

Combat Touch

"Today I'd like to talk more about faith and how fostering our own spiritual beliefs, whatever they might be, is a critical factor in realizing our full potential," said Maj. Gen. Mike Gould, 3rd Air Force commander. Page 2

First Look

Holiday greetings

Hometown News teams will visit Lajes Sept. 13 and 14 to film holiday greetings. Military, Department of Defense civilians and their family members are encouraged to participate. Sign up by sending an e-mail to news@lajes.af.mil. Include name, number of people in group, date and an hour of availability.

New parking area

The base clinic will redesignate its parking area Wednesday. The new patient parking area will be on Rua Do Sol, located on the same road as the main entrance to the Trade Winds Dining Facility. Patients will now be able to enter the clinic without climbing stairs. For more information call, Master Sgt. Todd Robbins at 2-3464.

Hispanic heritage

The national observance of Hispanic Heritage month is from Sept. 15-Oct. 15 with the theme "Making a Difference in Our Communities and Our Nation." The Lajes Organization of Latino Americans (OLA) will sponsor events throughout the month such as the single and unaccompanied members dinner on Sept. 23. People interested in joining should attend the next meeting at 2 p.m., Thursday, at the community activities center. For more information please contact Tech. Sgt. Luis Lopez at 2-3802.

Preflight

- Days since last DUI ...208
- DUIs since Jan. 1....one
- Current AEF..... 9&10
- Current FPCON.....Alpha
- Combat Nighthawk: 1st Lt. Robert Toney, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron; 1st Lt. Lee Hoisington, 65th Security Forces Squadron; Senior Master Sgt. Alfonso Martinez, 65th Communications Squadron; Master Sgt. Brian Ramsey, 65th Operations Support Squadron



Rhythm 'N blues

Memphis Gold, an Armed Force Entertainment group, played rhythm and blues music for a crowd Saturday at the Top of the Rock club. (Photo by Master Sgt. Robert Valenca)

Decon system speeds patient treatment

**by Capt. Yvonne Levardi
Chief of public affairs**

Medics from the 65th Medical Group demonstrated a new decontamination system to base leadership Aug. 19.

Called the In-Place Patient Decon Capability, the system is lightweight, can be set up by four people, and only needs a power source and a fire hydrant to be fully operational. A bargain at \$65,000, it's the new standard Air Force-wide.

"The system is impressive," said Tech. Sgt. Jason Lekse, 65th Medical Operations Squadron bioenvironmental engineer craftsman. "It's fast, reliable and simple – it's not a complicated system."

Lajes recently received the system, and training for the decon team began Aug. 17, said Capt. Robbie Wheeler, 65th MDOS bioenvironmental element chief.

"The system is a huge step forward in terms of efficiency and convenience," Captain Wheeler said.

"In training, we had it ready to accept patients in just over four minutes, the second fastest time in the Air Force. The system sets up quickly and eas-

ily, is user-friendly, easy to understand and has proven in numerous tests to be 100 percent effective in removing contamination from patients."

The Air Force standard for set-up is 20 minutes, according to Tom Bocek, system trainer and director of military affairs for Reeves Group Worldwide Inc., but that's at the far end of the spectrum.

"On average, most bases have it up and operational in five to seven minutes," he said.

Once set up, the system is ready to accept patients, said Sergeant Lekse.

"The team receives a patient and assesses the condition," he said. "Is the patient ambulatory or not able to move on his own?"

If ambulatory, patients remove their clothing, and are directed to the shower area to scrub themselves down. Sergeant Lekse said a team member watches to ensure thoroughness.

If patients are not ambulatory, they are moved through the line on a backboard.

Clothing is removed, and team members scrub themselves, the patient and the backboard throughout the process to eliminate contamination.

The system comes equipped to process 100 people who may be contaminated with any biochemical agents or particulate matter, and uses a type of dish soap instead of bleach or other decontaminants, according to Sergeant Lekse.

"Like all of our disaster preparedness gear, we hope it will never be needed," Captain Wheeler said, "but in the event of an accident involving hazardous materials – for instance if a drum of hazardous chemicals was accidentally spilled – this system will allow our medics to quickly prepare patients for medical care while eliminating the risk of spreading harmful contamination to our medics and medical facilities."

Captain Wheeler said the system has a very small footprint and is designed to be easily stored in a configuration that allows the team to pull it out of storage and get it operational in a short amount of time.

"The DOD has expended a lot of effort and research to find a system that balances cost, ease of use and effectiveness," he said. "I think this system is the best available, even if we were to spend more money."

Combat Touch Hitting the Target

**Editorial by Maj. Gen.
Mike Gould
3 AF/CC**

When I first wrote to the members of 3rd Air Force, I mentioned the four essential things I believe make us more effective Airmen and help keep our perspectives in order: faith, family, fitness, and fun.

Today I'd like to talk more about faith and how fostering our own spiritual beliefs, whatever they might be, is a critical factor in realizing our full potential.

Stephen Covey said, "We are not human beings on a spiritual journey. We are spiritual beings on a human journey."

It's this human journey that led the founders of our country to integrate the freedom to worship into the first amendment of the constitution, which reads "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."

Our founding fathers understood the importance of ensuring religious freedom. Their wisdom in this regard has withstood the test of time.

That doesn't mean it's easy to make the time to glance at your spiritual compass. For me, however, setting aside time in my day is critical to how I

perform my job, love my family, and maintain a balanced life.

I'm not advocating that you practice any particular form of religion. I am merely sharing thoughts about what has helped me in my life. I ask Jesus for guidance through prayer, but prayer can come in many forms and encompass many different religions.

Prayer can be to God or nature. Prayer can be meditation, moments of silence or reflection. Regardless of how you do it, setting aside time to reconnect with your spirit is a healthy thing to do.

Because it's healthy, base chaplains throughout USAF go to great lengths to facilitate spiritual well-being for our Airmen and their families through the Combat Touch program.

If your particular religious service is not offered on base, ask your base chaplain to help you identify a local church or other entity that will suit you and your family's needs. They're here to help you every step of the way.

Additional ways to obtain the well-being desired through Combat Touch can be witnessed in other Combat Special Interest Programs like Combat Care dinners for deployed spouses, post-deployment family reunion preparation, and couples



Maj. Gen. Mike Gould, Commander 3rd Air Force, and his wife Paula discuss with Chaplain (Maj.) Jerry Sather, 100th Air Refueling Wing, different Combat Touch programs available to Airmen. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeanette Copeland)

communication classes.

In my travels around the command, I've seen "Touch" programs reach others across other CSIPs. Chaplains sponsor many Project Cheer functions like dorm cookouts and group activities for single Airmen. Much of the volunteer work tracked through the Hidden Heroes program comes from base chapel volunteers who give their time to social work, mentoring, and teaching classes such as the Mothers of Preschoolers Program.

Combat Touch programs touch more than you know. If

you're not inclined to participate in the many organized spiritual programs that are available, chaplains can suggest alternatives, like the ones listed above, to help improve your well-being.

I hope you and your family find the rock-steady grounding that a full spiritual life offers. Taking the time to focus on our spiritual compass is the best way to navigate through this human journey. It is an essential step in living a happy, well-rounded life, and will improve our ability to contribute to the world's best air and space team.

Focus notes

Combat Touch

All events are at the base chapel unless otherwise noted.

Spiritual fitness: Protestant women's spiritual fitness training is 7 p.m., Mondays.

Women's lunch: Working women's spiritual fitness training/lunch is noon, Wednesdays.

Men's lunch: Men's spiritual fitness training/lunch is noon, Wednesdays.

Teen movie night: 7 p.m., Fridays.

AWANA training and sign-up: 9 a.m., Saturday.

Children and youth movie night: 7 p.m., today.

Singles' orphanage visit: Meet at the base chapel at 3 p.m., Saturday.

For more information about chapel events, call Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Michael Coggins at 2-4211.

PMOC Conference

The Fall 2004 European Protestant Men of the Chapel Conference will be held Oct. 15-17 at the Sauerland Stern Resort Hotel Willingen, Germany.

The deadline to register for the conference is Sept. 27. The deadline for hotel reservations is Sept. 14.

For more information, contact EPMOC president, Hector Rivera at DSN 486-7338 or via e-mail at hector.a.rivera@us.army.mil or Aton stiles at DSN 496-3878, or e-mail aton.stiles@sembach.af.mil.

Combat Cheer

In celebration of the upcoming Air Force's 57th birthday on Sept. 18, U.S. Air Forces in Europe Services Project CHEER and Exchange New Car Sales-Chevrolet is giving away a 2005 Equinox.

The promotion runs through Sept. 17. The final drawing is on Sept. 18 at Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany. The vehicle keys will not be available until sometime in late October.

Only authorized DOD identification card holders 18 years or older are eligible. Entrants don't have to be present to win.

Winners will be randomly selected. All prize claims are subject to verification. Winner must agree to pay taxes as applicable. For more information or to register, call Capt. Samatha Elmore at 2-3464.

Memorial observance

A 9/11 memorial service, "A Service of Remembrance, Honor and Resolve," will be at 3:30 p.m., Sept. 10, at the base chapel. For more information call Father (Capt.) Matthew Glaros at 2-4211.

DeCA wraps up store renovations



Tonia Samberg and Cynthia Kimball check out the fresh fruit display in the new display area of the commissary. (Photo by 1st Lt. Aaron Wiley)

by Capt. Yvonne Levardi
Chief of public affairs

Almost a year later, the commissary is nearing completion on \$3.8 million worth of renovations.

With new freezers, coolers, meat display areas, shelving and brighter lighting throughout, customers immediately notice the difference when they walk into the store.

"Within the next eight weeks, we should

be full-fledged," said Roger Wright, store manager. "Our customers' hopes and dreams of what a store should look like will be realized."

"It looks like it's going to be nice," said Staff Sgt. Shawana Harris, 65th Comptroller Squadron. "Everything is more spaced out; you can find things a lot easier now."

Customers have also commented to Mr. Wright on how the store looks, especially the new lighting.

"It's so open and the lighting is much better," Capt. Mike Hartzell said, 65th Communications Squadron. "I can't wait until they're done renovating."

Mr. Wright said the first thing people used to notice in the commissary is how dark it was.

"The new lighting has enhanced everything," he said.

The renovations not only improve the overall look of the store, but bring about other changes as well.

"We picked up freezer space when we had the new freezers installed, and gained shelving square footage," Mr. Wright said.

Because of the new space, management was able to increase line items throughout the store.

"And if there's something we don't have that a customer wants, we'll do our best to get it here," Mr. Wright said. "Customer satisfaction is what it's all about."

New services the commissary offers include custom-made sandwiches in the new deli, more and fresher produce, custom-made cakes, and bread is now kept in a freezer to ensure freshness.

Mr. Wright said the commissary was "right on schedule" with the renovations. The newly-renovated produce section opens today, he said, and the new checkout area – with a total of six new registers – should be complete within the next two weeks.

"The final phase is the combined bakery/deli section," Mr. Wright said. "When that is done, the grand opening will follow."

That will take place in time for the holidays, he said.

"We will be completed with the renovation before Thanksgiving."



Dacia Francis (Left) and Brittnay Simmons choose fresh vegetables under newly improved lighting conditions in the commissary. (Photo by 1st Lt. Aaron Wiley)



Carlos Coelho, commissary employee, stocks the shelves in the newly renovated milk and dairy section of the commissary. (Photo by Capt. Yvonne Levardi)



Capt. David Brazeau, 65th Medical Operations Support Squadron, duck walks with brothers (left) James and (right) Joey Kitzhaber during a physical to test their range of motion on August 19 at the clinic during their school physical. James and Joey are the sons of Sharette and Master Sgt. Jeremy Kitzhaber, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron. (Photo by Airman Josie Kemp)



Everyday Hero

Staff Sgt.
Martin J. Edwards

65th Logistics
Readiness Squadron

Rank and name: Staff Sgt. Martin J. Edwards

Squadron: 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Duty title: NCOIC, vehicle maintenance

Job description: supervises nine civilians and four military in the repair of general and special purpose vehicles

Time in Air Force: 12 years, 1 month

Time at Lajes: 3 months, 23 days

What's the best aspect of your job: I get to interact with a lot of people, both military and civilian

What are your career goals: To be successful at all that I do

Best Air Force experience: busting my hump in Diego Garcia just after 9/11

Life goal: to live life to its fullest. Do all that I can. To be happy

Hometown: Freedom, Pa.

One word to describe you: talkative
Hobbies: snorkeling, spear fishing, playing at the beach with my wife and daughter

Favorite food: lobster

Favorite color: blue

No one knows I/I'm: that's my little secret

School notes

School physicals

The 65th Medical Group's school and sports physical day is from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday at the clinic. Sign up at the Lajes Youth Center. All dependents 5-21 years old planning to play any sport this year must have a current annual physical. Parents must bring immunization records, glasses and contacts to the physical. Things that will be checked include general health screening, vision screenings, education updates, immunization updates and blood work if necessary. Today is the last day to sign up. For more information call Maj. Aura Melendez at 2-5077.

USDA School Meal program

Applications for free and reduced priced lunches can be picked up at Bldg. T-100, Room 241, school offices or on the public folders.

Lunch prices

Meal prices for the 2004-2005 school year are \$.10 higher than last year to compensate for operating costs. Elementary students will pay \$2.05 per meal while middle and high school students pay \$2.20.

School bus registration

Forms for school bus registration can be picked up at Bldg. T-100, Room 241 or in the public folders. Forms should be returned to

Bldg. T-100 or taken to the school.

Student orientation

New student orientation at the high school will be at 11 a.m., Sept. 3 at the high school gym. All students in grades 6-12 and new to the island are invited to attend.

Open house

Open house at the elementary school is from 9-11 a.m., Sept. 3 at the elementary school. Use this opportunity to meet teachers, find classrooms and purchase school supplies.

Skating party

A back-to-school skating party will be at 7 p.m., Sept. 18 at the Lajes skating rink. The party theme is tropical. Games, prizes, a guest DJ and a best costume design contest will take place. Age groups are 5-6 year olds, 7-10 year olds, 11-14 year olds and 15-18 year olds. For more information call Pam Darling at 295-549-751 or the community center at 2-4135.



For more information on school activities or programs call Monica Chandler-Potts at 2-1314.

Importance of 'Airmen Votes'

**By Master Sgt. Ron Tull
AFPC Public Affairs**

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas - With less than 80 days to the presidential election, the Air Force has added another tool to its voting effort to ensure all Airmen can participate.

Airmen Votes is the name of a new Web page designed to give Airmen, their family members and Air Force civilians all the information they need to register to vote, file an absentee ballot request and mail in an absentee ballot.

"Your vote counts. Since 1960 two different presidential elections have been decided by less than 1 percent of the popular vote," said Gen. John Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff. "The absentee voting system has traditionally been fraught with challenges, but we are working hard to make it easier for you to vote no matter where you're located."

The Air Force Personnel Center hosts the web page at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/

AirmenVotes. It can also be reached through Air Force Link and the Air Force Portal.

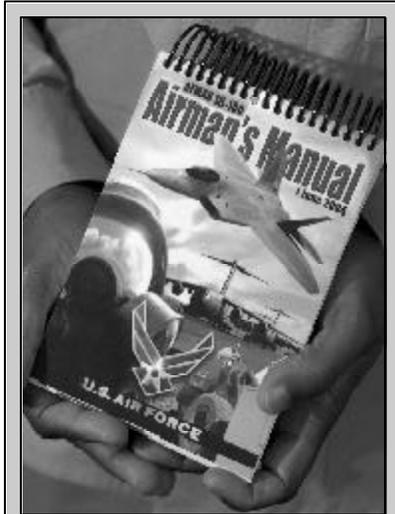
The page boils down the essential elements of the federal voting web site to make registering to vote as simple as possible.

"We wanted to create the ability for our Airmen to be within three mouse clicks of registering to vote in any state from anywhere in the world," said Maj. Gen. Anthony Przybyslawski, AFPC commander.

"It is our right and privilege as Americans," he said. "Lives were lost defending this right. There is no excuse not to vote!"

The Department of Defense has teamed up with the U.S. Postal Service to treat balloting materials as priority mail going to and from the voter. A significant change for voters overseas is ballots will receive postal cancellation at the APO or FPO to give a more accurate measure of the date and time a ballot is received into the postal system.

For more information, Airmen should contact their unit voting assistance officer.



ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. -- Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper has distributed the first of more than 675,000 copies of the revised Air Force Manual 10-100, Airman's Manual. A copy will be given to each active-duty, Reserve and Guard Airmen. The new version is weatherproof, tear-resistant and fits in the battle dress uniform's cargo pockets. It combines the old manual with Air Force Handbook 32-4014, Volume 4, "USAF Ability to Survive and Operate Procedures in a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Environment." (Photo by Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi)

Airmen urged to register to vote before deploying

**By Master Sgt. Ron Tull
AFPC Public Affairs**

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas - Airmen deploying between now and the general election Nov. 2 should consider registering to vote with their deployed unit address before departing according to voting officials at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

Registration is accomplished by completing a Federal Post Card Application Standard Form 76. Some states will accept the form electronically or by fax. The form and all the state rules can be found on the Airmen Votes Web page available at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/airmenvotes>.

"Registering in advance means the balloting materials will be waiting for them at their forward location," said Mr. John Lowrance, assistant voting action officer for the Air Force. "Deploying members who do not yet know their deployment address or

cannot release it, will need to take some additional steps.

"They'll need to file an SF 76 explaining in the remarks box that no address is available. This will prevent the state from sending balloting materials. All states are different, but many will not resend balloting materials," he said.

When people find out their address or if there is a change of address while deployed, they will need to send another FPCA SF 76 with their new APO/FPO address checking off "Mail Absentee Ballot To" (item 4). In the remarks section people should include the dates they will be absent, enter their old address and write in block letters the words "OLD ADDRESS."

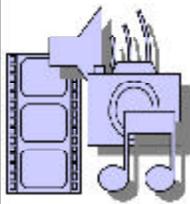
Under the updated address the applicant should write in block letters "NEW ADDRESS."

"The bottom line is to know your state rules and not make your ballot come looking for you," Mr. Lowrance said.

Voting representatives

Lajes Field

Capt. Joseph Zell, 2-7013
65th Air Base Wing
 Tech. Sgt. Renee Kirkland, 2-3520
65th Civil Engineer Squadron
 Tech. Sgt. Cristina Dixon, 2-3415
65th Operations Support Squadron
 Capt. Joseph Ludwig, 2-3514
65th Comptroller Squadron
 Master Sgt. John Liddell, 2-2402
65th Services Squadron
 2nd Lt. Scott Kniola, 2-2142
65th Contracting Squadron
 Lt. Col. Kristen Nelson, 2-4115
65th Logistics Readiness Squadron
 Master Sgt. Kurt Uelmen, 2-3364
Det 6, AFN
 Airman 1st Class Ryan Spear, 2-3497
65th Security Forces Squadron
 Staff Sgt. Jerome Worthington, 2-3611
65th Medical Support Squadron
 Master Sgt. Mark Gama, 2-3457
65th Medical Operations Squadron
 Staff Sgt. Kristie Clifford, 2-3464
65th Mission Support Squadron
 Master Sgt. Tony Pinkney, 2-4286
65th Communications Squadron
 Master Sgt. Kurt Bergmark, 2-5154
729th Air Mobility Squadron
 Airman 1st Class Dawn Davis, 2-4200



Holiday greetings

A Hometown News team will visit Lajes, Sept. 13-14 to film holiday greetings. To sign-up military, DOD civilians and family members can send an e-mail to news@lajes.af.mil. Include your name, phone number, number of people in the greeting, date and an hour of availability. Greetings will be filmed from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on both days. For more information on the program, call 2-3520.



COMMENTARY

Modern day patriots are all around us

**Commentary by Col. Gary Lane
5th Maintenance Group commander**

We often read in our history books about patriots. What often comes to mind is someone like Mel Gibson dressed in early day garb as he was in the movie, "The Patriot." We may even think of soldiers in rags in the snow at Valley Forge facing an overwhelming force of British regulars.

What about modern day patriots? Are there such people who risk their lives daily to protect our way of life, our nation that our forefathers passed down to us?

If you are in the military, I ask you to go look in the mirror. If you are married, then take your spouse with you. You are now looking at a true patriots who are willing to put their life on the line, suffer whatever hardships come their way and cheerfully set about to do their tasks. Look outside at your military friends and neighbors: more patriots.

Not one of us decided to enter the military to get rich. There is absolutely no way anyone of us can seek out fortune with a military career. But our nation and our citizens can count on us to be there to prevent aggressors from taking away our way of life, our liberties, our government or our land.

For 228 years, men and women like us

have stood up and taken oaths to protect and defend the Constitution and our nation against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Many have given up their lives in defense of our nation. Many more have been wounded, maimed or severely injured.

Our nation's forces are now entirely made up of volunteers just like you. Throughout the hardships of frequent moves, high operations tempo, long hours without additional compensation, many missed important family events (our children taking their first steps, their first birthdays or Christmases, anniversaries) and long separations that put us in harm's way, we continue to sign on the dotted line for another tour to continue on in our nation's defense.

It doesn't matter where you work, whether it's pushing papers at the military personnel flight, on gate guard duty or roaming the missile field, turning wrenches on the jets, deep underground in a missile silo, putting the throttles to the firewall on takeoff, ensuring the government funds are wisely spent, or serving up chow at midnight, you are a patriot in every sense of the word.

What are our attributes? We beat ourselves up unmercifully when things don't turn out as planned, but we fail to credit ourselves when our work turns out

spectacularly. Openly, we feel embarrassed when we are decorated for service above and beyond, but deep down, we feel proud that we did a job well done.

We willingly place ourselves in harm's way to keep our families safe, for we know that if we don't, an aggressor or a band of thugs will soon be putting us all in jeopardy.

Our spouses and family understand this, and they are the unsung heroes of this clan we call the profession of arms. They are the ones who deal with broken down cars in the middle of the winter, and who care for our children who keep them up all night because they are sick or are missing us while we are deployed to some desolate location where someone is taking potshots at us. They are the ones who dread the midnight visits by the commanders because something has happened to one of our aircraft or one of us.

Patriots, you are the reason this nation is still free. You are the reason our citizens can travel the world knowing the United States is the sole superpower of the world. We are surrounded by patriots; look in the mirror, look at your neighbor and if you are married, especially look at your spouse. God bless the patriots of the United States of America — God bless you!



This month in Lajes history...

◆ Aug. 17, 1943: The British and Portuguese signed an agreement allowing Great Britain the use of facilities in the Azores.

◆ Aug. 4, 1944: The 1391st Army Air Force (AAF) Base Unit was activated at Santa Maria Island and the Air Transport Command operations were moved from Lagens

Field to Santa Maria Air Base.

◆ Aug. 15, 1947: U.S. Air Forces in Europe was established as a major command.

◆ Aug. 1967: The weather detachment here at Lajes set an Air Weather Service record when information gathering balloons reached a height of 158,580 ft (over 30 miles).

(Left) A B-1 from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho on approach to Lajes during NATO exercise Northern Viking in 1997.

◆ Aug. 1 - Aug. 5, 1997: Six B-1Bs and two KC-135 aircraft deployed to Lajes Field for NATO exercise Northern Viking '97.



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FYI FEATURE

Question:

Can local nationals drive privately owned vehicles with a U.S. Forces Azores license plate?

Answer:

According to Air Force Instruction 31-204, Air Force Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, Lajes Field Supplement, Attachment 1, paragraph 1.4.4.2, "Operation of USFORAZ registered POVs by Portuguese Nationals is strictly forbidden. No person will loan, rent or otherwise furnish POVs registered under this directive to a Portuguese national. The only exception is for a licensed garage mechanic to have the

owner's permission to drive vehicles directly to and from a maintenance garage or to have road test repairs made. Violators are subject to a fine and possible confiscation of the vehicle by civilian police or Portuguese customs officials."

According to the Portuguese Customs Office in Angra, because Americans POV's with a USFORAZ plate are exempt from paying road automobile taxes on the island, they are to be driven by their owners or their immediate dependents only.

Question:

Has TAP-Air Portugal airline had any aircraft accidents

during its history?

Answer:

TAP-Air Portugal has only had one major aircraft crash since the airline started flying on Sept. 19, 1946. The accident happened at the airport of Santa Catarina on the Island of Madeira on Nov. 19, 1977, when a Boeing 727 with 156 passengers and eight crew members on board crashed while trying to land.

Heavy rain showers, cross winds and low visibility made an initial approach to the runway very difficult. After a light improvement of the weather conditions, the pilot decided to try a second approach. The aircraft touched



down on a wet runway, overran the runway, broke up and caught fire. The accident claimed the lives of 131 people; six crew

members and 125 passengers. Regardless of this accident, Air Portugal is still considered one of the safest airlines in the world.

Gone exploring



Tech. Sgt. Teresa Dennis, 65th Communications Squadron, examines the rugged walls of the caves at the "Christmas Cave," Gruta Do Natal, as part of an outdoor recreation-sponsored cave exploring tour Saturday. The cave walls were formed as by a volcano eruption more than two thousand years ago.



Stalactites hang from the ceiling in the Algar Do Carvao cave. The outdoor recreation sponsors guided tours to three caves here on the island. Tours include transportation and a guide. Hard hats and lighting equipment are available at the cave locations. The next tour is scheduled for Sept. 4. For more information about the cave exploring tour or any other outdoor activity call 2-4140. (Photos by Tech. Sgt. Renee Kirkland)

Here for the "T" tails



Senior Airman Trent Farmer, communication-navigation journeymen, and Senior Airman Will Gleason, aerospace maintenance journeyman both from the 729th Air Mobility Squadron, train on the rear door system of a C-17 from Charleston Air Force Base in South Carolina. (Photos by Staff Sgt. Rafael Pena-Perez)

By 1st Lt. Aaron Wiley Public affairs specialist

When the mighty C-5, C-17, and C-141 come rolling in, the 729th Air Mobility Squadron's logistics flight responds as if an old triangle dinner bell just rang.

"T-tails," aircraft whose vertical stabilizers resemble the letter T, are the 729th AMS maintenance shop's bread and butter, and nothing tastes better to them than a warm Galaxy, Globemaster, or Starlifter sitting on the ramp after a month's famine.

"The heavies come in about once a month," said Master Sgt. Grant Erskine, 729th AMS production superintendent. "When they get here, we refuel, inspect, jack and tow them, replace tires and brakes, fix in-flight discrepancies that could prevent them from flying out of here and service everything from windows to all



Staff Sgt. Chris Day, crew chief, and Senior Airman Jeffery Openbrier, air and environmental systems journeyman, both from 729th AMS, pump liquid oxygen in to a C-17 from Charleston AFB.

the avionic systems."

When a plane is on the ramp for a day, shifts that are off-duty get called in for a chance to sharpen skills that at Air Mobility Command home stations would be used daily.

"We need the expertise to fix these aircraft coming in from all around the world to minimize having experts sent out to troubleshoot a problem," said Maj. John Franklin, 729th AMS, squadron maintenance commander. "That's why taking advantage of 24 hours on the ground is very important at a place like this."

The logistics flight, along with the aerial port and the air mobility control center flights make up the tenant squadron at Lajes. The 729th is one of eight AMSs, who along with two detachments and five operating locations span throughout Europe and South West Asia, and belong to the 721st Air Mobility Operations Group at Ramstein AB, Germany, said Major Franklin. As an en-route location, Lajes' airfield can serve as a heavy's aircraft carrier in the Atlantic where crews can rest while their "birds" are made ready to fly another day.

"Because we're T-tail qualified, flying crew chiefs aren't needed to fly through here," Major Franklin said. "AMC owns all the T-tail assets in the world, which explains why we focus our energies on them. Other Air Force aircraft are manned with flying crew chiefs, but it's hard on them. Those guys endure a heavy and intense workload and a lot of time on the road.

"When you see crew chiefs on a T-tail, it's in case they hit a forward operating

location that doesn't have the expertise to fix the aircraft. So it's a balance...we can take that burden off them because we've got people trained up on it."

One of the unique things about the sortie generation shop here, as opposed to a base like Charleston or Dover, is there are no apprentices, everyone is at least a journeyman before they can be assigned at Lajes, Major Franklin said.



Aircraft maintainers from the 729th AMS wait for the completion of the refuel on the DC-8 Aug. 15.

According to Sergeant Erskine, while specifically qualified to work on aircraft that belong to the AMC, the 729th's mission is to catch, launch and recover all civilian contract aircraft, the L-1011, the 747 cargo, C-130s, Tankers and military T-tails. The logistics flight contributes by providing maintenance support for all en route air mobility aircraft.

To do so, the flight has a sortie support section, which includes the consolidated tool kit, a forward supply location and a maintenance aircraft coordination center that provide maintenance troops with the wrenches they turn, the parts they need and coordination with appropriate agencies for maintenance flightline activities.

"We provide the necessary tools, equipment and technical data to assist maintenance personnel in performing their mission," Tech. Sgt. Scotty Crowley, NCOIC of the consolidated tool kit said. "We give them launch kits, paddles and wands for getting planes to their parking spots, refueling kits, communication head sets, ground fuel gauges, and every other necessary piece of equipment to do their job."

According to Staff Sgt. Joseph Bright, CTK equipment custodian, keeping track of over 3,000 tools with a price tag of about \$3M is no small task.

"We etch every tool with a nine digit code, which is difficult on tools as small as your pinky finger," said Sergeant Bright. "The code allows us to track a tool to where it belongs and its point of contact, Air Force-wide, in a database called the tool accountability system."

For parts, the maintenance troops turn to the forward supply location, a separate supply source not to be confused with the 65th Air Base Wing's supply.

"The FSL is an AMS supply unit that has the C-5, C-17, and C-141 parts," said Staff Sgt. Michael Hayden, aircraft electrical environmental system craftsman.



Staff Sgt. Michelle Manjarrez, 729th AMS forward supply location warehouse supervisor, checks inventory in the FSL warehouse.

"We don't expect base supply to have them because they don't work our planes."

Although some aircraft parts are interchangeable, the AMS supply warehouse is specifically dedicated to servicing the T-tails, according to Staff Sgt. Bryan Smith, NCOIC of FSL.

"We go through AMC's Regional Supply Squadron at Scott AFB, Ill. and house about 500 different parts for heavies at our warehouse," Sergeant Smith said.

The maintenance aircraft coordination center acts like the flightline choreographer and makes sure each player is on the mark for the base's maintenance needs.



Staff Sgt. Jose Manjarrez, 729th AMS consolidated tool kit custodian, checks the etching on tools during a shift change over.

ance needs.

"We're the communication hub for everything that deals with flightline maintenance," said Tech. Sgt. Christopher Hoyt, NCOIC of the MACC. "We coordinate with the agencies that get aircraft refueled, parked, fixed, and secured."

Together the logistics flight focuses on providing safe reliable aircraft to crews transiting Lajes Field and plays an integral part in reaching the wing's number one goal: to provide the best support for expeditionary airpower.



Senior Airman Ian Collert, 729th AMS aircraft guidance control journeyman, debriefs Capt. Jason Kirk and 2nd Lt. Seth Storms, both from the 91st Aerial Refuel Squadron at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., after landing here Aug. 14. The KC-135 and its crew were on their way to Iraq.



Staff Sgt. Nicholous Horn, 729th AMS crew chief, puts oil in the engine of an aircraft.



Chad Raper, 65th Medical Operations Support Squadron, tries to sink a putt during the 65th Medical Group golf tournament, Aug. 19 as teammates Richie Bennett, 65th Operations Support Squadron, and Marty Sanders, 65th Medical Support Squadron, look on. *The team went on to win the tournament. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle Michaud)*

Sports Briefs

Volleyball tournament

The volleyball tournament scheduled for Sept. 17 has been cancelled. For more information call Senior Airman Sarah Haylett at 2-6126.

5K fun run

The 5K fun run for ages 18 years old and up scheduled for Sept. 3 has been rescheduled to Sept. 17 at 8:15 a.m. Showtime is 7:45 a.m. For more information, call Senior Airman Sarah Haylett at 2-6126.

Intramural bowling

Team rosters must be turned in to Tony Batista, recreation coordinator, at the fitness center no later than Wednesday. A team captain meeting will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the community center.

Friday night mixed league sign-ups are at the Hillside Lanes. An organizational meeting is at 7 p.m., Sept. 10 at the bowling center.

Sunday night mixed league sign-ups are at Hillside Lanes. An organizational meeting is at 6 p.m., Sept. 12 at the bowling center.

All leagues are open to military, adults, and civilians to include Portuguese bowlers. For more information, call Walt Baer at 2-1421.

Aerobics schedule

Monday

Step and tone	8:30 a.m. - Val
Aeromix	noon - Celia
Step	5:15 p.m. - Val
Cardio-kickbox	6:15 p.m. - Val



Tuesday

Circuit training	9:30 a.m. - Celia
Cardio-kickbox	5:15 p.m. - Robin

Wednesday

Step and tone	8:30 a.m. - Val
Aeromix	noon - Celia
Step	5:15 p.m. - Val
Tone	6:15 p.m. - Val

Thursday

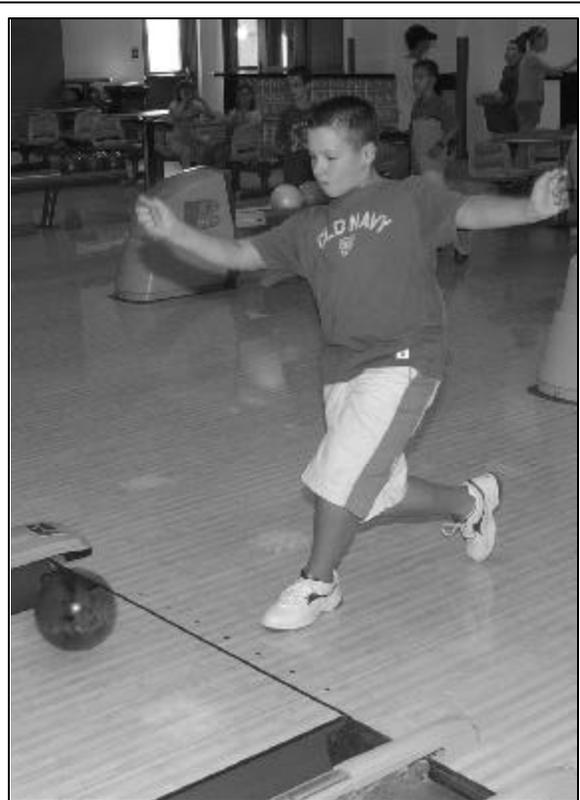
Circuit training	9:30 a.m. - Celia
Cardio-kickbox	5:15 p.m. - Robin



Friday

Step and tone	8:30 a.m. - Val
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For more information call 2-5151.



Brandon Hodges, son of special agent Randall Hodges, Det. 516, Office of Special Investigation, tries for a strike during a youth bowling camp on August 19, 2004 at the bowling center. *(Photo by Airman Josie Kemp)*

PLANNER

Changes or updates to this page should be sent to news@lajes.af.mil

AAFES

Flight View BX: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Mon., Tue., Thu.-Sat.; 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Wed.; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun.

Ocean Front BX: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Mon.-Wed.; 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Thu.-Sat.; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun.

Shoppette: 9 a.m.-11 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun.

Beauty shop: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tue.-Sat.

Dry cleaners: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Mon.; 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tue.-Fri.; 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sat.

Gas station: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun., Mon. (gas only); 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tue.-Sat.

Lajes services

Child development center: 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

Community activities center: 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Tue.-Sat.; noon-5 p.m., Sun.

Commissary: 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Mon.-Wed., Fri., Sat.; 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Thu.

Chace Fitness Center: 5 a.m.-midnight, Mon.-Fri.; 8

a.m.-7 p.m., Sat.-Sun.

Library: 4-9 p.m., Mon.; 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Tue.-Thu.; 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri.; 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat., Sun.

Outdoor recreation: 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Tue.-Sat.; 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun.

Skills development center: noon-8 p.m., Tue.-Thu.; 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri., Sat.

Thrift Shop: 12:30-4:30 p.m., Mon. and Wed.; 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Fri and 1st Saturday of the month.

Vet Clinic: 8 a.m.-2 p.m., Mon., Tues., Thu., Fri.; noon-6 p.m. 1st and 3rd Wed.; 2-8 p.m., 2nd and 4th Wed.

Youth and teen center: 3-6 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8 p.m.-midnight, Fri., Sat.

Meal time

Burger King: 7 a.m.-11 p.m., Mon.-Thu.; 7 a.m.-3 a.m., Fri.; 8 a.m.-3 a.m., Sat.; 8 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Sun.

Dining hall: Breakfast, 6-8:30 a.m., lunch, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., dinner, 4-7 p.m., midnight meal, 11 p.m.-1:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri., 11 p.m.-1 a.m., Sat.;

Brunch, 7 a.m.-1 p.m., supper, 4-7 p.m., Sat., Sun.

Oceanview Island Grill: 11 a.m.-11 p.m., Mon.-Sun. Lunch specials: Mon., roasted chicken or meatball sandwich; Tue., 16" pizza w/2 toppings; Wed., fried shrimp; Thu., 16" pizza w/1 topping or taco salad; Fri., lasagna. Specials come with fries or salad, and a drink. Pizza specials only come with drinks.

Top of the Rock club: Lunch 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; brunch 8:30 a.m.-noon, Sat.; dinner 5-9 p.m., Tue.-Sat. Lunch buffets and specials: Mon., Southern buffet; Tue., Mexican buffet; Wed., Italian buffet, family dinner buffet; Thu., Oriental buffet, 2-4-1 steak night; Fri., seafood buffet, Prime & Wine dinner; Huff & Fin dinner special.

Chapel services

Adoration and rosary: 3 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 5:40 p.m., Sun.

Mass: 5 p.m., Sun.-Fri.

Meditation and prayer: 6:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

Monday
Protestant women's spiritual

fitness training, 7 p.m.

Tuesday

Catholic Women of the Chapel, 7 p.m., 3rd Tuesday

Wednesday

Men's spiritual fitness training/lunch, noon; Working women's spiritual fitness training/lunch, noon; Catholic Men of the Chapel, 6 p.m., 2nd Wednesday; Traditional choir practice, 6 p.m.; Bell choir practice, 7 p.m.; Catholic choir rehearsal, 7:15 p.m.

Thursday

Gospel Choir Practice, 7 p.m.; Men's spiritual fitness training, 7 p.m.

Friday

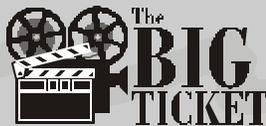
CWOC Mass, 5:30 p.m., 1st Fri.; Teen Movie Night, 7 p.m.

Saturday

Mass, 10 a.m.

Sunday

Traditional Protestant service, 9 a.m.; Confessions, 9:45 a.m.; Traditional Protestant fellowship, 10 a.m.; Mass, 10:30 a.m.; Gospel service & fellowship, noon; Catholic youth organization, noon; Catholic choir rehearsal, 4 p.m.; Rosary and adoration, 5:40 p.m.; Protestant Youth/Teens of the Chapel, 6:15 p.m.



Friday: 7 p.m., "The Terminal," rated PG-13 for brief language and drug references. Cast includes Tom Hanks and Catherine Zeta-Jones. An Eastern European immigrant is forced to live at Kennedy Airport when his former war-torn country's borders are erased, voiding his passport and leaving him with no political home. The refugee meets and falls in love with a flight attendant, which prompts a bold escape plan.

Saturday: 7 p.m., "Sleepover," rated PG for thematic elements involving teen dating, sensuality and language. Cast includes Alexa Vega and Mika Boorem. In the summer before their freshman year in high school, Julie has a slumber party with her best friends, Hannah, Yancy and Farrah, and they end up having the adventure of their lives. In attempt to cast off their less-than-cool reputations once and for all, Julie and her friends enter into an all-night scavenger hunt against their "popular girl" rivals. Hijacking dad's car, sneaking into clubs, evading Julie's mother, and even a first kiss--anything is possible at Julie's Sleepover.

Sunday: 7 p.m., "The Terminal"

Wednesday: 7 p.m., "Sleepover"

Thursday: 7 p.m., "The Terminal"

For information about the movie schedule, call the base theater at 2-3302.

AFN Sports on TV

Friday

AFN-Sports

MLB: Chicago White Sox @ Cleveland Indians, 6 p.m.

AFN-Atlantic

Olympics: 2004 Summer Games, 6:30 p.m.

AFN-Pacific

Olympics: 2004 Summer Games, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday

AFN-Sports

NASCAR: Busch Series, Food City 250, 7 a.m.

Olympics: 2004 Summer Games, 1 p.m.

Olympics: 2004 Summer Games, 4 p.m.

MLB: Minnesota Twins @ Anaheim Angels, 9 p.m.

NASCAR: Nextel Cup Series: Sharpie 500 (Bristol Motor Speedway), 11 p.m.

AFN-Atlantic

Olympics: 2004 Summer Games, 6:35 a.m.

Olympics: 2004 Summer Games, 6 p.m.

AFN-Pacific

Olympics: 2004 Summer Games, 4:35 a.m.

Olympics: 2004 Summer Games, 4 p.m.

Sunday

AFN-Sports

Little League World Series: U.S. Championship, 3:30 a.m.

NFL: New England Patriots @ Carolina Panthers, 7 a.m.

NCAA: 2004 BCA Classic, USC @ Virginia, 11 a.m.

PGA: Buick Championship, final round, 7 p.m.

AFN-Atlantic

Olympics: 2004 Summer Games, 6:30 a.m.

Olympics: 2004 Summer Games, 4 p.m.

Olympics: 2004 Summer Games, 1 a.m.

AFN-Pacific

Olympics: 2004 Summer Games, 4:30 a.m.

Olympics: 2004 Summer Games, 2 p.m.

Olympics: 2004 Summer Games, 11 p.m.

EVENTS

The deadline for Crossroads ads is one week out, or the Friday prior to the paper date. Submit announcements weekly in normal text with the what, when, where, who, why and contact info in an e-mail to news@lajes.af.mil. Dates and times should be in civilian format, and include full name of P.O.C.

Bullfights

Saturday: 6 p.m., Casa da Ribeira; 6 p.m., Canada da Fonte, Biscoitos; 6 p.m., Rua do Regelo, Fonte do Bastardo; 6:30 p.m., São Brás

Sunday: 6 p.m., Rua do Biscoito, Fonte do Bastardo; 6:30 p.m., São Brás

Monday: 6 p.m., Vila Nova

Tuesday: 6 p.m., Vila Nova

Wednesday: 6 p.m.,

Raminho

Thursday: 6 p.m.,

Raminho

Closures/shifts

Squadron closure: The 65th Comptroller Squadron is closed for an all-day function. For emergencies, call 967-942-362 or page 1243.

ERAU closure: The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University office will be closed Aug. 31-Sep. 9. For more information, call Terra Schellig at 2-3375.

FSC closure: The family support center will close from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 3 for training. For more information call 2-3583.

Education Center

CCAF transcripts: To find out what's required to finish a Community College of the Air Force degree log on to <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>. All transcripts must be submitted to CCAF before Aug. 30 for the next graduation. Send transcripts to: CCAF/RRR, ATTN: TRANSCRIPT DEPT, 130 WEST MAXWELL BLVD, MAXWELL AFB, AL 36112-6613. For more information, call the education office at 2-3355 or talk to the education counselor.

Tuition assistance: The last day for issuing of tuition assistance for FY04 is Sept. 17. Requests for classes starting any time before Oct. 1, must be in by Sept. 17. For more information, call the education office at 2-3355.

New college: Central Texas College is now open in the Lajes Education Center. CTC offers associate degree programs in criminal justice, early childhood education, fire science, food service management and emergency medical technology. Of-



Jessica Scruggs (right) aides Bridget Kniola (left) in obtaining membership with the officer spouses club during the officers spouses movie and pizza night at Eddies Place, Aug. 19 (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle Michaud)

ice hours are 8 a.m.-noon, Mon.-Fri. For more information, call Kimberly Henne at 2-3355.

Classes

ERAU registration: Registration for undergraduate distance learning courses with Embry Riddle Aeronautical University is ongoing until Monday. For more information call 2-3375.

Graduate course: The University of Oklahoma's "Leadership in Difficult Times," a new 8-week long online elective course for the Master's of Human Relations, will be held Oct. 11-Dec. 13. Registration for "Intervention and Practice in training," is on-going. The course will be held Oct 19-24. The last day to enroll/drop the course is Sept. 20. For more information, call Kalina Hill at 2-3717.

Federal jobs: The family support center will hold a federal jobs class from 6-8:30 p.m., Sept. 14, at the FSC. For more information, call 2-4138.

Federal resume: The family support center will hold a resume building class from 6-8:30 p.m., Sept. 15, at the FSC. For more information, call 2-4138.

Sponsorship Training: August's class has been rescheduled for 10-11 a.m., Thursday, at the family support center. For more information, call Lauren Jackson at 2-4138.

Events

Softball tournament: The 65th Civil Engineer Squadron will host a softball tournament Sept. 3-4 at the Oceanview

field. Entry fee is two softballs. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call Airman 1st Class Austin P'Pool at 2-7061 or Master Sgt. Christopher Moore at 2-6322.

VA call: The Veteran's Administration will offer an interactive video telephone conference call 8 a.m., Sept. 8, in the battle staff area of Bldg. T-715. To register, call the family support center at 2-4138.

Retraining: The Fiscal Year 2005 retraining program has been released. Members with a 2005 DEROS interested in retraining should call Senior Airman Angelique Avendano in personnel employments at 2-5203/5143 for more information.

Toll-free dialing: To dial a statewide toll-free number for official business, call the Dover Air Force Base, Del. operator at DSN 445-3000 or any other statewide DSN operator and ask to be connected to the toll free number. Dialing the number directly is billed as an international call. A listing of DSN operator numbers is in the base phone book.

Comedy night: Comedians Tracy Tedesco and Leon Rogers Jr., perform at 9 p.m., Saturday, at the Top of the Rock ballroom. Together they provide a show with non-stop laughs and high energy for the whole family. For more information, call Kara Warren at 2-3202.

Volunteers/jobs

CTC job: Central Texas College is looking for instructors for their criminal justice, early childhood professions, emergency medical technology, fire

science, and food service management programs. For more information, contact Kimberly Henne at the education center at 2-3355.

Theater positions: AAFES is now accepting applications for a theater projectionist. Applications are being accepted 8 a.m.-noon and 2-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri. at the theater. For more information, call 2-3634.

Thrift shop: The thrift shop is looking for volunteer sales representatives to assist with stocking, organizing, sales and consignments. For more information, call the thrift shop at 2-3567.

Volunteer clerk: A volunteer environmental administrative clerk is needed, who can work three hours a day, three days a week, has at least three months left on island and is interested in learning more about the environment. For more information, call Elsa Wingert at 2-4138.

Volunteer technician: A volunteer travel voucher technician is needed to assist the 65th Comptroller Squadron process military and civilian PCS and TDY travel vouchers. Basic computer knowledge is required and one-on-one training will be provided. For more information, call Else Wingert at 2-4138.

Classified

Ads must be submitted via e-mail to news@lajes.af.mil. Ads are due by 5 p.m. Fridays

For Sale: coffee table with glass, \$20; crib and mattress, \$15; entertainment center, \$15; lots of stuffed animals, \$25. Please call 295-549-718.

For Sale: 2000 Ford Mustang, silver, V6, ac, auto, pw, pl, pb, 40K miles, great shape, \$10,000. Call Aimee at 916-940-719.

Hewlett Packard 4x24x cd burner, \$10. For more information, call 295-549-785.

Looking for: A reliable vehicle coming available in the next 90 days, mid-upper 1990's, that seats 5 people comfortably. Avoid the hassle of posting your ad in the post office and making up signs. Please, no Island Bombs! Call Bill at 295-549-732.

For Sale: Computer desk, \$120; 25 in. TV, \$25; TMN cell phone, \$20; female German Sheppard mix, approximately 1 yr old, good with children, very loyal and lovable, spayed and shots up to date, free to good home. Please call 295-516-998.

Found: Softball glove at Oceanview Field. Call 295-549-772 to retrieve.

Found: 35 mm camera at Oceanview Park. Call Cherie at 2-5228.