

# Crossroads



Vol. 13, No. 35 • Sept. 12, 2008

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

## Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha  
Threat Level: Low

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## Weekend Weather Forecast

### Today

Partly Cloudy

High 78  
Low 70



### Saturday

Scattered  
Thunderstorms

High 78  
Low 70



### Sunday

Scattered  
Thunderstorms

High 78  
Low 70



# Big changes afoot at AAFES

By Col. Roderick Dorsey  
65th Mission Support Group  
commander

As you have no doubt noticed, we're getting a new face on our Base Exchange. This is just one of the many changes in the works to improve the level of service that our local AAFES facilities will provide for the Lajes community. I can tell you that this is a well thought out plan that will minimize inconvenience while we are transforming and will have greatly improved options as we all move into fall festivities, Thanksgiving and Christmas. I'll address the big questions that you might have at this point so that you have the complete plan – not just the first building block.

### Q: What are they doing to the front of the BX?

A: Great question – the open lawn and garden area is a great seasonal shopping space but ceases to be of much use to the store during the winter months. The construction under way is designed to give us an additional 600 square feet of enclosed area for merchandise. This will allow us to stock more seasonal items indoors as we move into the fall and winter seasons.

### Q: I heard that there is going to be a Toyland – where will that be and what kind of selection can I expect?

A: As a matter of fact, the new construction is exactly where you will find the Toyland. This space will contain toys, Christmas trees and all of the seasonal items that



The base exchange is undergoing a face lift to allow for more space in a Four Seasons section, including an area for Toyland. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Corey)

you will be looking for. You can expect a holiday opening day when all of this will be available.

### Q: I understand that AAFES is changing their hours – why are they doing that?

A: There are several factors that drove the decision to shift the opening hours for the BX. Most important is that we need to make the facility available during the times when you need it. With the store closing at 6 p.m., there were a lot of instances when our customers were unable to make it to the store before closing due to work, intramural sports or children's activities. Beginning on Oct. 7, the BX will be open until 7 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. In concert we will be closing the store on Mondays (beginning Oct. 6) which will accomplish two things. We will align our opening days with the Commissary and also, provide an opportunity to more thoroughly stock the facility. This should result in improved opportunities to shop and a better selection when you do.

### gency items for my family on Sunday or Monday?

A: We fully understand that "life happens" and you need those emergency items to get you through a day or night. During this process you will see a more robust selection of over-the-counter medication, diapers, baby food and medical supplies that you would need at our Shoppette. Between that, the 24-hour pharmacies downtown and Modelo, no one should be left short.

There are also improvements coming to your BX that aren't visible to the eye but will have a big impact on the quality of merchandise available. AAFES has gone to a new automated ordering system. Ed Hicks, AAFES general manager, and his staff are working closely with the CONUS warehouses to combine this with our delivery cycles to provide improved timing and quantity of the goods you are looking

Q: What if I need emer- **See AAFES on page 3**



# Commander's Perspective: *USAFE – who we are, where we are going*

**By Gen. Roger Brady**  
USAFE commander

I recently passed the six month point of my command of U.S. Air Forces in Europe, and I must say it is an inspiration to see USAFE Airmen and our allies and partner nations in action. I spent almost half my time logging more than 72,500 miles across three continents and 12 countries talking to Airmen and observing a high level of excellence displayed by USAFE's finest. You are the personification of the Air Force's top priorities of establishing and maintaining partnerships to win today's fight, developing and caring for Airmen and modernizing for 21<sup>st</sup> Century excellence.

Whether it is delivering humanitarian supplies to Georgia, supporting U.S. Central Command in Southwest Asia, executing a joint task force effort in support of a presidential visit to Africa or building partnerships throughout the U.S. European Command area of responsibility, USAFE is leading the way for our service and our nation. In fact, 2,500 to 2,700 USAFE Airmen are deployed on any given day winning today's fight and ensuring freedom's future.

USAFE Airmen also cooperate at every level of government and with the militaries of our partner nations in Europe and Africa. USAFE Airmen participate in joint, bilateral and multinational training events and exercises, like MEDFLAG 08 in Mali and Exercise Thracian Spring in Bulgaria. These events help us strengthen the bonds with our allies, increase interoperability and prepare us for tomorrow's challenges.

Each and every day you take care of your fellow Airmen and their families by providing state of the art training and education opportunities and outstanding base support and health care services, all the while staying fit to fight and ready to deploy at a moment's call. All of these things ensure that we continue to care for our people.

So, what's not to like? Not much, actually. I am extremely proud of our people and humbled to be your commander. That said, I am compelled daily to remind myself and all of you that the hardest thing for an enormously successful group of people to do is look at themselves objectively and realize there are things that could be done better.

As I have conducted these "mirror checks" over the last six months, it has come to my attention that:

- We are losing Airmen and family members unnecessarily in vehicle mishaps
- We have unnecessary, and sometimes tragic, events stemming from excessive consumption of alcohol
- We have a very small number of Airmen

who believe they can take advantage of others and not be held accountable – one is too many

- We occasionally damage expensive assets and put Airmen at risk by not complying with published technical instructions for the task being performed

- We occasionally communicate openly in ways that could compromise the security of our operations

- Supervisors do not always pay sufficient attention to ensure that dormitories and workspaces are clean, safe and secure

- Sometimes supervisors walk by problems, leaving them unsolved and, worse, conveying to our Airmen that the standard is lower than it really should be

- We can be more aggressive in articulating our civilian personnel requirements and relieve families who are paying more than they should for off-base childcare

Obviously, these are things we need to fix. You may be able to add to this list. These are just a few of the things I observed and am committed to improving every day. And please make a note...most of the items on this list do not require an increase in funding. They are issues that deal with being leaders and wingmen, being determined to be a better Air Force, to take care of each other and to hold each other accountable to a higher standard.

But, do we have enough resources to accomplish our assigned missions? For the most part I believe we do, and it is my job to ensure that we do. I will aggressively advocate to ensure we have proper resources, but to be credible in doing so I need your help in providing data – not emotion – to those who resource our mission.

With all that said, you have jumped on opportunities to make your operations more effective and efficient. You're doing an even better job than in the past with arguably less resources. I want you to continue on the path of finding areas where things can be improved. Identifying problems is important, but relatively easy. Developing and executing solutions is more difficult, but absolutely critical. I know I can count on your support.

We serve a great nation and a great Air Force in a magnificent command. Individual Airmen and USAFE units continue to win Air Force level awards in virtually every part of our mission. I am proud every day to serve with you, and inspired by your high level of competence and commitment. Thank you for all that you and your families are doing in the service of the nation.

**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



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*Submissions can be e-mailed to [news@lajes.af.mil](mailto: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.*

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*All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.*

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## Inspectors assess Lajes Field during UCI



*Ninety inspectors from USAFE conducted Lajes' Unit Compliance Inspection this week. They looked at programs and practices from units across the base. An outbrief is scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday in the base theater. (Photos by Guido Melo)*

*Above: Firefighters from the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron fire department demonstrated their capabilities Tuesday during an exercise for inspectors. Right: An inspector looks over a checklist as he evaluates the command and control portion of the exercise as well as the on-scene commander.*



## AAFES continued from page 1

for. This upgrade and a little shopping savvy on your part will make all of the difference. There are several things to keep in mind as you plan through the end of the year.

Here are some techniques that will assist you in getting exactly the merchandise that you need through AAFES. First, shop early – if there are specific things that you would like to see at your BX, let the staff know by mid-October. This will provide sufficient time to include it in the normal ordering cycle. Another means of getting things through AAFES on a shorter timeline is to have an inter-store transfer done. If you can confirm that a particular item is available in Germany, Italy or the United Kingdom, we can request to have that item transferred to our store here. Lastly, check out [AAFES.com](http://www.aafes.com). They have an incredible variety of goods and I believe that

you'll find the prices very competitive. The biggest advantage is that once you've taken delivery, if there is an issue with the item, you can return it at your local BX, no "Return Merchandise Authorization" required.

### **Q: Why is the Movie Theater closing?**

A: The movie theater is being closed for two reasons. First and most important is that there are repairs that must be done to the roof. This isn't as much of a problem during the summer, but once fall and winter are here in earnest, we need to make sure that the building is secure. This work is scheduled to take between 2 and a half to 4 weeks to complete. While the theater is closed, they will also be installing new seating — a significant upgrade to the current furnishings! But don't think that we are all being left out on the movie viewing oppor-

tunities – your Services Squadron has stepped up and will be showing movies at the community center. In fact the first two that we are getting will be "Wanted" and "Get Smart". For those who have been assigned to smaller remote assignments and are familiar with this program, we will actually be able to show these movies for free. Jeff. Adams, acting Services commander, and his team will also have refreshments available for purchase. Bottom line, you will continue to enjoy current films and great food. Keep your eye on the marquee at the community center and the Commander's Access Channel for dates and times.

So what's this all about? It's about improved service for you! We are bringing on proven business practices and upgrading facilities to make sure that we provide the best we have to Team Lajes.

## Health Benefits Awareness Month: Using Referral Management Center and Patient Liaisons

The 65th Medical Group has two important services available to provide an outstanding patient experience and to meet total healthcare needs. These are the Referral Management Center and the patient liaisons.

The RMC is a one stop shop that manages and tracks all referrals, both in-house and external, in order to promote continuity of care and positive patient outcomes.

*To read this story in its entirety, visit [www.lajes.af.mil](http://www.lajes.af.mil)*



## Mark your calendar

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

**Free Golf Clinics:** 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday. 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.

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

**Smooth Move Seminar:** Want to make your next PCS move better than the last? 2 to 4 p.m. Monday at the A&FRC. For details, call 535-4138.

**Right Start:** Newcomer's orientation for all newly assigned personnel 7:30 a.m. Tuesday at the A&FRC, Bldg. T-126. Family members are welcome.

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

**Car Buying Seminar:** 9 to 10 a.m. Sept. 23 at the A&FRC.

**Resume Writing Seminar:** 9 to 11:30 a.m. Sept. 24 at the A&FRC.

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

**Vet Tech Now In:** The vet clinic now has a vet tech. If your animals need vaccines or routine healthcare call Christine Williams at 535-3134.

**Youth of the Year Nominations:** The Lajes Youth Center in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Club of America are accepting nominations for 2008 Youth of the Year. The youth should embody service, leadership and character and serve as a peer leader, role model and have made outstanding contributions to a club. If you know a youth between the ages of 14 to 18 who meet these criteria, who is still in high school and a member of the youth center, e-mail [mollie.chatman@lajes.af.mil](mailto:mollie.chatman@lajes.af.mil) or call 535-3273. Forms need to be completed by Oct. 31.

## Chapel Schedule



### Sunday

9 a.m. - Evangelical Service

10:30 a.m. - Catholic Mass

Noon - Praise Service

### Thursday

5:30 p.m. - Catholic Choir Rehearsal

6 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsals for the Evangelical Service

6:30 p.m. - Body of Praise Rehearsals for Praise Service

### 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.

## 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.

**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. Call Donna at 295-549-504.

**Hitachi 32" Multi-system TV,** excellent condition. Two years old. \$180 Call Bob at 295-549-504

**Lawn Swing** — Brand new, hardly used (maybe 4 times) Cushions and awning kept inside. Excellent condition. \$180. Call Bob at 295-549-504

**1994 Toyota Surf (4 Runner)** Right-hand drive. Automatic 4-wheel drive. Brand new tires. Available Oct. 12. \$4,900. Must see—excellent condition. Call Bob at 295-549-504.



### Jobs Available

- The Pentagon Federal Credit Union is accepting job applications for a Branch Service Representative (Part-time) position. Banking experience is not required. For more information, call 295-513-221.
- NAF Job Openings: Club Operations Assistant, Top of the Rock Club; Child Development Program Assistant, CDC; Recreation Aid, School Age Program Assistant, and Recreation Assistant, Youth Center. Visit [www.lajes-services.com/hro.htm](http://www.lajes-services.com/hro.htm) or call 535-5200 for more information.

### Street Bullfights

**Friday**

Ribeira Seca

**Saturday**

Ribeira Seca

Rua do Picão, Lajes

**Sunday**

Estrada 25 de Abril

Vinha Brava, Angra

**Monday**

Lapinha, Vinha Brava

**Wednesday**

Serreta (5:30 p.m.)



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