

# Crossroads

www.lajes.af.mil



Vol. 16, No. 14 • April 8, 2011

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

## Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha  
Threat Level: Low



### 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 SSW 20-30 mph

High 66F / Low 61F



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

Mostly Cloudy with Showers  
Wind S 20-30 mph

High 61F / Low 53F



## U.S. and Portuguese support Russian An-124

A Russian An-124 stops at Lajes Field, Azores, April 1, 2011 to receive fuel before continuing across the Atlantic Ocean. Lajes Field, which is capable of landing the space shuttle or any other airframe in the world, is a shared runway with the Portuguese air force. (Photo by Guido Melo)

By Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell  
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

A Russian An-124 stopped at Lajes Field, Azores, April 1, 2011 before continuing on their mission across the Atlantic.

In a true demonstration of international support, the Russian An-124, the world's largest cargo aircraft currently in use, were taxied by Lajes Field Airmen and fueled by a Portuguese fuel company.

The members of the 65th Operations Support Squadron

transient alert taxied the aircraft to its parking place.

"This was my first time in my 14-year career that I taxied a Russian An-124," said Tech. Sgt. Gerald Redd, transient alert shift supervisor.

"It was like parking the Statue of Liberty," added Sergeant Redd. "Working with the Portuguese can be very rewarding and I truly enjoy it. We help each other support the mission here at Lajes as we work hand in hand."

The aircraft received a total of approximately 30,000

To read more on "An-124" see page 4

## Tragic events at Frankfurt remind us to stay vigilant

By Gen. Mark A. Welsh III  
Commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe

Like the rest of you, Betty and I were deeply saddened by the senseless attack at Frankfurt International Airport that claimed the lives of two of our Airmen and left two others seriously wounded. Our hearts and prayers remain with all those affected by this tragic event.

I've been touched by the outpouring of sympathy and support to the victims, their families, and their units from our Air Force communities at Ramstein Air Base, Royal Air Force Lakenheath, and around the Command. Your response makes me prouder than ever to stand beside you. I was humbled by the incredible response of our German and British hosts, and immensely thankful for our strong,

enduring partnership. I'd like to specifically thank the German police who responded to the scene of the shooting and the medical professionals who literally performed miracles treating our wounded warriors – thanks to them, and some excellent initial buddy care from the victims' Wingmen, our Airmen are on the road to recovery. The United States Ambassador to Germany and his staff were also immediately involved, caring for family members of the wounded, coordinating medical care with the hospital in Frankfurt, and providing translators for family members, escorts, doctors and security officers.

This attack is a grim reminder that we must stay vigilant. Force protection is part of our core business; it's everyone's

To read more on "vigilant" see page 4



# Force Shaping and Reduction in Force Boards are back

By Chief Master Sgt. Frank Rodriguez  
65th Force Support Squadron Superintendent



The Air Force is looking to get rid of about 5,750 people by fiscal year 2012. With the economy still lagging, retention is at a 15-year high. The Air Force has more than 335,000 airmen right now, well above its fiscal 2010 authorized active-duty end-strength of 331,700, service officials said.

In order to meet its end strength, Air Force officials are convening the 2011 Force Shaping Board May 9, the Reduction in Force board in September and Selective Early Retirement boards in October and January 2012. All boards will be held at the Air Force Personnel Center.

"We know this is a tough time for our personnel right now," said Tech. Sgt. Selina Motu, Career Development NCOIC. "We are here to answer any questions folks have and to help them through this process."

The FSB will evaluate officers serving on the active duty list in the grades of first lieutenant and captain in the following competitive categories and year groups: biomedical sciences corps, 2008; medical service corps, 2006 through 2008; and line of the Air Force-judge advocate general, 2006 through 2008.

Officers with six or more years of total federal commissioned service by the mandatory separation date or who have 15 or more years of total active service as of the board convening date are also ineligible under the FSB. Retention recommendation forms must be completed for all board-eligible officers with less than 15 years total active federal service as of May 9 and must be forwarded to AFPC no later than April 8.

Air Force officials will also conduct a RIF board for mid-grade officers. Officer over-strength challenges will require officials to conduct SERBs for lieutenant colonels who have been twice deferred for colonel and for colonels with four or more years time in grade who have not met a SERB in the last five years. Guidance for these boards will be posted on the AFPC website.

The Lajes Airman and Family Readiness Center has several transition programs to provide support to any separating or retiring Airman.

"We host a Warrior three-day Transition Assistance Program seminar, which includes resumé writing classes and a well attended class called, 'Applying for Federal Jobs,'" said Jim McDaniel, TAP Program manager at the AFRC.

Online TAP services, a new resource, will be available to separating and retiring service

To read more on "Shaping" see page 6

# Lajes kicks-off multi-awareness month

By Amy Ennis  
65th Medical Operations Squadron

Lajes kicked off the month of April with a 'Talk the Walk, Walk the Talk,' multi-awareness walk on April 1, 2011. The purpose of this event was to empower the 65th Air Base Wing community on subjects like autism, child abuse prevention, Sports Eye Safety, sexual assault, alcohol, public health, world health and Month of the Military Child.

The walk began at Lajes Elementary/High School with the high school chorus performing the national anthem, followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony with Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander. The walk routed 226 participants along the streets of Nascer do Sol, where representatives at each table handed out information regarding the awareness month topics. Participants were given awareness questions, and those who answered them all correctly were entered for a prize drawing. Prizes were donated by the 65th Medical Operations Squadron Mental Health Clinic, 65th Force Support Squadron, Educational & Developmental Intervention Services, and the Army and Air Force Exchange Service to encourage the community to walk and become empowered.

This event originated out of the EDIS program back in January, 2011. The hope was to reach

out to the 65th Air Base Wing community and share the staggering statistical change in the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder. Based on the most recent report by the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, an average of 1 in 110 children was identified with autism spectrum disorders, which translates to about 1 percent of children. This is very different from 4 or 5 out of 10,000 children prior to the year 2000. With April being Autism Awareness month, a time frame was established and the wheels were set in motion for the walk to happen.

When the idea for the autism walk was presented to the Inter-Delivery System members, it was determined this event could showcase the multiple awareness topics represented in April. A sub-committee was quickly formed to push this event forward. This initiative involved multiple agencies from the 65th Air Base Wing community, such as the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Family Advocacy Program, EDIS, Public Health, Health and Wellness Center, Airman and Family Readiness Center and the 65th Medical Operations Squadron Optometry Clinic. I would be remiss not to point out that 5 of the 8 agencies participating were from the

To read more on "kick-off" see page 6

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

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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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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# Trish Dotson, USAFE 2011 Joan Orr Spouse of the Year

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

If you've been at Lajes for any length of time, there's a good chance you might have heard the name, Trish Dotson, wife of Lt. Col. Robert Dotson, 65th Operations Support Squadron commander. She's an extremely active volunteer, and consequently won the United States Air Forces in Europe 2011 Joan Orr Spouse of the Year award. In the midst of her busy schedule, she took the time to answer some questions regarding her most recent achievement.

**65 ABW/PA:** Have you ever been submitted for the USAFE Joan Orr Spouse award or any other Air Force spouse awards before?

**Trish Dotson:** Yes. I was put forward for the Joan Orr Award for 2009. I won the Air Force Sergeants Association Spouse of the Year 2010. I won 65th Air Base Wing Civilian Volunteer of the Year 2010.

**65 ABW/PA:** What types of activities/events have you done throughout the year to earn the Joan Orr award?

**Trish Dotson:** I was president of the Officers' Spouses Club from 2009-2011. I organized several wing-wide fundraisers for the OSC charitable account, which went to high school scholarships, wing activities as well as student athletic and educational travel. I sat on the thrift shop board, planned and organized the thrift shop grand Open House, and sat as co-chair and organizer for the Lajes 2nd Annual Pink Tie Gala to raise awareness for breast cancer. I worked with the base chapel and the 65th Civil Engineering Squadron to redecorate and furnish the newly-founded Lajes Airman Ministry Center. I also acted as Key Spouse for the 65th Operation Support Squadron.

**65 ABW/PA:** Have you always been an involved spouse in Air Force activities?

**Trish Dotson:** I have been actively involved with spouses groups since 1999. Throughout the years, I have served as historian, parliamentarian, vice president, president and event/social chair. I served two years on the Ramstein Officers' Spouses Club bazaar committee in Germany. I have been an active spouse in every squadron we have been a part of.

**65 ABW/PA:** How does the Officers' Spouses Club at Lajes differ from other bases?

**Trish Dotson:** When I arrived here, the Officers' Spouses Club and the Enlisted Spouses Club were two separate groups. I thought that we could be more effective in our military community as one group. Being stationed at a smaller base, we all do everything together anyway and both groups were fundraising as well as co-operating the thrift shop



Trish Dotson and her husband, Lt. Col. Robert Dotson, 65th Operations Support Squadron commander, pose during the 65th Air Base Wing Annual Awards Banquet, Feb. 25, at the Top of the Rock Club. (Courtesy Photo)

for the exact same cause, so it made sense to me that we merge. After a lengthy one-year process, we finally came together and now we're one cohesive club. Before each club had approximately 20-25 members, and now we have 80 members in the Lajes Spouses Club. I guess one of the big differences is that at other larger bases, when you're part of a spouses club, you may see members of your club only when you go to the monthly meetings. Here, we do everything together...we are all so close; we are like one big family.

**65 ABW/PA:** How many children do you have? How difficult is it to be active on base while also being supportive to your family?

**Trish Dotson:** I have four children. Randi, who's 23, Jake, 21, Kate, 16, and Ty 12. My family is very supportive of my volunteer efforts. I feel now that my children are older, I'm able to be more active. The benefit of my children seeing their mother as an avid volunteer around the community teaches them that giving is definitely a worthwhile cause. I hope to teach them by example.

**65 ABW/PA:** What advice, if any, would you give to spouses who might feel disconnected in finding ways to get involved and become more active on base?

**Trish Dotson:** Well...I guess that is a simple answer for me. You just get out there and get involved. There are so many ways to volunteer that there is a volunteer opportunity for every type of personality.

**65 ABW/PA:** Is there anything else you'd like for readers to know?

**Trish Dotson:** Here's a quote: "You are defined by the choices you make...choose wisely every day." I choose to find strength every day in the little things...the joy of a rainbow, the guy in the milk wagon being pulled by the horse every morning, the cows and sheep in the middle of the road, glitter, friends and laughter.

**\*The Air Force Personnel Center is scheduled to announce the Air Force 2011 Joan Orr Spouse of the Year toward the end of May.**



Participants pose during a Harry Potter event, organized by Trish Dotson, wife of Lt. Col. Robert Dotson, 65th Operations Support Squadron commander, at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal in 2010. This event is one of many Trish Dotson organized, leading to her USAFE 2011 Joan Orr Spouse of the Year award. (Courtesy photo)

## WING EVENTS

### Friday, April 8

- USAF Family Day
- Air Force Assistance Fund 9 Pin No Tap Bowling Tournament, Bowling Center, 2 to 5 p.m.

### Friday, April 8 - Friday, April 15

- Spring Break

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Friday, April 8

- There will be an arena bull fight in the Angra bullring at 8:30 p.m. The admission cost is 12 euros. For further information, contact Senhor Mateus Diniz



On Sunday, April 10 at 4 p.m. there will be a basketball game between Lusitania and Vitoria Sport Clube at the Angra Sports pavilion. Tickets will be on sale at the door one hour before the game.

### "An-124" from page 1

gallons of fuel from a Portuguese fuel company.

"Since the runway is under construction, we took extra measures to make sure the aircraft would be able to take off and land without any problems," said Paulo Goulart, 65th Operations Support Squadron airfield management shift leader.

"We work together every day to help aircraft with approach and take-off as well as tracking aircraft," said Ten. (1st Lt.) Nuno Silva, Portuguese air force radar and tower controller supervisor.

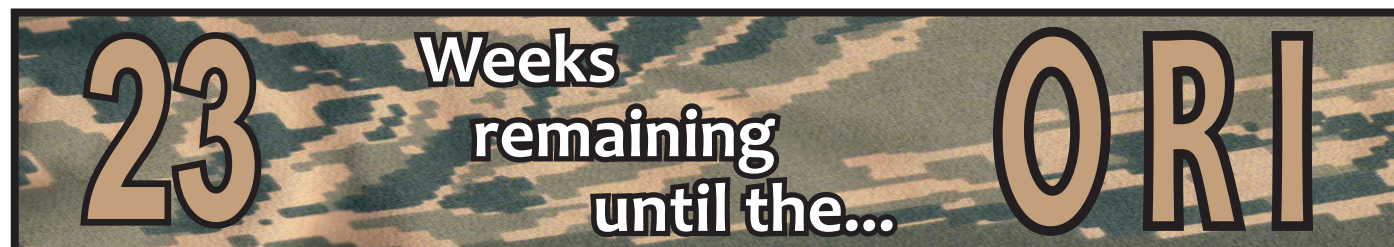
Lajes Field, which is capable of landing the space shuttle or any other airframe in the world, is a shared runway with the Portuguese air force. Any aircraft landing at Lajes, no matter the type or country of origin, gains bilateral support. Host nation relations is more than just a Lajes Field pillar, but a way of life.

### "vigilant" from page 1

responsibility. We shouldn't be scared to walk down the street, but we should always do our best to avoid threatening or dangerous situations, and report things that just don't seem right. We're working closely with German authorities to fully investigate the attack. Rest assured, we'll use the lessons learned to determine the best way ahead to protect our Airmen, our families and other service members serving in and traveling through Europe.

Despite the tragic incident in Frankfurt, I firmly believe Germany and the rest of Europe are safe places to live and work. We're lucky to be stationed here. I encourage you to continue to go about your business, travel, have fun and make friends – but maintain good awareness of your environment and do your best to blend in. Talk with your family and friends about potential risks and threats and have an emergency response plan both at home and while traveling.

As we mourn our fallen colleagues and support the survivors, we must remain proud of who we are and what we represent. We're a strong family – we'll get through this, and together, we'll continue to Ensure Freedom's Future.



## LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



**Name:** Jed R. Abbott  
**Rank:** Staff Sergeant  
**Unit:** 65th Force Support Squadron  
**Hometown:** Tremonton, Utah  
**Duty Title:** Education and Training Manager  
**Accomplishments:** Staff Sgt. Abbott plans, coordinates and schedules formal, expeditionary, and qualification training for 789 military and civilian personnel in 74 AFSCs. He leads status of training briefings for all squadrons and instructs the Air Force Training Course for 65 ABW units and agencies. He also develops, implements, administers and supervises on-the-job and upgrade training programs, and activities for Lajes Field.



**Name:** James E. McDaniel  
**Rank:** GS-11  
**Unit:** 65th Force Support Squadron  
**Hometown:** Oceanside, CA  
**Duty Title:** Community Readiness Consultant, Accredited Financial Counselor  
**Accomplishments:** Since being hired on in June 2010, he has developed an entire financial program from scratch to include weekly financial briefings, personal financial consultations and integrated financial briefings into the Transition Assistance Program, pre-separation, relocation, retirement and pre-deployment training. He's conducted over 440 formal consultations, workshops with 318 attendees, and financial outreach programs to the Lajes Elementary/High School students and teachers.



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



**Praia Students Visit Lajes**

Basic School 1 Praia da Vitória student Alexandra Silva takes a shot while teacher Patrícia Freitas watches in the Chace Fitness Center gym, during a visit to Lajes Field March 31. During this host nation event, the Praia school students, hosted by the Health and Wellness Center, did various activities on base. (Photo by Guido Melo)



**Warrior Departure**

Tech. Sgt. Esperanza Hernandez, 65th Force Support Squadron, stands during her departing warrior send-off March 31, outside the Top of the Rock Club, prior to her deployment. The 65th Air Base Wing makes it a point to recognize the Airmen who are deploying or returning from the area of responsibility. (Photo by Guido Melo)



**Mustache Madness**

(From left to right) Martin Torres, 65th Medical Group, Master Sgt. William Velsor, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, Tech. Sgt. Robert Scales, 65th Operations Support Squadron, Senior Master Sgt. Sean Cobb, American Forces Network-Lajes, and Kyle Roland, spouse of 1st Lt. Jessica Roland, 65th Air Base Wing protocol, pose after the final judging of the March Mustache Madness contest, March 31 at the Top of the Rock Club. The contest was sponsored by the 65th OSS, and all proceeds went to the Air Force Assistance Fund. (Photo by Guido Melo)





# Mark your calendar

**PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE/CULTURAL AWARENESS COURSE:** April 11-22, Monday-Friday, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Bldg. T-146, Room 104; 6 hrs. language & 4 hrs. culture. The course is open to military, civilian and spouses. To sign up for the course, e-mail [grant.mccormick@lajes.af.mil](mailto:grant.mccormick@lajes.af.mil) or [PortugueseCulturalcourse@hotmail.com](mailto:PortugueseCulturalcourse@hotmail.com). First-come, first-served. Call 535-3404.



**FAITH, FISH, EARTH AND CHEESE:** Saturday, April 9, 10:30 a.m. \$39.95/person, 5-12 years of age for \$20. You'll visit a pottery shop and Sao Mateus church, taste cheese at the Vaquinha Factory, meet a ceramics artisan and enjoy a seafood lunch.

**PRETEEN SCAVENGER HUNT:** Saturday, April 9, 4 - 7 p.m. Meet at the Youth Center. Register by April 7. Ages 9-12. Pizza served and prizes awarded. Members \$3 - Non-Members \$5. 535-3273.

**MyCAA:** Spouses of service members in pay grades E-1 to E-5, W-1 to W-2, and O-1 to O-2 are eligible for financial aid up to \$4,000 to pursue licenses, certificates, certifications or Associate's Degrees. Contact Heather at 535-3355.

**FINANCIAL WORKSHOP SERIES:** Take one or all of the classes, which are offered by an Accredited Financial Counselor. Mr. McDaniel is available to provide one-on-one or couple's personal financial counseling. The next in the series includes: Money Management & Couples, Have You Fed Your Pig Today, and Financial Planning for Home Buying.

**EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY:** Romina Newman is the new on-site representative. ERAU offers a wide variety of degree and non-degree programs. For information and a copy of the University catalog, contact Romina in Bldg. T-146, 535-3375, or [ecaz@erau.edu](mailto:ecaz@erau.edu).

**ATTENTION UMUC STUDENTS:** LIBS150 is a required UMUC course. It will be offered on site as a hybrid class: April 9 (in class) – April 10-25 (online). Contact Scott at 535-4187 or [serwin@europa.umuc.edu](mailto:serwin@europa.umuc.edu).

**RACE TO READ:** Friday, April 15, 7:30 a.m. Fitness Center. Join the Library and the Fitness Center in a 5K run/walk to celebrate National Library Week. Registration begins at 7 a.m. at the Fitness Center. 535-3688.

## "Kick-off" from page 2

65th MDOS. With the support of these agencies, the 65th MDOS, the 65th Medical Group, AAFES, 65th FSS, 65th SFS and the wing, this event provided a safe and fun environment for the participants.

This event was just the start for the month of April as Lajes increases the awareness on these topics. Please be on the lookout for other awareness events happening throughout the month.

## Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



**ENGLISH:** What is the special of the day in this restaurant?

**PORTUGUESE:** Qual é o prato do dia hoje neste restaurante?

**PRONUNCIATION:** Kwall ehoo PRAHtoo doo DEEuh OHzhe NEShtuh restuhRONT?

## At the Movies



**7 p.m. Friday** - Just go with it (PG-13)

**7 p.m. Saturday** - I am number four PG-13

**4 p.m. Sunday** - Just go with it PG-13

**7 p.m. Sunday** - I am number four PG-13

**Just go with it:** A plastic surgeon, romancing a much younger schoolteacher, enlists his loyal assistant to pretend to be his soon to be ex-wife, in order to cover up a careless lie. When more lies backfire, the assistant's kids become involved, and everyone heads off for a weekend in Hawaii that will change all their lives. *Rated PG-13 130 min*

**I am number four:** John is an extraordinary teen, masking his true identity and passing as a typical high school student to elude a deadly enemy seeking to destroy him. Three like him have already been killed ... he is Number Four. *Rated PG-13, 109 min.*

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

**AFN LAJES**  
**ISLAND 96**  
CH. 40 (ON-BASE CABLE)  
CH. 7 (OFF-BASE SATELLITE) & 96.1 FM

## "Shaping" from page 2

members transitioning from the military back to civilian life, with the launch of the Department of Defense's online version of the DoD Career Decision Toolkit at [www.turbotop.org](http://www.turbotop.org).

"This tool will provide Airmen with 24-hour global access to career transition training and compliments the services already available at the Lajes Airman & Family Readiness Center," said Jim McDaniel.

For more information on these programs or the FSB, stop by the Military Personnel Section, Customer Service department at 535-4212, or visit the AFPC website. The AFRC has some great programs for our "A"irmen. Please call 535-1296 to find out more.

# ASKED

A column that looks at

By Eduardo Lima  
Community Relations Advisor



## Why is this island called "Terceira"?

This island was named Terceira, which means third, because it was supposedly the third island to be discovered by the Portuguese navigators.

Other historians, however, contend this assertion saying that Terceira received its name because it's the third island in terms of distance from mainland, Portugal, and not necessarily the third island to be sighted by the Portuguese.

Terceira Island was probably discovered between 1439 and 1450. The island and the city of Angra do Heroismo in particular played an important role in the 15th and 16th centuries as a port of call for the galleons returning from the Americas, Africa and India, loaded with treasures and other goods.

Still in relation to the island, I've heard rumors that Terceira island's base tapers down below the ocean surface into an hourglass or mushroom shape, causing the island to break off and sink into the ocean in case of a major earthquake!

Fortunately, this is not true. According to the Volcanology Center of the Regional Service for Civil Defense of the Azores, the topographical maps of the island and the ocean floor show that the island's base is actually larger than the island itself.

Terceira, like other Azorean islands, is of volcanic origin and its base is an agglomeration of magma.

Terceira Island is also the third biggest in size after São Miguel and Pico, with a surface area of approximately 153 square miles. It is the second most populated island of the Azorean archipelago with approximately 56,000 inhabitants.

