

Crossroads



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Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

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Weekend Weather Forecast

Today

Overcast

High 69
Low 62



Saturday

Rain

High 73
Low 64



Sunday

Partly cloudy

High 73
Low 64



Lajes youngsters vote in school's "model election"

By Staff Sgt.

Olufemi A. Owolabi

65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Tuesday was not only considered a busy day for American voters, but children at the Department of Defense School here at Lajes also had day at the polls during a simulated election conducted to educate the school children on the importance of their civic duty to vote.

During the model election, students in the 3rd to 12th grades were able to cast their votes for their desired candidate. Even though their votes did not count toward the real Nov. 4 election, the process enabled the students, most of whom are too young to vote, to understand the American electoral process.

According to the event coordinator, Angela Grant, students need to learn early in their lives that voting is their responsibility. It is never too early to teach young people about being good citizens, she said.

"Another purpose of this

simulated election is to allow the children to feel connected to what's happening presently in the United States though we are not there," said Ms. Grant, a government teacher at the school and coordinator of the program. "This election is a very important one in American history. It means a very big change because no matter who's elected, it would be either the first African-American president or the first female vice president."

The program was organized in a way that anyone visiting the school when the election was taking place would notice something significant was happening. There was a line of voters, electoral volunteers who registered voters, an enclosed cubicle for voters to fill out their forms and privately decide who they want to be the next president, and a ballot box to cast their votes.

To find out the result of the "model election," visit www.lajes.af.mil.



Sierra, daughter of Sergeants James and Anna Collins, casts her vote during the simulated Nov. 4 election conducted by the Department of Defense School here at Lajes. The model vote was conducted to educate the school pupils on the importance of their civic duty of voting and to teach them the American electoral process. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Olufemi A. Owolabi)

Lajes community 'Trick or Treat' with base members

By 1st Lt. George Tobias

65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Thousands of local Portuguese children and their parents were lining up at the gates to base housing here Oct. 31 in anxious anticipation to start trick-or-treating with the Americans.

The lines were so long that they filled the street leading to the entrance of the Nascer Do Sol Housing area.

According to Lt. Col. Nicholas DeMarco, 65th Mission Support Group deputy commander, it is estimated that over 2,000 Portuguese came out to trick-or-treat with the Americans stationed here.

While, Halloween is not a tradition in Portugal or the Azores, several of the local community members got into the spirit of the event and dressed up in costumes to trick-or-treat.

"The Portuguese don't have an ingrained tradition of celebrating Halloween," said Eduardo Lima, 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs, "although in the most recent years some parts of the country, including the Azores, started to celebrate it but just in the form of people dressing in Halloween costumes and participating in parties at bars, clubs, etc."

To read the entire story, visit, www.lajes.af.mil.



Bush congratulates president-elect

Good morning. Last night, I had a warm conversation with President-elect Barack Obama. I congratulated him and Senator Biden on their impressive victory. I told the President-elect he can count on complete cooperation from my administration as he makes the transition to the White House.

I also spoke to Senator John McCain. I congratulated him on a determined campaign that he and Governor Palin ran. The American people will always be grateful for the lifetime of service John McCain has devoted to this nation. And I know he'll continue to make tremendous contributions to our country.

No matter how they cast their ballots, all Americans can be proud of the history that was made yesterday. Across the country, citizens voted in large numbers. They showed a watching world the vitality of America's democracy, and the strides we have made toward a more perfect union. They chose a President whose journey represents a triumph of the American story — a testament to hard work, optimism, and faith in the enduring promise of our nation.

Many of our citizens thought they would never live to see that day. This moment is especially uplifting for a generation of Americans who witnessed the struggle for civil rights with their own eyes — and four decades later see dream fulfilled.

A long campaign has now ended, and we move forward as one nation. We're

embarking on a period of change in Washington, yet there are some things that will not change. The United States government will stay vigilant in meeting its most important responsibility — protecting the American people. And the world can be certain this commitment will remain steadfast under our next Commander-in-Chief.

There's important work to do in the months ahead, and I will continue to conduct the people's business as long as this office remains in my trust. During this time of transition, I will keep the President-elect fully informed on important decisions. And when the time comes on January the 20th, Laura and I will return home to Texas with treasured memories of our time here — and with profound gratitude for the honor of serving this amazing country.

It will be a stirring sight to watch President Obama, his wife, Michelle, and their beautiful girls step through the doors of the White House. I know millions of Americans will be overcome with pride at this inspiring moment that so many have awaited so long. I know Senator Obama's beloved mother and grandparents would have been thrilled to watch the child they raised ascend the steps of the Capitol — and take his oath to uphold the Constitution of the greatest nation on the face of the earth.

Last night I extended an invitation to the President-elect and Mrs. Obama to come to the White House. And Laura and I are looking forward to welcoming them as soon as possible.

Courtesy White House press release.

Breast Cancer Awareness events take full swing

By Capt. Patricia Rohrbeck
65th Medical Operations Squadron public health chief

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the 65th Air Base Wing has conducted four successful events to engage women and men in early detection of breast cancer and education initiatives.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women, after lung cancer, in the U.S. and is the number one cause of cancer death in the Azores.

The month began with a Health and Wellness Fair which was supported by the Headquarters Azores Air Zone, the Mayor of Praia and the U.S. Consulate. The Fair was conducted by members of the 65th Medical Group and the 65th Air Base Wing...

Community. Attendees were able to have their blood pressure and cholesterol checked, schedule a mammogram, receive helpful smoking cessation information and other healthy lifestyle education. The Fair was attended by over 100 U.S. and local national community members and its success paved the way for the month's remaining events. On Oct. 11, the men and women of Lajes Field and members of the local community conducted the first ever Azorean Breast Cancer Awareness Walk.

The walk began at the Praia Marina and opening remarks were delivered by the Mayor of Praia; this is another example of our strong bilateral relations with the local community. The walk was broadcasted to mainland Portugal and some Portuguese communities in the eastern U.S. The 65th Medical Group continued to promote breast cancer awareness through a 5K run Oct. 24, with Chief Bland as the guest speaker. The final event of the month was a Pink Tie Gala. The gala was attended by 160 community members and the fun filled event included a silent auction, gift drawings, fine dining, live music, dance performances and guest speakers. The proceeds of the silent auction...

To read the entire story, visit, 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 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. Peggy Poore

Col. Peggy Poore
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



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

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Editorial Staff

Col. Peggy Poore
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing

1st Lt. George Tobias
Chief, Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Olufemi Owolabi
Editor

Eduardo Lima
Community Relations Adviser

THIS WEEK IN PHOTOS



Model election mirrors the real one...

(Above) Andrew, son of Col. Paul Suarez, 65th Air Base Wing vice commander, and Alex Ciranini register young voters during a "model election" conducted by the Department of Defense School here Nov. 4. The model vote was conducted to educate the school students on the importance of their civic duty to vote and to teach them the American electoral process. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Olufemi A. Owolabi)



(Left) Angela Grant, Lajes Department of Defense Government teacher, stamps voters wrists to show they have cast their votes during a "model election" conducted by the Department of Defense School here Nov. 4. The stamping process was incorporated into the mock election to ensure no one voted more than one time. The mock vote was conducted to educate the students on the importance of their civic duty to vote and to teach them the American electoral process. Ms. Grant was the coordinator of the simulated election, and according to her after the votes were counted, a lot of the school children overwhelmingly voted for Senator Obama. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Olufemi A. Owolabi)



Halloween patrol...

Tech. Sgt. Michael Wilson, 65th Security Forces Squadron, briefs volunteers for the pumpkin patrol Oct. 31. Over a Hundred volunteers worked with the 65th SFS to ensure the safety of the trick-or-treaters during the evening hours. The local Portuguese community was invited to take part in the Halloween event, it is estimated that over 2,000 local Portuguese participated in trick-or-treating in base housing.

Halloween excitement



Children, full of energy and excitement, wait to be let into base housing to trick-or-treat. The local Portuguese community was invited to take part in the Halloween event. It is estimated that over 2,000 local Portuguese participated in trick-or-treating in base housing this year. (U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. George Tobias)



Mark your calendar



WWII Remembrance Service: A World War II Service of Remembrance ceremony is scheduled for 10:45 a.m. Nov. 14 at the British Cemetery, Lajes Community. Service Dress is required for military members and business attire for civilians members who wish to attend the ceremony. The service of remembrance is held annually in conjunction with the Portuguese Air Force, and it honors British military personnel, our nation's allies, who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of freedom and who were buried here during World War II. For details, call the chapel at 535-4211.

Military Career Day: The 5th annual Military Career Day at Lajes Middle/High School is scheduled for Nov. 14. Military recruiters are invited to visit the school to promote and publicize the many careers available in the military. Recruiters from all branches of military service in Europe have

CHAPEL HOURS

Saturday Catholic Mass:
5 p.m.

Evangelical Service:
9 a.m. Sundays

Sunday Catholic Mass:
10:30 a.m.

Praise Service:
Noon Sundays



Call
535-4211

At the Movies

Admission: Free

Location: Community Center

- 6 p.m. Friday - The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (P-13)
- 2 p.m. Saturday - The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (PG-13)
- 6 p.m. Saturday - Babylon A.D. (PG-13)
- 2 p.m. Sunday - Babylon A.D. (PG-13)

Refreshments are available for those who wish to purchase them.



Local Crafts Fair

The Crafts Fair is an opportunity to see the island crafts, there will be local exhibitors offering handcrafted pottery, painted glass, jewelry, wood, metal, art, and other unique items. This is a wonderful opportunity to purchase a quality, hand-crafted gift in time for the upcoming holidays.

At the
Top of the Rock Club Ballroom
8 November
From: 11:00 to 16:00

AC
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LAJES COMMUNITY BOARD

POST OFFICE CLOSURE

The Lajes Post Office will be closed Nov. 11 for a public holiday. It will also be closed from Nov. 12 to 14 for its move to the new location. The new location will be Building T-324, by the Shoppette. The post office will re-open Nov. 15 at the new location. Members are urged to pick up their mail no later than 5:30 p.m. Nov. 10. For more information, call 535-7678.



Free Electric Guitar Workshop

An electric guitar workshop is starting Nov. 12, and every Wednesday from 5 - 6 p.m. at the Community Activity Center. Sessions are limited to 4 students. Members must be at least 12 years old. The workshop is free. It is preferred that attendees have a guitar and practice amp. For more information, call Jim Norman at 535-6126 or Rudy Wallace at 535-5216.

