



Local tradition of street bullfights begins Monday

By Eduardo Lima
65th ABW Public Affairs

Traditionally, the street bullfight season starts every year on May 1 and continues through Oct. 15, which is the last official day for this type of event.

This characteristic type of bullfighting is a very old local tradition. Though its exact origin is unknown, some historians believe it began with the tournaments and jousts noblemen held during special occasions.

Street bullfights have become a well-liked cultural event and an important part of the summer festivals around the island. It's still an event that attracts hundreds, sometimes thousands of people to a single village.

The bulls, usually four, are transported in containers from ranches in the center of the island where they are raised, to the village where the bullfights will be held. A motorcade of villagers who travel to the ranch to observe the selection of the bulls usually precedes the truck carrying the bulls.

When it's time for the bullfight to begin, usually at 6 or 6:30 p.m., a blast that sounds like fireworks lets everybody know that it's time for the first bull to be released and warns those who don't want to play bullfighter that they should look for a safe place behind wooden barriers, high walls or balconies along the streets where the bullfight is to be held.

After the bull is released, eight men dressed in white shirts and grey pants - known as "pastores" (rope handlers) - control the distance the bull can travel by holding on to a rope attached to his neck as he pursues those who dare to harass him or stand in his way.

After the men in the crowd tease the bull for about 30 minutes, the rope



Street bullfights begin Monday. The first bullfight is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday at Canada de Belem in Terra Cha. U.S. military members, civilians and dependents are prohibited from actively participating in any type of bullfighting on the island. This includes people here on temporary duty status or just passing through. (Courtesy photo)

handlers pull the bull back into his box for a well-deserved rest - both for the bull and the men. Two blasts let everybody know it's safe to walk or drive down the street again, but only for about 10 minutes, which is how long it takes the *pastores* to place the rope around the next bull's neck. This routine continues until all four bulls are released into the street and the bullfight ends.

The street bullfights also feature another old tradition related with the island's culture and local food, which are the food stands called "tascas." In these portable stands people can find some of the island's best-known local wine, beer, sodas, as well as seafood and pork sandwiches called "bifanas."

All Americans are encouraged to witness a street bullfight while they are stationed at Lajes Field, though it is also important to remember that U.S. military members, civilians and dependents are prohibited from actively participating in any type of bullfighting on the island. This includes people here on temporary duty status or just passing through.

Local bullfights are certainly a tradition worth seeing, but not without keeping safety in mind. Bullfights can be

dangerous if spectators don't take proper precautions. Always make sure to watch the bullfights from a safe place — a high place at least five or six feet from the ground.

Every year a few careless spectators and participants are gored or hit by the bulls, or burned by the rope and end up in the hospital with serious injuries. There have even been some fatalities in the past because people misjudged the bulls.

To better your chances of finding a safe place from which to view street bullfights it is good to arrive early. More importantly, be careful and use common sense while the bullfights are ongoing. If you are caught driving through a bullfight area, slow down and pay attention to the traffic. Also pay attention to the blasts that will let you know whether the bull is out in the street or inside the box again.

This year, as part of the unusual religious calendar related with the Holy Ghost Festivals on the island the bullfight season will begin Monday (Apr. 28) instead of May 1. The bullfight Monday will take place at Canada de Belem in Terra Cha, at 6:30 p.m. Look for the schedule each week on the planner page.



UCI Countdown

134

Days remaining
until Lajes Field's
Unit Compliance
Inspection



Enjoy the travel opportunities, local culture while overseas

By Maj. Ed Simpson
65th Security Forces Squadron

We at Lajes have been given a unique opportunity. We have been afforded the chance to live, work, and experience another culture and country. My family and I have been living overseas for more than 3 years. We have been to England, Ireland, Scotland, Holland, France, Germany, Italy and now Portugal. Each country had its own unique food, drink, traditions, and sites to see. We've enjoyed them all and have fond memories of each.

One of the things I have found is that far too many Americans do not take advantage of the opportunity of living overseas. There is so much of the world to see and experience yet so few of us take the opportunity to see it. While I agree that the United States is the best country in the world, we did not get that way in isolation. Like the old saying goes, America is a melting pot. What makes us so great is our diversity. Every major city in the United States has a Little Italy, Little Germany, little this and little that. We have been given the opportunity to see the real thing, let's go see it!

From a military perspective, traveling to these countries and sampling a little bit of their culture can actually help us in our jobs! That's right, I firmly believe traveling will make you a better Airman. For those of you who have deployed recently, you know that everywhere we go we are fighting beside other nations. What better way to get to know the person next to you in the trench than to share a story about how you visited their country and enjoyed it? Also, just learning a few simple greetings in their language goes a long way. Even if you butcher it, I know the effort is appreciated. I would be willing to bet you'll make a good impression that he'll soon share with his fellow Airmen or soldiers. You have now made an acquaintance and left a positive memory of the U.S. Air Force and America.

Traveling is also a great way to educate. Having lived overseas as an Air Force brat I was given the opportunity to travel and see many historical sites at a young age. Upon returning to the United States, I had a unique perspective to share with many of my classmates. I can remember on more than one occasion bringing in pictures of family vacations to school to share in history class when we talked about major events in history. It's an awesome opportunity for our children to be able to share

these experiences with others and teaches them at a young age the confidence to get out in front of others.

Please don't forget that you don't have to leave the island to experience another culture. Terceira has a wealth of places to visit to learn about both the Azorean and Portuguese culture. One of the best ways I have found to experience the culture is through food and drink (only up to 80 percent of course). I have found this to be true of every European country I've visited. So much of the human race's cultural diversity is tied to social functions where the main ingredient is food. This is true for the Germans, Italians, French and several others.

Terceira has some great regional food. If you haven't been out to some of the local restaurants, you're missing out. Dishes like alcatra, cozido Portuguese, lapas grelhadas, bacalhau na brasa, and others are out there to sample. If you sit down and talk with some of the locals in your office I'm sure they would love to recommend some of their island favorites to you. Even better, why not plan an evening with them and both your families. What better way for you to learn about each other than over a meal.

So, next time you're craving Subway, skip it and head out the gate to one of the local villages. Get amongst our hosts and experience what Terceira has to offer. The next time you're planning a family vacation instead of heading to Disney World, why not head to mainland Europe and hit London, Paris, and Rome? You're already halfway there, do it now while you're close and the flights are cheaper. Looking over the Paris skyline from the top of the Eifel Tower was amazing and sitting having a pizza across the street from the Coliseum is an experience I'll not soon forget!

Note: There are routine space-a flights to Sigonella (Sicily) and Naples, Italy, Souda Bay, Crete and England from Lajes. For more information, contact the passenger terminal at 535-3227. The commercial ticket office on base is available to help individuals plan a trip. The number is 5171. Additionally, there is a wealth of information on the Web, including vacation rentals at the Armed Forces Club. Visit www.afvclub.com for more information.

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



Col. JL Briggs

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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Alcohol becoming new weapon of choice

Studies show that the weapon most often used to commit a sexual assault is not a gun or a knife.

Offenders use alcohol and other incapacitating substances much more frequently to coerce and incapacitate victims in acts of sexual violence. As a result, social scientists are revising their theories about the "typical" rapist.

Given the current media attention, most people visualize a rapist as a stranger who accosts victims in a deserted location. However, research demonstrates that offenders often travel in the same social circles as their victims. In fact, some make a point of getting to know or even date their victim before they commit a criminal offense.

Most rapists typically have social skills, have other "consensual" sexual relationships, are educated and employed, are not mentally ill, and do not use weapons to maim their victims.

In fact, 80 percent of sexual assaults happen during some form of social interaction, usually on a date. A rape is also more likely to occur at a party or bar, rather than at the victim's home.

Most people find it difficult to believe that a rapist might be someone they know or have dated. This might be because rapists commonly use a variety

of techniques – some very subtle – to lower their victims' defenses and win their confidence. Just getting to know someone is a very subtle way to make a person less suspicious of their ultimate intentions. Another commonly used technique is to overpower someone with alcohol or incapacitating drugs.

Perpetrators seek victims who have used alcohol or other intoxicating substances because such drugs interfere with the ability to verbally and physically resist sexual advances.

Some perpetrators employ alcohol to completely incapacitate a target, embarrass the victim and ultimately hide the crime.

Offenders may also use alcohol during the commission of the crime or hide behind their use of alcohol in an attempt to exonerate themselves. When intoxicated, perpetrators often ignore potential consequences and act with increased impulsivity.

Studies confirm that the more perpetrators drink, the more likely they will commit sexually violent acts.

A study of college rapists found that 62 percent of the offenders believed they had committed rape only because of their alcohol consumption. They did not see themselves as "real criminals," because real criminals use weapons to assault strangers. In fact, some pepe-

trators may purposely get drunk when they want to act in a sexually aggressive way, having the mistaken belief that alcohol use excuses their socially inappropriate behavior.

The best defense against these kinds of perpetrators is to watch out for potentially dangerous situations:

- Limit your drinking to one drink (one drink equals 12 oz of beer, 5 oz of wine, or 1.5 oz of liquor) an hour with no more than 3 drinks total.
- Designate a non-drinking friend to help with safety and good decision making.
- Avoid leaving your drink unattended and do not accept drinks that you did not order.
- Avoid drinking in unfamiliar environments and around unfamiliar people.

Many of the risks presented by sex offenders who use alcohol and other substances as weapons can be managed by looking out for friends and co-workers. When someone is in trouble, ask if he or she needs help. Get assistance if requested. If someone appears to be trouble, don't be afraid to intervene or ask someone else to help.

For more information contact the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator at SARC@lajes.af.mil or call 535-7272 or 966-677-266 from off base.

(Information courtesy of the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator)



Family 5K Fun

Lajes families participated in the first 5K Family Run/Walk hosted by the Chace Fitness Center Saturday. There were 22 participants (24 if you count the dogs). Each child who participated received a medal. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Christin Michaud)





Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Portuguese Holiday AAFES, community center, library and commissary closed 5 p.m. Teen Money Matters, LYP 7 p.m. Teen Night Out, LYP 7 p.m. College Road Trip (G) 7:30 p.m. Cosmic Bowling 10 p.m. Semi-Pro (R)	9 a.m. Paintball, ODR 9 a.m. \$.25 games all day, Bowling Alley 10 a.m. Post Office open 2 p.m. Cave Exploring, ODR 7 p.m. College Road Trip (G) 7 p.m. Teen Night Out, LYP 7:30 p.m. Cosmic Bowling 10 p.m. Jumper (PG-13)	9 a.m. Evangelical Service 10 a.m. Boat trip around the island, ODR 10:30 a.m. Mass Noon Praise Service 2 p.m. Open 9-Ball tournament, community center 2 p.m. College Road Trip (G) 7 p.m. Jumper (PG-13)	10 a.m. Thrift Store open 10 a.m. Library open 11 a.m. Cantina-Style lunch, TORC 11 a.m. Tradewinds Dining Facility offers daily lunch specials 11:30 a.m. Daily Mass 4 p.m. Oceanview delivers on base	9 a.m. Power of attorneys on a walk-in basis until 11 a.m. 10 a.m. EDIS Playgroup, LYP 10 a.m. Golf coaches meeting 5:30 p.m. Mongolian BBQ, TORC 5:30 p.m. Napkin Art class, 2-day class, \$25 6 p.m. AWANA, chapel	10 a.m. Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony 11 a.m. Bowl w/ your Boss special 5 p.m. Family Night, bowling alley 5:30 p.m. Napkin Art Class, 2-day class 6 p.m. BINGO sales, game begins at 7:15 p.m., TORC 7 p.m. LYP Family Dinner	Portuguese Holiday AAFES, community center, library, Oceanview and commissary closed 7 a.m. Fitness month informational booth 9:30 a.m. Mothers of Preschoolers, chapel 7 p.m. Semi-Pro (R)

Volunteer Recognition

Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony: 10 to 11 a.m. Wednesday at the TORC. Open to all volunteers.

Job Opportunities

OU Site Manager: The University of Oklahoma is seeking applicants for a full-time site manager. Minimum requirements are a bachelor's degree and experience in marketing, public relations and office administration. Prefer 18 months remaining on-site. Submit cover letters and resume by May 9 to Dr. Peggy J. Lerner, European Director, c/o apeuadmin@ou.edu. For details, call DSN 370-6687/6691 or 0049-6221-768118.

Certified Teachers: Lajes E/H School is seeking certified teachers who are interested in being considered for positions for next school year. If interested, or know someone coming into the community who is certified and interested, contact Jane Flores at 535-4151 or 295-57-4151.

NAF Openings: Materials Handler - Warehouse; Rec Aid/Asst, School Age Asst - Youth Center; Child Dev Asst - CDC; Rec Aid - CAC. Details at www.lajes-services.com or by calling 535-5200/6582.

Chapel 535-4211

Women's Bible Study/Lunch: noon Wednesdays.

Singles Bible Study/Dinner: 6 p.m. Thursdays.

Catholic Choir Rehearsals for Mass: 5:30 p.m. Thursdays.

Chancel Choir Rehearsals for the Evangelical Service: 6 p.m. Thursdays.

Protestant Youth of the Chapel Meeting: 6 p.m. Sundays.

Fitness Center 535-6126

Fitness Month: Informational booths from 7 to 10 a.m. Thursday, in the lobby.

The Biggest Loser Incentive Program: Begins Thursday through May 30.
May Fitness Month 5K/10K Run: 7:45 a.m. May 2.

Power Lifting Competition: 10 a.m. May 3. Deadline to sign up is Apr. 30.

Softball Season: Begins May 5.

Golf Season: Begins May 7.

Sports Advisory Meeting: 10 a.m. May 8 in the community center.

Survivor Challenge: 7:15 a.m. May 16.

Base Housing Excellence

Base Housing Facilities Excellence Day: May 2 and 3. Housing Maintenance will be giving away flowers, plants, shrubs, rocks for bordering, grass seed, top soil and will have tools to loan for planting, including shovels, rakes, hoes and a lot more. Free to base housing residents. Stop by Bldg. T-521 to pick up the available products; give name, address and amounts taken. Due to availability there may be limits set for even distribution and to give each person a fair chance. 535-6251/6489.

LYP 535-3273

April is Month of the Military Child and the A&FRF wants to celebrate with you and your children at the LYP Family Dinner Night, 7 p.m. Wednesday. The cost is on us for the first 25 families to sign-up. Contact 535-3273 by COB Monday.

Portuguese Holiday

The commissary, community center and AAFES facilities will be closed Thursday for the Portuguese Labor Day.

Arts & Crafts 535-3909

Beginner's Beading Class: Noon, May 8 and 5:30 p.m. May 13. 5:30 p.m. June 3 and noon June 5. Cost is \$48. Each class is two and a half hours.

Intermediate Beading Class: May 15 and 20; June 17 and 19. Cost is \$36, two-hour class. If you took the beginner's class you will have all the tools, bring them with you. Tuesday classes start at 5:30 p.m. Thursday classes start at noon.

Advanced Beading Class: May 27 and 29; June 24 and 26. \$36, two-hour class. All materials provided. Minimum age is 14. Deadline to sign up is three days prior. Tuesday classes start at 5:30 p.m. Thursday classes start at noon. Sign up at the Arts & Crafts Center, Bldg. T-319.

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.

Pet/House Sitter Wanted In Porto Martins: Are you tired of the dorm? Want to live in a real house sometimes? We are looking for a responsible person or couple to stay with our pets, 7 well-behaved, indoor/outdoor dogs, when we go on vacation or for long weekends. There are 4 big dogs and 3 small dogs, some with special needs. They love to play and walk/run but also like to settle in and watch some TV before bed. We are hoping to find a "permanent" sitter to establish a relationship with them and us before we go away. Salary negotiable. Please email: mayhewdriver@yahoo.com for an appointment

For Sale: 1995 Mitsubishi Mirage 87K miles. Automatic transmission, A/C, CD player. Inspection good until May 09. New muffler 06, catalytic converter and battery 07. Great Condition. Available May 7. \$2,500 Call Patti at 535-3688.

Amazing Nanny Available: If you are looking for a warm-hearted, caring and loving Nanny, then look no further. Iria has more than 27 years of experience. She has truly been a gift from above for us over the past 2 years. Especially great for dual-military or single parents. She's available anytime, day or night. Call AJ or Lori at 295-549-604 or 963-135-463.

For Sale: 1990 Chevy S10, 4.3L V6 4X4, Great truck! \$1200 OBO 295-549-120.