



## Team Lajes bids farewell to Col. JL Briggs and his family



Lajes Airmen lined up to salute Col. JL Briggs, 65th Air Base Wing commander, one final time before his departure Wednesday. Colonel Briggs was selected to be the Executive Officer to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe. (Photo by 1st Lt. Geroge Tobias. Inset by Guido Melo)

## Commander shares thanks, message for Team Lajes

To the men and women of Lajes Field,

Margaret and I want to say thank you for a wonderful assignment.

You all mean the world to us as Airmen, civilians, local nationals, families and friends.

Your amazing efforts prove a small but focused team can accomplish great things together. Never forget the person on your left as you strive to do your very best at our four mission pillars: moving iron, global comm., trained and ready Airmen, and great bilateral relations.

We will miss this wonderful Azorean island and culture.

Our Portuguese hosts have reaffirmed in our minds the special relationship we have had for centuries. Be good international Airmen demonstrating the very best of America everyday.

Finally, be proud of our Air Force and excited for the future. We will lead USAFE in challenging times by unlocking the potential of each of our folks. Respect and continue to challenge one another to reach higher than before. We believe in you and know Lajes is in great hands.

God's Speed,  
Col. and Mrs. JL Briggs

### E-5 promotion results released publicly Wednesday

Staff Sergeant Promotion results will be released at 8 a.m. CST Wednesday. The following web sites will be available for AF member's and the local community to access the promotion list:

AFPC Homepage "Spotlight": <http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

Enlisted Promotions Splash Page:  
<http://ask.afpc.randolph.af.mil/EProm/default.asp?prods3=5&prods2=2&prods1=1>

AFPC Public Web Site: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>



**UCI Countdown**  
**23**

*Days remaining  
until Lajes Field's  
Unit Compliance  
Inspection*

**Lajes Priority #1: Move Iron to  
and from the Fight**



## Service demographics offer snapshot of force

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force Personnel Center here recently published its demographics report offering a snapshot of the service's active-duty and civilian force. This data is current as of June 30 and can also be found at Air Force demographics. <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/library/airforcepersonnelstatistics.asp>

Statistics are rounded to the nearest tenth.

Active-duty demographics

Snapshot of the Air Force

- 324, 191 individuals are on active duty

— 65,690 officers and 258,501 enlisted personnel

- The Air Force has 13,202 pilots, 4,200 navigators, 1,260 air battle managers and 30,771 nonrated line officers in the grades of lieutenant colonel and below

### Age

- The average age of the officer force is 35; for enlisted Airmen, it's 29

- Of the force, 38.47 percent are below the age of 26

— 44.54 percent of enlisted Airmen are below 26 versus 14.58 percent of officers

### Gender

- 19.61 percent of the force are women

— 18.26 percent of the officers are women and 19.95 percent of the enlisted corps are women

— 56.93 percent of the female officers are line officers; 43.07 percent are nonline

- 84.78 percent of the male officers are line officers; 15.22 percent are nonline

- The population of women is 63,570

- Women first entered pilot training in 1976, navigator training in 1977 and fighter pilot training in 1993

— Currently, there are 596 (4.18 percent) female pilots, 235 (5.18 percent) female navigators and 149 air battle managers (11.31 percent)

### Race of Airmen

The following percentages, which are self-reported, cover Air Force military members' racial information.

- 0.62 percent reported their race to be American Indian or native Alaskan

- 2.46 percent reported their race to be Asian

- 14.69 percent reported their race to be black or African American

- 0.95 percent reported their race to be native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

- 73.64 percent reported their race to be white

- 1.84 percent reported their race to be more than one of the categories

- 5.8 percent declined to report their race

### Marital status

- 60.38 percent of the current force is married, which is 71.35 percent of the officers and 57.59 percent of enlisted Airmen

- There are 19,298 couples in the Air Force with both spouses in the military

— 1,382 of these are married to members of other military services

### Family members

- Active-duty members support 492,115 fam-

ily members

— 387,546 family members reside in an Airman's household

### Overseas

- 21.14 percent of the current force is assigned overseas (including Alaska and Hawaii)

— 9,936 officers and 58,599 enlisted personnel

### Total active federal military service

- The average total active federal military service is 11 years for officers and 9 years for enlisted Airmen

### Officer academic education

- 51.36 percent of the officers have advanced or professional degrees

— 40.52 percent have master's degrees, 9.47 percent have professional degrees and 1.37 percent have doctorate degrees

— 25.13 percent of company grade officers have advanced degrees, 18.4 percent have master's degrees, 6.46 percent have professional degrees and 0.28 percent have doctorate degrees

— 85.43 percent of field grade officers have advanced degrees, 69.18 percent have master's degrees, 13.46 percent have professional degrees and 2.79 percent have doctorate degrees

### Enlisted academic education

- 71.37 percent have some semester hours towards a college degree

— 77 percent of Airmen

— 78 percent of NCOs

— 27 percent of senior NCOs

- 17.72 percent have an associate's degree or equivalent semester hours

— 1.7 percent of Airmen

— 18 percent of NCOs

— 50 percent of senior NCOs

- 5.17 percent have a bachelor's degree

— 1.7 percent of Airmen

— 3.8 percent of NCOs

— 18 percent of senior NCOs

- 0.82 percent have a master's degree

— .01 percent of Airmen

— .38 percent of NCOs

— 4.3 percent of senior NCOs

- .01 percent have a professional or doctorate degree

### Component

- 96.9 percent of the officers have a regular commission

— 97.01 percent of the line officers have a regular commission

### Source of commission

- 20.68 percent of the officers were commissioned through the Air Force Academy, 42.65 percent through Reserve Officer Training Corps and 19.34 percent through Officer Training School.

— The remaining 17.32 percent were commissioned through other sources (direct appointment, etc.).

For more information, go to Air Force Personnel Statistics <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/demographics>.

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. Paul Suarez**

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Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



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

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# Hearts Apart, programs support families

Being stationed on a tiny rock in the middle of the Atlantic does not alleviate the looming fact for families that deployments are a way of life in the Air Force. Deployments can be a trying time for everybody in the family; fortunately, the Airman and Family Readiness Center offers programs to alleviate the chaos to those left behind.

Hearts Apart is one of many programs families can take advantage of while the military member is deployed. Each squadron adopts a month and provides activities for the families of deployed personnel. "This is a great program for spouses and their children who are in the same situation to hang out together doing fun activities supporting each other knowing that they are not alone," said Tech. Sgt. Edward Daniels, Readiness NCO.

The next Hearts Apart Event will be from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 30 at the chapel fellowship hall. Snacks and pizza will be served.

Additional family readiness programs at the disposal of families include:

**Hearts Apart E-mail:** A service for military members, spouses and DOD civilians to stay in touch during deployments/TDYs. The Airman and Family Readiness Center has full internet access available for use from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Hearts Apart Partner Discount Card:** Provides discount coupons at for Lajes Ball Park Bowling Center, AAFES Theater, Auto Hobby Shop and the Oceanview Island Grill.

**Contact Calls During Deployments:** Unit Key Spouses and Family Readiness staff members make phone

calls throughout the separation period to families to see how they are doing and to help when there are special needs or concerns.

**Workshops/Classes:** The Airman and Family Readiness Center offers a variety of skill improvement and consumer information workshops and classes each month. Our monthly calendar is an excellent resource for information on these events and is available by e-mail from several sources and posted at the A&FRC.

**Give Parents a Break Program:** Funded by Air Force Aid Society, this program provides childcare the last Friday of the month or if it's a holiday or down day, the second to last Friday of the month from 6-10 p.m. at the Child Development Center or Youth Center. Occasionally, care will be offered from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on a Saturday. Children 6 weeks to 12 years old are eligible for care. Referral vouchers are necessary. Individuals may contact their first sergeant, command, chaplain, family advocacy personnel, doctor or other medical professional, child development program director, LYP director or A&FRC personnel. The next GPAB is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 30. The schedule for the rest of the year is: September – 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26. October – 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24. November – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29, and December – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday Dec. 20.

**Car Care Because We Care:** Vouchers are available at the A&FRC for a free vehicle safety check, oil and filter change, and lubrication at Island Service Garage during deployments and TDYs lasting 30 days or longer. Vouchers are limited to one per deployment on the

primary vehicle and is sponsored by Air Force Aid Society.

**Air Force Aid Society:** Provides emergency financial assistance. Located in the Airman and Family Readiness Center, Bldg. T-126.

**Spouse Tuition Assistance:** Educational grants are available for college classes for spouses of active duty Air Force personnel. If qualified, call or visit the Education Office, 535-1115, Bldg. T-146, 2nd floor.

**Space-A Travel:** Command-sponsored dependents may travel without the active-duty member accompanying them. Travelers need a command-sponsored certification letter from the active-duty member's commander. Space-A upgrade to CAT IV for all deployments of 120 days or more. For more information, contact the passenger terminal at 535-3227.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Get involved, meet new people, keep up your skills or learn a new one.

**Military Family Life Consultants:** Consultants are available to help service members, spouses, family members, children and staff members address: Deployment and reintegration support, Marriage and relationship issues, Stress and anxiety, Depression, Grief and loss, 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. Contact the A&FRC at 535-4138.

For more information on programs for deployed spouses, call Sergeant Daniels at 535-4138. (Courtesy of the Airman and Family Readiness Center)



On your mark, get set ...



Left: Students from the Child Development Center prepare to race as part of the Snow Cone Olympics Aug. 8. The Olympic event was a family involvement activity for the month. Above: Children from room 4, and their provider Ms. Lili participate in an egg race. (Photos by Tech. Sgt. Christine Michaud).



Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p><b>Portuguese Holiday - The commissary, BX, shoppette, community center, pool, library and housing office will be closed</b></p> <p><b>7 p.m.</b> The Incredible Hulk (PG-13)</p> <p><b>7 p.m.</b> Preteen Social, Bingo and Banana Split, LYP</p> <p><b>10 p.m.</b> The Love Guru (PG-13)</p>	<p><b>10 a.m.</b> Soccer skills assessment age 7-8, LYP field; age 9-10 begins at 11:15 a.m. and age 12-18 begins at 12:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>11 a.m.</b> 3-on-3 Basketball</p> <p><b>11 a.m.</b> Flea market, LYP Gym</p> <p><b>7 p.m.</b> The Incredible Hulk (PG-13)</p> <p><b>10 p.m.</b> The Love Guru (PG-13)</p>	<p><b>9 a.m.</b> Evangelical Service</p> <p><b>9 a.m.</b> CCD</p> <p><b>10:30 a.m.</b> Catholic Mass</p> <p><b>Noon</b> Praise Service</p> <p><b>2 p.m.</b> Bowl for 25 cents each game</p> <p><b>2 p.m.</b> Teen 9-Ball, community center</p> <p><b>2 p.m.</b> The Incredible Hulk (PG-13)</p> <p><b>7 p.m.</b> The Love Guru (PG-13)</p>	<p><b>10 a.m.</b> Library open - new hours begin</p> <p><b>11 a.m.</b> Dining Facility features lunch specials</p> <p><b>11 a.m.</b> Self-pet wash by appointment, \$7, Atlantic Island Kennels</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 open</p> <p><b>Noon</b> New library hours - open noon to 8 p.m. Tues - Thurs</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</p>	<p><b>10 a.m.</b> Thrift Store open for consignments and sales - stop by to shop or volunteer</p> <p><b>Noon</b> Library open until 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>Noon</b> Pool open - enjoy swimming before they close Aug. 25</p> <p><b>5:30 p.m.</b> Metal Embossing Class, (2 days) \$25, Arts &amp; Crafts</p> <p><b>6 p.m.</b> Open Volleyball</p>	<p><b>Noon</b> Pool open</p> <p><b>2 p.m.</b> Thrift Store open until 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>5:30 p.m.</b> Metal Embossing Class, \$25, Arts &amp; Crafts</p> <p><b>7 p.m.</b> The Incredible Hulk (PG-13)</p> <p><b>8 p.m.</b> Ladies Night, TORC</p> <p><b>9 p.m.</b> Chili Dog Special and Karaoke with DJ Scooby, TORC</p>

## Community Events

**International Folklore Festival:** The 24th Annual International Folklore Festival of the Azores is this week. The festival will feature 12 folklore bands, including eight foreign groups from Columbia, France, Italy, Spain, Poland, the Czech Republic, Serbia and Hungary, three from mainland Portugal and one from the Island of Pico. Groups will conclude their performances on the island Aug. 16 at Angra's bullring. Admission is free.

**Bullfights:** 6:30 p.m. today Serra São Tiago (street behind CE compound); 6 p.m. Saturday, Aqualva; and Estrada 25 Abril; 6 p.m. Sunday, Aqualva; and Estrada 25 de Abril; 6 p.m. Monday, Aqualva; and 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aqualva.

## SEPMs

**Special Emphasis Program Managers:** The Civilian Personnel Flight is soliciting interested U.S. civilian or military personnel for subject programs. Responsibilities of SEPMs, instructions and guidelines for applying are available at S:\65 MSS\DPC\Special Emphasis Program Managers.tif.

## Outdoor Recreation

**Free Golf Clinics:** 2 to 4 p.m. Aug. 23 and again Sept. 13. Depart at 1:30 p.m. Transportation and equipment provided. Deadline to sign up is 3 days prior at Bldg. T-319. For more information, call 535-4140.

**On the Water Trips:** 10 a.m. Sunday, Dolphin Watching; Aug. 23 - Boat Trip around Terceira Island; 8 a.m. Aug. 24 - Inshore Fishing Trip. Call 535-4140 for more information or to register.

## Services August Hours

**Bowling Center Hours:** Closed Monday and Tuesdays and open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Sundays.

**Top of the Rock Club Hours:** For the entire month of August, the Enlisted Lounge will be open from 4 to 11 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The Coffee Shop will be open from 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

**Oceanview Closed for Breakfast:** The Oceanview Island Grill will not be open for breakfast for the month of August. The hours for August will be 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

## Youth Sports Physicals

**Youth Sports Physicals:** The 65th Medical Group will conduct sports physicals from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday at the clinic. The deadline to schedule an appointment is Monday. Children 5 and older are required to have a sports physical for youth sports. Call 535-3261.

## Fitness Center 535-6126

**3-on-3 Basketball Tournament:** The fitness center will host a tournament at 11 a.m. Saturday. Deadline to sign up is today.

**Back to School 5K:** 7:15 a.m. Aug. 22.

## Community Center

**Community Center Hours:** Open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Today and Saturday and Tuesday through Aug. 9.

**Flea market:** The fleamarket is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the LYP Gym. Tables cost \$15 to sell items and payment is due at time of registration. Sign up is at the community center. The flea market is held that third Saturday of every month.

## DoDDS

**New School Year:** Aug. 25 is the first day of school for grades 1-12.

**New Student Orientation:** Parents with children new to Lajes American School are asked to call 535-4151 to let the school's staff know as soon as possible what grade their child will be enrolling in for the 2008-2009 school year. An orientation for new students is scheduled for 3 p.m. Monday in the school cafeteria. For details, call 535-4151 or e-mail [mary.waller@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:mary.waller@eu.dodea.edu)

**Free/Reduced Lunches:** Applications can be obtained at the MSG office in Bldg. T-100, the A&FRC or the school offices. Call 535-6104 or e-mail [tammy.williams@lajes.af.mil](mailto:tammy.williams@lajes.af.mil) for an electronic version. Families who participated last year need to re-apply.

**School Bus Transportation:** Families who live off base should e-mail [tammy.williams@lajes.af.mil](mailto:tammy.williams@lajes.af.mil) or call 535-6104 for a 2008-2009 school bus registration form.

## Breastfeeding Support

**Breastfeeding Network Support Group:** 11 a.m. to noon, Tuesdays beginning Aug. 26 (after playgroup) in the LYP. This is for mothers who want to learn more about breastfeeding or want to support other moms with breastfeeding. Expecting moms are also encouraged. For more information, call 961-674-454 or e-mail [alygirly@gmail.com](mailto:alygirly@gmail.com).

### 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 or the Air Force.