



## Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha  
Threat Level: Low

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## Weekend Weather Forecast

### Today

Overcast

High 61  
Low 58



### Saturday

Scattered Clouds

High 64  
Low 60



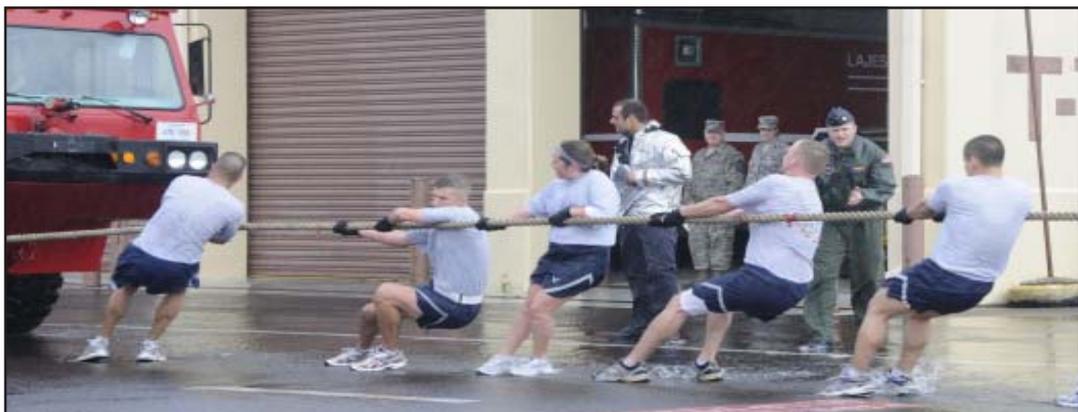
### Sunday

Clear

High 66  
Low 60



## Airmen exhibit teamwork on Wingman Day



Members of the 65th Wing Staff Agencies team pull a fire truck while supporters and onlookers cheer them on as part of Wingman Day events organized here Dec. 5. During the events unit members teamed up to participate in a day of fun-filled activities and team-building games, such as donning Chemical Warfare-Gear, Self-Aid Buddy Care, litter-carry run, weapon assembly, an obstacle course, a fire truck pull, among other events, and a mind-blowing Airman's Manual test. Wingman Day was designed to foster the Air Force's culture of "Airmen helping Airmen," which was adopted by all Air Force units in 2004. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Ena Rojas)

### Staff Sgt. Olufemi Owolabi 65th ABW Public Affairs

Lajes experienced a pause of the mission while members teamed up to showcase their teamwork and to participate in a day of fun-filled activities and team-building games during Wingman Day events held here Dec. 5.

Wingman Day activities were designed to foster the Air Force's culture of "Airmen helping Airmen," which was adopted by all Air Force units in 2004.

This year, Lajes members took part in events geared toward having fun, bolstering team spirits, skills and at the same time being physically and mentally challenging.

"The events were planned and coordinated very well," said Staff Sgt. Anthony Flores, 65th Mission Support Group Resource Advisor. "Wingman Day was a blast from start to end. It was mentally and physically challenging and made each team member proud of their accomplishments when they've completed all the events."

The events started at the TORC after a commander's call in which Col. Peggy Poore's focused on the characteristics of and how to be a good wingman. After the briefing members broke into small group sessions with further safety and motivational briefings by team leaders which prepared team members for the challenges ahead.

Some of the activities included donning Chemical Warfare-Gear; Self-Aid Buddy Care; litter-carry run in which participants had to run carrying a stretcher with

an egg in an ammo can; weapon assembly in which team members had to put together two M-9s and two M-16s that were disassembled and mixed into a pile; an obstacle course; a fire truck pull, and several other activities while completing a mind-blowing Airman's Manual test.

To encourage teamwork and stronger bonds, the participants had to run to and from each event as a unit.

"The running between events emphasized teamwork and wingman-ship because we started as a team and we finished as a team," said Sergeant Flores. "We stuck together pushing and motivating each other to make it through the run."

Staff Sgt. Richard Badu of the 65th Mission Support Squadron who was part of the combined 65th MSS and 65th Contracting Squadron team also echoed Sergeant Flores' opinion. "Wingman Day was an excellent tool to bring the wing and units together as well as to challenge people's strength and teamwork," said Sergeant Badu.

After the events, the combined 65th MSS and 65th CONS team emerged the overall winner of 2008 Wingman Day after finishing all the events in one hour 8 minutes.

Despite the dewy and wet afternoon, team mates and other supporters anxiously awaited the arrival of their teams to cheer them to victory as they crossed the finish line. The presentation of the plaques to the first, second and third-place teams was conducted at the TORC by Col. Peggy Poore, 65th Air Base Wing commander.

Colonel Poore gave kudos to all the participants and organizers of the events, and she cited the 2008 Wingman Day as a successful one. She said every team's actions during the events epitomized what a good wingman should be.



# Every Airman a part of the fight

By Chief Master Sgt. Jack Johnson Jr.  
3rd Air Force Command Chief

Over my 24 years of service in the world's greatest Air Force, I've realized that every Airman plays an integral part in accomplishing our mission, but that not every Airman knows this undeniable truth.

The truth is it is amazing what you do for our nation day in and day out – you are the most critical “weapon system” we have.

Our Air Force Chief of Staff, General Norton Schwartz, has said it best: “the value of your contribution to the fight is not measured by your proximity to the target.”

No matter where you find yourself — or what your duties are — as one of more than 36,000 members assigned to 3rd Air Force throughout Europe, you are critical to making the daily mission possible.

Over the next several months, Lt. Gen. Phil Breedlove, commander of 3rd Air Force, and I will highlight a number of skilled communities that are invaluable to taking the fight to the adversary, but may not always be recognized.

To start, let's take a look at some of our logistics Airmen, specifically logistics planners, transportation professionals and supply management experts and see how just one part of the Air Force team is indispensable.

Let's consider their contributions from a slightly different angle.

What wouldn't get done without them?

Without logistics plans journeymen like Senior Airman Francis Anderson with the 435th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Ramstein, Unit Deployment Managers wouldn't get the required training to ensure their Airmen are ready to go to support contingency operations and AEF requirements. Logistics plans journeymen are the “middle men” in getting Airmen to, through and out the door of the Installation Deployment Readiness Cell and on an aircraft to the fight.

Without vehicle maintenance technicians like Senior Airman Robbie Poselli, also with the 435th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Ramstein, security forces patrol cars, light duty trucks, aircrew buses, staff cars and Humvees wouldn't be maintained and wouldn't be ready to support the mission when called upon. These vehicle maintenance professionals keep the wheels rolling and the engines running.

And who's behind the wheel? Vehicle operators like Airman 1st Class Ricardo Foxworth with the 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron at Spangdahlem, without whom we wouldn't be able to get people, cargo and countless other resources where they need to be, when they need to be there. From buses to tractor trailers to all-terrain forklifts, these warriors get it moving in the right direction to support the mission.

Without air transport journeymen like Senior Airman Anthony Cotta, also with the 435th Logistics Readiness Squadron at Ramstein, C-130 pilots and loadmasters wouldn't get the airdrop training they need to be ready to, for instance, airdrop supplies to U.S. Army units in Afghanistan when deployed downrange. These air transport professionals are vital in the preparation of airdrop loads for training purposes.

Finally, without mobility readiness spares kit warriors like Senior Airman Ibrahim Whittington with the 100th Logistics Readiness Squadron at RAF Mildenhall, maintenance personnel would not get the critical spare parts required for short notice special operation deployment contingencies. Supply management journeymen are the key link in ensuring issues, turn-in's and transfers of critical readiness spare assets are processed correctly through the supply systems and readily available for the warfighter.

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

always hope. I call that category “Land of the Lost Sock.” Then there's the belongings we wish we had here at Lajes, but don't. That's the “Oh, it's in storage” category. Then there are my personal belongings that are not in the “Land of the Lost Sock” or “In Storage”, categories, but in the category “Lost in the fire.”

Yep. That was me. The Sheriff's Department banging on my door at 3 a.m. to get me out of my San Antonio apartment. “There's a fire, ma'am,” he told me. Still half asleep, I flashed back to my Air Force dorm days and thought “Oh, a fire drill.” I went to my bedroom to get my keys and noticed the smell of smoke. The smoke alarm was not going off, so I figured it couldn't be serious. I left the apartment without thinking to grab the fireproof box containing important documents and other items under my bed.

To read more on “RENTAL INSURANCE,” see page 4.

## Rental Insurance

*It's worth getting because you don't know when you might need it*

Master Sgt. Pachari Lutke  
Special contributor

Somewhere between my clothes hamper and the end of the laundry cycle, I sometimes lose a sock. How does this happen?

I take off a pair of socks, I put them in the hamper. Then somehow, somewhere, one of them vanishes! The wish is that one day the sock, or some other lost personal item, will turn up. Some of them do turn up in the most unlikely places. Some don't—but in the back of your mind, you

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. 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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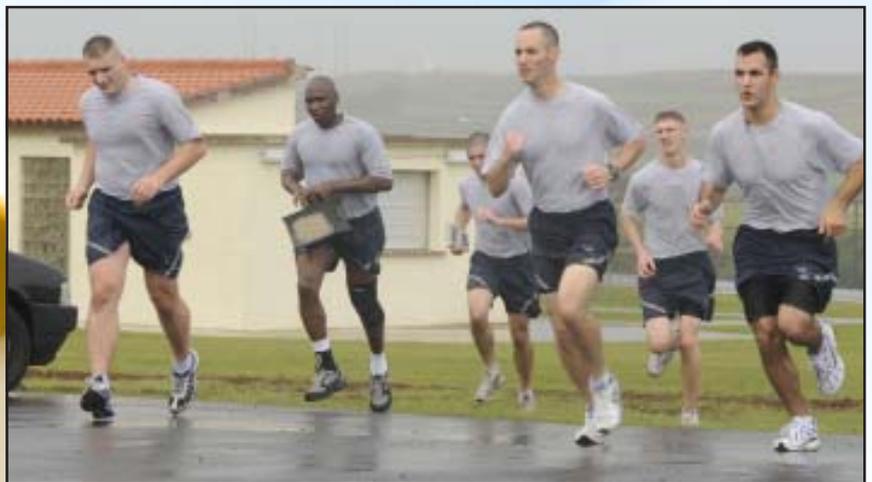
## THIS WEEK IN PHOTOS



(Above) Members of the 65th Medical Group's team commence the first-leg of events during Wingman Day organized here Dec. 5. (Below) The 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron's team members begin the gruesome uphill-run as part of the Wingman Day events held here Dec. 5. (Photos by Guido Melo)



Members of the 65th Air Base Wing Staff Agencies team complete the Plank-Walk portion of Wingman Day events organized here Dec. 5. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Ena Rojas) .



Col. Peggy Poore, 65th Air Base Wing commander volunteers to read the story "Night Before Christmas" during Dec. 6 Children X-Mas party held at the Top of the Rock Club. (Photo by 1st Lt. George Tobias) (Middle) Col. Peggy Poore presents the Air Force Combat Action Medal to Special Agent Marcus Classey Dec. 9 at the wing conference room. Agent Classey received the medal for



being under direct hostile fire during Operation Enduring Freedom in Oct. 18, 2007. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Lajes members and their families gathered in the holiday spirit to watch the Lajes official Christmas Tree light up Dec. 3. (Photo by Guido Melo)



### Mark your calendar



**LIVE NATIVITY SCENE:** A live nativity scene, open to the public, is scheduled to take place in the town of Lajes at the following days and times: Dec. 25 from 4 to 10 p.m.; Dec. 26 – 7 to 10 p.m.; Dec. 27 – 4 to 10 p.m.; Jan. 1, 3 and 4 from 4 to 10 p.m.

The nativity scene can be seen in the Centro Pastoral e Social das Lajes, located behind the Church of Lajes. Admission fee is 1.50 Euros per person.

**OFFROAD TRIP:** Enjoy the Island's interior on an exhilarating six-hour jeep tour scheduled for Saturday. 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.

**PAINTBALL GAME:** A paintball game is scheduled Saturday. 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.

### 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 - Tropic Thunder (Rated R)

2 p.m. Saturday - Tropic Thunder (Rated R)

6 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday - Traitor (PG 13)

Refreshments are available for those who wish to purchase them.

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



ARMED FORCES ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS  
**nikibarrband**

www.nikibarr.com

### SOUND IN BLOOM

The Niki Barr Band's latest album *Bloom* showcases a distinct hard-hitting, edgy rock sound. While Barr commands respect with soaring vocals, explosive guitar wielding and smoking key work, she's perfectly complimented by the band's impressive guitar, bass and drums. Showing off more musical intensity than ever, this group's sound is definitely in bloom.

24 December 2008  
2100  
TORC Enlisted Lounge

CC community center Another Great Lajes SERVICES Program!

COMING TO A THEATER NEAR YOU.  
Register to win this custom guitar at [armedforcesentertainment.com](http://armedforcesentertainment.com)

### "RENTAL INSURANCE" from page 2.

Downstairs, I was greeted by flashing lights that illuminated the upturned faces of my neighbors huddled in the parking lot. The lights came from the seemingly endless number fire trucks on the scene in what turned out to be the biggest fire so far that year in the city of San Antonio. A fire that wasn't an accident, but was set by an arsonist to the other end of my apartment building. For hours, we watched the firefighters trying to battle the flames that seemed to keep flaring up. I called my boss from a borrowed cell phone and told him I would be late to work, but didn't tell him why.

It really didn't sink in that this was actually happening to me. Not until I saw my neighbor's window, right next to my bedroom, explode.

Inside, I saw flames. The firefighters then tore a hole in the roof above my apartment.

I sat down on the curb, and in shock, just watched. The sun rose, and there were people everywhere, with the Red Cross and apartment administrators trying to find apartments within the complex for the displaced families. Luckily, my family lived in San Antonio, so I wasn't worried about where I would live, but what about my stuff? A reporter passing by told me no one in my building had renter's insurance. I thought "Do I have renter's insurance?"

I had signed up for it, along with my car insurance, when I first got to

Texas, but did renter's insurance have to be renewed annually? I wasn't paying attention to it since the combined monthly payment was automatically deducted from my account. So I called my insurance company. I had it.

Within hours, someone from the company was on the scene with a check for me "to cover lodging, food, and some new clothes."

To make a long story short, my apartment suffered extensive damage. The insurance company sent a recovery service over to see what they could salvage, clean, and return to me.

The building was bulldozed to the ground.

But within a month and a half, I had a new place to live. I had new furniture.

I had some of my things back. I still had renter's insurance. I have it here at Lajes. And while I feel secure knowing that my "things" are insured and I'll be reimbursed if anything ever happens, I know from personal experience that there are some items that can never be replaced. Every once in a while, a certain item will pop into my head and I know that it's not in the "Land of the Lost Sock" or "In Storage." It's something I'll never see again.

Look into renter's insurance with your insurance company. As I found out during after that fire years ago, it's a small monthly charge which can be rolled into your car insurance payment. You'll forget that you even have it. Until you need it.

