

Crossroads TRA

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

Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Deter. Detect. Defeat.



U.S. AIR FORCE
EagleEyes
WATCH.REPORT.PROTECT.

Watch for suspicious behavior
Report what you see
Protect by observation and action

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Be alert.
Report suspicious activity.
535-3222

DUI/DWI Stats

Last DUI/DWI: Oct. 27
FY '07 Total: 2



Need a ride?
Call 964-955-992
Saves in CY' 07: 49

'Tis the Season



Santa Clause delivers gifts to students during the Santa Rita Elementary School Christmas Party Dec. 13. Approximately 70 gifts were donated and distributed to the children by members of the 65th Operational Support Squadron and Portuguese air traffic controllers. This marks the 8th year OSS has participated in the school's Christmas party. (Photo by Senior Airman Taylor Marr)

Enlisted eligible to apply for AFIT degree program

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

The Air Force Institute of technology announced their Enlisted-To-AFIT program for the 2008 academic year," explained Maria Tristao-Rocha, Education counselor here.

"This is an opportunity for enlisted members to pursue an in-residence master's degree in a variety of fields, including science, engineering, and management, among others," said Mrs. Tristao-Rocha.

The program is an in-residence 18-24 month program at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

Some of the qualification requirements are: a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited

institution, rank of E-6 or above, a 7-skill level, a minimum of eight years of service by June 2008, a DEROS within 60 days of June 2008, and the ability to obtain retainability through 2013.

Another requirement is to have taken the Graduate Record Examination or Graduate Management Admission Test, depending on the AFIT degree-program requirements. Neither the GMAT, nor the GRE are offered here," said Mrs. Tristao-Rocha. Students should visit www.ets.org/gre to locate a testing site that is convenient. Individuals who need to take the GRE or GMAT for the AFIT program are eligible for permissive TDY, under Rule 18, explained Senior Master

Kenneth Jack, 65th Mission Support Squadron. "Unit commanders may authorize up to 10 days permissive TDY," he said.

Individuals would be reimbursed for the amount of the test fee, according to Mrs. Tristao-Rocha.

Members interested in enhancing their skills and furthering their education through AFIT, must submit their nomination packages by Jan. 15. The board will convene in February and will consider nominations from all career fields. For details, call 535-5291, or visit <http://www.afit.edu/en/Admissions>, and select Air Force Enlisted.

(Some information courtesy of Air Force News Service)



First Sergeant Notes

Wingman- Be Alert, Get Involved, and Take Action!

The Air Force established the Wingman program to encourage Airmen to intervene when signs of inappropriate behavior are observed. Airmen at all levels of command have a role as Wingmen. Supervisors are the first line of defense for the well being of their Airmen. Often they are in a position to spot the first signs of trouble and are in the best position to listen and engage. All Airmen are encouraged to lead by example — to be good Wingmen, by taking care of themselves and those around them — and taking action when needed. We do it right when we are focused on others first!

—Master Sgt. David Vermilyea
65th Medical Group First Sergeant

Environmental tips Reduce waste during the holidays

By Vera Leonardo

65th Civil Engineer Squadron
Environmental Program manager

Thousands of paper and plastic shopping bags end up in landfills every year. Reduce the number of bags thrown out by bringing reusable cloth bags for holiday gift shopping. Tell store clerks you don't need a bag for small or oversized purchases.

Wrap gifts in recycled or reused wrapping paper or funny papers. Also remember to save or recycle used wrapping paper. Give gifts that don't require much packaging, such as concert tickets or gift certificates.

Send recycled-content greeting cards to reduce the amount of virgin paper used during the holidays. Remember to recycle any paper cards you receive. You can also try sending electronic greeting cards to reduce paper waste.

Approximately 40 percent of all battery sales occur during the holiday season. Buy rechargeable batteries to accompany your electronic gifts, and consider giving a battery charger as well. Rechargeable batteries reduce the amount of potentially harmful materials thrown away, and can save money in the long run.

Turn off or unplug holiday lights during the day. Doing so will not only save energy, but will also help your lights last longer.

Have a create-your-own-decorations party. Invite family and friends to create and use holiday decorations such as ornaments made from old greeting cards or cookie dough, garlands made from strung popcorn or cranberries, wreaths made from artificial greens and flowers, and potpourri made from kitchen spices such as cinnamon and cloves.

Consider the durability of a product before you buy it as a gift. Cheaper, less durable items often wear out quickly, creating waste and costing you money.

When buying gifts, check product labels to determine an item's recyclability and whether it is made from recycled material. Buying recycled encourages manufacturers to make more recycled-content products available.

For photos, use your own camera instead of a disposable one to reduce waste while capturing holiday memories. Consider buying a digital camera so you don't have to use film and can print only the ones you want to keep.

Shopping Lesson

Lajes School provided a one-stop shopping opportunity for its children during a PTO fundraiser entitled Winter Wonderland. PTO members and volunteer parents were on hand to help children through the shopping experience that taught them how to make good choices for those friends and family members who might have been on their shopping list as well as how to be wise consumers. (Photo by Angie Erickson)



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.



Col. JL Briggs

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
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



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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

Community Relations Adviser

Operator service moves to Ramstein

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

Switchboard operators here closed a chapter of more than 50 years of service to the Lajes community Dec. 13.

The service the operators provided was streamlined to one call center at USAFE Headquarters at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Lajes personnel will still dial the same numbers for service, but will now be connected to someone from Germany.

"The switchboard operators at Ramstein will receive a database file each month with an updated version of Lajes current telephone numbers assigned to our telephone switch," explained Avelino Ormonde, 65th Communications Squadron, Wire Systems section chief.

This initiative is an effort to centralize resources and manning, he added.

According to Maj. Matthew Ginnaty, 65th CS, Lajes Field is the last USAFE base to convert.

Services the operators provide include, the morale call program, emergency calls available through unit first sergeants, information service, the telephone directory

program and the telephone control officer program. They also process requested incoming and outgoing calls to and from Lajes Field.

Before the switch to USAFE, the Lajes switchboard operators worked rotation shifts from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. After these hours, the lodging clerks performed the duties of the operators for the few calls that are received at night.

The Ramstein switchboard will provide 24/7 service. Ramstein will also have access to the same information operators here do with one exception.

"The exception to the rule is the local listing the operators usually had available with the most common numbers our base customers use to ask for: restaurants, a hair dresser, manicure shop, propane gas company, etc.," explained Sr. Ormonde.

Major Ginnaty echoed that. "This transformation means the personnel at Lajes, both military and civilian, will lose the personalized service our local operators provided. I've heard many stories of folks in billeting calling the operators and getting recommendations for local restaurants followed by driving directions

to the establishment," he said. "These personal touches will go away."

Although the personal touches won't be there, personnel can expect the same level of service when they dial 0 or 535-1110 from on base and 295-571-110 from off base.

The first Portuguese operators were hired in 1954. The telephone operations section consisted of one supervisor, one telephone billing clerk, and the 11 telephone operators. Ten are retiring while the other three are taking new positions here at Lajes, according to Major Ginnaty.

Aldina Sousa is one of the operators retiring.

"Mrs. Aldina Sousa, an operator with 35 years of service as a base switchboard operator, stated she was recently thinking about her career and realized she spent more time with her friends at work than with her family members at home," explained Sr. Ormonde. "While telling me how much she was going to miss her co-workers and customers, tears were falling out of her eyes ... this states how much our operators will miss their work as Lajes."

Lajes bids farewell to this chapter, and the operators who will retire.

Winter performance showcases student talent

By Capt. Shilo Weir
Chief, Public Affairs

More than 90 musicians and 65 artists showed off their talents to the local community at the Lajes American School Winter Concert Dec. 13 held at the Ramo Grande Theater in Praia da Victoria.

This annual event, normally held in the school gymnasium or base theater, offered a unique opportunity to both the students and members of the community this year.

"The event was a means to showcase our students' artistic talents for members of both the American and Portuguese communities in a world-class, professional environment," said Alan Landers, Lajes American School Director of Bands.

"This was the first time that the American performing arts group has ever performed off-base," said Mr. Landers. "The Ramo Grande Theater in Praia da Victoria is a world-class venue."

In addition to the holiday music selection performed by the Lajes String Ensemble, Elementary Chorus, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Band, Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Bands, this year's event features an art exhibit of original works from selected students in Kindergarten through 12th grade.

"It was a showing of talent," said Ron Hull, Lajes American School art teacher. "It was an opportunity for the students to demonstrate the skills they have learned and to show to their families and to their host nation the many different talents they have."

"Besides creating a dramatic environment for the students to perform in," Mr. Hull added, "it was a wonderful opportunity



Janeen Teixeira (left), chorus director, and Alan Landers (right), Director of Bands, welcome the community to the Lajes American School Winter Concert Dec. 13 at the Ramo Grande Theater in Praia da Victoria. (Photo by Matthew R. Weir)

nity for our Portuguese hosts to participate in the experience."

The art exhibition also featured a variety of work by Kristiana Miller in her Senior Exhibition displayed at the theater.

This one-of-a-kind event was marked with more than just holiday spirit.

"The collaboration between American and Portuguese for this concert confirms not only that the American and Portuguese communities share a great bond," said Mr. Landers, "but also a love of fine music."



Crossroads

Crossroads Xtra: This is the last issue of Crossroads Xtra this year. The next issue will be Jan. 11. Happy Holidays!

Movie Schedule

Today, 7 p.m. – Dan in Real Life (PG-13); **10 p.m.** – American Gangster (R)

Saturday, 7 p.m. – Dan in Real Life; **10 p.m.** – Eastern Promises (R)

Sunday, 2 p.m. – Dan in Real Life; **7 p.m.** – American Gangster

Wednesday, Two for \$2.50 – The first movie, Santa Claus 3 begins at 1 p.m. Doors open at noon. There will be a brief interval before the second movie, Surviving Christmas.

Thursday, 7 p.m. – Dan in Real Life
Dec. 29, 7 p.m. – Fred Claus (PG); **10 p.m.** Bee Movie (PG)

Dec. 30, 7 p.m. – Fred Claus; **10 p.m.** Martian Child (PG)

Jan. 3, 7 p.m. – Fred Claus; **10 p.m.** Martian Child (PG)

Synopsis: Visit www.aafes.com/ems

In The Community

Amusement Park: A giant roller coaster, bumper cars and other amusement rides have been installed in the parking lot adjacent to the sports pavilion in Angra through Jan. 9. (This is the parking lot where the food booths are installed and the big concerts take place during the Sanjoaninas Festival). The amusement park is open every evening and night from 3 p.m. until midnight.

Around Lajes

New Year's Eve Extravaganza: Option 1 – 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. Dec. 31 in the TORC Ballroom. Cost is €65,00/person which includes: Heavy Hors D'Oeuvres, dinner buffet, champagne toast at midnight, breakfast buffet, 2 bottles of wine per table, party favors and a free gift to remember the event. Option 2 – \$20 per person in the TORC Enlisted Lounge with the following: Heavy Hors D'Oeuvres, champagne toast at midnight, party favors, and music throughout the evening. The breakfast buffet will be available for \$5.95/person. For reservations, call 535-3202, 961-284-028 or 967-729-490.

Transition Assistance Program: TAP is a workshop for military members, dependants, and civilians who are interested in retiring or separating. This 3-day seminar is scheduled Jan. 16-18 and offers job hunting skills, resume building, preparing for an interview and information on VA benefits. For more informa-

tion, or to register, call 535-4138.

Top of the Rock changes: Dinner service at the TORC has changed. Mongolian BBQ is 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. each Tuesday. Wednesday through Saturday dinner service will still be available, but will be from the new, expanded Bits and Bites menu through the coffee shop. Additionally, the lunch buffet price has increased to \$8.95.

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 training 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. Call 967-435-590 or 535-3529.

Sexual Assault Prevention/Response Office volunteers: The SAPRO is currently seeking people interested in creating awareness items (afghans, artwork, cross-stitch, etc.) for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Depending on interest, an intro to knitting class may be started to support this event. For details, call 535-6412 or e-mail sarc@lajes.af.mil.

Vet Clinic no longer seeing patients: The vet clinic will not be able to see patients beginning today through March 24. Please call the vet clinic at 535-3134 to have any prescriptions refilled by the end of December. The vet clinic will continue to remain open for sales, in-processing and out-processing. Please see a local veterinarian for vaccinations and treatments. Call 535-3134 to be on the list for the Vet for March.

A&FRC hours change: The Airman & Family Readiness Center will open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Thursday hours of operation will be 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. due to in-house training.

Holiday Stress Management: The A&FRC and the Military and Family Life Consultant are offering a presentation on stress management during the holidays 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. today or 9 to 11 a.m. Monday. Topics include the signs and symptoms of stress and impact on the family. Call 535-4138 to register.

Jobs/Volunteer

Commissary Baggers: The Commissary is currently hiring adult and teenage baggers. Applicants must be at least 14 years old and have a current DoD ID card. Baggers are needed for both the

Armchair Quarterback

Congratulations to week 15 winner **Jose Cifuentes** who is the winner for the third week in a row.



Justin Wheeler, was close and not far behind. He had eight right, but still managed to garner the You Don't Know Jack award.

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

morning and evening shifts.

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

Holiday closures

Thrift shop closes for holiday: The Thrift shop will be closed from Dec. 24 to Jan. 4. It will reopen from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 5. For details, call 535-4146.

Services Facility closures: The Lajes Youth Center, Child Development Center, Top of the Rock Club, bowling center, Community Activity Center, Kennels, Outdoor Recreation, Arts & Crafts, Auto Hobby shop, Sports Zone and library will be closed on Monday and Tuesday. The fitness center will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. The Oceanview will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday and will be closed Tuesday. Subway is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday and closed Tuesday.

Passenger Terminal Closure: The Air Mobility Command Michael Passenger Terminal will close at noon Monday and reopen at noon Wednesday. In addition, for the New Year, the Passenger Terminal will close at noon Dec. 31 and reopen at noon Jan. 2. During closed hours eligible space-available passengers may still sign up by faxing 535-5110, or e-mailing spacea@lajes.af.mil. For more information, call 535-3227/3582.

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.

Daycare: Childcare openings for all your childcare needs. Open for evenings and weekends throughout the year. Call Christina James at 295-549-623 for more information or to book a spot.