

Atlantic Crossroads

Vol. 12, No. 14 • April 13, 2007 | Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal | Lajes In the Fight!



Egg hunt

Alicia Luckey, 2, finds an egg during the Big Bunny Easter Egg Hunt outside of the Community Activity Center Saturday. More than 100 children took part in the event. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Sanford)

E-8 Select



Team Lajes congratulates Master Sgt. Wendell Crittenden, 65th Contracting Squadron, for his selection for promotion to E-8 this week.

Alcohol Awareness

☐ Alcoholism statistics show that people who start using alcohol before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop an alcohol addiction at some point in their lives compared to those who start drinking at age 21.

Courtesy of Lajes Drug Demand Program

Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

Weather Forecast

Saturday

Cloudy
Rain
High 70
Low 59



Sunday

Cloudy
High 70
Low 55



*Courtesy of the
65th OSS Weather Flight*



Last week a great one for Team Lajes

By Chief Master Sgt. Laten Williams
65th Air Base Wing
command chief
master sergeant

Last week was a terrific one for our team.

We began by hosting CMSAF Rodney J. McKinley who spent time communicating with our senior enlisted leaders including Chiefs, first sergeants, and presidents of the Lajes Top-3 and Air Force Sergeants Association.

The CMSAF also had time with our commanders and was given a mission brief about what we do here.

He then hosted an Enlisted Call with our Airmen. Finally, he sat down for an hour with our FTAC and ALS Airmen.

Several of Team Lajes' Airmen were coined by the CMSAF as he was thoroughly impressed by the professionals here at Lajes.

Thank you all for doing an Outstanding job hosting our CMSAF ... well done!

Our annual award winners were guests of COMUSAFE, where they had the red carpet

rolled out for them.

Their event culminated with the Medallion Ceremony as COMUSAFE decorated them individually with the medals during the 2006 USAFE Outstanding Airman of the Year awards banquet.

Each of our military nominees took individual photos with the CMSAF and me following the event.

As each of our nominees was introduced during the banquet, Colonel Winston led our battle call/motto "Lajes ... in the Fight."

Although we were small in numbers, we were just as loud if not louder than any others doing similar for their wing nominees.

We even had a few people from other bases cheering with us. One commented, "This makes me feel like I need to come to Lajes."

General Hobbins commented about the nominees who were selected for over 35,000 professionals working in USAFE.

Following the guest speaker, former CSAF General John Jumper (Ret.), came the

moment we all had been waiting for: commencement of the winners in each of the seven categories (Airman, NCO, SNCO, 1st Sergeant, Civilian Categories I and II, and CGO).

There was plenty of excitement and anticipation in the air as guests of 10 wings, plus 3rd Air Force and HQ USAFE stood uncertainly hoping they would have one of the seven winners.

The first five categories were from other wings, then the narrator said, "The USAFE Outstanding Civilian of the Year Category II is (drum roll), Mr. Don Ehrman from the 65th Air Base Wing."

We went wild with celebration, once again led by Colonel Winston with "Lajes ... in the Fight."

Congratulations Mr. Ehrman and congratulations to Team Lajes.

We certainly all have a lot to be proud of...every single one of us, whether civilian (Portuguese and U.S.) or those of us in uniform; we're all Airmen ... we're all warfighters.

Thank you and God bless.

535-4240

actionline@lajes.af.mil

The Commander's Line is your direct link to me 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 for praise or problems — but when that's not the answer, call or e-mail the Commander's Line at 535-4240 or actionline@lajes.af.mil.



Col. Robert Winston
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing

Atlantic Crossroads

The 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content in the Crossroads.

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In today's Air Force, it's sometimes OK to say no

By Chief Master Sgt. Norman Peck
366th Mission Support Squadron

MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE, Idaho — "I'm sorry, but no."

There, I said it. It wasn't easy and something I really hated to do. It meant having to swallow my pride and admit it was something we just couldn't do. There just weren't enough people, weren't enough hours in the day or wasn't enough money to get it done, let alone get it done the right way.

In all my years in the Air Force, one of the toughest things to say is "no." It meant, "We give up." It admitted defeat.

One admirable quality about those in uniform is we're stubborn, hardheaded folks. Despite the overwhelming challenges ahead of us, we move forward to get the job done no matter what it takes. We do not like to tell anyone, "It just can't be done."

However, we have to accept the facts. By October, we'll lose 22,000 people Air Force-wide with more to follow over the next four years.

Deployment requirements will not go away, meaning those left behind need to pick up the slack. Those who don't deploy still need to get the job done while the rest of their folks are gone. The local mission still needs to happen.

But how?

We must leverage technology and eliminate unnecessary processes now more than ever before in our past. We need to continue to find better ways to do the same high-quality job with fewer people — finding ways to get the job done faster, better and cheaper. The notion of "but we've always done it that way" won't fly in the Air Force anymore (pun fully intended).

Positive leadership and support is a must. If leaders approach this negatively, so will their troops, and then we're back to square one. We all have a vested interest in this, so let's make it count.

At first, it'll be frustrating and maybe a bit time consuming. However, we're quickly running out of options as we continue to lose people. We need to step up and make the tough calls and back them up 100 percent — because sometimes "no" is the right answer.



CMSAF kicks off USAFE tour with visit to Lajes

By Staff Sgt.
Marcus McDonald
65th Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

The top enlisted Airman began his tour of U.S. Air Forces in Europe installations with a visit here April 4 and 5.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley said he and his wife, Paula, enjoyed spending time with Lajes Airmen.

"This is a very strategic location for the Air Force and the Department of Defense," Chief McKinley said. "All of the Airmen assigned here are doing a great job for our country."

One topic the chief addressed to Lajes Field Airmen was enlisted performance reports.

"This summer, you'll see new EPRs as well as (officer performance reports). We haven't changed the EPR since 1989 and it's time for a change," he said.

More facts and less "fluff" will be the major difference in current and future performance reports.

"We're trying to improve it so we don't have to spend so



Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley discusses his years of being an aircraft maintainer with Staff Sgt. Joel Moses, 729th Air Mobility Squadron, during his visit to Lajes last week. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Marcus McDonald)

much time writing it," Chief McKinley explained. "We want to have more facts in particular areas versus sometimes a lot of fluff to fill up all the lines."

A new performance feedback form will also come out in conjunction with the new EPR. The front sheet of the performance feedback form will look exactly the same as the front sheet of the EPR.

"Writing a good EPR starts with doing a quality performance feedback on our Airmen," the

Chief said. "It's not about how well you can write an EPR; it's about how well you evaluate your Airmen."

The new Professional Development Guide, which will replace both the Promotion Fitness Examination and U.S. Air Force Supervisory Examination Study Guides, was another topic of discussion.

"This guide shouldn't be something that you just pick up when you get ready to test," Chief McKinley said. "It's a

very informative tool that can be used by all civilians, enlisted members and officers on a regular basis."

Airmen will be able to download the guide onto their MP3 player for free.

"Some people learn better by listening instead of reading," Chief McKinley said. "Combining the opportunity to read the book with listening to it and not having to pay a penny is a great improvement for our Airmen."

The Chief said Airmen wearing the uniform today should be proud of their service to a grateful nation.

"What a great honor to serve our country when we're needed most," he said. "One day we'll look back without regret knowing we served our nation while we were at war and we did our best."

The Chief said Airmen at Lajes Field and around the world are like none he's ever seen since he joined the Air Force in 1974.

"We have the best Airmen I've ever known," he said. "I'm so proud to serve alongside of them."

Lajes Field experiences crime rate spike in base housing

By Capt. Shilo Weir
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Base housing residents have seen a substantial increase in crime over the past few weeks.

According to 65th Security Forces Squadron officials, larceny — a relatively common crime and often one of opportunity — has spiked in Beira Mar housing. The number of thefts rose from an average of two to three per week to as many as six in a single day since March 25.

"This number of thefts in such a short period of time is unusual," said Maj. John Griffiths, 65th Security Forces Squadron commander. "We are really concerned with the dramatic increase in criminal activity."

Residents reported stolen bicycles, fishing poles, and other personal property during this time frame. This past weekend alone, residents reported six incidents of theft of private property and four incidents of damage to government property caused by attempted break-ins.

To combat this trend, the combined Air Base 4 and 65th ABW Security Forces team

have increased their efforts with Praia Security Police and housing residents to solve existing cases and decrease crime, officials say.

Praia Police Station recovered at least 12 bikes and an undetermined amount of other stolen items since the investigations started, according to Major Griffiths.

"We will continue to work with our partners in the community in an effort to stop these crimes," he said.

Security Forces were able to mitigate the rise in crime the base usually experiences during the holiday season by initiating an effective neighborhood watch program.

"Historically speaking, we have seen the amount of on- and off-base thefts triple during the holiday and festival seasons, but not this year thanks to the community's involvement in crime prevention," said Major Griffiths.

Base officials are also evaluating and implementing other changes to our security posture that will lead to further reductions in theft, with the ultimate goal of eliminating theft in Lajes base housing units. Details on these initiatives are forthcoming.

Crime Prevention Tips

- Keep all entrances well illuminated.
- Lock your doors when you leave, even if only for a few minutes.
- Never leave purses, wallets or other valuables unattended.
- Make a list of your valuables with a description and serial number.
- Use an engraver and mark your items.
- If someone is prowling outside your residence, call the police and turn on several lights
- Do not enter your home or apartment if you find a door or window open, or if it has been burglarized.
- When you are home and someone attempts to break into your home or apartment, call the police, and lock doors between you and intruder.
- Chain up outdoor items you don't want stolen (grills, patio furniture, etc.).





Air Force releases combat action medal criteria

By Staff Sgt. J.G. Buzanowski
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials at the Air Force Personnel Center released criteria this week for award of the new combat action medal, an award for Airmen who have been involved in direct fighting situations where they risked their lives in an enemy engagement.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley authorized the medal's creation March 15.

Any Airman who believes he or she may be eligible can now submit an award package

for consideration. The first approval of the Air Force Combat Action Medal is expected within the next few weeks, according to John Balducci, the chief of Air Force recognition programs.

Airmen are eligible for the combat action medal "if their primary role includes performing duties in a combat zone, either on the ground or from the air, by entering into an unsecured area away from an established installation," Mr. Balducci said. "While performing their duties, they must have come under fire or fire upon an enemy to qualify."

A combat zone is defined as a geographic area for which an Airman receives immi-

nent danger/hostile fire pay.

In addition, while encampments, compounds and protected areas aren't normally qualifying locations for the AFCAM, Airmen augmenting a defensive fighting position could be eligible should they meet the award criteria, Mr. Balducci said.

Aircrew members must be flying in direct support of a combat zone and in combat. They also must be performing official duties and not manifested as a passenger. While performing close-air support, taking fire from an enemy is not a prerequisite as long as the Airman is at "great risk," Mr. Balducci said.

Camera skills

Jessica Fischer tests out her camera skills as part of the Lajes Girl Scouts' trip to AFN Lajes April 2. The Girl Scouts got a hands-on look at the station's TV and radio broadcast equipment. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Nicholas Stowers)



Sexual assault: One of today's most underreported crimes

Sexual assault is one of the most underreported violent crimes in America today.

Since the military is not immune to this trend, the Department of Defense strives to ensure that servicemembers are aware that sexual assault crimes are not tolerated.

To combat sexual assault, the DoD implemented the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program, which incorporates a comprehensive policy that reinforces a culture of prevention, response and accountability.

The goal of the SAPR program is to ensure the safety, dignity and well-being of all members of the U.S. Armed Forces

through training and education programs, treatment and support of victims.

Since 2004, advancements in reporting options have helped create a climate of confidence in reporting.

One of the policies implemented in 2005 was the restricted reporting option, which enables victims to come forward without triggering the investigative process, yet still receive the care they deserve.

Sixty-five percent of the increase in sexual assault reports involving military members can be attributed to the restricted reporting option that began in June 2005.

This alternate choice, coupled

with enhanced awareness of sexual assault and vigorous training, has encouraged more victims to take a stand against their assailant.

Reporting steps

If you have been sexually assaulted:

❑ Go to a safe location away from the attacker.

❑ Preserve all evidence of the assault. Do not bathe, wash your hands or brush your teeth. Do not clean or straighten up the crime scene.

❑ Call Lajes' sexual assault response coordinator (Capt. C.J. Vaca) at 535-6142, victim advocate or healthcare provider if you are safe; if you can't get to a safe

place, call the 65th Security Forces Squadron at 535-3222.

❑ Seek medical care as soon as possible. Even if you do not have any visible physical injuries, you may be at risk of becoming pregnant or acquiring a sexually transmitted disease.

❑ Ask the healthcare provider to conduct a Sexual Assault Forensic Examination to preserve forensic evidence.

❑ If you suspect drugs were involved in the assault, request that a urine sample be collected.

❑ Write down, tape or record by any other means all the details you can recall about the assault and your assailant. (Article courtesy of the Lajes sexual assault response coordinator)



65th MDG officials answer more common questions

□ **Editor's note:** *The 65th Medical Group would like to answer two of their most commonly asked questions. See last week's issue for answers to other questions they receive regularly.*

I need to talk to my medical provider but I do not think I need an appointment. May I speak with my provider directly?

We understand you may wish to speak directly to your medical provider. Unfortunately, they are busy seeing several patients each hour each duty day.



The best way to communicate with your medical provider is by a telephone consult with your provider's nurse. Call the appointment line at 535-3261, select option "1", then "1" again.

The appointment clerk will leave the message for the nurse and the nurse will return

your call within four hours to clarify your needs. If your call is extremely important, but not considered an emergency, then tell the appointment clerk and the clerk will contact the nurse immediately.

Your calls and needs are very important to us. Feel free to communicate the importance of your needs to our staff members.

I need to have my medication refilled or a prescription rewritten. What do I do?

If you have refills on your current prescription, call the prescription refill line at 535-6281. You will need the last four digits of the sponsor's Social Security number and the numeric portion of your prescription following Rx on the prescription bottle/container's label.

If you do not have the numeric portion of the prescription, call the pharmacy at 535-3261, select option "5", then "1" and "1" again. Refills called in before 9 a.m. will be ready for pick-up on the same duty day. Refills called after 9 a.m. or on weekends and holidays

Info

□ **For more details**
Call Delia Tristão-Martinez at 535-3913 or Capt. Brenda Bryant at 535-5077

will be ready the next duty day.

If you need a new prescription or you do not have refills, it may be time for you to follow up with your PCM. If it is not time for a follow up, call 535-3261, select option "1" then "1" again, and leave a telephone consult for your medical provider's nurse. The nurse will review your medical record and consult with your medical provider.

After a review of your medical record and if no other information is needed, your medication will be refilled within 72 hours unless you hear back from the nurse.

Call when you still have at least two weeks of medication left to allow time to work out any possible problems with your prescription request. *(Courtesy of the 65th MDG)*

Resilience helps parents cope with stresses

By Staff Sgt. Kanisha Carson

Lajes Family Advocacy

Resilience enables parents to cope with the stresses of everyday life as well as an occasional crisis.

It provides the flexibility and inner strength necessary to bounce back when things are not going well. Parents with resilience are generally able to cope on their own, but they also know how to seek help in times of trouble.

Multiple life stressors, such as a family history of abuse or neglect, health problems, marital conflict and domestic or community violence and financial stressors such as unemployment, poverty, and homelessness may reduce a parent's capacity to cope effectively with the typical day-to-day stresses of raising children.

All parents have inner strengths or resources to serve as a foundation for building their resilience. These may include faith, flexibility, humor, communication skills, problem-solving skills, mutually supportive caring relationships, or the ability to identify and access outside

resources and services when needed. All of these strengthen the capacity to parent effectively.

Families also have access to several community services to help in times of crisis to include mental health programs, substance abuse treatment, family and marital counseling and special education and treatment programs for children with special needs.

Parents know their children best ... their unique behaviors, interests, and abilities. But any parent finds it challenging to be an expert on all aspects of infant, child, and teenage development or the most effective ways to support a child at each stage.

When not aware of normal developmental milestones or how to appropriately respond to and effectively manage a child's behavior, parents can become frustrated and may resort to harsh discipline or emotional withdrawal.

Extensive research links healthy child development to effective parenting. Children thrive when parents provide not only affection, but also respectful communication and listening, consistent rules and expecta-

tions, and safe opportunities to promote independence.

Successful parenting fosters psychological adjustment, helps children succeed in school, encourages curiosity about the world, and motivates children to achieve.

As children grow and mature, parents need to change the way they respond to their children's needs. Parenting styles need to be adjusted for each child's individual temperament and unique circumstances.

The Family Advocacy program can provide information on parenting and child development and stress management.

The Early Developmental and Intervention Services can also provide information to parents with children up to age three.

The Special Needs Identification and Assignment Coordination process mandates all active-duty members enroll if they have a family member with a special medical or educational need. The SNIAC program ensures family members are assigned to a location that can serve their needs as well as reduce strain on the active duty member. Call 535-5177 if you believe you would qualify for this program.

Lajes Salutes

Congratulations to Lajes' promotees for April:

To **Airman 1st Class: Jonathan Corado**, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron

To **Senior Airman: Rome Reiswig** (Below-the-Zone), 65th Communications Squadron; **Steven Zepeda Jr.**, 65th Operations Support Squadron

To **Staff Sergeant: Marcus Wells**, 65th CS

To **Master Sergeant: Richard Novak**, 65th CS; **Steven Wilkins**, 65th Medical Operations Squadron

Way to go to the **65th Operations Support Squadron** for winning the Achieving-Top-Levels-At-Sponsorship Award, which recognizes organizations who achieve a top-quality sponsorship program

Congratulations to **Elvira Borges**, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, for being selected as the 2006 USAFE Education and Training Manager of the Year



Sunrise service

Chaplain (Capt.) John Shipman, 65th Air Base Wing, leads a prayer during the Easter Sunrise Service at the Monument of Mary overlooking Praia Bay Sunday morning. (Photo by Nena Shipman)



Air Force consolidates personnel claims process

The Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps has consolidated the processing of personnel claims at a single location in Dayton, Ohio.

These claims involve loss or damage during shipment of household goods and privately owned vehicles as well as during storage at government expense, and loss or damage to personal property located in government quarters or other authorized locations incident to government service.

Other types of trauma-related

claims, such as those resulting from the alleged negligence of a government vehicle driver, for example, will continue to be processed at the 65th Air Base Wing Legal office.

For personnel claims, the new process will enable Air Force employees to file claims online and electronically submit required documents to the Air Force Claims Service Center in Ohio. Employees can complete the process from home after a one-time login on any government computer.

As employees complete their claims online, they can get customer service over the Web or from the center by phone.

Not only will the online filing system accelerate the processing of the claim, it will allow for quicker payment.

The DD Form 1840/1840R will continue to be submitted within 70 days from the date of delivery to the Wing Legal office.

After that, the claim itself will be submitted directly to the AFCSC within two years from

Online Claim Filing

- To file a claim**
- Visit <https://claims.jag.af.mil>
- General information**
- Visit <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/claims>
- For more details**
- Call 535-2370 or 535-3546

the date of the incident. (Courtesy of the 65th Air Base Wing Legal office)

Good To Know

Mother's Day greetings

AFN Lajes is offering Lajes Airmen and their families a chance to record Mother's Day greetings from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday in the Community Activity Center Ballroom. Reservations are highly recommended. E-mail island96@lajes.af.mil or call 535-3497 to reserve a time or for more information.

Organization of Latin Americans

OLA is looking for people who can dance to Latin music; people who can cook Latin dishes for Cinco de Mayo; donations of Latin/Hispanic recipes to make a recipe book; and salsa makers for a salsa tasting competition set for 10 a.m. April 28 at the Commissary. Contact Tech. Sgt. Sandra Nunes at 535-3635 or sandra.nunes@lajes.af.mil for more details.

Alcohol Awareness Day

In an effort to increase awareness and prevent alcohol-related incidents, an Alcohol Awareness Day is set for 3 to 5 p.m. April 20 at Fiddler's Green (outdoors). This event will be mandatory for active-duty members and highly encouraged for U.S. GS employees and LGS employees.

SAAM clothing drive

A Sexual Assault Awareness Month Clothing Drive continues through April 30 at the Airman & Family Readiness Center. This clothing drive is for clean, loose fitting clothes for all ages/sizes (sweat pants, t-shirts, unopened undergarments and unopened socks). No clothing donations with alcohol/questionable pictures/writing on the front will be accepted. Call Capt. C.J. Vaca at 535-6412 for more details.

Vendors needed

The Asian Pacific American Heritage Committee is looking for vendors to sell Asian-Pacific-related foods or products during its cultural festival set for noon to 4 p.m. May 12 in the Community Activity Center. Applications are being accepted through April 23. Contact John Kraft at john.kraft@lajes.af.mil or 535-4162 for more information.

Facilities Excellence Days

Base Housing Facilities Excellence Days are April 27-28. Housing maintenance will give away flowers, plants, shrubs, grass seed, top soil and rocks for bordering and will have tools to loan out. To participate, visit Bldg T-521 (base housing self-help store) on either day to pick up the available products.



PLANNER

Submission deadline is Thursday one week prior to publication. E-mail announcements in normal text with event, location, date, time, point of contact's full name and phone number/e-mail address to news@lajes.af.mil.

In The Community

Free Easter concert: Holy Spirit Dinner: 8 p.m. Saturday in San Carlos, Angra. The price, which includes access to the festival pavilion and dinner, is 12• for ages 12 and above. Ages 11 and under get in for free. Call Francisco Rosa at 96-630-2479 for more details.

Around Lajes

Bake sale, car wash: The Lajes Field Rising 6 holds a bake sale and car wash on 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday in the Commissary parking lot. All proceeds will go to support the CMSgt William L. Rushing Educational Scholarship.

Youth and Teen Talent Show: 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday at the Community Activity Center.

Kids Dining Out: 5 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the TORC. Open to infants through 18 year olds. Call Misty Frith at 535-3188 for more information.

ESC meeting: The Enlisted Spouses Club's next general membership meeting will be Tuesday in the TORC. Social begins at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7 p.m. E-mail Angie Dodge at angela.dodge@lajes.af.mil for details.

Date change for home buying seminar: Now 3 to 5 p.m. Wednesday in the Airman & Family Readiness Center. Sign up by calling 535-4138.

OSC meeting: The Officers' Spouses Club's next general membership meeting is 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the TORC. Reserve your spot by emailing lajesreservations@yahoo.com by noon Monday.

Flea market: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 21 in the Youth Center Gym. The cost is \$15 per table. Sign up at the Community Activity Center.

Health Care Advisory Council meeting: 1:30 p.m. April 24 in the Bldg. T-416 (65th Medical Group) Conference Room. Call 1st Lt Nicole Thompson at 535-3615 for details.

VA rep visit: A Veterans Affairs representative will visit Lajes April 24-26. Mass briefings are scheduled 1:30 to 3 p.m. April 25 and 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. April 26 in the Bldg. T-146 Au-

ditorium. Call the Airman & Family Readiness Center at 535-4138 to schedule an individual appointment.

Library open house: 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday. Call Sheryl Hunt at 535-3688 for details.

Teen Murder Mystery Night: "A Body in the Library" set for 7 to 8:30 p.m. April 20. Get free tickets at the base library. Call Sheryl Hunt at 535-3688 for details.

Spiritual Fitness

Mothers Study based on Pope John Paul II's *Familia Concortio*, 11 a.m. April 20; **Men's Spiritual Leadership Training/Breakfast:** 8 a.m. April 21; **Catholic First Communion Retreat**, 1 p.m. April 21.

All events take place at the chapel unless listed otherwise. Call 535-4211 for details.

Jobs/Volunteer

GS positions: Lajes American School is accepting applications for GS positions, including Secretary and Educational Aid positions. Applications are available at the school office.

Boy Scout adult volunteers: Due to summer PCS's, Lajes Boy Scout Troop 1605 needs volunteer leaders to fill Assistant Scoutmaster and Troop Committee positions. E-mail Liam Clancy at liam.clancy@lajes.af.mil or Louis Lilley louis.lilley@lajes.af.mil if interested.

Cultural dancers: Looking for youth and adults interested in performing Asian Pacific cultural dances as part of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month events throughout May. If interested, call Staff Sgt. Mona Palone at 535-2365.

Part-time Thrift Shop positions: Accepting applications for two part-time jobs with the ESC/OSC Thrift Shop. Positions available are Shop Coordinator and Shop Bookkeeper. Pick up applications at the Thrift Shop between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Air Force Reserve: Part-time positions available and, in most cases, retraining is an option. Reservists receive 100 per-

cent tuition assistance, and unlimited Commissary and BX privileges. Contact Master Sgt. Dana Logan at dana.logan@aviano.af.mil or DSN 632-4919 for details.

Substitute teachers: Lajes American School is looking for substitute teachers. Applications are available at the school office.

Services NAF positions: Visit <http://www.lajes-services.com/jobs/jobs2.doc> to see current vacancies or anticipated vacancies in the 65th Services Squadron. Visit the Human Resources Office in Bldg. T-112 or call 535-5200/6582 for details.

Education

Graduation deadline, summer enrollment: Today is deadline to submit information and orders for the University of

Oklahoma's May graduation. Summer enrollment is now open. Contact Kate Etheredge or 535-3171 or aplajes@ou.edu.

STAP deadline: April 27 is the deadline to apply for Term V (summer term) with the Spouse Tuition Assistance Program. Call Lucia Soares at 535-1115 for more information.

ABC program: The Air University's Associates to Bachelors Cooperative program applies all 64 semester hours of CCAF degree credits toward a baccalaureate degree. The tentative program start date is June 1. More information is available at S:\MSS\65 MSS Education Flight\AU ABC.

Online portal: The University of Maryland University College is now available 24 hours a day, seven days a week through their new online portal. Visit www.ed.umuc.edu/de for details.

Classified Ads

E-mail classified ads to news@lajes.af.mil by 5 p.m. the Thursday prior to the week you need it published. Notify the Crossroads editor when items have been sold.

Free female Spitz to loving home. She is 2 years old, house trained and great with young children. She comes with a kennel, toys and shots up to date. Contact Brenda or Jeremy at 295-549-677.

Found: Razor Scooter with helmet found on playground in Beira Mar housing. Call Brenda or Jeremy at 295-549-677.

Must sell: AFN decoder and satellite dish. \$350 for both. \$300 for decoder only. E-mail gregory.cooper@lajes.af.mil or call 535-2503 (W) or 295-549-818 (H).

For sale: Dark wood entertainment center for 27-inch TV or smaller: \$30 and white kitchen hutch with cabinets: \$30. Call 964-179-379 if interested.

For sale: 1991 Toyota Starlet 5 speed. Inspection due in July. Just got a new motor put in. CD player. No rust. Asking \$1,800 OBO. Contact Anthony or Jessica at 295-579-201 or 295-571-408.

For sale: 1997 Chevy Camaro. 68,000 miles. 5-speed manual transmission w/ AC and CD player. Had recent mechanical inspection. Asking \$5,000. Call Guillermo Mosquera at 919-182-497.

For sale: Silver 1991 BMW 535i in excellent condition, \$5,900. Automatic, European specs, 126,000 miles, sunroof and CD player. Call Sean at 961-164-854.

Motorcycle for sale: 2003 Kawasaki KL250G7 Super Sherpa. Call Mike at 295-903-087 if interested.

Wanted: Drummer for Rock and Roll band. Drum kit will be supplied. Call Tony at 962-888-775.

Cleaning services: If you are PCSing and need someone to clean your house in preparation for your final inspection, call Sandra at 96-871-5163 or 535-5216.

For sale: 2003 Ford Focus LX 4-door sedan. Not an island bomb. In excellent condition. Very clean. 16,000 miles. Automatic. AM/FM cassette w/detachable face. 10-disk CD changer. Air conditioning. Asking \$8,100. Contact Brian at 535-6456/295-549-250 or brian.luci@lajes.af.mil.

For sale: 2-person trail tent, \$10. Brunswick bowling bag, \$5. New shoe rack, \$5. Two brown throw pillows, \$10. New 295/60 R14 Firestone tire, \$20. Call 295-542-341 if interested.

For sale: King-size wrought iron sleigh bed in excellent condition, \$400. Box spring included. Queen-size mattress, \$50. Call Tara at 535-2434 if interested.

For sale: Used BJU home school materials available for all grades. Great condition and very reasonable. Also, Left Behind Books 1-8. Call Cindy at 295-517-507 if interested.

Super nanny/housekeeper available: Diana has been with our family for almost two years and has taken excellent care of our two young children and our home. We are PCSing soon and her services will be available. Call 964-179-379 for more information or to schedule an interview.

Wanted: Double or queen mattress set. Can be used but needs to be in good condition. Carrie Jessop at 295-549-729.

For rent: Downstairs duplex unit in Porto Martins. Beautiful modern home has 3-4 bedrooms with optional office, 2 full baths, a large eat-in-kitchen, spacious living room with fire place, soaking tub, laundry/utility room off of the kitchen, metal window grates, fenced yard, and a two car garage with storage. Home is great for families with young children. Available end of April. Call Maria (h) 295-515-058 or (c) 969-065-662 for more details.



Locals begin celebration of Holy Ghost festivals

By Eduardo Lima

65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Every year, the Azoreans, especially the Terceirans, celebrate the Holy Ghost Festival. This religious celebration began Sunday and runs for eight weeks until Pentecost and Trinity Sunday.

The ancient religious tradition began on mainland Portugal around 1296 by an initiative of Portuguese Queen Isabel. She founded the first Holy Ghost brotherhood whose intent was to honor the poorest man in the kingdom.



According to the tradition, every year the poorest man in the kingdom was placed on the king's throne and crowned "emperor"

for one day during a religious ceremony held in his honor in the royal church.

Following the crowning ceremony, a royal procession took the crowned man from the church to the palace, where a banquet was then offered in his honor.

Considered an act of humbleness, the tradition was first introduced in the Azores through the first settlers around 1432 and practiced through subsequent generations.

Though the tradition has disappeared in the mainland Portugal, it is still actively celebrated in the Azores, as well as in Azorean communities in the United States (California, New England, Hawaii), Canada and Brazil. Although royalty and noblemen originally celebrated this religious event, over time, the common people adopted it and silver crowns replaced the royal crown.

During natural catastrophes like volcano eruptions and earthquakes, or when someone is seriously ill, the Azorean people carry the Holy Ghost crowns to the churches and pray for the Holy Ghost



Locals participate in a previous year's (above) Holy Ghost parade and (right) Holy Ghost banquet. (Courtesy photos)



to save them. If their prayers are answered, they host a week-long festival to honor the Holy Ghost.

During the season, some members of the brotherhood – previously selected by drawing – are given the honor of keeping the Holy Ghost crowns, flags and other ornaments at their homes in a wooden altar decorated with white paper and flowers for one week.

In the evenings, festival hosts, relatives and other guests gather in front of the altar to pray the rosary and worship the Holy Ghost. Then on Thursday or Friday afternoon, it's time for the "festa do bezerro" (festival of the calf).

The calves, usually two, are fetched from the pastures where they have been grazing year round and are paraded through the village streets after being garlanded with flowers, paper ribbons and cowbells. The calves usually lead the parade followed by the hosts, guests, musicians and singers.

Later in the evening, the calves are slaughtered and their meat is divided in different portions. Some is saved for the Sunday's banquet, while the remaining is given as alms to relatives and the village's poorest people.

Each Sunday — the most awaited and

important day of the celebration — activities start early in the morning with preparation of the food to be served later.

At around 11:30 a.m., guests start arriving at the host's house and the Holy Ghost parade forms and heads toward the church with the crowns and flags for the crowning ceremony during Mass.

After the priest blesses the crowns and selected individuals – usually the hosts' children or the hosts themselves – are "crowned," the procession heads back to the house through the village main streets with the honorees carrying the crowns on their heads.

Later in the afternoon, hundreds of guests take a seat for the Holy Ghost banquet that is served with the Holy Ghost soup, boiled beef, alcatra, sweet bread and the local wine "vinho de cheiro."

Alcatra is a traditional local dish made of beef, smoked bacon, onions, and other spices, all slow-roasted in an oven after being marinated in red or white wine for several hours.

The last event of the day and of the long week is when the hosts and guests take the crowns and flags, again in a parade, to the next honorees' home, where a similar celebration begins for a new family.



At the movies



Today

7 p.m. – *Bridge to Terebithia* (PG, 96 minutes)
10 p.m. – *Norbit* (PG-13, 100 minutes)

Saturday

7 p.m. – *Daddy's Little Girls* (PG-13, 95 minutes)
10 p.m. – *Norbit* (PG-13)

Sunday

2 p.m. – *Bridge to Terebithia* (PG)
7 p.m. – *Daddy's Little Girls* (PG-13)

Thursday

7 p.m. – *Norbit* (PG-13)

□ Note: Visit www.aafes.com for movie synopsis.