

Crossroads

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Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

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

 191
SORTIES

3,566
LODGED 

 1,04K
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

Medical Appointment:

Base: 535-3261

Off base: 295-573-261

Emergency:

Base: 911

Off base: 295-571-911

Weekend

Weather Forecast (Lajes Weather Flight)

Saturday (a.m. / p.m.)

Partly Cloudy
Wind Variable 6 mph

High 61F / Low 50F

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

Partly Cloudy
Wind Variable 10 mph
SE 10 mph

High 61F / Low 55F



An AV-8B Harrier from Marine Attack Squadron 513, takes off from the Lajes Field flightline toward Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Nov. 18, 2011. A total of ten Harriers were returning home from a six-month deployment at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan. (Photo by Guido Melo)

AV-8B Harriers return home from deployment

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

Spanning the Lajes Field runway, Nov. 18, 2011, were ten AV-8B Harriers from Marine Attack Squadron 513, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., returning home from a six-month deployment at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan. The Harrier, also known as the "Jump Jet," is a British aircraft capable of short vertical take-off and landing operations.

For Capt. Dan Fletcher, AV-8B Harrier pilot, and the 60 other Marines of the Harrier crew, it was the first time stopping through Lajes Field, although they've landed at numerous Air Force bases in the past.

"We were here for a day and a half, and it was pretty much as good as I've ever seen it," said Fletcher. "When you walk off the jet after traveling across the Atlantic for six hours, and you've got burgers and beer ready for you, that's pretty classy in our books."

He went on to describe his stay, mentioning fantastic lodging facilities and a very clean base overall.

"There are just a lot of little indicators that people go the

extra mile here," said Fletcher. "There's always someone to help--you're never having to hunt people down. It's really the best service we've had. As a Marine, especially, I appreciate it."

Although Fletcher had deployed once before to Japan, this was his first combat deployment. The Harrier crew provided fellow Marines and coalition forces with close air support, conducting missions up and down the Helmand River Valley, the longest river in Afghanistan. In July 2009, 4,000 U.S. Marines pushed into the Helmand River valley in a major offensive to liberate the area from Taliban combatants.

Fletcher said if there's one thing he could tell people, it's acknowledging how intense the fight still is in Afghanistan.

"There are a lot of guys in really tough conditions," he said. "I'd just say to keep them in your thoughts and prayers."

Thankfully, for the Harrier crews and numerous other coalition warriors, Lajes Field continues to provide unmatched beddown support as the U.S. continues to wage war against terrorism.



The toxic effects of rumors and loose gossip

By Maj. Russell Rowland
65th Air Base Wing
Inspector General



"If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all." We all heard it growing up. Mother, father, grandparents, they all parroted this basic tenant of civility, and as old-fashioned as it is, it still rings true today. Here at Lajes Field, we live in a very small community, both physically and demographically. The entire population of base housing is less than a typical enrollment in a Los Angeles high school.

One of the unfortunate hazards of living and working in such a small community is the prevalence of negative rumors and gossip and the inevitable conflicts that result. I hear a lot of rumors in my role as the wing inspector general, and can say that most are ridiculous exaggerations of some small truth made scandalous through fabrication and innuendo.

Leaders and supervisors should already recognize that rumors can undermine morale, nurture paranoia, damage reputations, and decrease unit effectiveness. Be on the lookout for rumors and work to eliminate them. Often the best leadership tactic is to share the facts and dispel the fabrications. Also be on the lookout for those personnel in your organization that perpetuate rumors and counsel them on the destructive corrosive effects on the unit. Take an active role in rumor and gossip control. Educate your people to watch what they say to and about others, and watch yourself as well.

Even if a rumor turns out to be true, or substantially correct, don't fall into the trap of thinking that it isn't detrimental to morale. American author, Frank Howard Clark said, "Gossip needn't be false to be evil - there's a lot of truth that shouldn't be passed around." Clark was referring to the negative personal and societal impacts when true but unpleasant comments

are constantly repeated. Whether it is comments about Airman Somebody's letter of reprimand, or Lieutenant Dumas' Drive Under the Influence, constantly reminding the individual of their lapse in judgment forces them into a defensive posture and keeps them from focusing on doing better. (Remember what grandma said?)

As a leader, you need to remember that the Air Force leadership model is grounded on the very important principle of praising in public and punishing in private. Feel free to share the praise, absolutely, but leave the punishment behind the door. If you weren't there, you don't know what happened, and if you were there, professionalism dictates you should keep your mouth shut. If you don't trust your leadership to deal appropriately with a situation, talk to your leadership, or bring your concerns to the IG.

If you have a personal grievance against another individual, neighbor or supervisor, take your concerns to that person directly. They may not come around to your way of thinking, but you will have the satisfaction that you made an effort to communicate directly and openly. If you are concerned about being mistreated as a result of your efforts, consider this: If you have a private conversation, why would the other party have need to treat you poorly, only you and he know what was said... unless one of you goes off telling everybody else? Keep your behavior above board and you may be surprised that the scuttlebutt settles down.

Personnel should also be aware that Portugal has laws that govern "Crimes against Honor." What does this mean? It means that derogatory commentary that in the U.S. would be unprofessional and distasteful at worst can actually land the speaker in a Portuguese court. The lesson here once again is, if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all.

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.

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Operation Coming Home welcomes back returning deployers

By Staff Sgt. Angelique N. Smythe
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The Lajes Field Chapel sponsored a command-funded Operation Coming Home Nov. 18-20 for active duty singles, couples and families who'd returned from deployment within the past 12 months.

Twenty adults and 18 children were treated to the free get-away weekend at the Terceira Mar Hotel (Pink Hotel) in Angra.

When the 65th Air Base Wing chaplain, Chaplain (Maj.) Hector Colon, proposed that Team Lajes produce a program for returning deployed servicemembers, a team of Airmen got together to create this new reintegration program which is now scheduled to occur twice a year in both spring and fall.

Chaplain (Capt.) Ruben Covos, the Catholic chaplain at the Lajes Field Chapel, who's also recently returned from a six-month deployment to Southwest Asia, served as the main point of

contact for this event.

"It was intended to be a laid back, very relaxed reintegrating weekend with short seminars and no PowerPoint presentations," Chaplain Covos said. "It was a little controlled fun, controlled relaxation because we intentionally put in blocks for siesta and we also had a family camp for the children, toddlers and teenagers as parents had their own sessions."

The weekend also gave families a chance to connect to other families; they began offering to help one another with watching children, shopping, etc.

Chaplain Covos said this successful weekend came together as a result of combined volunteer efforts from groups such as the Rising VI, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Spouses Club, Girl Scouts and others.

"The librarian provided movies, TV equipment, set up a movie area, a video gaming

To read more on "deployers" see page 3



Lajes spouse acclaimed financial counselor

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

Financial problems have a negative impact on a person's ability to do his or her job effectively, which ultimately erodes mission readiness. As such, financial preparedness is an important element of personal readiness, which is why the position of Lajes' newest Personal Financial Readiness Counselor, Ingrid Bruns, wife of Col. Arch Bruns, 65th Mission Support Group commander, is so important.

"Military families face unique financial challenges related to long deployments, frequent moves and a complicated benefits system," said Richard Lambert, Chief of the Airman and Family Readiness Center. "Through the Military Spouse Fellowship Program, we are helping military families overcome the barriers to achieving sound financial health."

With a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Science in accounting, Bruns has been selected as one of only 200 military spouses worldwide to participate in the 2011 Military Spouse Fellowship Program.

As a PFRC, Bruns is certified to assist individuals and families in the complex process of financial decision making, including the skills to educate clients on sound financial principles, overcoming financial indebtedness, helping to identify and modify ineffective money management behaviors, and developing successful strategies for achieving financial goals. She also provides support in working through financial challenges, and helps develop new perspectives on the dynamics of money in relation to family, friends and individual self-esteem.

"Who knows the intricacies of the military life and military financial needs better than a military spouse?" asked Lambert. "Military Spouse Financial Counselors have a special place in their heart for educating military families and building strong communities."

Through one-on-one counseling and workshops to the Lajes community, Bruns provides solution-focused guidance to servicemembers and spouses on financial topics including, but not limited to: budgeting, saving, retirement, credit issues, credit report



Lajes' newest Personal Financial Readiness Counselor, Ingrid Bruns, wife of Col. Arch Bruns, 65th Mission Support Group commander, ready to assist the Lajes community with financial expertise. (Courtesy photo)

analysis, debt resolution, car buying, home buying, insurance, security clearance issues, military pay issues, and money management.

Bruns is available at the A&FRC during normal business hours by appointment. She is also available during and outside these hours for workshops at a specific location, i.e. unit workshops, spouse groups, etc. Appointments can be made by calling A&FRC at 535-4138.

Lambert encourages use of A&FRC's valuable financial services as a measure to take full control of one's financial future.

"Mrs. Bruns can easily show our military members and their families how to make their money work harder for them," said Lambert. "It's truly about being in control of our finances versus the other way around."

With such overwhelming care and support, one might say the A&FRC more than does its part in fulfilling mission readiness at Lajes.

"deployers" from page 2

area and an interactive computer internet area," Chaplain Covos said. "We had support from the Airman and Family Readiness Center. We had a presentation from Finance personnel as well as the Military and Family Life Consultant. We tried to touch on physical fitness, financial fitness, social fitness, spiritual fitness and mental health."

Breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets were provided. Both Protestant and Catholic services were held on Sunday.

"We had one night for adults to have dinner on their own, either at the hotel without their children or for them to go take a walk downtown, whatever they chose," the chaplain said. "When you return

from deployments, you return to your household and parenting duties, and sometimes couples don't get a chance to reconnect on their own without the children. Some families went to the swimming pool to enjoy some splashing fun and then returned for dinner."

Some feedback attendees provided included that the program was very informational. Along with the seminars, they received pamphlets for various other base agencies. They also expressed how grateful they were that the Chapel, command and volunteers had stepped up to develop Operation Coming Home just for them. Even the Spouses Club had provided little gift bags in each of their rooms allowing them all to feel welcomed, pampered and well taken care of.

The next Operation Coming Home weekend is currently being scheduled for March 2012.



(Left center) Staff Sgt. Jaime Perez and (right center) Senior Airman Michael Willman, 65th Security Forces Squadron, took home all three awards from the Airman Leadership School Class 12-A graduation, Nov. 18, Lajes Field. Perez garnered the John Levitow Award, and Willman the Academic Achievement and Leadership Awards. (Courtesy Photo)



Congratulations to the 14 Airmen who graduated Airman Leadership School Class 12-A on Nov. 18. (Photo by Guido Melo)

Air Forces's Climate Assessment to include Local Nationals

Did you know...

Portuguese local nationals working at Lajes Field are now able to participate in the Air Force's Unit Climate Assessment.

What does this mean?

Prior to Sept. 26, 2011, approximately 800 people weren't able to voice their opinion in an anonymous survey which directly impacts Lajes. Now they can! Survey dates are dependent on individual squadron requirements; although it's primarily taken online, squadron commanders have the option to request the survey be on paper for those who do not have access to a computer.

How did this happen?

The 65th Air Base Wing Equal Opportunity office helped provide valuable data to assist in the decision allowing host nation members to participate. Now everyone working at Lajes Field has the chance to participate in future changes!

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



Name: Maria Manuela P. Simoes
Rank: LGS-07
Unit: 65th Security Forces Squadron
Hometown: Porto Martins, Azores
Duty Title: Language Specialist
Accomplishments: Senhora Maria Simões is a 65th Security Forces Language specialist. She works at the Joint Police Control performing duties as a translator and provides written and verbal translations.

Among the translation are statements of personnel involved in police-related issues, citations, joint blotter, police reports and any document needing translation. For the past 24 years she has provided excellent service for the Security Forces and Lajes Field Community in general. She responds to incidents or accidents on and off base involving Portuguese and American nationals by providing clear and efficient translations. She also assists personnel in court and other police matters.



Name: Ethan C. Willson
Rank: Airman 1st Class
Unit: 65th Security Forces Squadron
Hometown: Davidson, Mich.
Duty Title: Patrolman
Accomplishments: Airman 1st Class Ethan Willson is a go getter and a hard charger. He arrived in April from Lackland AFB, Texas. He works in the operations section and patrols the installation to include

military housing and the joint flightline as well as works the base defense operations center. He was recently recognized for scoring an "Outstanding" 99 percent on his initial desk sergeant evaluation and earned "Exceptionally Well Qualified" honors. He also led the first-ever bike patrol during Operation Pumpkin Patrol which was a huge success and paved the way for future joint bike operations.



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

Feature



Colonel Dave Parr Bronze Star Medal



(Right) Col. Dave Parr, 65th Air Base Wing vice commander, poses with (left) Gen. David Petraeus, former U.S. Forces Afghanistan commander, during his deployment, July 27, 2010 to Feb. 5, 2011. Parr received the Bronze Star Medal for his meritorious achievement as Chief of the Joint Air Traffic Management Cell at the 9th Air Expeditionary Task Force Headquarters, International Security Assistance Force, while engaged in ground combat against an enemy of the U.S. at Kabul, Afghanistan. (Courtesy photo)



Members of the Top 3 and dorm residents have a Turkey Bowl Nov. 23 to celebrate Thanksgiving week. (Photo by Guido Melo)



(Far right) Maj. Scott Hopper, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, gives departing words to (center) Senior Master Sgt. Limweshe Wright and his wife, Neba, at the Warrior Send-Off and Welcome at the Top of the Rock Club, Nov. 23. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Lajes Winter Campaign 2011-2012 Kick-Off

Sofia Rivera, daughter of Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, shoots hoops at the Lajes Winter Campaign 2011-2012 Kick-Off, Nov. 26, at the Youth Center. The 65th Force Support Squadron campaign, aimed at providing numerous activities for Lajes Field members, will last from Nov. 25 through March 20, 2012. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Mark your calendar

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING: The Lajes Field Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony and Nativity Scene is scheduled for 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2 at the Beira Mar gate. Kick off the holiday season with the entire family. There will be cookies and refreshments.



This is sponsored by the Lajes Field Chapel, 65th Force Support and 65th Civil Engineer Squadrons.

BONE MARROW DRIVE: The Medical Laboratory will be hosting the Department of Defense Bone Marrow Drive Dec. 2-3 at the BX, Commissary and Bowling Alley (Dec. 2 only)

THE HOLIDAY CANTATA: The Holiday Cantata will be Sunday, Dec. 4 at 3 p.m. at the Base Chapel. For more information, call 535-4211. This is sponsored by the Lajes Field Chapel.

CHAPEL ANGEL TREE DONATIONS NOV 15 – DEC 10: You can make children in the military and the local community in need happy this holiday season. If you would like to donate new clothing and toys, you can do so at the Base Exchange and Lajes Field chapel. Simply choose an angel off one of the Christmas trees, purchase a gift, and place the bagged gifts in the box, along with the angel. This is sponsored by the Lajes Field chapel and Top 3. For questions, please contact the chapel at 535-4211.

SANTA RITA PROJECT--FOOD DONATIONS: Through Nov 16 - Dec. 7 the Lajes Field Rising VI is looking for donations of food items to support the Santa Rita Project, sponsored by the Lajes Field Chapel. Contact Staff Sgts. Troy Davis, 535-3497, or Nichole Allums Ball 535-4030 to drop off donated goods.

MILITARY CAREER DAY: Military Career Day, Dec 8, 10:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in the high school gym.

FINANCIAL WORKSHOPS PRESENTED BY: Pentagon Federal Credit Union – T-126 Airman and Family Readiness Center at 9 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 9 – Basic budget / Friday, Dec. 16 – Car Financing To register, call the Airman and Family Readiness Center at 535-4138.

CHRISTMAS PING PONG TOURNAMENT: Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. snacks and prizes ages 18 and up sign up by Dec. 6, sponsored by Solid Rock Oasis Airman Ministry Center Bldg T-307 call 535 4019 for more information.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES: The 65th Contracting Flight has three requirements opening at the chapel. The positions include a Catholic musician, Protestant musician, and a Catholic pastoral associate. Please

Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: Poisonous - Be careful.

PORTUGUESE: Tóxico ' Tenha cuidado.

PRONUNCIATION: TOHseekoh' TANah KUHDahduu.

contact Airman 1st Class Sam Culberth at sam.culberth@lajes.af.mil to get a copy of the Request for Quote (RFQ).



At the Movies



- 7 p.m. **Friday** - Killer Elite, R, 100 minutes.
- 7 p.m. **Saturday** - Ides of March, R, 101 minutes
- 4 p.m. **Sunday** - Reel Steel, PG-13, 103 minutes.
- 7 p.m. **Sunday** - Money Ball, PG-13, 133 minutes

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



What do the Portuguese commemorate on their Dec. 1 holiday?



Monument at Lisbon to commemorate the restoration of Portuguese independence from the Spanish.

The Portuguese holiday on Dec. 1 is to celebrate the "Restoration of Independence" Day. It commemorates the revolution of Dec. 1, 1640, when a small group of patriotic noblemen conspired to put an end to 60 years of Spanish rule and reestablish Portuguese sovereignty.

The Spanish Kings Phillip II, III and IV had ruled Portugal since 1580 after the Moors and Turks defeated Portuguese King Dom Sebastião and his troops in North Africa, at the battle of Alcácer Quibir. The Spanish took over the Portuguese throne since the Portuguese royal family was too politically weak, due to the North Africa disaster and family internal struggles, to resist the occupation.

Portugal was then governed by the Spanish monarchs under a principle of dual monarchy, which recognized the existence of two crowns in the hands of the same king. The Spanish monarch appointed Margaret of Savoy, Duchess of Mantua, and her Secretary of State, Miguel de Vasconcelos, to represent the Spanish kings in Portugal.

However, the Portuguese resentment against the Spanish rule increased over the years as the Spanish kings discriminated against the Portuguese people and lost the Portuguese territories of Malacca and Ormuz in the South China Sea.

Taking advantage of the unpopularity of the Spanish representatives, a group of 40 noblemen invaded the royal palace in Lisbon on the morning of Dec. 1, 1640, and managed to restore Portuguese independence. Moments after the insurrection, Dom Miguel Almeida announced the end of the Spanish rule and proclaimed the Duke of Bragança, Dom João, as the new king of Portugal.

As a side note, it's worth mentioning Terceira island was a center of resistance during the Spanish occupation and it was the last national territory to fall to the Spanish domain. It was during this period the Spanish built the fortress of St. Phillip at the base of Mount Brazil in Angra to defend themselves from the island's population. The fortress was later renamed with its current name, Saint John the Baptist, as homage to the new King of Portugal.