

Crossroads



Vol. 13, No. 34 • Sept. 5, 2008

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

UCI Countdown 2

Days remaining
until Lajes Field's
Unit Compliance
Inspection



Lajes Priority #4:
Bilateral Relations

Weekend Weather Forecast

Today

Rain

High 78
Low 68



Saturday

Scattered clouds

High 78
Low 69



Sunday

Chance of Rain

High 75
Low 66



Senior leaders meet to discuss, decide way ahead for force

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Senior Air Force leaders gathered for a strategic summit Aug. 27 at Bolling Air Force Base to discuss the way ahead for the Air Force as a part of the August emphasis on strategic planning.

"The summit allows us to identify issues that need senior leader review and decide on matters affecting the entire Air Force," Acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley said.

The group — including Secretary Donley, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley, assistant secretaries, major command commanders and Headquarters Air Force staff — discussed near-term issues facing the Air Force. Decisions coming out of the summit include a new mission statement for the Air Force.

The new mission statement returns the Air Force to familiar ground. "The mission of the United States Air Force is to fly, fight and win...in air, space and cyberspace."

While it borrows from the previous statement, this one is shorter, "simple and easy to understand," General Schwartz said. "This is who we are. It's what motivates us and drives us to serve."

The group also decided to halt the initiative to reorganize maintenance functions into operations groups.



Acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley and Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz discuss conference items Aug. 27, during a strategic summit at Bolling Air Force Base, D.C. (U.S. Air Force photo/Andy Morataya)

Previous global wing reorganization plans included aligning fighter and combat search and rescue maintenance units with their flying squadrons, and forming materiel groups that would encompass maintenance, logistics and aerial port squadrons. Today's decision means maintenance groups will remain as is.

"This will reduce organizational turmoil as we focus on winning today's fight," General

See **WAY AHEAD** on page 3

Game On: UCI begins Monday

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

Lajes' Unit Compliance Inspection begins here Monday.

Ninety inspectors will arrive on Terceira between Saturday and Sunday.

The inspectors will be welcomed with an official inbrief by Lajes Leadership Monday.

The UCI will span a week of thorough review of programs at units across Lajes Field.

In addition to a look at programs and practices, Lajes' will participate in an exercise to test the capability of emergency responders, leadership and the exercise evaluation team.

The vision and goals for the UCI working group were to promote continuity in every work center, bolster mission effectiveness looking for improvement opportunities and instill long-term commitment to excellence, not just short-term compliance, explained Master Sgt. Edgar Robertson.

"We've been working hard and that will show through to the inspectors," he added.

The wing commander echoed that.

"The men and women of Lajes Field are experts at what they do ... and are key to the success of our mission here," said Col. Paul Suarez, 65th Air Base Wing commander.

The colonel looks forward to a successful UCI.

The UCI is scheduled to conclude Sept. 15 with an outbrief.



Health Benefits Awareness month *Make military health benefits work for you*

If you are new to Lajes Field or have recently had a change in your family—such as a move or a new baby—take the time to make sure your military health benefit is up to date. There is no better time than now; September is Health Benefits Awareness month. During the month you will be provided information to increase your awareness of the healthcare benefits and resources available to you. So look for upcoming information or visit your TRICARE Service Center at anytime, we're here to help.

Here are four simple steps you can take right now to ensure easy access to health care when you need it.

Step 1: Verify Eligibility

The first thing to do is make sure the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, better known as DEERS, has complete and current information about you and your family. DEERS is used to determine your eligibility for TRICARE, so it is essential to keep this information up to date. For more information about how and when to update DEERS, go to <http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/overview/Eligibility/DEERS> or contact your local TRICARE Service Center at 295-573-261, opt 4, 2, 1, DSN 535-3261, opt 4, 2, 1.

Step 2: Check Your Coverage

Your TRICARE Service Center can also verify that you and your family members are enrolled in the TRICARE program that best meets your needs. For most active-duty families, TRICARE Prime is the best option, since it provides priority access to the military treatment facility and low costs. However, if you are willing to pay extra for the freedom to choose your host-nation provider, TRICARE Standard may be for you.

You should also check to see that you have the dental coverage you need. Lajes Field currently provides care to family members on a space-available basis, so for many families, the TRICARE Dental Program is an excellent option. For a small monthly premium of \$11.58 for one family member and \$28.95 for multiple family members, the program offers coverage for a wide variety of dental care,

including limited coverage for orthodontics and dental implants. For details, go to www.tricaredentalprogram.com

Step 3: Know How to Get Care

It's important that you and your family members know what to do when you need care. Post the following numbers on or near your telephones at home:

- On-Base Emergency: 911
- Off-Base Emergency: 295-571-911 or 800-211-911 Portuguese Emergency Number: 112
- Nearest 24/7

Emergency Room: Angra do Heroismo Hospital

● Routine Care Appointments: 535-3261 Off-Base 295-573-261

● PCM On-Call (talk to a provider, 24/7): 919-365-999

If you are planning to travel in Europe or to the States, you should contact your local TRICARE Service Center first for important information about getting care while traveling.

Step 4: Get Help When You Need It

Your first step for most questions about your military health benefit is your local TRICARE Service Center. The staff can help you update your enrollment, file claims for host-nation care and more. If you or a family member is admitted to a host-nation hospital, they can also connect you with a Patient Liaison, who can help bridge the language and culture barriers you may encounter

For general information about your local military treatment facility, call 535-3261 or go online to <http://www.lajes.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=8569>.

For information about TRICARE in Europe, go to ww.europe.tricare.osd.mil.

To get general TRICARE information, such as what is and is not covered, visit www.tricare.mil.

Editor's Note: Look for more articles regarding military health benefits this month in future issues or view articles online at www.lajes.af.mil.



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



Col. Paul Suarez

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. Paul Suarez
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



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

The Public Affairs Office (Unit 7710, APO, AE 09720) is located in Bldg. T-100, Room 240.

Submissions can be e-mailed to news@lajes.af.mil or faxed to 535-6326 and are due the Thursday, a week prior to the publication date.

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized weekly publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas.

Contents of the Crossroads are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Editorial Staff

Col. Paul Suarez

Commander, 65th Air Base Wing

1st Lt. George Tobias

Chief, Public Affairs

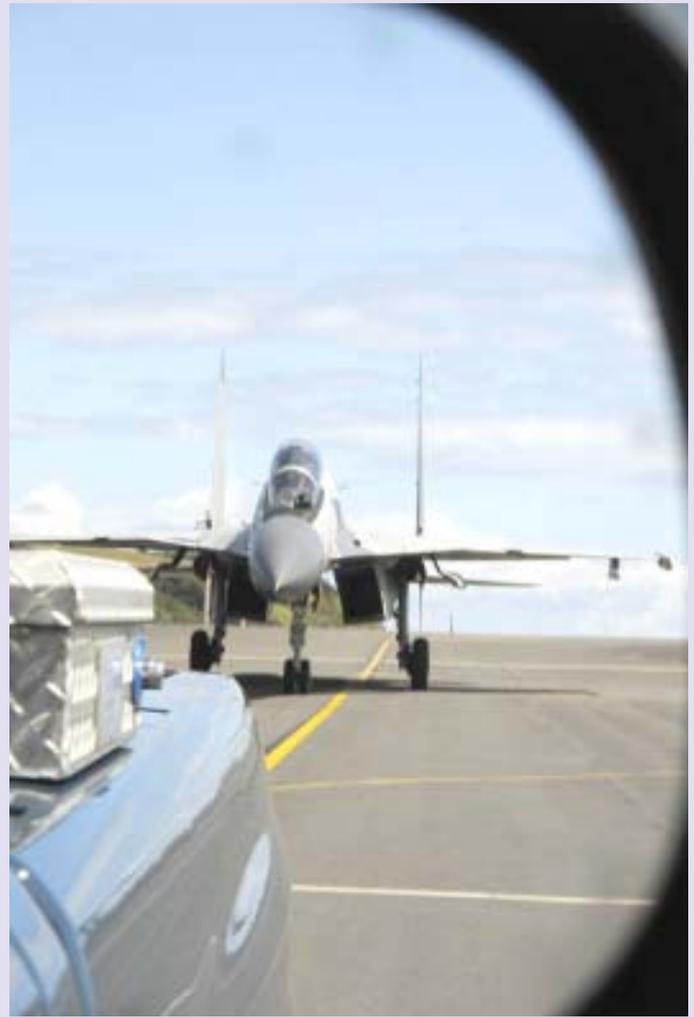
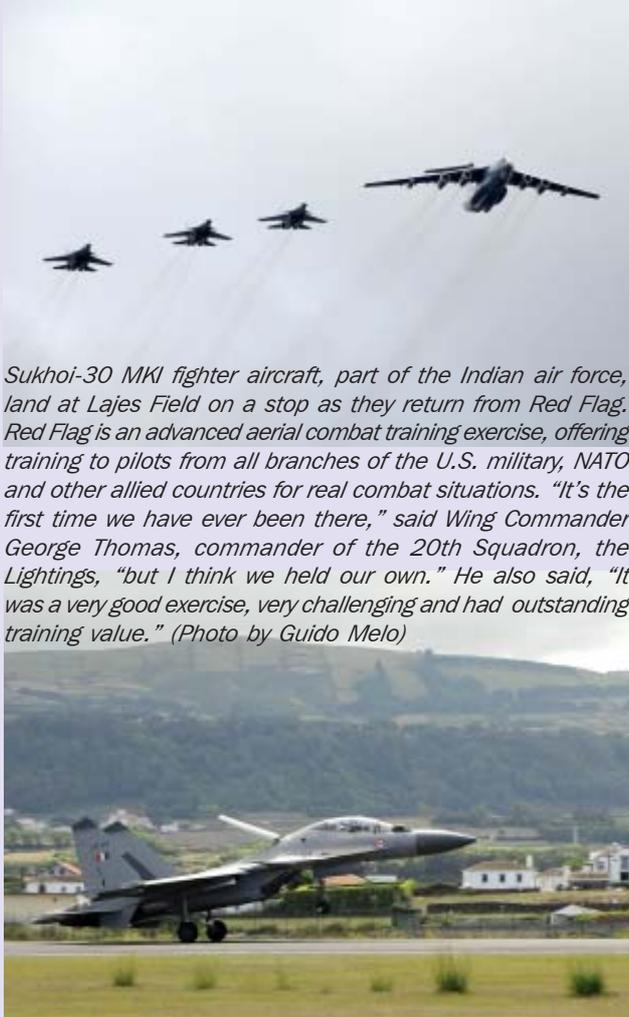
Tech. Sgt. Christin Michaud

NCOIC, Public Affairs

Eduardo Lima

Community Relations Adviser

Indian Air Force stops at Lajes after Red Flag



Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter aircraft, part of the Indian air force, land at Lajes Field on a stop as they return from Red Flag. Red Flag is an advanced aerial combat training exercise, offering training to pilots from all branches of the U.S. military, NATO and other allied countries for real combat situations. "It's the first time we have ever been there," said Wing Commander George Thomas, commander of the 20th Squadron, the Lightnings, "but I think we held our own." He also said, "It was a very good exercise, very challenging and had outstanding training value." (Photo by Guido Melo)

WAY AHEAD continued from page 1

Schwartz said. He went on to say the goal is mission effective combat support and Airmen are accomplishing just that.

"Independent maintenance groups produce professionals with the highest levels of maintenance and logistics competency," he said, "and that translates to mission effectiveness."

Leaders reached consensus that the focus should be on fixing problems Airmen are having with the current uniforms before moving on to new uniforms. The staff will field near-term solutions to correct issues with the Airman Battle Uniform, All Purpose Environmental Clothing System jacket, and physical training gear.

"We will consider all other uniform initiatives after we fix the issues we have now with the uniforms we work in every day," General Schwartz said.

While the strategic summit yielded these decisions, senior leaders focused

their discussion on winning today's fight and addressing the priorities laid out by the acting secretary and the chief in past weeks.

"The priorities — reinvigorating the nuclear enterprise, prevailing in the Global War on Terror, strengthening joint warfighting capabilities, focusing on people and achieving acquisition excellence — are advanced by the decisions reached today," Secretary Donley said.

Senior leaders received an update on nuclear enterprise matters at the event. An additional nuclear summit will be held in mid-September to discuss the nuclear enterprise roadmap. That discussion will include more dialogue on the Air Force's cyber mission.

"Cyber operations remain a critical and growing mission area," Secretary Donley said. "We will continue to develop our cyber capabilities while examining various organizational options."

Leaders also heard progress reports on other mid-term agenda items including Unmanned Aircraft Systems manning initiatives, personnel end strength and Common Battlefield Airman Training.

By the end of the year, the service expects to complete an unmanned aircraft system roadmap and a review of the acquisition enterprise. Senior leaders will meet for Corona Fall in October, where they expect to make more decisions on key subjects.

Underlying all of these issues, Secretary Donley said, is how to ensure the right mix of Airmen remain in uniform. Previous force-shaping initiatives planned for the active-duty force to eventually decrease to 316,000, but in June Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates said the service had been cut too deeply and called for the decrease in Air Force end-strength to stop at 330,000 people.



Mark your calendar

Stand Up to Cancer: More than 50 of the most renowned personalities in TV, film, sports and music will come together to make history in unprecedented television event to raise funds for the fight against cancer at 5 p.m. Saturday on AFN Spectrum or at 6 a.m. at AFN Freedom. For additional viewing times for this and all shows on AFN, visit www.myafn.net.

Armed Forces Voter Week 5K: 10:45 a.m. Saturday at the fitness center. Voter info booths will be available.

Freedom Walk: The Air Force Sergeants Association will host a 2-mile America Supports You Freedom walk at 7 a.m. Sept. 13 at the track. For details, call 535-2255.

Investment Workshop: 11 a.m. Sept. 15, at the A&FRC. Learn about risks vs. return, retirement planning and more. For details, call 535-4138.

Smooth Move: 2 to 4 p.m. Sept. 15 at the A&FRC. For details, call 535-4138.

Transition Assistance Program: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 17-19 at the A&FRC. For details, call 535-4138.

Home Buying Seminar: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sept. 29 at the A&FRC. For details, call 535-4138.

AWANA: AWANA is a non-denominational Bible-centered youth organization for ages 3-18. Registration is 6 to 7 p.m. Sept. 16. in the Chapel Fellowship Hall. AWANA meets at 6 p.m. Tuesdays beginning Oct. 7. Adult Volunteers are needed in all age groups. For more information, call 535-4211 or 295-549-261.

Free Golf Clinics: 2 to 4 p.m. 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 details, call 535-4140.

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 or the Air Force.

Vet Available: We use Vanda, a certified Vet on the island. She has a heart for animals and we give her our highest recommendation. Call her at 964-346-949. For more information, call Peter Doering at 295-903-209

Nanny Available: Any time day or night, Laura has more than 20 years of experience working with children. Call Laura at 295-542-263 or 960-304-256. For more information call Amber Madsen at 295-573-188.

For Sale: Rocker/Glider with Ottoman White (wood) with light blue cushions. \$80. 295-549-819

For Sale: Little Tikes Endless Adventures Adjustable Mountain Climber. Ages 2-6. Slide is adjustable with lower slope on one side for smaller children. Rock climbing wall adjusts 4 ways. Retails for \$299. Asking \$150. Call 295-549-819.

For Sale: White metal toddler bed. \$35 without mattress and \$55 with mattress. Spiderman Toddler Bed bedding set, \$5. 295-549-819

Nanny Available: Most amazing nanny ever. We PCS'd back to Lajes and waited until she was available. She worked for us on our first tour here and has been with us for two years on this assignment. For details, e-mail donna.maler@lajes.af.mil.

At the Movies



Friday

7 p.m. The Dark Knight (PG-13)
10 p.m. Hellboy II: The Golden Army (PG-13)

Saturday

2 p.m. The Dark Knight (PG-13)
7 p.m. Hellboy II: The Golden Army (PG-13)
10 p.m. Journey to the Center of the Earth (PG)

Sunday

2 p.m. Space Chimps (G)
7 p.m. Journey to the Center of the Earth (PG)

Theater Closure:

The theater will close Monday until further notice for renovations.



Biscoitos Wine Fest

The wine festival will take place Saturday in the town of Biscoitos. The festival kicks off at 2:30 p.m. with a parade between the Wine Museum located at Canada do Caldeiro and the vineyards will be invited to help with the picking of the grapes. The parade will then head back to the wine museum where participants can crush the grapes with their bare feet inside a tank in the traditional way it used to be done many years ago. Visitors will also have the opportunity to taste the new wine juice that flows from the wine presses. Members of a local folklore band dressed with traditional costumes will also participate in these events and perform throughout the afternoon.

Street Bullfights

Saturday
Cabo da Praia
São Mateus
Sunday
Cabo da Praia
Vila Nova
Wednesday
Santa Luzia
Thursday
Santa Luzia
Sept. 12
Ribeira Seca



Bullfights begin at 6 p.m.
As a reminder, personnel assigned to Lajes or TDY here may not participate in bullfights.