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# Crossroads xtra

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Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

## Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha  
Threat Level: Low

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## Weekend Weather Forecast

### Today

Chance of rain

High 71  
Low 62



### Saturday

Partly cloudy

High 69  
Low 60



### Sunday

Clear

High 71  
Low 64



# FALL FESTIVAL...

## Events bring Lajes members, families together

By Staff Sgt.  
Olufemi A. Owolabi

65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

More than 1000 Lajes members and their families spent over eight hours of their Saturday having fun after attending the first Lajes Fall Festival held here Oct. 22.

Fall Fest, a fun-filled event, was organized by the Lajes Combined Private Organizations, such as the Top III, Air Force Sergeant Association, Rising 6 and the First Sergeant Association, among others.

"This year's events were organized with the focus to foster teamwork among families and to bring the Lajes community together," said Senior Master Sgt. Antonio Rita, head of the Fall Festival organizing committee. "The festival proved to be a success."

During the festival, base children enjoyed a variety of games and special activities, such as bouncy castles, food booths, costume contests, Trunk or Treat, and a movie after sunset.

"We organized the Fall Festival activities to have an event where families could come out and enjoy themselves and celebrate the season," said Staff Sgt. Ena Rojas, non-commissioned-officer in charge, 65th Mission Support Group executive support. "Fall Fest gave members something to do with their families for the holiday. It also gave them a venue to spend quality time with their kids."

Sergeant Rojas said the organizers of the event were expecting a crowd; however we were rewarded with Lajes meeting our expectations for support.

"Many people showed up, and there were lots of kids," said Tech.



Children play on a bouncy castle during the Fall Festival on Oct. 25, 2008. The Fall Festival offered a variety of games for children and adults to participate, food booths, a hay ride, costume contests, Trunk or Treat, and a movie after dark for military personnel and the families to enjoy. (US Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Rebecca F. Corey)

Sgt. Rebecca Corey, 65th Air Base Wing public affairs. "It was fun, and they had a great time."

Considering the number of children in attendance and the entertainment and activities involved during the festival, the organizers ensured safety was one of their major focuses. Sergeant Rita said that all of the volunteers were keenly aware of the significance of safety for our Lajes family members.

According to Staff Sgt. Latoya Ewing, one of the events organizers, the overall goal of the festival was to provide a safe environment for members to enjoy family-orientated entertainment, and the goal was achieved.

Sergeant Rita attributed the

success of the events to the synergistic effect created by every association in the organizing committee. He also said the teamwork of all the members of the committee from every organization on base and the volunteers working with the children made the process and event a total win for our Lajes families. Team Lajes is a family, this cannot be overemphasized.

"All the teams did an awesome job. It (the festival) went without a glitch," said Sergeant Rita. "One of the biggest testaments to the success of the festival was when people approached me asking, 'When we do this next year, can we do this or that?'"

"This tells me it was worthwhile, we should do it again."

## There's no such thing as a leadership pill

By Chief Master Sgt.  
William Thomaston

65th Medical Group Superintendent

For years now many so called "Leadership" experts have touted their books, models and quick fix ideas as the end-all and be-all to leadership success. While I am sure they all have nothing but good intentions, these authors often leave behind frustrated leaders young and old looking for answers as to why it didn't work for them.

Fellow Airmen: there is neither a short-cut nor a quick fix to ensure leadership success. While visiting our Lajes library, I found a great example to illustrate my point.

In the book "The Leadership Pill" authors Ken Blanchard and Marc Muchnick explore the fictional story of a pill that can stimulate the natural leadership powers of the mind. The early chapters of the book describe a drug that "within one week...is already selling better than Viagra." The dosage instructions stated: "Take two Leadership pills every six hours. Newly promoted leaders should double their dosage for the first 90 days. The only warnings on the label read: "Taking the Leadership Pill with more than three caffeinated beverages per day may result in workaholism" and "If recently laid off or have accepted an early retirement package refrain from using this product to prevent passive-aggressive leadership behavior."

However just like many of our drugs



*"Our continued success here at Lajes depends on each of us taking the time to dust off our management skills, seeking out self development opportunities, and equipping and training those around us."*

today that we consider safe, the pill contained the "wrong ingredients" such as obsession and short sighted direction and has some very harmful "leadership" side effects.

In contrast, the story describes an effective leader who remained "pill free" in order to disprove the faulty quick fix claims of the leadership pill. This leader proves that highly motivated teams need the "secret-blend" of leadership such as integrity, partnership, and affirmation to achieve consistent top performance and genuine success.

And as you might have guessed the story ends with the makers of the pill stating "The Leadership Pill is dead," and the effective leader is left standing as the best example to follow.

Leaders, our new Air Force Chief of Staff has offered sound advice to us all..."Get back to basics." Our continued success here at Lajes depends on each of us taking the time to dust off our management skills, seeking out self development opportunities, and equipping and training those around us. Remember, there's no such thing as a leadership pill.

## Mentoring shouldn't be allowed to be a forgotten act

By Maj. Patrick Steen  
387th Expeditionary Security  
Forces commander

**SOUTHWEST ASIA** — In today's age of technology and invention, we have a tendency of focusing more resources on bigger and better gadgets. And in the Air Force, our gadgets are pretty magnificent works of art. They dwarf our nearest competitors.

Specifically, I am referring to aircraft such as the F-22 Raptor and the C-17 Globemaster III, the latest in communications technology

or the state of the art lasers of tomorrow. Our aircraft, for instance, are on the cutting edge of technology and one of the primary reasons our enemies fear and respect us as an airpower.

But in our tremendous drive to push toward the heavens with new machinery, we as a community push aside our basic combatant training. In the last several years, we have begun the transition of getting back to our combatant roots with the establishment of Combat Skills

Training, robust enlisted Warrior Week training and various upgraded regional training centers.

This much needed and timely training is a step in the right direction, but we should continue to raise the bar and challenge today's Airmen.

The training I'm referring to can only be accomplished by the leader or supervisor serving next to us every day.

**To read the entire story, visit, [www.lajes.af.mil](http://www.lajes.af.mil).**

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.



Col. Peggy Poore

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. Peggy Poore  
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing

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**A little too scary**

Staff Sgt. Ira Redman, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, Utilities Craftsman, watches in fear as an "undead electrician" drags away his "victim" in the haunted house on Oct. 27, 2008. The haunted house was open the week of Halloween and besides offering a frightfully good time, it also had games and food. (US Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Rebecca F. Corey)



**Advanced Education Week**

Col. Paul Suarez, 65th Air Base Wing vice commander, calls out the name of a door-prize winner after picking a raffle ticket during the Advanced Education Week event here Oct. 24. Advanced Education Week is an annual program organized by the Lajes Education Office to build members' awareness about school programs and education opportunities available here. This year's program was tagged "Be a Geek Wiik." (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff. Sgt. Olufemi A. Owolabi)

**THIS  
WEEK  
IN  
PHOTOS**



**Fall Festival**



(Above) 65th Air Base Wing photographer, Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Corey slides down the bouncy slide with her 1-year-old son, Clayton, during the Fall Festival held here Oct. 25, 2008. This years Fall Festival offered a variety of games for children and adults to participate, food booths, costume contests, Trunk or Treat, and a movie after dark for military personnel and the familites to enjoy. (US Air Force photo by Clayton A. Corey)

(Bottom) Two-year-old Xavier, son of Tech. Sgt. Albrecco Jackson, 65th Air Base Wing, Protocol office, receives candy from a car at Trunk or Treat during the Fall Festival Oct. 25, 2008. This years Fall Festival offered a variety of games for children and adults to participate, food booths, costume contests, Trunk or Treat, and a movie after dark for military personnel and the familites to enjoy. (US Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Rebecca F. Corey)



Tech. Sgt. Vickram Rajpaul of the 65th Logistic Readiness Squadron volunteers to prepare burgers as part of the refreshments for members attending the Advanced Education Week event held here Oct. 24. Advanced Education Week is an annual program organized by the Lajes Education Office to create awareness about school programs and education opportunities available here. This year's program was tagged "Be a Geek Wiik." (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff. Sgt. Olufemi A. Owolabi)

## Mark your calendar



**Pink Tie Gala:** The Pink Tie Gala, in support of National Breast Cancer Awareness month, is scheduled for Saturday from 5:30 to 10 p.m. at the TORC. Dress is Semi-formal or Business Casual. Pink Ties and Dresses are optional but encouraged.

**HCAC meeting:** The Health Care Advisory Council meeting is planned for Nov. 6 at 1:30 p.m. in the T-416 conference room. The HCAC is a valuable forum for Medical Group personnel to communicate the latest news and services for your healthcare benefit, as well as an excellent way to bring feedback directly to the 65th Medical Group leadership. Health care is considered one of the top morale issues for Airmen overseas. HCAC attendance is voluntary, and open to everyone. Contact 1st Lt. Jennifer Preyer at 535-3017 for more information on this meeting.

## CHAPEL HOURS

Saturday Mass: 5 p.m.	Evangelical Service: 9 a.m. Sundays	 Call 535-4211
Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.	Praise Service: Noon Sundays	

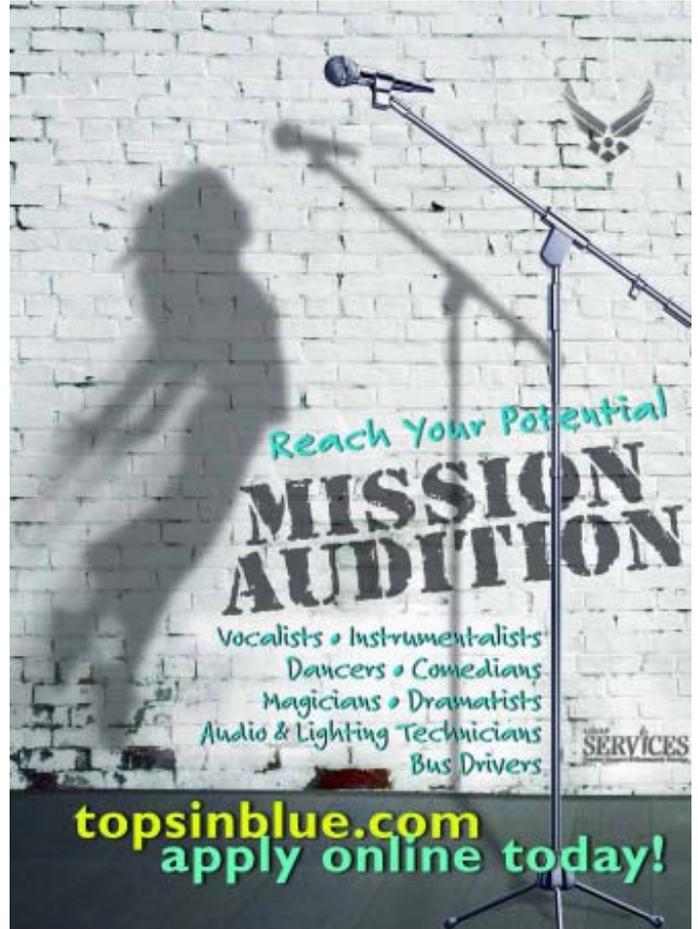
## At the Movies

Admission: Free  
Location: Community Center



6 p.m. **Friday** - Mirrors (Rated R)  
2 p.m. **Saturday** - Mirrors (Rated R)  
6 p.m. **Saturday** - The Dark Night (Rated PG-13)  
2 p.m. **Sunday** - The Dark Night (Rated PG-13)

Refreshments are available for those who wish to purchase them.



## Commissary Closure Saturday

The Lajes Field commissary will be closed Saturday due to the Portuguese holiday "All Saints Day".

### LAJES COMMUNITY BOARD

## POST OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

With the holiday season just around the corner, the Lajes Post Office is looking for volunteers to help out with the holiday demands. Weekend volunteers are preferred. People can also volunteer Monday to Wednesday. Hours needed are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 535-7678.

## Victim Advocates Needed

The SARC office is looking for members who wish to volunteer as Victim Advocates. VA: Volunteers must be active duty military, Reserve or National Guard in active status or DoD civilian employees. The goal is to provide the VA training (40-hours) in November/December. Contact Capt. Carlington at 535-2123 for more information.