Top of the Rock Club. Amaral is headed downrange, while Capt. Steven Mackinder, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, Tech. Sgt. Jeremy Jackson, 65th CS, and Senior Airman Bryan Williams, 65th CS, just returned from deployments. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Mark your calendar

WICO: The Women, Infants, and Children Overseas program helps ensure you child's nutritional needs are met. The program provides several important benefits for pregnant or nursing mothers, and children under 5 years old. Contact the Lajes WIC Overseas office, and give your children the healthy start they deserve. Open Tuesday-Thursday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Please call, 535-1440.



CANCER AWARENESS VIDEO: Maj. Georgette Trezvant is seeking volunteers to be part of a video series, highlighting personal stories about either surviving cancer or supporting close loved ones through their battle with cancer. The video will be shown during the social hour at the Pink Tie Gala on Nov. 5 at the TORC. Please email georgette.trezvant@lajes.af.mil me if you are interested. Thank you!

CHACE FITNESS CENTER RENOVATION: The Chace Fitness Center downstairs locker rooms will be closed for renovation from Oct. 31, 2011 until May 2012. The upstairs locker rooms will be open for your use. For more information, please contact 535-6126.

OCTOBER PROMOTION CEREMONY: The monthly enlisted promotion ceremony for October will be held at the CAC ballroom on Oct. 31 at 3 p.m. Please come out to support your Lajes Warriors!

MIDNIGHT WALK TO SUPPORT CANCER RESEARCH/ PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Friday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. - Saturday, Oct. 22 at 7 a.m. The walk will take place at the base track; the Lajes High School choir and band will perform at the opening ceremony, along with remarks from Col. Parr. The breakfast will be Saturday, Oct. 22 at the base chapel.

TOPS IN BLUE CONCERT: Bring the whole family out for the latest concert, themed "Rhythm Nation." It will be in the Portuguese Hangar, Thursday, Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m. Buses will be provided from both the Commissary and TORC parking lots beginning at 6:15 p.m. Also, there is a FSS Membership Family Dinner before the event on Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. at the TORC.

HOLIDAY MAIL/PARCEL DEADLINE: It is advised members should ship two weeks prior to the USAFE standard for the 2011 Holiday Season. Space Available Mail - Nov. 10 / First Class/Priority Mail - Nov. 22. For questions, please contact Master Sgt. Michael Huston, Postmaster, at 535-1203.



Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: What time does the restaurant open? The restaurant opens at six o'clock.

PORTUGUESE: A que horas abre o restaurante? O restaurante abre às seis horas.

PRONUNCIATION: Ah kay orash ahbre oo resturahnt? Oo resturahnt ahbre ahs saysh orash.

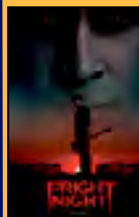
At the Movies



- 7 p.m. Friday - The Smurfs
- 7 p.m. Saturday - Fright Night
- 4 p.m. Sunday - The Smurfs
- 7 p.m. Sunday - Fright Night



The Smurfs: When the evil wizard Gargamel chases the Smurfs out of their village, they're forced through a portal, out of their world and into ours, landing in the middle of New York's Central Park. Just three apples high and stuck in the Big Apple, the Smurfs must find a way to get back to their village before Gargamel tracks them down. Rated PG, 103 Minutes.



Fright Night: Senior Charlie Brewster finally has it all -- he's running with the popular crowd and dating the hottest girl in high school. But trouble arrives when an intriguing stranger, Jerry, moves in next door. He seems like a great guy at first, but there's something not quite right -- and everyone, including Charlie's mom, doesn't notice. Rated R, 120 Minutes.

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

CANCER AWARENESS 2011

- 21-22 Oct. 7 p.m. – Midnight Walk for Cancer
- 22 Oct. 7 a.m.– Pancake Breakfast
- 29 Oct. 10 p.m. – Angra Walk (City Center Area)

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.

ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima
Community Relations Advisor



What's the history of the yellow, fort-like structure located next to the commercial port in the village of Cabo da Praia?

That ancient structure is actually the remains of the Fort of Santa Catarina, one of 12 little fortresses that were once located along the bay of Praia, and it is still in good condition.

These forts, which once defended the town of Praia da Vitoria, were also part of Terceira island's defense system at the time. Like the other forts along the bay, the Fort of Santa Catarina played an important role in the Aug. 11, 1829 battle between two political factions at the time--the Liberals and the Absolutists. The Liberals were defending the island from a 21-ship fleet loyal to the Absolutist king, Dom Miguel. The battle's outcome was a victory by the Liberals, which granted the town of Praia the title of "Vitória" (Victory).

On the other side of the bay, right next to the military port's breakwater, there's still a little wall which is actually the remains of the "Fort of Santo Espírito." This former military structure was built between 1579 and 1583 by the order of the acting governor of the island at the time, Ciprião de Figueiredo, and was also involved in the 1829 struggle.

During that period there were several fortresses located between Praia Bay and the village of Porto Judeu, but unfortunately all of them have disappeared with the exception of Fort Santa Catarina.