

Crossroads



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

Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Watch. Report. Protect.



Daylight Saving Time

Members of the European Union (including the Azores) turn their clocks back one hour at 1 a.m. Sunday.

The United States begins Daylight Saving Time at 2 a.m. Nov. 4.

DUI/DWI Stats

Last DUI/DWI: Oct. 18
FY '08 Total: 1



Need a ride?
Call 964-955-992
Saves in CY' 07: 45

Finance customer service streamlined

By Maj. Christopher Nutting
65th Comptroller Squadron

The Air Force is transforming its Financial Management operations in the largest change in AF FM's 60-year history.

The changes will help to provide more effective and efficient finance operations within base-level comptroller squadrons by consolidating the backshop processing operations currently provided by 93 separate base finance offices worldwide (Active and Reserve bases) into one operation at the new Air Force Financial Services Center at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.

The workload currently performed at each base will migrate to the AFFSC by MAJCOM starting with Air Force Space Command this month and conclude in April 2008.

Customers will continue to receive outstanding service, while the changes will save the Air Force \$210 million.

The initial effort to consolidate the workload is designed to be seamless and how customer service is provided does not change during the initial stand-up of the AFFSC.

The initial operational capability of the contact center will be reached in October 2008. In this phase additional options for customers to get service, including Web self-service and a contact center, will be available.

Airmen will see fewer FM'ers on base, but will have more flexibility in obtaining service through 24-hour self-service and contact center options.

Base Finance Office walk-in service will remain for some services; however, customers will be encouraged to use the new service options.

The Financial Services Transformation Cut-over Team is assisting each base in preparation

to transition to the new service center.

The team came to Lajes July 19 to brief the comptroller squadron as well as wing and base leadership on the transformation initiative and train the comptroller squadron on the processes.

Lajes Field will see its back office processing move to the new Financial Services Center beginning Jan. 11. The transition is designed to be seamless to customers, and bases that have already migrated their processing to the AFFSC have not seen any impact to operations.

Air Force Financial Management is transforming the way it conducts business to better provide focused financial services to all Airmen in alignment with the Air Force's goals of ensuring its 700,000-plus men and women are provided with the state-of-the-art technology and outstanding financial services that they and their families expect and deserve.

"Financial Management's transformation objective is to provide the Air Force a longer tooth and a shorter tail by returning resources from support operations to direct war fighting capabilities," said John Vonglis, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management and Comptroller.

The AFFSC will utilize the latest technologies and training to increase the efficiency of Air Force Financial Management operations and will free up resources that can be allocated to directly support the warfighter and Air Force mission.

For more information, visit the AFFSC website on the Air Force Portal by highlighting the 'Life & Career' Tab, clicking on 'Money - Finance Central,' then select 'Air Force Financial Services Center' link.



Airman 1st Class Asabre Baffoe, 65th Comptroller Squadron assists Master Sgt. Tony Rita Wednesday at the finance customer service desk. Financial customer service will migrate to the Air Force Financial Services Center at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., by next year. Lajes personnel will see the transformation as early as January. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Christin Michaud).



Action Line:

Why is Burger King closing?

Question: I am trying to figure out why Burger King is closing. I can think of no reason why it would close. It is an AAFES facility so money should not be an issue. I know they are not losing any money because every time I am in there the place is packed. With Burger King closing, we are down to a few places to eat. Can you explain to us why Burger King is closing?

Response: Thank you for taking the time to comment on the closure of Burger King. Burger King is closing at the end of this month. AAFES receives no money from outside sources to offset the cost of doing business here in Lajes or anywhere in the world for that matter. According to Ed Hicks, AAFES general manager at Lajes, Burger King unfortunately has been a loss facility since it opened approximately 4 years ago and shows no sign of ever being able to break even or return a profit.

Mr. Hicks explained that AAFES has a duty to address facilities that become a drain on the dividend payments that it produces for the Services and MWR programs and must act accordingly. The closure of Burger King will reduce this loss and positively reinforce their commitment to provide such dividend payments.

Although Burger King is closing, there are other places to eat at Lajes. The Oceanview is expanding their menu to include breakfast beginning Nov. 5. The TORC is under a new contract and now open for business. Additionally, Subway and the Commissary both offer subs. Local cuisine is available at Sargentos and a restaurant located upstairs in the Portuguese terminal. Lastly, the 65th Services Squadron has plans to open an eatery in the bowling alley in January.

October, Awareness Walk time to reflect

Master Sgt. Bill Franklin
65th Mission Support Squadron

I participated in the Breast Cancer Awareness Run/Walk early this month and was saddened to hear the staggering statistics that Col. (Jeffrey) Derrick, (65th Air Base Wing vice commander) and Maj. (Joann) Palmer, (women's health practitioner) mentioned in their opening comments.

Every 3 minutes someone is diagnosed with breast cancer, according to the American Cancer Society. Every 13 minutes someone loses a battle with breast cancer. The siren of an ambulance parked near the track sounded off at those intervals to demonstrate just how often those diagnoses and deaths occur.

I felt the least I could do was show my support by running to complete the 13 laps. After the third lap, however, my ankle gave out a bit and I started walking. In doing so, I had more time to think about people going through the struggle of breast cancer and the minor pain I was enduring to complete all 13 laps.

Since my ankle started to feel better near the end of the second walking lap, I decided to jog again. I chose to shoot for alternating between jogging and walking to symbolize the medical personnel who work shifts in emergency departments and on medical wards in facilities throughout the world. The pattern I aimed for, and completed, was 3-2-2-3-3 since so many medical duty schedules are constructed that way.

Near lap nine, one of the walking laps, I realized that my course was much like that of a person with breast cancer. There were better times in the struggle, the jogging laps when I felt decent, and there were times that I didn't feel as well, the walking laps when I had to slow my pace down to make it.

I completed the three laps in the jogging mode as planned, and it was nice to finish on an upbeat note. Interestingly, I noticed more symbolism. I was the only person left, as I had told the fitness staff not to worry about my time, much like some cancer survivors who have outlived others in the same situation may feel alone when they get well.

After I was finished, I ran off to use the restroom. I thought of survivors who may have had to put important matters on hold, be it a crisis at work or a relationship gone awry, while they fought their adversary. Fortunately, they put their emphasis on what was most important at the time: surviving.

My struggle and willingness to complete the 13 laps for breast cancer awareness pales in comparison to what many breast cancer victims go through. It did help raise my awareness of the statistics and allowed me to reflect.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In the time it took you to read this commentary, another person has been diagnosed. Encourage your loved ones to get the proper screening - this month and every month.

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

Col. JL Briggs
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



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

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Halloween Activities

✂ **Costume contest:** The TORC will host a Costume Contest at 9 p.m. Saturday. There are prizes for the best and worst costume. Judging takes place at midnight. For details, call Teresa Cordle or Kent Jenkins at 535-6156/3202.

✂ **Trick-or-Treat Extravaganza:** The TORC will host trick or treaters from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday. There will be door prizes, games, a piñata station, photo booth, candy and a lot of spooky fun. Open to all, free event. For details, call Teresa Cordle or Kent Jenkins at 535-6156/3202

✂ **Bowling:** Halloween Costume Moonlight Open, Saturday from 8 p.m. to midnight. Adult costume contest. Cost is \$10. For more information, call Luci Lima at 535-6169.

✂ **Lajes Youth Program Halloween Carnival:** 2 to 4 p.m. Oct. 27 at the LYP. For ages 5-8. Come join the Torch and Keystone Club members for a fun filled day of games, prizes, food and costumes. Tickets for games and activities can be purchased at the door. Cost is 5 for \$1 or 35 for \$5. For details, call Kristi Kennell at 535-3273.

✂ **Trick or treating in housing:** Trick or treating will be 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesday in base housing. Lajes will once again share the American tradition of Halloween with our Portuguese neighbors by opening Trick or treating to Portuguese children in the community. People who do not wish to participate or run out of candy may hang a sign on their door that reads: NÃO HÁ REBUÇADOS. Beira Mar gates 2, 3, and 4 will close at 5:30 p.m. Security Forces will begin sweeping housing areas at 8:05 p.m. Please be certain children are inside by then.

Portuguese celebrate Pão por Deus, similar to American's Halloween

By Ed Lima
Community Relations Adviser

Question: Do the Portuguese celebrate Halloween? I've also heard the Portuguese have a similar tradition on All Saints Day. What is it about?

Answer: The Portuguese people don't have an ingrained tradition of celebrating Halloween, although in recent years some parts of the country, including the Azores, started to celebrate it in the form of people dressing in Halloween costumes and participating in parties at bars, clubs, etc.

On the other hand, there's no tradition of trick or treat here on the island or anywhere in the country but many local children, especially those who live in the towns surrounding Lajes Field, join the American children in the Halloween tradition.

There is, however, another occasion when the Portuguese also dress in costumes and wear masks, but is in no way related to Halloween. It happens during the three days and nights of Carnaval or Mardi Gras in the Azores, especially on Terceira Island.

It is during this tradition, which is held in February or March that some people dress in the Halloween-like costumes and take advantage of the old tradition to play tricks and make fun of certain situations.

Some regions of Portugal, especially in the Azores, also celebrate an old tradition on All Saints Day, Nov. 1, called "Pão por Deus," which is somewhat similar to trick-or-treat, although with a different meaning and without the wear of special costumes.

On the morning and part of the afternoon of All Saints Day, children go door-to-door asking for donations saying "Pão por Deus" (food in the name of God). Today the donations are mainly in the form of candy, sweets and small change, but some years ago the kids received pastries, bread, chestnuts, fruits and even other goods.

This is an old tradition probably related with the purpose of giving alms to the poor on All Saints, a day to thank God for and also to honor and remember deceased relatives and friends.

Note: Due to the Portuguese holiday All Saints Day, the Commissary, Base Exchange, Shoppette, Library and other facilities that routinely close on Portuguese holidays will all be closed Thursday. Please plan accordingly.

Prepare for a safe, fun Halloween in advance

By Tech. Sgt. Christin Michaud
65th ABW Public Affairs

The real danger on Halloween isn't the witches and spirits, according to the National Safety Council. It's falls and pedestrian accidents.

To eliminate the hazard of falls, parents are urged to make certain their children have safe costumes. According to the NSC, "falls are the leading cause of unintentional injuries on Halloween."

Another safety tip regarding costumes is to use face paint instead of masks if at all possible. Masks can sometimes shift, covering a child's eyes and blocking their view. If a mask is worn as part of a costume, parents should be sure that there are large eye holes, even if that means modifying the

mask. It is also important for masks to have nose and mouth openings which allow children to breathe freely.

Pedestrian injuries are also common on Halloween. To avoid accidents, security forces is asking housing residents to arrive home or to their destination before 6 p.m. when trick-or-treating begins.

The American Red Cross reminds children to look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks, and low-flying brooms.

There will be volunteers in uniform patrolling the area.

Candy should be inspected before children eat it. The 729th Air Mobility Squadron passenger terminal will x-ray candy from 6 to 9 p.m.

Keep an eye out for the witches and



Costumes are one of the largest causes of injuries each Halloween. Making sure a costume is safe can prevent falls and injuries. (Courtesy photo)

spirits in housing on Halloween, but pay special attention to safe practices, including costume wear, crossing the street and other ways to keep Halloween both safe and fun.



Movie Schedule

Today, 7 p.m. – Mr. Bean's Holiday (G); **10 p.m.** – The Brothers Solomon (R)

Saturday, 7 p.m. – Balls of Fury (PG-13); **10 p.m.** – The Brothers Solomon

Sunday, 2 p.m. – Mr. Bean's Holiday; **7 p.m.** – Balls of Fury

Thursday, 7 p.m. – Balls of Fury
Synopsis: Visit www.aafes.com/ems

In The Community

Book Fair/Photo and Cartoon Exhibits: There will be a book fair and a photo and cartoon exhibit inside the tent located next to the marina in Praia. Open to the public 10 a.m. to midnight today through Nov. 4. The fair will also feature concerts by different bands and groups in the evenings.

The Ramo Grande International Music Festival: The Music Festival will take place at 9:30 p.m. Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 in the Ramo Grande Auditorium (Praia Theater). For ticket information, contact Manny Martins at 535-6763.

Around Lajes

Local Craft Fair: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Top of the Rock Club Ballroom. There will be local exhibitors offering handcrafted pottery, painted glass, jewelry, wood, metal, art, and other unique items. For details, call 535-3909.

AWANA Children and Youth Club: AWANA is a nondenominational, Bible-centered youth organization. The Club at Lajes meets from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, for ages 3 through 12th grade. For details, call 535-4211.

Couple Communication: This workshop, scheduled for 6:30 to 7:30

p.m., Nov. 1 in the A&FRC classroom will look at differences in the way men and women communicate and identify ways couples can learn to talk to each other about their relationship. To sign up, call 535-4138.

Photos with Santa: The community center will offer photos with Santa from 6 to 8 p.m. Nov. 9 and 1 to 3 p.m. Nov. 10 at the Sun and Sand Hut. Cost is \$4 per photo.

New Beginnings: This weight loss support group meets at 3:30 p.m. Oct. 31 in the Health and Wellness Center. This month's topic is surviving the holidays. This is the last meeting until January. For more information, call 295-549-528.

Glow in the Dark Golf Tournament: A four-person scramble tournament is scheduled for 8 p.m. Nov. 3. Showtime is 7 p.m. Cost is \$10 per team. Loaner clubs are available at Outdoor Recreation at no cost on a first come, first serve basis. Prizes will be awarded. Sign-up deadline is Nov. 2. For details, call 535-4140.

Home Buying Seminar: 10 a.m. to noon, Nov. 5. For details, call 535-4138.

Parent and Child Communication: This presentation, scheduled 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Nov. 15 in the A&FRC classroom will help parents identify and learn effective communication techniques. To sign up, call 535-4138.

Jobs/Volunteer

Pumpkin Patrol Volunteers: Security forces is looking for volunteers to assist with the Pumpkin Patrol, 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 31. Volunteers will have to wear their BDUs, reflective belts/vest and a flashlight. E-mail ryan.radunzel@lajes.af.mil.

Services NAF positions: For a list of vacancies, visit <http://www.lajes-services.com/jobs/jobs2.doc> or call 535-5200/6582.

FY08 NCO Limited Reclassification Program: The NCOLRP allows Airmen who hold a current, specified valid skill level, other than in their control AFSC, to be administratively reclassified back into their "old" AFSC. Approval is based on Air Force needs when the request is processed. Deadline is Oct. 31. For details, call 535-6197.

Education

University of Oklahoma – Upcoming Course: Earn a Master's in Human Relations in 16-24 months from OU. Enrollment is open for the next onsite class, HR 5423: Family Systems and Reconstruction, an elective to be held on Dec 4-9. For details, call 535-3171.

AFCT/AFOQT: The MPF will ad-

minister the Armed Forces Classification Test Nov. 15 and the Air Force Officer Qualification Test Dec. 3. To sign up, e-mail james.souther@lajes.af.mil at least two days prior to test date.

DLPT: Computer based testing for Chinese-Amoy, Tagalog, Thai, Vietnamese, German, French, Italian, Hebrew, Cambodian, Indonesian, Hungarian, Dutch, Swedish, Swahili, Bulgarian, and Danish is now available via CBT: S:\MSS\65 MSS Education Flight\DLPT\DLPT List Oct 07.doc

Leaders Encouraging Airman Development: The LEAD program allows Airmen to enter the Air Force Academy directly or attend the Academy Prep School. Applicants must be unmarried and have no legal dependents. Application deadline is Jan. 31. For information, visit www.academyadmissions.com or call Maria Tristao-Rocha at 535-3355.

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University Term II Classes: Classes for Term II include Math 111, College Math for Aviation I, which can be used for CCAF – Class dates are Nov. 12-15 & 18 and December 3-6 & 9; and MGMT 322 Aviation Insurance – Class dates are Nov. 26 to Dec. 2. For details, call 535-3375.

Central Texas College-MobileLearning™: CTC offers Microsoft Certified System Administrator Training via video iPod. "Attend" classes when it's convenient; learn how to build a single computer to how to manage a network of users. TA eligible. 18 credit hours. Video iPod provided with program. Enroll today. Call 535-6722, or e-mail lajes@europe@ctcd.edu.

Lajes American School

School Web site: The school Web site is updated regularly and contains information helpful to students and their families. It contains updated versions of the school handbook, lunch menus, the most recent school newsletter and employment information. Visit: <http://www.laje-ehs.eu.dodea.edu/>.

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 when items have been sold. Lajes personnel may also post ads at Lajesads.com. This site is not affiliated with the Crossroads.

For sale: 2002 Ford Focus 4-door, 5-speed manual transmission with 75K miles. Excellent Condition - \$6,500. Call Paul @ 968-937-101 or 295-989-255

Wanted: Donations - clothes, shoes, toys, books, household items, etc. All donations are used for the Lajes High School sports teams to raise money for travel. Will pick up donations, e-mail lajes15@yahoo.com. Thank You for your support.

Need a babysitter? Fantastic with kids. Speaks excellent English. Call 295-542-491 or 968-883-177. References available.

Armchair Quarterback

Congratulations to week seven winner Kevin Jordan. This week's You Don't Know Jack Winner is Jose Cifuentes.

"I'll finish the season on Top of the Rock just like the Bears, That's 5 in a row for the LRS Team, Who's going to stop us?"

—Kevin Jordan



E-mail picks to news@lajes.af.mil before kickoff Sunday. In the case of a tie, a winner will be decided by who picks the closest combined score of the Monday Night game.