



Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

In this Issue

African-American Aviation Pioneer

—page 2

Top 3 Unsung Hero

Emergency Evacuation

—page 3

Mark your Calendar:

- Commander's Corner
- SUM dinner

—page 4

Weekend Weather Forecast

Friday

Partly Cloudy

High 54

Low 48

Wind WNW 18 mph



Saturday

Showers/Wind

High 55

Low 48

Wind NW 21 mph



Sunday

Light Rain

High 57

Low 51

Wind WNW 13 mph



Lajes members named best of the best in USAFE

By Staff Sgt. Olufemi Owolabi
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Three Lajes members were recently recognized at the United States Air Forces in Europe Command level when they were named the best of the best in their respective career field.

Master Sgt. Nathan Nielsen, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, was awarded the "USAFE Vehicle Management Senior NCO of the Year," while Jose Soares of the 65th Operations Support Squadron garnered an award for the Airfield Management Supervisor (Civilian) of the Year 2009.

Master Sgt. Israel Jaeger, 65th Air Base Wing, received the National Image Incorporated Meritorious Service Award nomination for the command.

These members said winning such an accolade is a great honor.

Sergeant Nielsen, who was notified of his award during a surprise visit by his group commander, also said it came as a shock to him when he heard the news after his squadron physical exercise and training.

"I was told Col. (Roderick) Dorsey was coming to the

vehicle maintenance unit to hand out awards," said Sergeant Nielsen. "I thought he was going to recognize all the functional award nominees, or hand out certificates for any one of a number of great things the flight does every day, but to my surprise I was the man of the hour!"

The sergeant stood still and was stunned. It took a few minutes to sink in when the news was announced to him. "I'm not used to being in the spotlight and I usually maintain composure when I do win something. I didn't expect to win at the MAJCOM, and I definitely didn't see it coming."

For Mr. Soares, despite this being the sixth command level award he has won, the news still came as a surprise.

"I was kind of surprised, but I knew my award package was very strong. I had been involved in a lot of airfield projects totaling more than \$34 million," Mr. Soares said. "It (winning the award) feels very good. It is always nice to be recognized for the work you do every day."

In his duty capacity, Mr. Soares serves as a first-level supervisor here at Lajes, providing planning, directing, organizing, and exercising control over non-supervisory

To read more on "The best", see page 4

CMSAF shares vision for enlisted Airmen

By Staff Sgt. Mareshah Haynes
Defense Media Activity-San Antonio

The chief master sergeant of the Air Force discussed the outlook for enlisted Airmen during the Air Force Association's Air Warfare Symposium and Technology Exposition Feb. 18 here.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy spoke to several hundred Airmen and civilians about preserving and enhancing the all-volunteer force, one of the four priority objectives in the Quadrennial Defense Review.

"First and foremost we need to manage the operational tempo," Chief Roy said. "Specifically of those chronic critical (Air Force specialties) out there that are always tasked. Many would say, 'Chief that's kind of easy to point out. That's your (pararescuemen and joint terminal attack controller) kind of folks. But also on that list, and it would surprise many folks, are contracting and civil engineering."

"We need to manage them in a way that keeps from driving folks out of the force and keeps them at a heightened level of training," he said.

Chief Roy highlighted some of the nontraditional missions Airmen are performing, such as provincial reconstruction teams, convoy and agricultural development

teams.

"These Airmen are doing the things we've asked them to," Chief Roy said. "Nontraditional? Sure. Important? Absolutely."

Another area the chief is focused on is resetting the equipment.

Airmen are continuing to successfully employ assets that have been in Southwest Asia for nearly 20 years.

"We need to continue to recapitalize our aircraft," Chief Roy said. "Obviously they've been over there for a (long time) and we're going to be there for a long time. Just as our airframes wear out, we need to continue to focus on our agile combat support equipment."

Lastly, Chief Roy spoke about how to support Airmen and families while supporting overseas contingency operations.

"Combat Airman resiliency is kind of new terminology to us, but it's something we really need to focus on," he said. The program is geared to help Airmen who may experience traumatic or stressful experiences while performing their duties.

To cultivate the highest quality Airmen possible, Chief Roy said his vision is to couple Airmen's combat experiences with training and professional military education opportunities, to include joint PME.



Bessie Coleman: African-American Aviation Pioneer

By Andrew Billman
65th Air Base Wing Historian

As we conclude African-American History Month and stand ready to commemorate Women's History Month, the time is right to take a look at the first female African-American aviator in history – Bessie Coleman. During the glory days of barnstorming bi-planes, with pilots risking their lives in daring aerial acrobatics, Bessie Coleman was one of very few women to enter this male-dominated aerial arena. Though her life was tragically cut short in a mid-air accident, "Queen Bessie" still managed to inspire thousands of young African-American youth with the dream to fly free and aspire to loftier heights.

Born on 26 January 1892 young Bessie became the tenth out of eventually thirteen children born to hard-working sharecropper parents, Susan and George Coleman, in the town of Atlanta, Texas. After her birth the family moved to another small town, Waxahachie, Texas, just South of Dallas. There George Coleman bought an acre of land where he built the modest family home just in front of Mustang Creek. Bessie's first years there were carefree as she played in the yard and began attending the only one-room schoolhouse available to African-American children four miles from the Coleman home.

In 1901 Bessie's father left the family in Waxahachie for Oklahoma and the 9 year-old Bessie began to help provide for the family by watching her three younger siblings while keeping up the house as her mother found work as a housekeeper and maid in town. In late summer the cotton harvest would come and the lone African-American school would close as all the men, women, and children entered the fields to pick cotton. The diminutive Bessie hated this time of year. Bessie, alongside her mother, would pick and drag her heavy bag filling with cotton through the hot, dusty fields day after day until the harvest ended.

Her young life was not easy and Bessie yearned for a better future away from a life cleaning homes, doing laundry, and picking cotton. It was no small achievement when she graduated from her one-room school completing the eighth grade while working to support the family. Perseverance, intel-

ligence, and a small savings soon enabled the maturing Ms. Coleman to attend the Agricultural and Normal University in Langston, Oklahoma. Unfortunately, a bad cotton harvest forced the aspiring student back to Texas when her mother could not send the funds for Bessie's tuition and after only one semester she returned home to Waxahachie to pick up work as a laundress. But this setback did not end the dream of a better life for young Ms. Coleman. Again she managed to save up her money over the course of three years and Bessie moved to Chicago to join her older brother, Walter, where she would find an unexpected benefactor and opportunity.

Chicago seemed a world away from the Jim Crow South to a young African-American woman fresh from the state of Texas. Bessie soon gained employment as a manicurist on the South side of the city where she would serve the most prominent members of the Black Community in Chicago. While working in a barber-shop her vision for flight would eventually take shape. While in the "Windy City" Bessie's dream to soar began with the stories her brother brought back from France of his experiences during World War I. Walter's friendly taunting of his little sister concerning the superiority of French women, who could fly, hardened

Bessie's desire to prove that she could measure up and fly just as well. The determined Ms. Coleman attempted to enter a number of American flying schools and every institution closed their doors to this young aspiring flyer. Bessie even tried to find pilots willing to give her private lessons, but her efforts were met without success. She expressed her frustrations to a regular customer of hers, Robert Abbott, the editor and publisher of the leading black newspaper in Chicago – The Chicago Defender. Mr. Abbott suggested that Bessie should travel to Europe and learn to fly in France where there was less discrimination and prejudice. With her savings in hand the intrepid Bessie took his advice and, in time, Robert Abbott would become a significant financier and benefactor for the budding aviator.

After seven months of flight training Bessie Coleman received her Pilote-Aviateur license from the prestigious Federation Aeronautique



Commander's Action Line
535-4240
actionline@lajes.af.mil

The Commander's Action Line is your link to the commander 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 — but when that's not the answer, call or e-mail the Commander's Action Line at 535-4240 or actionline@lajes.af.mil.



Col. Peggy Poore

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Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



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

The Public Affairs Office (Unit 7710, APO, AE 09720) is located in Bldg. T-100, Room 240.

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Editorial Staff

- Col. Peggy Poore
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing
- 1st Lt. Naomi Evangelista
Chief, Public Affairs
- Mr. Manuel Martins
Editor
- Mr. Eduardo Lima
Community Relations Adviser

To read more on "Bessie", see page 4



TOP III UNSUNG HERO AWARD:

Staff Sgt. Jaysa Gordon, 65th Comptroller Squadron, receives the January Unsung Hero Award in the NCO category, presented by the Lajes Top III. (Right photo) Senior Airman Joseph Nutter, 65th Communications Squadron, poses for a photo with Top III leadership and committee after being named the Unsung Hero Award winner for January in the Airman Category. The Top III Unsung Hero Award is held monthly and it is used to recognize an Airman and NCO who demonstrates "Service before Self" and leadership skills. Congratulations to all our award winners!



TIMELY EMERGENCY EVACUATION:

The 65th Medical Group's emergency responders and volunteers provided timely response to a patient here with a premature baby who needed to be evacuated for urgent medical care Feb. 18. (U.S. Air Force photo by Guido Melo)

Register by February 26 COB

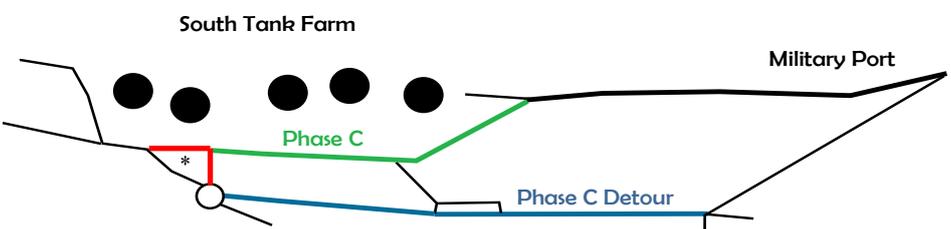
Fitness Center
BIGGEST LOSER
 From March 2-31
 For more information
 call 535-6126/1035

Due to the inclement weather, the Military Road repair project is now expected to be completed by March 31. Paving of the road will commence this week and once the weather is consistently dry, the entire road will be striped. The map below depicts the current phase with alternate routes to the base and Praia da Vitoria.

As each of the phases are implemented, updates will be provided in the Crossroads Xtra newsletter, Commander's Access Channel, AFN and the Lajes website (www.lajes.af.mil). If you have questions, contact Capt. Matthew Altman at 535-6817 or the Public Affairs Office at 535-3413.

* The red section is closed until March 1.

Military Road Closure Update





Mark your calendar



COMMANDER'S CORNER: Lajes members are reminded to tune in to 96.1 FM every first Friday of the month to listen to Commander's Corner. The next Commander's Corner will be aired at 9 a.m. Mar. 5. The program allows the 65th Air Base Wing commander to address issues, concerns and questions members may have. For more information on the

program, call the Defense Media Activity Center at 535-3497.

SUM DINNER: The next SUM Dinner will be hosted by African American Heritage Committee on Friday, Feb. 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the chapel.

LAJES 2010 AFAF: The 37th Annual Air Force Assistance Fund, "Be a Hero" campaign has kicked off and will run through March 19. Team Lajes' goal this year is to raise \$20,160. The Air Force Assistance Fund is a unique campaign because it is managed by Airmen, to help Airmen. Members should contact 1st Lt. Cornita Kimbrough at DSN 535-4260 to find out more information on how to donate.

LAJES CGOC MEETING: The Lajes Company Grade Officer Council holds their meetings the first Tuesday of every month at 11:30 p.m. at the TORC. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 2nd. All CGO's are invited to attend.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH events:

Feb. 27 Dinner & Movie at Chapel at 1700. Parents can drop off their children at the CAC during this event. Movie: "The Great Debaters." Menu: Chicken/Fish, Cornbread, Greens, Mac n Cheese, Sweet Tea, Dessert.

MOZART QUARTETOS: The Centro Cultural e de Congressos de Angra do Heroismo is hosting a quartet Friday, Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. The quartet will include a piano, violin, viola and cello. For more information, contact the Public Affairs office at DSN 535-6161.

SPACE CAMP: Apply to fly! Experience the excitement of Space Exploration at Space Camp. Interested youth can contact the Youth Center at 535-1192 or drop by the Community Center, T-307.

FREE BOWLING!!! KID'S NIGHT: Every Thursday, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Kids 17 and under, bowl free. Shoes included. Subject to lane availability. 535-6169.

DANCE AND MUSIC CLASSES: The Community Center offers Violin, Guitar, Piano, Flute, Music Reading, Portuguese Language, Ballet, Ballroom, Belly and Hula dance classes. Call 535-5216.

CHAPEL CHARITIES COMMITTEE: The Charities Committee works to help meet the needs of base personnel and community. The committee accents their attention on the local orphanages as well as the local nursing homes. Drop off donations Saturdays 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Bldg. T-112. For more information, call (Ch) Capt. Ismael Rodriguez at 535-4211.

TORC MEMBERSHIP COFFEE Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free! Grab and Go. Members can enjoy a cup of coffee "on the house". Just stop by the coffee station and prepare it the way you like. Call 535-1122 for more information.

"The best", from page 1

employees assigned to the Airfield Management function. He also organizes, directs and controls airfield activities in support of flying missions, ensuring that airfield management services comply with legal and regulatory requirements and meet customers' needs.

Sergeant Nielsen, as the Vehicle Management Superintendent, is responsible for a 414-vehicle fleet valued at over \$33 million. As a superintendent, he is also responsible for 40 military and civilian personnel engaged in administering vehicle repairs in seven different work centers.

According to Sergeant Nielsen, part of his duties on a day-to-day basis also involves developing and analyzing key performance indicators, and posturing the flight to exceed all local and MAJCOM goals while maintaining the accountability and execution of a detailed spending plan for a \$751K annual flight operational budget.

They all attributed their success to hard work and teamwork. According to them winning an award sounds great but it wouldn't have been possible without the support of their unit members and leadership.

"I appreciate all the support they provide me on a daily basis," he said.

Phrase of the Week

A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: What are you doing this weekend?

PORTUGUESE: O que é que vais fazer este fim de semana?

PRONUNCIATION: Oo key eh key vije fazeyrd eeshte feem dee semana ?

At the Movies



7 p.m. Friday - Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG)

7 p.m. Saturday - Leap Year (PG)

4 p.m. Sunday - Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (PG)

7 p.m. Sunday - Youth in Revolt (R)

Movie times and schedule are subject to change.

"I have been working for the United States Air Force for 34 years with 20 years in the Airfield Management career field," Mr. Soares added. "It is a whole life. I think I contributed, as well as all the local nationals at this base, to Lajes mission success. Military members and local nationals -- we all work together as a team."

In a congratulatory letter, written to Sergeant Jaeger by Maj. Gen. William A. Chambers, USAF vice commander, high praises were given to the sergeant as an ambassador of the United States Armed Forces during his deployment to Iraq between May 2008 and December 2009.

"Your dynamic leadership and ability to foster relations with people of various ethnic backgrounds significantly contributed to the building of an independent Iraqi Air Force," General Chambers wrote in his letter to Sergeant Jaeger.

During his deployment, Sergeant Jaeger constructed a comprehensive training plan to track knowledge operation processes and culminated a \$17 million-joint United States and Iraqi Communications Defense Network. He was also certified as an English language instructor by the Defense Learning Institute, and he started a robust English familiarization curriculum to enhance Iraqi Air Force pilot's proficiency in aircraft and maintenance-specific terminologies.

The Lajes members will compete next at the Air Force level. Good luck Team Lajes.

"Bessie Coleman", from page 2

Internationale on 15 June 1921. Bessie's dream to soar among the clouds as the first African-American woman aviator was realized through her singular determination to succeed in spite of the obstacles placed in her path. Through the financial support and publicity of Robert Abbott, "Queen Bessie" thrilled thousands of black and white spectators across America over the next five years in dazzling shows of aeronautical skill. Tragically, her career and life were cut short in April 1926 when she flew as a passenger in a new Jenny bi-plane she had bought for an air-show in Florida. While leaning out of the cockpit to scout for potential landing zones for her parachute jump the following day, the aircraft suddenly dove, inverted, and Bessie Coleman was flung out of the aircraft and plummeted to her death just before her bi-plane slammed into the ground killing her mechanic/pilot as well.

Though Queen Bessie's life ended much too soon, her legacy lived on in the form of Bessie Coleman Aero Clubs that helped pave the way for training institutions like the famous Tuskegee Institute flying school that would enable even more African-American aviators to take to the skies. In 1995, 69 years after her fatal accident, Bessie Coleman was honored with a commemorative stamp from the U.S. Postal Service in recognition of her pioneering work as the first female African-American aviator in history.