

Crossroads xtra



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Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

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

 **233
SORTIES**

**4,454
LODGED** 

 **1,32K
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.)
Mostly Cloudy
Wind S 15 - 25 mph
SW 15 - 20 mph
High 64F / 18C
Low 59F / 15C

Sunday (a.m. / p.m.)
Mostly Cloudy
Wind S 15 - 20 mph
S 15 - 25 mph
High 64F / 18C
Low 59F / 15C



A firefighter from Lajes Field hurries to help recover an F-15C from RAF Lakenheath, England, that has engaged the base's arresting barrier during a routine test of the system Dec. 9, 2011. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)

Three USAFE bases combine forces in name of flight safety

By Staff Sgt. Austin M. May
100th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs

Airmen from RAF Mildenhall and RAF Lakenheath converged at Lajes Field, Azores, Dec. 9 to assist the mid-Atlantic base in maintaining a crucial element of flight safety.

A KC-135 Stratotanker from the 100th Air Refueling Wing and two F-15 Eagles from the 48th Fighter Wing flew to the tiny island to engage their barrier - a system of cables stretched across the runway to catch aircraft unable to stop on their own.

"The barrier here at Lajes is critical to our capability of providing en-route support to fighters crossing the Atlantic," said Lt. Col. Shawn Cotton, 65th Operations Support Squadron commander. "Working together with Mildenhall and Lakenheath ... allows us to do that certification and make sure we keep up and running."

Nearly identical to a "Coronet" mission in concept, the pair of fighters flew off the wing of the Stratotanker the entire route from England to the Azores, dropping behind the KC-135 occasionally to top off their fuel tanks. Once all three aircraft were on the ground, the well-planned

certification kicked off almost immediately.

One fighter staged at each end of the runway, and when given the signal to go ahead, they took turns engaging the barrier by taxiing at about 115 mph with their tail hook lowered so as to hook onto the cable, which gradually slowed the aircraft to a safe, complete stop. Once the aircraft was no longer moving, emergency crews already standing by rushed in to tend to the pilot and shut down the plane's engines before setting up for the next engagement.

According to Tech. Sgt. Marc Bakker, 100th Civil Engineer Squadron Barrier Maintenance noncommissioned officer in charge, the Air Force requires barrier tests every 12 months.

On the ground, KC-135 and F-15 crew chiefs who flew down with the aircraft worked alongside transient maintenance personnel from Lajes to prepare all three planes for the return trip to England.

Mechanical problems with the KC-135 prevented a next-day departure of the Stratotanker and fighters, but the rapid response of a hydraulic specialist from RAF Mildenhall repaired the jet and was airborne less than 48 hours from when the problem was first identified. All aircraft and crewmembers returned to England Dec. 11.



The Simple Way

By Chaplain (Maj.) Hector Colon and Maria V. Fonseca
65th Air Base Wing Chapel



To say Lajes Field life in 2011—including work and personal activities—has been very busy, is an understatement. The question is, what do I need to do in this New Year to keep it up? This is just a suggestion: Keep your life, relationships, goals, and work life...simple!

Make an effort to see and enjoy the simple pleasures that life provides; for example, taking an instant to look and see the vast ocean around this island of Terceira. Hate poisons human beings' mind, spirit, and soul and is reflected in everyday events. The negative energy you harbor toward someone could be used positively toward another person, just by changing your attitude.

Simplify Your Relationships

For 2012, you need to simplify your relationships in all realms, beginning with the one that matters most—your personal relationship with a significant other. Although it is very complex, you need to continue your journey together, not side by side or from a distance. This person is a part of you; therefore, it is important to pay close attention to this relationship and to place it above all. To make your personal relationship simple, there are five golden rules to consider:

1- Communication

Set aside at least 90 minutes a day to talk to each other alone and undisturbed. Take turns and talk about whatever is important for each one of you without criticizing or arguing.

2- Get what you want by learning how to ask

Use love, respect and compassion to communicate and to show your desires and needs. Value and appreciate the simple things they do for you.

3- Disagree with respect and love

Do not shut yourself off and argue instead of using dialogue. Practice using whispers versus screams. Screams create a wall that doesn't allow each one to listen to the other. Let's go back to basics and simplicity. Learning how to whisper tears down the wall of anger. Reach an agreement by the end of the day!

4- Do not go to bed mad

Anger creates distance and is the enemy of

relationships and love. Learn how to say "I'm sorry, I love you, and thank you." Hold hands and cuddle before going to sleep. There is no disagreement that love cannot defeat.

5- Say "I love you."

Say this the first thing in the morning, throughout the day, and the last thing at night. Never think it's too much to say or think it's obvious you love him or her. It is awesome to hear those words anytime.

Simplifying Goals

Keep your goals simple and realistic. The key to simple goal setting is to not have too many goals at a time. Daily and weekly tasks fulfill one goal. Get focused when performing each task, act accordingly, and the outcome will be more effective. A good example... How is it possible to lose 20 pounds in three months? After consulting with your doctor and the Health and Wellness Center, just follow their recommendations. Also, stay on the course, as painful and difficult as it is; in a few weeks the results will be noticeable. The problem with goals is usually not setting them, but sticking to them when motivation wanes. Here are some recommendations:

1) Choose a goal; work for it; believe in it and in yourself.

2) Focus on shorter-term actions to make your goal a reality.

3) Do not set yourself up for failure by setting multiple goals at a time.

Work Life Made Simple

Relationships at work are becoming more complex as technology takes over. One-on-one communication is decreasing due to the invasion of technology resources and forms of communication, such as e-mails and texts. To make our lives simple at work we should:

1- Create a balance between personal life and work. Remember that what matters most is at home.

2- Make decisions without compromising your beliefs and values. It makes one feel good.

3- Prioritize. Set three priorities at the beginning of the day to accomplish first.

4- Complaints. Listen, and talk about possible solutions, then implement.

5- Say "No." You regulate your work life and schedule, not your secretary, your assistant, or your co-workers.

Have a wonderful and simple New Year!



Chaplain (Maj.) Hector Colon and his wife, Maria Fonseca, during the Operation Coming Home event for couples and families returning from deployment, Nov. 18-20, in Angra do Heroismo. (Courtesy photo)

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

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AFN says goodbye to military's first overseas T.V. station

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

It was the year the Soviet Union stopped demanding war reparations from East Germany, Marilyn Monroe married baseball player Joe DiMaggio, the U.S. Congress and President Dwight D. Eisenhower authorized the founding of the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado, and the war with Vietnam was just around the corner. It was 1954, the same year when the first overseas military T.V. station, which was also the first T.V. station in Portugal, broadcasted live from Lajes Field, Azores.

And in November, 2011, due to its old age and inconvenient off-base location, this historical piece of military history, Building T-252, was torn down.

"Lajes first started broadcasting from the bachelor's officers' quarters," said Jose Borges, American Forces Network Lajes Field Logistician, who's worked at AFN over 20 years. "The studio space was limited, and there was very little equipment, only used for broadcasting made-for-television movies and film."

According to Borges, a decision was made to upgrade the equipment and move to an alternate location in 1957, and the base received a special grant from the Consolidated Non-Appropriated Welfare Fund of the Military Air Transport Service to build T-252.

Within the new building, The Air Force Broadcasting Service, was located on top of Santa Rita Hill, behind the water tanks adjacent to the base. The original T.V. transmitters and antennas are still located



Building T-252, Lajes' first American Forces Network building, was torn down in November due to its old age and inconvenient off-base location upon Santa Rita Hill.. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

there. Jose Mendes, AFN Lajes Field Operations, arrived in 1964, when live 30-minute newscasts at 6 p.m. were the norm, beginning with the Portuguese and American national anthems. He says the wars in Vietnam and Persian Gulf were the most memorable for him.

"There was a video operator, an audio operator, maintenance man, three cameras in the studio; news, sports and weather broadcasters," said Mendes. "This generation doesn't understand how hard it was to run a T.V. station back then," he said.

Mendes said it would be much easier to report a large-scale war today, since in the past, they had to report events live. Satellites have also dramatically improved the AFN mission in many ways. The sound bites they had to listen for were often very poor through radio, he said.

Although his English was extremely limited, Mendes started working in the office typing out lines for the broadcasters. With only one other Portuguese person working, the secretary, they also had to type out the song titles from different artists. According to Mendes, 36 people manned the station; now there are 16. The local military audience was approximately 3,000; now there are roughly 700. Not only was Lajes Field the first station to broadcast to a military audience, it's the last T.V. station to still have an over-the-air signal, rather than cable. This allows the Portuguese audience in the local community the ability to watch AFN, and partake in the American culture. Eventually the over-the-air signal will not be available due to outdated equipment, and only military members will have access to AFN.

"At the time, television's primary function was entertainment, not

To read more on "T.V. station" see page 4



The first overseas military T.V. station, which was also the first T.V. station in Portugal, broadcasted live from Lajes Field, Azores, in 1954.

Lajes High School Booster Club

By Charyl Lee Adams and Anna Case
Lajes Field Spouses

The Booster Club at Lajes High School is a non-profit organization that supports student athletes. The role of the club is to plan and coordinate fundraisers throughout the school year. Fundraisers from previous school years include a base-wide barbecue luncheon, providing concessions at all sporting events, carwashes, and many other profitable activities. This year's first fundraiser for the Booster Club was in coordination with the Student Council, and both clubs sponsored the "Home Coming" event held at Ocean View Park. The Booster Club prepared meals for purchase, and also raised money for students to throw a pie in their favorite coach's face.

All proceeds from the fundraisers are used to support an end of the year sports banquet and a Senior Night for each of the sports offered at the school. Most importantly, the Booster Club offers high school

seniors a chance to apply for scholarships to be used toward their college tuition and expenses. The two major goals of the Booster Club are to raise enough money to increase the amount of each scholarship offered, and to assist students with their travel expenses to compete in other countries.

These goals can easily be achieved with the support of parents and the community. The Booster Club is always looking for new members to attend meetings and help plan or offer ideas for fundraisers or end of the year events. Parents of student athletes are highly encouraged to become members of the Booster Club and support their child's team for only ten dollars a year. The Booster Club would also like parents to know that becoming a member does not obligate parent participation. Please help the Booster Club meet their goals by participating in future fundraising events. For more information on how to become a member or make a donation, please call Charyl Adams at 295549498 or Anna Case at 295549218.



"T.V. station" from page 3

news," said Mendes, "and we received loads of shipments of tapes and films. The primary outlet for news was radio."

In contrast to T-500, the current AFN station was renovated two years ago, specifically as a T.V. station; with a double-wall for sound-proofing, it was one of the best T.V. facilities in Europe. Although the new AFN location is on base, it was adapted to be a T.V. station and studio during its renovation, but isn't as ideal as T-252.

"T-252 went through the whole gamut of television, from movie reels and splicing films from tapes, to digital--what we use today," said Borges. "The equipment was so intense; we were more mechanical, which meant a lot more equipment, and rooms full of editors. Today everybody edits from a laptop computer on their desks. T-252 had four editing suites, with a lot of electronic and mechanical equipment. It was a different world."

Borges went on to describe a room with thousands of LPs--"long playing" vinyl records--and a tape library with multiple television shows, to include Star Trek and Bonanza. He said not only was the working environment completely removed from today, but acclimatizing the local Portuguese to American culture through music and movies was a relatively new concept.

"The interesting thing is 20 or 30 years ago, AFN was crucial in maintaining the American and Portuguese relationship," said Borges. "People in this area are so accustomed to American culture--everybody

knows a little English; everybody knows a little American music and films, and it's so much easier for the U.S. military to exist here and to exist well and be comfortable because of the fact that over the years, we've gotten so used to drinking in that American entertainment."

AFN was undoubtedly an enormous influence on the host nation relationship between the U.S. and Azores, and it affected its local national employees just as much.

"I spent the best years of my life working there," said Mendes. "The U.S. and Portuguese partnership over the years was great. It was kind of a family, because we had to work together. We depended on each other; I had to help the American broadcaster just as he had to help me."

Even through all the change, that family-oriented mentality has persisted. The average time frame the Portuguese local nationals have worked at AFN Lajes Field is between 30-40 years. Mendes has worked the longest, with 48 years of service. Plus, AFN is a small career-field, so the local national staff tends to see the same military members come through again.

"It was kind of sad to see the building go, to tell you the truth," said Borges.

Although the nostalgia for the old building will resonate for a while with those who saw it in its heyday, the history will live on through the stories they tell.

"I was very lucky to work there," said Mendes. "I consider myself a very lucky man...even though it was very hard work!"

The Word on PLAYpass

What is the PLAYpass Program?

The new PLAYpass card replaces the DePLAYment program offered during the Year of the Air Force Family and expanded to provide deployment respite support for not only deployed-affected families but also support for returning single Airmen. The program is based on discount cards that provide members and their eligible family members the opportunity to participate in Air Force Support/Services Squadron programs for free or reduced cost. The goal of the program is to provide deployed-affected single Airmen and Air Force families respite from the challenges of deployment and encourage members the opportunity to reintegrate and reunite through MWR-focused social, recreational, fitness and learning programs upon their return.

How does it work?

Installations are provided PLAYpass discount pass cards for distribution to deployed-affected eligible members and families. The pass card is preprinted with specific dollar value coupon blocks that can be applied to the specified programs offered at each participating Air Force installation.

Please contact the Airman and Family Readiness Center for more specifics on this program at 535-4138.

PLAYpass		Go to MyAirForceLife.com to find qualifying events and programs	
Learn to PLAY! Recreational, fitness, life skills or leisure classes	\$40	\$40	
	\$40	\$40	
Recreate! Recreational programs and events or activities	\$25	\$25	\$25
	\$25	\$25	\$25
	\$25	\$25	\$25
Explore! Outdoor Recreation or 11 Day trip	\$50	\$50	

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



Name: Ismael S. Guzman
Rank: NF-II
Unit: 65th MDG/ SGOAV
Hometown: El Paso, Texas
Duty Title: Office Automation Clerk
Accomplishments: Mr. Ismael Guzman, "Ish," provides and maintains customer service to clients at the Veterinary Treatment Facility. Mr. Guzman opens and secures the Vet Clinic daily and ensures the clinic is

maintained in a clean and professional manner. He schedules and maintains appointments, and performs a variety of administrative and clerical functions using veterinary database computer software. He also maintains confidential veterinary medical records, receives and reviews incoming vaccination documents for completeness and advises clients on necessary procedures to maintain their pet on and off base. Mr. Guzman handles clinic issues in the absence of the clinic NCOIC.



Name: Kimberly Vaughan
Rank: SSG, US Army
Unit: 65 MDG/ SGOAV
Hometown: Las Vegas, NV
Duty Title: 65 MDG/ SGOAV
Accomplishments: SSG Vaughan arrived to the island Oct. 1, 2011, from Ft. Bliss, Texas in El Paso. SSG Vaughan received her training at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio. She has ambitions to commission

as a medical officer by the end of 2012. SSG Vaughan is on a 15-month unaccompanied tour. Previous awards include six Army Commendations Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, and a Global War On Terrorism Medal.



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

Feature



Senior Airman David Thal, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department, talks with Damante Cross, 12, son of Tech. Sgt. Shenae Roberts from the 65th Communications Squadron, about a career as a firefighter in the Air Force during Military Career Day, Dec. 8. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Vincent Mouzon)



The Lajes Elementary and Middle School choir visited a local orphanage to sing holiday carols, Dec. 10. More than 25 Team Lajes members visited the orphanage. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)



Tech. Sgt. Durrell Edwards, 65th Air Base Wing Chapel NCOIC of chapel operations, and Catarina Melo, 9, daughter of Jacinta Pires, 65th Air Base Wing chapel aide, collect gifts for the Angel Tree program at the base chapel Dec. 12. The program allowed volunteers to select and donate a holiday gift for an underprivileged child at several different orphanages within the community. The Angel Tree program ran on Lajes Field from Nov. 15 to Dec 10. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)



Lt. Col. Charlene Purtee, 65th Mission Support Group deputy commander, and Mr. Hildeberto Cabral, 65th Air Base Wing Chapel, cut the ribbon during a ceremony celebrating the Solid Rock Oasis' new kitchen at the Community Activity Center, Dec. 13. (Courtesy photo)



Congratulations to Team Lajes' Airmen who graduated the Kisling NCO Academy Class of 2011-8. Technical Sergeants Luis Trumbo, Selina Motu, Michael Crumley, Latoaya Cason and Pamela Zavatkay completed 220 academic hours during the six-week course, which covered leadership, communication and profession of arms in October. (Courtesy photo)



Mark your calendar

LIVE FROM BETHLEHEM: There will be a Christmas Play 6 p.m. Dec. 23 at the Lajes Field Chapel. For more information, contact Lee Fagundes at: 535-4211/ 295-574-211/ Rialeef.fagundes@lajes.af.mil. This is sponsored by Lajes Field Chapel.



Beat the Holiday Blues

By Capt. Emily Eschbacher
65th Medical Operations Squadron

Whether someone is a season's greeter or not, the holidays can take a toll. Here are a few recommendations to help through the new year:

- Take some time to reaffirm the reasons for the hectic pace. Identifying the personal significance, whether it's about family, religion, or new beginnings can help remind anyone of why they get so busy.
- Prioritize your time. It's not possible to do everything and don't forget to take a break every once in a while.
- The expense of the season often causes stress and/or anxiety for those unable to afford costly gifts. Consider natural talents and use creativity. Gifts made by hand are a great way to show that one cares.
- Limit alcohol consumption. Alcohol is a depressant and could intensify any feelings of sadness.
- Get moving. Physical activity can help bolster mood and mitigate stress while also working off extra calories from holiday parties.
- For those separated from family or unable to return home, take the opportunity to create new traditions with friends.
- Feelings of sadness are normal. Concerns arise when these feelings are prolonged or start to adversely impact one's life.
- Know personal limits and pay attention to the body's stress signals. Taking care of one's self today will lead to a better tomorrow.

At the Movies

7 p.m. **Friday** - Killer Elite (R), 100 minutes.
 7 p.m. **Saturday** - The Ides of March (R), 101 minutes.
 4 p.m. **Sunday** - The Three Musketeers 2 (PG-13), 110 minutes.
 7 p.m. **Sunday** - Moneyball (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



Christmas in the Azores



The Portuguese celebrate Christmas in much the same way as other western countries, including some European countries and the United States, although there are some differences because of local traditions.

These differences vary with the regions, especially when it comes to food and religious services. Although some decades ago it was traditional to have a nativity scene, most Portuguese families now have Christmas trees set up in their living rooms. Some families, however, still set up a nativity scene as well as a Christmas tree.

On Christmas Eve, families and friends usually gather for supper and exchange presents. The exchange of presents usually takes place after the meal is served, but it can take place at any other time.

The meal's menu varies with the regions of the country and the families' economic situation, but in the Azores it's common to have boiled codfish or stuffed turkey accompanied by red or white wines. Many years ago the traditional dish was chicken because codfish and turkey were unavailable or too expensive.

After the supper, many people sharing the Catholic faith go to church to attend the Christmas Eve Mass, which is normally held around midnight. However, some families prefer to stay home and attend Mass on Christmas Day.

On Christmas Day and following days, people spend time visiting relatives, friends and live nativity scenes around the island if there are any. It's traditional in this season, especially in the Azores, to visit friends, relatives and neighbors and try the different Christmas cakes and other delicacies.

This visiting period usually runs from Christmas until the Epiphany on Jan. 6, also known to the Portuguese as the "Day of the three Kings." It's also common for people to leave the Christmas trees and nativity scenes set up until this day.

Each year Praia and Angra city halls decorate their towns' streets with holiday lights and people enjoy strolling and viewing the displays.