



## Command of 65th MSG changes hands

By Tech. Sgt.

Christin Michaud

65th ABW Public Affairs

Col. Roderick Dorsey, Jr. took command of the 65th Mission Support Group from Col. Mark Davis during a change of command ceremony Wednesday in which Col. JL Briggs, 65th Air Base Wing commander, presided.

Airman from across squadrons in the Mission Support Group stood in formation to welcome the new commander and say farwell to Colonel Davis and his family, who are PCSing to Colorado.

The incoming commander said the most rewarding part

of being a commander to him, is taking care of the people.

Colonel Dorsey looks forward to take on new and vital roles in (the Global War on Terrorism), the stand-up of AFRICOM and continuing support to the Global Reach mission," he said. "I can't wait to see how we are leveraged to improve national and international capability."

Under his command of the 65th MSG, the colonel's goal is to "maintain the high impact of this extraordinary team and help people grow personally and professionally," he said.



Col. JL Briggs, 65th Air Base Wing commander, passes the 65th Mission Support Group guidon to Col. Roderick Dorsey during Wednesday's change of command ceremony. (Photo by Guido Melo)

### 65th Mission Support Group

#### Meet the New Commander

**Rank/Full name:** Col. Roderick E. Dorsey, Jr.  
**Hometown:** Muskegon, Mich.  
**Time in service:** 23 years  
**Previous assignment:** Pentagon  
**Job at previous assignment:** Director, LeMay Center (AF Doctrine Center) Liaison  
**Hobbies:** SCUBA, golf, spending time with my family

**Who's your role model? My Dad Why?** He has a gift of wisdom and perspective that has made his life and impact on others around him truly remarkable.

**What is the best advice you ever received?** "Always stay with the boat" (long story)

**What else do you want our readers to know about you?** You have got to meet my family!

## Lajes' Freedom Fest scheduled for 4th of July

By Tech. Sgt. Christin Michaud

65th ABW Public Affairs

Lajes will celebrate Independence Day with it's annual Freedom Fest event which begins at 2 p.m. July 4 at the Security Forces Softball Fields. The event, sponsored by the 65th Services Squadron, is open to all ID card holders.

The 65th SVS will have a stage set up for several entertainment events throughout the day. Entertainment will be presented by DJ Scooby, Polynesian Dancers, FudgeKnuckle and Evan Goodrow. There will be food booths sponsored by private organizations with a variety of

food available for purchase. Additionally, the TORC will sponsor a beverage booth. Children's activities will include a kid's fun center with inflatables, clowns and face painting.

The fireworks show will begin at 10:30 p.m. Spectators are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets for the show.

Shuttles will run from 4 p.m. from the commissary to the event every 30 minutes through midnight. Additionally, Gate 4, the gate to housing will have extended hours that evening and will remain open until midnight.

The following events will take place:

4 p.m. Freedom Fest begins with DJ

Scooby

4 p.m. Kid's fun center and games open

6 p.m. "Moku O Ke Pana" Polynesian

Dancers begin

7 p.m. FudgeKnuckle (Band performance)

7:55 p.m. Col. Briggs opening remarks

8 p.m. AFE presents Evan Goodrow



UCI Countdown

72

Days remaining until Lajes Field's Unit Compliance Inspection



# Voting is your right, duty

By Col. JL Briggs  
65th Air Base Wing commander

Happy Independence Day Lajes! Our nation will celebrate its 232nd Birthday next Friday. I recently finished reading a biography of Benjamin Franklin from our awesome library. If you haven't been in there yet this summer, you are the worse for it. The staff are pro's and the opportunities are unlimited when you unlock the power of information there. Take me up on it and I know you won't be disappointed. Anyway back to my article on Independence.

When I read Benjamin Franklin's autobiography, I was reminded just how audacious, brilliant and committed our Founding Fathers were to the idea that every individual has worth and should be represented when the government makes decisions about their lives. Individual freedom and responsibility were the hallmarks of the decision for Independence.

That same idea is alive and well here in the 65th Air Base Wing. Everyone has worth. Regardless of your race; creed, nationality, religious affiliation, height, sex or whatever else makes you the individual you are today — you have individual worth. We value you for what you bring to the table in terms of integrity, commitment to others, devotion to your passions and mission accomplishment. Folks who make a difference, like our Founding Fathers, are those who see what needs to be done and simply do it. One of my favorite Benjamin Franklin quotes relates to the attitude you bring to any situation.

*"Any fool can criticize, condemn and complain and most fools do."*

Franklin was calling out his own friends and colleagues in colonial leadership for just sitting and complaining about circumstances instead of taking action. At Lajes, we have a wonderful community with heroes that step up every day and fill the needs of those around them. Be a part of the solution to issues with the talents you bring to the table instead of just a reporter of events around you. Now, let's get back to Independence.

When victory came at Yorktown in 1781, the burden of developing a workable constitution took another six full years. Democracy has always been hard work. History has shown no better system for unleashing human potential and probably no messier way to do it. Our nation is in the middle of an exciting Presidential campaign where barriers are

being broken and new leaders emerging. The world is watching who we select as our next leader because that person will eventually have an effect on them. Your responsibility is to make the effort to get informed and make a choice. You need to vote. Contact your unit voting assistance officer, get registered, and get an absentee ballot. Benjamin Franklin would agree.

*"A nation of well informed men who have been taught to know and prize the rights which God has given them cannot be enslaved. It is in the region of ignorance that tyranny begins."*

Informed voters are a powerful force. Become one.

Finally, when the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776, the famous line: "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" became a rallying cry for the hard years of war ahead of the new nation. There was no guarantee of success when we took those first incredible steps on our own. We became responsible for our own actions as a people. We would succeed or fail based on the choices we made, the attitude we had, and the risks we were willing to take to live a better life. Our indomitable American spirit is the same today. We look challenges in the eye and move forward. We choose to work for the greater good and sacrifice our own desires to bring peace and prosperity to those around us. It is a choice. Benjamin Franklin was wise enough to remind our new nation about how important personal choices are when he said:

*"The Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself."*

You see, most of success (and happiness) in life is a choice. We choose to worry and complain about things or we choose to do the things we can about them. We choose to be responsible or we choose to blame others. We choose anger or we choose forgiveness. The Founding Fathers set our nation on a course of greatness over two hundred years ago based on the simple notion the people have worth. People can define their own future by being knowledgeable of the world around them. People can choose their happiness by being involved in solutions and working to define the common good.

On this Independence Day, I choose to be a proud American who will continue to work for the idea that you matter. Join me.

**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*



**Col. JL Briggs**

*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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## Good to Know

### Swimming Pool guidelines for housing

Only above ground swimming pools are authorized in base housing. The maximum size is 6 feet in diameter with a maximum depth of 3 feet. For safety reasons, pools must be emptied when not in use. This includes kiddie pools. Additionally, lawns must be returned to their original condition when the pool is removed if there is any damage. Contact the legal office at 535-3546 regarding liabilities before installing a pool.

### Crossroads Xtra

The *Crossroads Xtra* will not be published July 4. The next issue is July 11. Please visit [www.lajes.af.mil](http://www.lajes.af.mil) for news or stories.

### AB4 Open House

Air Base No. 4 will host an Open House Sunday as part of the Portuguese Air Force's 56th anniversary celebration, which is taking place in the Azores this year.

The following is the program for the base's open house: (All activities will take place on the flightline by the terminal)

10 a.m. – Rides in the Portuguese Air Police's Armored vehicles

11 a.m. – Air show featuring the Portuguese Air Force's Air Demonstration Team Asas de Portugal (Wings of Portugal)

Noon – Incentive flights in the Casa 212 Aviocar

3 p.m. – Rides in the Portuguese Air Police's Armored vehicles.

3:40 p.m. – Demonstration of rescue of F-16 pilots with the support of EH-101 helicopter, Casa 212 and C-130 aircraft

4 p.m. – Air show featuring the Portuguese Air Force's Air Demonstration Team "Asas de Portugal (Wings of Portugal)

4:30 p.m. – Military Tattoo by Portuguese Air Force Band

5 p.m. – Incentive flights in the Casa 212 Aviocar

There will be an exposition in the Portuguese Terminal Building featuring several Base organizations.

Some Portuguese Air Force aircraft will also be on static display next to the Portuguese Terminal Building.

Additionally, the Portuguese Air Force Band will give a concert at 9:30 p.m. Wednesday at Praia da Vitoria's Theater.

# Hero's Highway: Comm Airman helps wounded

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

Master Sgt. Walter Fichte, 65th Communications Squadron, is going the extra mile on his deployment in Iraq. When he's not doing his day job as the Transmissions Systems Superintendent, he's volunteering at Hero's Highway.

Hero's Highway is a breezeway that bridges the helicopter landing pad with the 332nd Contingency Aeromedical Staging Facility in Balad Air Base, Iraq. The CASF serves as a transition point for medical evacuations from Iraq.

The tent known as Hero's Highway has a flag posted on the inner roof so injured troops brought in on litters for medical treatment will know they are in an American area when they see the stars and stripes.

As a volunteer, Sergeant Fichte helps transport wounded people.

"We standby at the hospital until a helicopter or ambulance comes in," he explained. From there volunteers transport patients to the emergency room. Sometimes they are Americans – other times, Iraqi.

Knowing they are making a difference can be rewarding. "The hospital has a 98 percent survival rate, and most do make it," he explained. However, not everyone does. During one of his volunteer shifts, three Iraqi police came in, and one didn't make it. "We put him in a body bag and took him to the morgue," said Sergeant Fichte.

"The Hero's Highway volunteers are out there everyday to help save lives," said Sergeant Fichte.

The CASF treats patients to prepare them for flight for definitive care or to their home station.

In addition to helping unload patients who need treatment from forward locations, Sergeant Fichte and other volunteers also take the wounded to the plane that will take the patients to additional care and even home.

He decided to volunteer when the person he replaced, took him to Hero's Highway. "It put everything in perspective," said Sergeant Fichte. "The best days are when you do nothing – the time you're standing by – no one got hurt. Other days are busy."

In addition to his normal duties, this Sergeant spends his off-duty time going to the extra mile at Hero's Highway.

## Asas de Portugal – Wings of Portugal

Portuguese Air Force's Air Demonstration Team Asas de Portugal (Wings of Portugal) will perform at 11 a.m. and again at 4 p.m. Sunday during the Air Base No. 4 Open House. The schedule of events for the open house is listed left in the Good to Know column. (Photo by Guido Melo)





| Today  | Saturday  | Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| <p><b>11 a.m.</b> Red Pin Games, bowling alley</p> <p><b>1 p.m.</b> Bundles for Babies, A&amp;FRC</p> <p><b>6 p.m.</b> Build Your Own Pasta Buffet, TORC</p> <p><b>7 p.m.</b> Speed Racer (PG)</p> <p><b>7 p.m.</b> Teen Night Out, LYP</p> <p><b>7 p.m.</b> Heart's Apart Event, community center</p> <p><b>10 p.m.</b> Made of Honor (PG-13)</p> | <p><b>8:45 a.m.</b> Meet for HAWC Organic Produce tour, commissary</p> <p><b>10 a.m.</b> Kid's vs. parents kickball, SFS field</p> <p><b>11 a.m.</b> Colossal Cookie Contest, community center</p> <p><b>2:30 p.m.</b> 25 cents per game, bowling alley</p> <p><b>7 p.m.</b> Speed Racer (PG)</p> <p><b>10 p.m.</b> Made of Honor (PG-13)</p> | <p><b>9 a.m.</b> Evangelical Service</p> <p><b>9 a.m.</b> CCD</p> <p><b>10 a.m.</b> Air base No. 4 Open House begins, Portuguese Terminal</p> <p><b>10:30 a.m.</b> Mass</p> <p><b>Noon</b> Praise Service</p> <p><b>2 p.m.</b> Speed Racer (PG)</p> <p><b>2:30 p.m.</b> 25 cents per game, bowling alley</p> <p><b>7 p.m.</b> Made of Honor (PG-13)</p> | <p><b>6 a.m.</b> Oceanview open for breakfast</p> <p><b>10 a.m.</b> Library open - check out a book and earn Extreme Summer points</p> <p><b>11 a.m.</b> Dining Facility features lunch specials</p> <p><b>5:20 p.m.</b> Body Sculpting Class, fitness center</p> <p><b>6 p.m.</b> Spin Class, fitness center cycle room</p> | <p><b>10 a.m.</b> EDIS Playgroup, LYP</p> <p><b>10 a.m.</b> Thrift Store now open Tuesdays</p> <p><b>1 p.m.</b> Seamstress Available, community center</p> <p><b>5:20 p.m.</b> Step Class, fitness center</p> <p><b>5:30 p.m.</b> Mongolian BBQ, TORC</p> <p><b>6 p.m.</b> Spin class, fitness center cycle room</p> | <p><b>8:30 a.m.</b> Coffee and Donuts, TORC</p> <p><b>9 a.m.</b> Mandatory pre-separation counseling, A&amp;FRC</p> <p><b>10 a.m.</b> Thrift Store open</p> <p><b>10:30 a.m.</b> Beginner Publisher, A&amp;FRC</p> <p><b>Noon</b> Pool open</p> <p><b>6:30 p.m.</b> 35 cents each for wings, TORC</p> | <p><b>9:30 a.m.</b> Stars &amp; Shirts Golf Tournament</p> <p><b>10:30 a.m.</b> Intermediate Publisher, A&amp;FRC</p> <p><b>Noon</b> Pool open</p> <p><b>2 p.m.</b> Thrift Store open until 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>7 p.m.</b> Speed Racer (PG)</p> <p><b>9 p.m.</b> Chili Dog &amp; Karaoke, TORC</p> |

## Community Events

**Sanjoaninas Events:** Today: 2 p.m. – Volleyball tournament (municipal pavilion); 6:30 p.m. – Street bullfight (Avenida Infante Dom Henrique); 9:30 p.m. – Ethnographic parade (main street); and 11:30 p.m. – Concert by Portuguese rock band "Clã" (Angra pier)

Saturday: 2 p.m. – Volleyball tournament (municipal pavilion); 6:30 p.m. – Arena bullfight (bullring); 9:30 p.m. – Parade of folklore bands (main street); and 11:30 p.m. – Concert by Portuguese singer Luis Represas (Angra pier)

Sunday: 2 p.m. – Volleyball tournament (municipal pavilion); 9 p.m. – Parade of marching bands (main street) and Midnight – Fireworks over Angra bay (Schedule subject to change.)

**Bullfights:** 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Port of Porto Martins; 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Santa Rita Hill (just before AFN Station); 6:30 p.m. Monday, Santa Rita (past AFN Station); and 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Vila Nova.

**Air Base No. 4 Open House:** AB4 will host an Open House Sunday. See the schedule on page 3.

**Portuguese Air Force Band:** The Portuguese Air Force Band will give a concert at Praia da Vitoria's Theater July 2 at 9:30 p.m.

**USAFE Band Performance:** The Wings of Dixie, will perform at 8:30 p.m. July 5, at marina in Praia.

## HAWC 535-3889

**Organic Market Tours:** The HAWC is sponsoring Organic Market Tours on the last Saturday of every month. June's tour will meet at 8:45 a.m. Saturday in the commissary parking lot. Ensure Euro is brought if planning to purchase fruit or vegetables at the market. For more information, call 535-4292.

## Next Week at the Movies

**July 4:** 7 p.m. Iron Man (PG-13); 10 p.m. What Happens In Vegas (PG-13)

**July 5:** 7 p.m. What Happens In Vegas; 10 p.m. Iron Man

**July 6:** 2 p.m. What Happens In Vegas; 7 p.m. Iron Man

**July 10:** 7 p.m. Iron Man

## A&FRC 535-4138

### Transition Assistance Program Seminar:

Prepare for transition to the civilian sector at this workshop from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. July 16-18 at the A&FRC. TAP is a workshop for Military members, dependants, and civilians who are interested in retiring or separating. This 3-day workshop offers job hunting skills, resume building, tips on preparing for an interview and VA benefits.

**Credit Management Workshop:** 9 a.m. July 10.

**Beginner Publisher:** 2 p.m. July 9.

**Intermediate Publisher:** 2 p.m. July 10.

## Job Opportunities

**NAF Openings:** Animal Caretaker-Groomer, Club Operations Assistant, Materials Handler, CDC Program Assistant and Youth Center: Recreation Aid, Recreation Assistant, School Age Program Assistant. For details, visit <http://www.lajes-services.com/hro.htm>.

**Certified Teachers:** Lajes E/H School is seeking certified teachers for positions next year. For details, call 535-4151.

**Clerical/Teacher Aides:** Lajes E/H School anticipates clerical and teacher aide openings for next school year. Anyone who has not already submitted an application and is interested in applying may call 535-4151.

## Stars & Shirts Golf Tourney

**4-Man Shot Gun/Best Ball Golf Tournament:** There will be a golf tournament at 9:30 a.m. Thursday at The Terceira Island Golf Club. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$25 plus green fees (green fees obtained through outdoor rec). Limited to 20 teams. To register or for more information, visit <http://www.golfdigestplanner.com/6553-LajesStarsandShirtsGolf/>.

## Blood Drive

**Pint Glass for a Pint:** The 65th Medical Group will host a blood drive July 11. Donors will meet at the lab at 9 a.m. and travel to Angra to donate. Anyone interested in participating should contact the lab at 535-3685. Spouses, and/or other dependents 18 years of age, are welcome to donate. Donors will receive a 65th ABW pint glass in exchange for blood.

## TORC 535-3202

**Club Membership Drive:** Air Force Clubs are inviting all non-members to sign up free with no due payments for six months. For details, call 535-3202.

## 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 when items have been sold. Lajes personnel may also post ads at [Lajesads.com](http://Lajesads.com). This site is not affiliated with the Crossroads.

Wanted: Retired military couple looking to rent a room, house/pet sit while you are on leave, or work in exchange for board somewhere in the Praia area, mid July to mid-Sept. Please e-mail [banjodan@hotmail.com](mailto:banjodan@hotmail.com)

Wanted: Want to buy a reliable scooter upon arrival to Lajes mid Jul. Electric start. Must be in cond that can be reg/operated on base. Reply to Dan: [banjodan@hotmail.com](mailto:banjodan@hotmail.com)