

Crossroads



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Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal | Lajes In the Fight!

Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Watch. Report. Protect.

Lajes In The Fight (July 2007)

Space-required
passengers handled
945

Space-available
passengers handled
937

Cargo tons handled
276

Mail tons handled
22

Originating shipments,
pieces handled
183/242

Terminating shipments,
pieces handled
261/2,031

Aircraft handled
133

DUI/DWI Stats

Last DUI/DWI: May 6
FY '07 Total: 3



Need a ride?
Call 964-955-992
Saves in FY' 07: 35



Autograph session

Kansas City Chiefs Cheerleaders sign autographs for families Saturday at the Top of the Rock Club's Warrior Park. The cheerleaders visited the Azores before continuing onto Egypt as part of this Armed Forces Entertainment Tour. (Photo by Guido Melo)

Use or lose leave deadline approaches

By Col. Johnnie Seward
USAFE Force Management director

RAMSTEIN AB, Germany — As the end of the fiscal year approaches "use or lose" leave becomes one of the main topics of discussion.

As a reminder, it is the member's responsibility to ensure leave is consummated prior to the end of September and commanders must allow them to use their leave to the greatest extent possible to avoid entering a "use or lose" situation.

The start of the new fiscal year begins Oct. 1 and members with leave in excess of 60 days will lose those days with a few exceptions.

Members who were unable to take leave due to duty assignments in support of contingency operations may qualify for Special Leave Accrual consideration.

The purpose of SLA is to prevent members from losing accrued leave if they were unable to take nor-

mal leave due to significant and unforeseen operational mission requirements.

There are two main categories that historically have been used as the basis for SLA:

□ Members who served on active duty and deployed (or PCSd) for a continuous period of at least 120 days assigned to a hostile fire and/or imminent danger pay area.

□ Members who lost leave due to their support of contingency operations and were not in a hostile fire and/or imminent danger pay area.

Members need to be mindful that it is at the commander's discretion whether or not an individual will be approved to carry an excess of 60 days of leave.

Official Air Force guidance for this year's SLA program is expected for release early September.

For further information, contact USAFE AIPF Force Management Branch at DSN 480-6518 or your local military personnel flight.



Expect the unexpected while deployed

By Capt. Shilo Weir

386th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA — When you are thousands of miles away from home, away from family and away from friends, the smallest events can remind you that you have no control over the things you left behind.

The lack of control over events on the home front is even more apparent when big things happen — that you could never, ever predict — and you can't do anything to make it better.

I haven't felt more helpless this deployment than I did a few weeks ago when I received an unexpected phone call carrying unexpected news. Did you know that there are five different types of poisonous snakes indigenous to the state of Missouri? Neither did I, until my husband was bit by a rattlesnake during a camping trip there.

Who would have thought that his vacation could take such a turn? How could I have imagined that my husband would be innocently walking in the woods to answer nature's call and frighten a snake to the point of biting him? As if the snake bite wasn't bad enough, who could have guessed that that particular snake would be poisonous?

So, here I sit, thousands of miles from St. Louis while my husband lies in a hospital bed waiting for the venom to work through his system. To top it off, I may have forgotten to mention this, my two daughters, ages 6 and 9, traveled to Missouri with my husband and are now scared out of their minds because something bad has happened to daddy and mommy isn't there to provide comfort.

Comforting a small child and reassuring her that everything will be alright is not an easy task from my deployed location in Southwest Asia. What can usually be fixed in moments, with a big hug and a kiss on the forehead, took quite a bit of time over the phone ... especially through her hysterical tears.

That is my sob story.

I am stuck here, far from home and the people who need me, and all I can do is keep my fingers crossed and hope that it all turns out alright.

Thankfully, this unexpected chain of events will turn out fine in the end. My husband won't lose his toe. He will recover fully, with no complications. My children will have him back in no time and will soon forget the tears and I can rest assured that I took all the right steps to prepare my family for any unexpected situation.

My nation and my Air Force placed the call and I answered it without hesitation. Unforeseeable circumstances took my mind away from my mission briefly, but it is easy to return to the task at hand. Grandma has my girls and all the powers of attorney and legal documentation she will need to care for them - even in the worst case.

The best pre-deployment advice I received was to expect the unexpected and be ready for anything. Taking the time to get your business in order before you deploy can be a long and difficult process. However, when you needed it most, it will be worth every moment you invested in make sure your family and personal business are taken care of.

Five different types of poisonous snakes ... who knew?

535-4240

actionline@lajes.af.mil

The Commander's Line is your 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. JL Briggs

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Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



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

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School zone

Lajes American School students and parents return home Tuesday afternoon. Lajes drivers are reminded to decrease their speed in school zones. The speed limit in front of the school is 20 kph. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Marcus McDonald)

CFC underway

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas
 — The 2007 Combined Federal Campaign continues through Dec. 15 for both continental United States and overseas bases.

Last year, federal employees and military personnel donated more than \$271.6 million to the CFC. Contributions can be in cash, check or by payroll deduction.

Military and civilian personnel who are deployed or will be deployed during the campaign will participate in the overseas CFC at their deployed location where they will have access to the same national and international charities.

Those people who wish to donate to local charities may donate to charities at the deployed location, or if married, they may obtain a spousal CFC power of attorney to complete local contribution forms at their home base.

The CFC was established in 1961 and is the largest workplace charity campaign in the country. This annual fall fund-raising drive allows nearly 4 million federal employees and military personnel to contribute to thousands of local and national nonprofit organizations.

See your unit representative to contribute. (Article courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News Service)



Doggy Pool Party

Col. Jeff Derrick, 65th Air Base Wing vice commander, and other members of Team Lajes join their furry friends at the Atlantic Island Kennel's Doggy Pool Party at the base pool Monday. (Photo by Tommy Brooks)



Making waves

Master Sgt. David Guthrie and Senior Airman Joshua Bush, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, paddle the USS LRS across the base pool during the 2nd Annual Squadron Build A Boat Challenge Aug. 31. The 65th LRS came in first, the 65th Services Squadron came in second, and the 65th Medical Group came in third. The 65th Communications Squadron received the Special Titanic Award due to their boat sinking first. (Photo by Tommy Brooks)



Movie Schedule

Today, 7 p.m. – Transformers (PG-13, 135 minutes); **10 p.m.** – I Know Who Killed Me (R, 105 minutes)

Saturday, 7 p.m. – I Now Pronounce You Chuck And Larry (PG-13, 110 minutes); **10 p.m.** – I Know Who Killed Me

Sunday, 2 p.m. – Transformers; **7 p.m.** – I Now Pronounce You Chuck And Larry

Thursday, 7 p.m. – I Know Who Killed Me

Synopsis: Visit www.aafes.com/ems

In The Community

Bullfights: 6 p.m. Saturday, Rua do Picão, Lajes; and 6 p.m. Monday, Penha de França.

Around Lajes

TAP seminars: The next series of Transition Assistance Program seminars is: 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday; 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday; and 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Sept. 14 in the Airman & Family Readiness Center.

POC: A&FRC, 535-4138

OLA meeting: The next Organization of Latin Americans meeting is scheduled for noon Monday in the medical clinic's conference room.

Movie Night: The Demand Reduction Program is hosting a Back to School Movie Night featuring the movie Transformers 6 p.m. Wednesday at the theater. The movie is open to all DoDDS middle and high school students only. Games, food and prizes will be available before the movie starts.

POC: Donna Casey, 535-4252

Air Force Ball 2007: The Air Force Ball is scheduled for Sept. 15 in the Top of the Rock Club. The social begins at 6 p.m.; dinner begins at 7 p.m. Dress is semi-formal/mess dress or business attire. See your unit POC for tickets and more details.

Spiritual Fitness

Catholic Youth of the Chapel meeting, 6 p.m. today; **Sunday School Rally Day,** Sunday; and **Protestant Women of the Chapel fellowship,** 7 p.m. Monday.

POC: Lajes Chapel, 535-4211

Upcoming Closure

65th CPTS closure: The 65th Comptroller Squadron (finance customer service, etc.) will close for an official function at 12:15 p.m. Sept. 18. The squadron will re-open for business at 1:45 p.m. In an emergency during the closure, call 968-299-302 or 968-623-861.



Patient triage

Capt. Brenda Bryant and Maj. (Dr.) Leonid Katkovsky, 65th Medical Group, discuss patient triage priorities based on medical symptoms and resources during last week's exercise here. (Photo by Guido Melo)

Jobs/Volunteer

Certified teachers: Lajes American School is looking for certified teachers.

POC: Michelle Rodrigo, 535-4151

Bus monitors: Volunteer bus monitors are needed for school year 2007-2008. For information, contact Yolanda Castro at yolanda.castro@lajes.af.mil or 535-1314.

Contracting opportunities: The following solicitations are open for proposals and can be viewed at the 65th Contracting Squadron (second floor of Bldg. T-615): Education Night monitor, AMS gym equipment maintenance, Services gym equipment maintenance, and sports field maintenance.

POC: Staff Sgt. Cesar Suarez, 535-3104

Commissary baggers: The Lajes Commissary is accepting baggers applications for the morning adult shift.

General construction labor: TolTest, Inc. is looking for three general laborers with base access. If interested, e-mail Dan Firsdon at dan.firsdon@toltest.com.

Services NAF positions: See the updated list of 65th Services Squadron non-appropriated fund jobs available at <http://www.lajes-services.com/jobs/jobs2.doc>.

Lajes American School

PTO positions: PTO positions are now available. If interested, send an e-mail to LajesPTO@yahoo.com. Voting takes place Monday through Sept. 14 via e-mail. The new board members will be announced at the

first meeting at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 18 in the school cafeteria.

Education

STAP deadline: Sept. 14 is the deadline to sign up for the Term for Spouse Tuition Assistance Program. Applications are available at the Lajes Education Center.

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.

For sale: 3-wheel stroller. In excellent condition. Blue multi-color stripes. Comes with sun roof, cup holder, rain cover and umbrella. Rear brakes. Great for outdoors. Call Clark at 295-549-651 for questions or a test drive.

For sale: 1993 Saturn SL1 Manual. Color: Teal. Asking \$1,900. Call 96-716-3504.

For sale: White metal crib w/ mattress, \$50. Small chopper (110V), \$5. Iron (110V), \$10. Sandwich maker (110V), \$10. Microwave (110V), \$20. Blender (110V), \$10. RC car w/ extras, \$150. Call Dan or Amy at 295-516-199 or 963-127-706.

For sale: PS2, 6 games, 2 controllers, and 1 memory stick. Asking \$200. Nintendo GameCube, 1 game, 2 controllers, and 1 memory stick. Asking \$100. Contact Staff Sgt. Arthur Miller at 535/2291 or 913-785-710 or via e-mail.

Free TV available: Moving back to U.S. soon? Sony 60" Widescreen TV. Internal mirror/screen broken during move. Parts unavailable on island. Will work when parts are replaced. You take away. Call 295-549-228.

For Sale: RCA 13" Color TV with remote. Works well. \$25. Sealife Reefmaster Land and Sea Camera Kit Works underwater to a depth of 164 Ft / 50 Meters- Bought New - Never Used- \$50. The Singing Machine Karaoke Machine W/ 5" built in TV CD/Cassette. \$40. Intercoller Fan for Xbox 360. Works (Used) - \$10. Step 2 Floor level folding rocking chair (used) - \$25. Call 295-549-228.