

# Crossroads



Vol. 12, No. 36 • Sept. 21, 2007

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

## Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha  
Watch. Report. Protect.

## Lajes in the Fight (August 2007)

Space-required  
passengers handled  
1,048

Space-available  
passengers handled  
1,193

Cargo tons handled  
185

Mail tons handled  
22

Originating shipments,  
pieces handled  
254/141

Terminating shipments,  
pieces handled  
255/2,175

Aircraft handled  
118

## DUI/DWI Stats

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



Need a ride?  
Call 964-955-992  
Saves in FY' 07: 43



### Check Six

Members of USAF Check Six performed for Team Lajes at the Air Force Ball Saturday.  
(Photo by Guido Melo)

## Implementation of new wing patch underway

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

Following a local design contest and approval from Air Force Heraldry at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., the 65th Air Base Wing is unveiling its new patch.

In January, Headquarters Air Force conducted a review of all Air Force emblems and found that many unit emblems were not in accordance with approved guidelines.

"We, along with 54 percent of Air Force organizations, were found to be out of compliance," said Barbra Langmaid, wing historian. "They found too many colors, too many elements, elements that directly relate to geographic location and elements that are significant of organizations that don't exist anymore, like SAC, TAC and MAC."

Full implementation of the new patch is mandatory here by Sept. 30.

"I need everyone's help in replacing the previous wing patch with the new one in all rugs, signs, posters, programs, note cards, presentations, etc.," said Col. Jeff Derrick, 65th ABW vice commander.

Ms. Langmaid explained the symbolic mean-

ing of the new wing patch.

"Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors," she said. "Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The field above the globe represents the area of flight and the delivery of air power in the sky, space, and cyberspace."

"The globe represents support of the world community and embodies the Air Force vision of vigilance, reach, and power," she continued. "The wings signify the unit mission and values. The extension of the wings symbolizes protection

of the crossroads. The star and circle are historic elements which emphasize the unit's heritage. Symbolically combined, the emblem symbolizes the history of the unit and its early connection to the Military Air Transport Service and Military Airlift Command."

Patches for the 65th Medical Group and 65th Mission Support Group patches will reflect the design of the new wing patch.





## Our Heritage: Continue the Legacy

By Col. JL Briggs

65th Air Base Wing commander

How many of you have seen the movie, *Night at the Museum*? Remember the theme of the movie: Where history comes alive. In honor of 60 years of Air Force Heritage, I want to touch on our history as a service with a personal story.

My parents live in a retirement community of military folks in Southern California founded by Gen. Curtis Lemay, the father of Strategic Air Command. At this retirement community there are military retirees of every service and every rank. What binds them together is their service to our nation. They are WWII, Korean War, Vietnam and Cold War vets. The streets are named Twinning, Lemay, Mitchell, Brown, Vandenberg, and Arnold. These are the names of Airmen who founded our service.

You see, my story is about the history that lives there today. The same as many of you, my parents are proud of their son. When I visit, I have to make the rounds of their friends visiting people I do not know but know a lot about me. It can be embarrassing and awkward but I do it because I know my parents are just proud and after putting up with me as a kid, they deserve to catch a break.

My story is about the men and women I meet as I go from home to home. Some joined the Army Air Corps in 1944. Some joined our Air Force in 1947, some in 1957 and some in 1967. When I sit in their living rooms and look at their memories, it is a living tribute to the start of what we are doing today. They broke from the Army and formed the most dominant air power to ever fly the skies. They developed air and space technology that became the envy of the world. It became clear very quickly, our new U.S. Air Force would not be matched by anyone, anywhere.

Some I talk with were POW's in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. They don't tell horror stories of their daily combat with the enemy — sometimes for years. Instead they talk about the brotherhood — of those who love the man or woman next to them because they serve a nation they love. I read their decorations; Silver Stars, Distinguished Flying Crosses, Air Medals in the hundreds. They were warriors and victors.

In some of the houses I sit with widows or widowers who have lost the other half of their heart in the march of time. They just want to hold my hand and talk about their time serving and living their adventures in the Air Force just like we are serving and living our adventures today. In their living rooms, our Air Force history comes alive just as vividly as the *Night at the Museum*.

I am a lucky man. When I go home, I get to spend time with the true pioneers of our service. They love our Air Force with a passion. They ask me tough questions about our future. They want our Air Force to shine today like it always has.

I look them in the eye and tell them about you. I tell them our NCO's and officers are trained and fit. I tell them the latest generation of Airmen are the very best our nation has ever seen. My Airmen tell the truth and challenge the status quo. They don't settle for average in anything. I get to tell them about what Lajes standard means. How my Airmen never hesitate to go the extra mile for a fellow Airmen in need. I tell them how you stand in the rain, the wind, and sun without complaining, servicing jets, standing watch, providing support for the force, training for the future. I tell them we go down range and dominate the enemy. I let them know they can be proud. As proud as I am of what our Air Force has been, is and will be in the future. And the future is where it's at!

Lajes Airmen, it is vitally important for us to take a moment to look toward our future and recognize its significance. From our first day as a service, in the year 1947, until today, in 2007, the United States Air Force has always focused on the future of air power. This unwavering tradition of forward thinking by our Airmen, including the Airmen to your right and left in this room, is what separates us from any other military in the world, and from any other service in the Department of Defense, be it Army, Navy or Marines. Today, at this very moment, we are at war — a brutal war, with an outcome that will set the world stage for our children and our children's children.

Our Airmen are deployed in many capacities in the war on terror. Right now, we are defining air power in new ways, every day; our security forces defenders, CE tradesmen, air traffic controllers, log dogs, contracting agents, medics, cooks, all of our Airmen are being asked to do more with less and are meeting the challenges set before them with an unmistakable sense of honor and pride. This desire to put "service before self" makes all the difference.

Spouses, look at your Airmen. Be proud of them, because they are the world's best. Airmen, stick out your chest with pride, it's deserved.

You, ladies and gentlemen, are why I love being an Airman.

535-4240

[actionline@lajes.af.mil](mailto: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](mailto:actionline@lajes.af.mil).*



**Col. JL Briggs**

**Col. JL Briggs**

Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



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

*Submissions can be e-mailed to [news@lajes.af.mil](mailto:news@lajes.af.mil) and are due a week prior to the publication date.*

*This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized weekly publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas.*

*Contents of the Crossroads are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.*

*All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.*

### Editorial Staff

**Col. JL Briggs**

Commander, 65th Air Base Wing

**Capt. Shilo Weir**

Chief, Public Affairs

**Tech Sgt. Christin Michaud**

NCOIC, Public Affairs

**Eduardo Lima**

Advisor, Community Relations



### **Tribute to the Constitution**

*Left: Students from the Lajes American School wave their flags Monday in honor of Constitution Day. The students wore red, white and blue and paraded through the halls and around the school. Below: Austin Deppa (left) and Elizabeth Erickson proudly wave their flags. (Photos by Angie Erickson)*



## **DOD announces change to annual pay increase for some NSPS employees**

**Courtesy of USAFE Public Affairs**

In a step towards a more robust pay for performance system, the Department of Defense announced Wednesday to grant one-half of the January 2008 government-wide increase to adjust base salaries for 110,000 National Security Personnel System spiral one employees.

NSPS is the Department's pay for performance system to compensate and reward employees based on their contribution to mission accomplishment.

Those with an acceptable performance rating this year will receive half of the annual increase while the remainder is added to performance pay pools to be distributed based on performance.

Last year, the first performance cycle under NSPS, the DoD granted the Government-wide increase to all but unacceptable performers, in addition to providing performance-based pay increases and bonuses.

Something that does not change is the increase to local market supplements. Those will be the same as the Government-wide increases for locality pay. NSPS employees with an acceptable performance rating will receive this pay increase.

This decision to adjust the annual pay increase reinforces the Department's commitment to the NSPS pay for performance system, which rewards and compensates employees based on perfor-

mance, said Chris Maier, chief civilian personnel and resources for U.S. Air Forces in Europe. "The goal of NSPS is to attract, retain and reward employees based on their contribution toward mission accomplishment," said Mr. Maier.

This decision impacts more than 1880 civilian employees in USAFE, according to personnel experts.

Those employees in spiral two of NSPS will receive the full January 2008 pay increase since they have not yet have received an NSPS performance evaluation.

For additional questions about NSPS please contact Laura Hanks, Civilian Personnel Office, at 535-6363. Or visit the NSPS website at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/>.



## Movie Schedule

**Today, 7 p.m.** – Underdog (PG); **10 p.m.** – The Bourne Ultimatum (PG-13)  
**Saturday, 7 p.m.** – Who's Your Caddy? (PG-13); **10 p.m.** – The Bourne Ultimatum  
**Sunday, 2 p.m.** – Underdog; **7 p.m.** – Who's Your Caddy?  
**Thursday, 7 p.m.** – The Bourne Ultimatum  
*Synopsis: Visit [www.aafes.com/ems](http://www.aafes.com/ems)*

## In The Community

**Bullfights:** Saturday -- 5:30 p.m. Parking lot of Angra bullring; 5:30 p.m.; Rua Maria João, Juncal; 5:30 p.m. Canada do Serra, Porto Martins; and 5:30 p.m., Rua Boioes, Biscoitos. Sunday -- 5:30 p.m. Port of Biscoitos; 5:30 p.m. Santa Margarida, Porto Martins; 4 p.m. Biscoitos. Wednesday -- 5:30 p.m. Feteira.

## Around Lajes

**New FCC Providers:** Two new family child care homes are now open here. They are licensed to provide care for children from 6 weeks to 12 years old. They will operate full time FCC Homes, Monday through Friday, providing full-time, part-time and hourly care, Volunteer Care, PCS Care and Expanded Child Care. *POCs: Kelly Badger, 295-549-543 and Christina James, 295-549-623*

**Hispanic Heritage Month:** Hispanic Heritage Month events are being sponsored by OLA. The first event is Teen Night at the LYP today and will include music, finger food, dancing, games and prizes; Reading at the library 10 a.m. Sept. 27 and 3 p.m. Oct. 11; OLA will host this month's SUM dinner Sept. 27; TORC

event Oct. 5, with a band and food - Tostada plate w/ rice and beans or chicken rice with beans for \$5 a plate.

**Girl Scouts:** Lajes Girl Scouts are throwing a Welcome Back Bash and potluck for registered Girl Scouts, their families, and those interested in joining from 5 to 7 p.m. Sept. 29 in the Lajes Elementary school cafeteria. Hot dogs, drinks and s'mores will be provided; families are asked to bring a side dish (no desserts please). RSVP to Cathy McNeely at [cathymcneely@yahoo.com](mailto:cathymcneely@yahoo.com).

**New Beginnings:** This weight loss support group meets at 3:30 p.m. Sept. 26 in the Health and Wellness Center.

*POC: Angie Erickson, 295-549-528*

**Child Find:** Lajes American School will conduct a Child Find Screening for children ages 3-5 on Sept 19, and Oct 10. If you have concerns regarding your child's communication, motor, or cognitive/ thinking skills, please call Lynn Mitchell at 535-6429 or Paul Moore at 535-6471 or 535-4151 to make an appointment. The screenings are for children ages 3-5 who may have delays in certain areas of development.

**Military & Family Life Consultants:** Military & Family Life Consultants are available to help service members, spouses, family members, children and staff address: Deployment / reintegration support; Marriage and relationship issues; Stress and anxiety; Depression; Grief and loss and Daily life issues. Consultations and trainings are free and anonymous. (Exceptions to confidentiality include duty to warn cases and PRP disqualifiers.) No records are kept. Helping you is our priority. After-hours and weekend appointments are available and group or off-site meetings can be arranged.

*POC: 967-435-590 or 535-1185*

**Darren and McGruff:** Darren the DARE Lion and McGruff the Crime Dog will be walking around base housing (Nascer de Sol 1 to 2 p.m. and Beira Mar

2-3 p.m.) Sept. 29. They will be in the neighborhood to say hello to kids of all ages and the community. Security Forces Pass and Registration team will have a table set up (near Bldg. T-1555 Pavilion) to register bikes.

## Education

**Conversational Portuguese Class:** Register now for the next Conversational Portuguese Class beginning Oct. 8, and sponsored by the Education office. The 4-week class is held 11 a.m. to noon Monday-Friday. Space is limited. Call the education office today at 535-3355 to reserve a seat.

**AFOQT:** The MPF will be giving the Armed Forces Officer Qualification Test Sept. 27. For details or to sign up to take this test e-mail Master Sgt. Souther at [james.souther@lajes.af.mil](mailto:james.souther@lajes.af.mil) by 4 p.m. Sept. 26.

## Jobs/Volunteer

**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>.

**Volunteers Needed:** Anyone interested in volunteering at the Lajes E/HS, may contact the school at 535-4151 or visit the Information Center (library) in room 200 on the top floor of the elementary school wing.

**Volunteer of the Quarter Submissions:** Submit 3rd quarter nominations to [elizabeth.bland@lajes.af.mil](mailto:elizabeth.bland@lajes.af.mil) Nominations are due by Sept. 28. There are two volunteer categories: active duty and civilian (spouses and local nationals are included in the civilian category). The nomination packages should be 5-10 concise bullets pertaining to the third quarter only. *POC: 535-4138*



## Armchair Quarterback

Armchair Q.B. is back for the 2007 NFL Season.

Congratulations to week two winner Michael Smith who only missed four -- way to start the season. This week's You Don't Know Jack Winner is Juan Carranza who only had six right -- ouch! Slow start buddy -- better stick to soccer.

*"If you ain't First ... You're last."* —Michael Smith



Michael Smith

The challenge is open to all military members, dependents and civilians. All entries must be submitted to [news@lajes.af.mil](mailto:news@lajes.af.mil) before the opening kickoff to the first game Sunday. In the case of a tie, a winner will be decided by who picks the closest combined score of the Monday Night game.

To see the schedule for the week, visit <http://sports.yahoo.com/nfl/scoreboard>.

## Classified Ads

*E-mail classified ads to [news@lajes.af.mil](mailto: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: Yamaha 750 Streetbike 1982. Good condition, excellent motor. Very good island bike, bass pass is current and inspection is valid until Aug 2008. Asking 2,800 euros. Please call 967 701 187 daytime or 295 989 361 evening.

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 295-549-651.

Medela Pump In Style Advanced Breastpump Backpack in good condition with accessories. Asking \$80. Call Brenda Clark at 295-549-664

InStep single jogging stroller for sale \$80. Barely used. Great shape. Call 295-549-623 ask for Christina.

Nanny available: Jennifer Meneses is 31 years old, very caring, reliable and speaks great English. Call 295-513 341 or 962 561 889 for more information.