



Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

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Weekend Weather Forecast

Today

Overcast



High 68
Low 62

Saturday

Overcast



High 66
Low 62

Sunday

Chance of Rain



High 68
Low 62

Dedication in a Grand Style ...



Instead of a traditional ribbon cutting, Airman 1st Class Kyle Mull and Frank Sousa, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron's youngest and oldest fire fighters, simultaneously let loose two fire hoses attached together during a grand opening ceremony of the Lajes Crash and Fire Rescue station Nov. 22. The new \$10.3 million fire station building was designed to accommodate more individual sleeping rooms, which replaced the old open-bay sleeping areas and is the largest state-of-the-art fire station on Terceira Island. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Olufemi Owolabi)

Travel charge cards finally switch over

WASHINGTON (AFNS) — The government-issued Bank of America official travel charge card that's been used for years by Defense Department military and civilian employees was deactivated Nov. 30, Defense Travel Management Office officials said.

Citibank has the new contract, and eligible defense military and civilian travelers should have received their new Citibank travel charge cards in August or September. The switchover to Citibank began at midnight the morning of Nov. 30.

"The way the new Citi card will be used is exactly the same as the current Bank of America card," Nina Richman-Loo, DTMO's chief of special programs and outreach, said during a July 10 interview. "The cardholder agreement is the

same cardholder agreement that our travelers read and signed when they got their Bank of America card."

Bank of America had held DOD's official travel charge card contract for a decade.

Travelers are required to call and verify receipt of their new Citibank cards, and personal identification numbers for the new Citibank cards should have arrived on or around Nov. 1.

The Citibank card will offer some of the same features Bank of America cardholders are accustomed to, including an online payment option.

Travelers with questions about the new Citibank travel charge card can ask their agency travel program managers or access DTMO's Web site for answers.



Reading equips Airmen for future challenges

Maj. Michael Coleman
65th Services Squadron

There I was; I had carefully staged myself in the living room prepared to make any last minute shopping runs for whatever key ingredients my wife may need in the preparation of her holiday goodies.

Successfully extracted from work in time to do my part in helping in any way I could, I headed into the kitchen to render a helping hand. Then with that loving tension in her voice, my wife says, "Honey, I love you but you are getting in my way."

At this point in time my military education kicks in, and I remembered that the key to good leadership is followership. I strategically repositioned myself back in the living room as her ready reserve and waited for that call that seemed to never come.

I waited, and waited, and waited, for what seemed like an eternity of small moments, that probably wasn't more than 30 seconds, truth be told.

Then my attention drifted to my immediate surroundings, I explored the things my children had deposited in the living room, from where I have no idea.

Then a book that had been lying on one of the end tables captured my attention; this one was a particular graphic story about the battle at Thermopylae. Yes, I thought to myself, compared to the artistic culinary melee occurring in nearby kitchen this was a suitable, and dare I say, a safer endeavor.

As I started reading, I remembered something I had heard a general say when I worked at Air Mobility Command, "To be a good Airman or officer, one must be well read." That is to say that we must continue

reading and developing ourselves in order to be successful. This particular general had said a couple things that struck home with me, so much so that I incorporated some of his thoughts in my introductory meetings with new Airmen in the squadron.

He had stated that it is our responsibility as a service and leaders to train and equip Airmen, not just for combat and deployments, but for the routine day-to-day struggles that they will encounter.

According to him this equipping had to be done in three ways: physically, mentally and spiritually.

They need the physical fitness to endure the stress and climates that we are often asked to work in and the material equipment, "the stuff" necessary to train and do their job. This included the weapon systems and the supplies to operate them. To this end the Air Force provides fitness centers to enable Airmen to attain whatever training regimen they desire. And we are responsible to secure the logistic support necessary to execute the mission.

Mentally, we should provide avenues for both professional and personal education. So they have the knowledge and 'knowhow' to employ the tools of their trade in successfully overcoming opponents and adversity. With education centers for advanced academic degrees and opportunities for professional military education, the Air Force meets this need for both professional and personal growth.

To read more on "READING EQUIPS AIRMEN," see page 3.

First Sergeant Corner

The holiday season is approaching fast; during this time, we need to look in the mirror and remind ourselves of what it means to be a good Wingman. Most people think the objective of the program is zero DUI's and zero alcohol related incidents, but it's much more than that. A Wingman is someone who watches out for the safety and well-being of others as well as themselves. It's personal. It's face-to-face. It's sincere and direct. It affirms that each and every person is essential to our mission and our success here at Lajes. Each of us, regardless of rank, has a responsibility to be alert and to get involved and take action when it comes to safeguarding our Airmen; whether it is watching for signs of suicide, making sure protective gear is used, or just being there as someone to talk to about the stresses of family separation. It's all about the team!



—Master Sgt. Tony Fisher
65th Medical Group

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.



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.

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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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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THIS WEEK IN PHOTOS



Members of the 65th Air Base Wing enjoy various food choices during a Thanksgiving SUM luncheon held at the base chapel Nov. 27. (Photo by Chaplain (Capt.) Ismael Rodriguez)

Col. Nicholas DeMarco (then a lieutenant colonel), 65th Mission Support Group deputy commander, serves hot meal to Airman 1st Class Charles Wright, 65th Security Forces Squadron, during a Thanksgiving SUM luncheon held at the base chapel here Nov. 27. The luncheon was hosted by Col. Peggy Poore, 65th Air Base Wing commander.

All You Can Eat



"READING EQUIPS AIRMEN" from page 2

And finally, the need for us to provide an atmosphere for meaningful spiritual development, necessary for Airmen to be able to carry out the mission in the wake of personal challenges and potential moral conflicts. For the opportunity of this spiritual development there are worship centers on every base and in every deployed location.

All three, physical, mental and spiritual are necessary and crucial for Airmen to be fully developed and success-

fully equipped for the challenges that they will face in deployed and home station environments. But he would add, they must all three be balanced, for strengths in two of the areas, cannot make up for the absence of the third.

And how may you ask is this related to me sitting down to read. Well it just so happens that reading is key to all three areas. Reading is the means by which we develop and enable ourselves to grow beyond what we are now.

So in the upcoming holidays as you find yourself with a little more time, after the Christmas rush, I would encourage you to do what I'd do, pick up a good book and read.



Mark your calendar



GOLF CLINIC: A free golf clinic is offered by Outdoor Recreation on Saturday. The clinic will cover the basics of golf and is geared to both beginners and intermediate players. Clubs are supplied. Transportation is provided and departs Outdoor Recreation at 1:30 p.m. Instruction is from 2 to 4 p.m. Members interested are encouraged to wear golf or athletic shoes, or tennis shoes (no sandals please). Call Outdoor Recreation at 535-4140 to reserve a spot.

A TASTE OF THE NORTHERN COAST: Outdoor Recreation is offering "A Taste of the Northern Coast" tour Saturday, with transportation departing the Outdoor Recreation at 9:30 a.m. and returning at 2 p.m. Visit Biscoitos for a tour of the vineyards, winery and museum and a famous basket maker; then on to Altares to see the folk museum, a church and then enjoy some of the best food on the Island. Call Outdoor Recreation for reservations and prices at 535-4140.

OFFROAD TRIP: Enjoy the Island's interior on an exhilarating six-hour jeep tour scheduled for Dec. 13. The guide is also a photographer and will take souvenir photos of your trip. Bring a bag lunch or Euros to purchase lunch at a local restaurant. The trip is limited to four people, so sign up soon. Call Outdoor Recreation at 535-4140.

Roman & Medieval Artifacts/Coins Exhibition
 18 - 19 December 2008
 0800 - 2000
 Community Center

A select group of several hundred authentic artifacts and coins from the 1st Century B.C. to circa 1500 A.D. will be on public display for the first time with several important rarities exhibited.

From the personal collection of Mr. James Norman

For more information, call 535-5216

CHAPEL HOURS

Saturday Catholic Mass:
5 p.m.

Evangelical Service:
9 a.m. Sundays



Call
535-4211

Sunday Catholic Mass:
10:30 a.m.

Praise Service:
Noon Sundays

At the Movies



Admission: Free

Location: Community Center

2 and 4 p.m. Saturday - Bangkok Dangerous (Rated R)

6 p.m. Saturday - Disaster Movie (PG 13)

2 p.m. Sunday - Disaster Movie (PG 13)

Refreshments are available for those who wish to purchase them.

Schedule subject to change. For updates, call 535-4135.

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.

Nanny Available: Natalia has been wonderful w/my four children. She has made life so much easier; she cooks, cleans, does laundry, and has her own transportation. She can work long hours and can be at your home in under 10 minutes if needed. She is such a helpful person to have working for you. Please contact Kim or David Peay at 535-5144/535-2425 or 295-549-708 after 5pm.

Housekeeper Available: Maria has worked for us for more than two years. She is trustworthy and dependable. For a reference call 968-660-962 or call 962-680-191 to request a day.

For Sale: 1994 Jeep Grand Cherokee. Automatic! Tires, brake pads, rotors, water pump, muffler, & exhaust all less than 1 yr old. Newly installed radio/cd player. Inspection good 'til March '09! Runs great! Price is \$3,500 firm. Call Sandy at 926-588-206 or 295-516-136.

Nanny Available: Julie has been with us for about 3 yrs now helping us raise our 3-year old son. She's awesome! We've even chosen her to be Phelix' Godmother. She is available to be your full-time Nanny & babysits evenings or weekends if needed. She also cleans houses for inspections or weekly if needed! Call Sandy at 961-254-619, or 295-516-136.

LAJES COMMUNITY BOARD

PAINTBALL GAME:

A paintball game is scheduled Dec. 13. The fee is \$20, which includes mask, gun & unlimited use of CO2 as well as transportation. Fee is only \$15 if you bring your own paintball gun. Paintballs are not included—price per bag of 500 rounds is \$14.95. Meet at Outdoor Recreation at 9 a.m.; departs at 9:15 and games run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring your own lunch. Interested members must be at least 16 years old to participate. Call ODR at 535-4140.



Video Production Volunteer

Great experience and the opportunity to learn how to work with digital media, like filming and editing. Some basic experience is necessary to learn videography. Volunteers should have knowledge of Adobe software and some knowledge of graphics or web design is desirable. Must commit to volunteering at least 20 hours a week. Position is in the Services marketing and publicity office. Contact Paulette Burnard at 535-6324 for additional information.