



## Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha  
Threat Level: Low

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### Weekend Weather Forecast

#### Friday

Partly Cloudy

High 75

Low 68

Wind NW 9 mph



#### Saturday

Sunny

High 75

Low 68

Wind NW 10 mph



#### Sunday

Showers

High 74

Low 68

Wind N 10 mph



## Reflections

By Col. Peggy Poore  
65th Air Base Wing commander

It was late Saturday morning, September 20, 2008. I was sitting on the floor in the International Terminal of the Baltimore-Washington International Airport, right next to the AMC check-in counter. I think I was right under that really big, cool electronic sign that shows all the flights departing from the international terminal for the day. I was sitting there with two big kennels waiting for the AMC terminal folks to take Sammy and Stella to be boarded on the plane. I felt kind of silly sitting on the floor, but that's where they told me to wait and there were no chairs.

I thought I was alone, or at least fairly invisible. The international flights usually come and go later in the day, so that part of the airport is pretty much abandoned around lunch time. There were a couple of folks wandering around, but I remember thinking the terminal was pretty empty. So, there I sat, talking to my cats and waiting. Then, I noticed two individuals walking straight toward me, and they were walking with a purpose. I thought to myself, "Those aren't AMC folks. Who are they and why are they walking straight toward me?" One came right up to me and in the most energetic and perky voice you will ever hear a complete stranger utter to another complete stranger, she said, "You're going to be our new wing commander!" I had just met Tech. Sgt. Diane Bealeu and my Lajes adventure had just begun, even before I left Baltimore!

I relate that story not to embarrass Tech. Sgt. Bealeu, but to tell you that initial encounter confirmed everything I had heard about Lajes and has been validated in my two years here as your wing commander. First impressions are lasting impressions, and I'll tell you Lajes impressed me from the very beginning. From the moment I landed

(and even before I got here, thanks to Tech. Sgt. Bealeu), I have felt at home at Lajes. The atmosphere and character of Lajes is unlike any other place I've been stationed. From the absolute pristine natural beauty of Terceira to the first-class workforce (both US and local national) laser-focused on excellence and the mission, this has been an absolute dream assignment. Not many people can say they've been to the Azores. Now I can say I've lived there, and I'm extremely grateful for my Azores experience.

As with just about everyone who moves, I can say the thing I will miss the most about Lajes is the people. At a "remote and isolated" location, you get to know people better and form tighter bonds than most stateside, or even overseas, bases. Lajes reminds me of the military bases I grew up on as a child. Those were very tight-knit communities with lots of family-oriented activities. People watched out for each other and took care of each other. We have that here. And that's true not just among the US personnel, but also with our local national workers as well. While we come and go in 15 and 24 month increments, our local nationals stay and work here for a lifetime. It's not uncommon for folks to retire after having worked on Lajes for 40 years or more. They are our continuity and our teammates. More importantly, they are members of our family and we are members of theirs.

That sense of community and family bond across cultures is what makes Lajes such a great place to live, work and play.

As I reflect on my two years in command, it's most definitely the people of Lajes I'll always remember. People, both US and Portuguese alike, centered on absolute excellence, laser-focused on mission accomplishment, and committed to sustaining the sense of family and togetherness that makes Lajes a one-of-a-kind experience in our Air Force. It's been an absolute honor to be your Wing Commander. You all most definitely ROCK!

## The New "Face" of Lajes Field

By Tech. Sgt. Darrell I. Dean  
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Recently, the Department of Defense lifted the ban on access to many social media sites from government computers. Senior DoD leaders have seen the value of social media as a crucial tool to communicate the DoD mission to a global audience.

This new access to social media has provided an exciting opportunity for the Public Affairs office here. In May of this year, Lajes entered the world of social media with the launch of the "Lajes Field, Azores" page on Facebook. Since its inception, our Facebook page has

gained over 350 followers, with more being added daily.

The Facebook page is used to enhance the base's existing communications and information products. With the limited space of the Crossroads Xtra newsletter and the Lajes website, PA doesn't always get to publish all of the information we would like. Our Facebook page allows us to publish more photos of the exciting events happening around the base. Not only can you see the photos, but you can also leave comments for other Facebook users to see.

Did you have a good time at the comedy show at the Top of the Rock Club? Leave a comment on the photos to

To read more on "Lajes Facebook", see page 4



# The Lajes way

By Maj. Robert Sweeney  
65 OSS deputy commander

With each military personal change of station we make, it seems that there are new challenges that come with it. Whether it's a new pet, a growing family, a PCS overseas, or just new requirements, the list of things to be done before the PCS can be daunting. And just getting to your new destination is not the end. Now you have to find a place to stay, take care of your family, and begin all of those tasks that get you in-processed to a new base. These reasons are why a good sponsorship program and, more importantly, a good sponsor are so critical to this whole process.

I received my assignment notification to Lajes in late January and my sponsor immediately got in touch with me and began doing what he could to help my family make a smooth transition to the island life. Questions he began asking were about how many dependents I had, if I was bringing a pet, and what date we were looking to show up. He had great information about the rotator schedule, vehicle processing, household good information, local pet restrictions and living the island lifestyle. He began easing my families' fears about our impending PCS because we'd be doing it with a 2-year-old, a 2-month-old, and an 80-pound chocolate Labrador Retriever. Needless to say we had a lot to do.

June had finally arrived, and it was time for my family to make the big trip from Little Rock, Ark., to Lajes. We had our rotator reservations for the family and dog and were ready to go. The flight to the island was surprisingly smooth, but travelling with a toddler, a newborn, and a dog was difficult at times. It seemed to me like every time we went somewhere it was like a major troop movement.

## The intellectual resource

By Gen. Stephen R. Lorenz  
AETC Commander

Today, we are approaching nine years of sustained combat operations. Many could even argue that our Air Force has been involved in continuous combat operations since the original Gulf War in 1991.

Even more challenging, today's combat operations are being conducted while the rest of the nation fights its way through a recession, making resources extremely constrained. Such an environment demands a unique blend of innovation and intellect, looking for efficiencies at every corner to achieve our desired effect.

In many ways, investing in intellect, in our ability to out-think the enemy, is the most cost-efficient way to prepare for future uncertainty and to combat a clever foe.

In today's world, the easiest and quickest

But we got to Lajes in one piece.

Before we had left on the rotator I had told my sponsor to make sure he got a big vehicle because we had a lot of stuff. He told me not to worry about it. I had expected that he would meet me at the terminal and that we would just make several trips back and forth for bags. Well, when I got into the terminal after arrival I could see why he told me not to worry about it. I thought to myself "Wow, there are a lot of people out there to meet us." It seemed like the whole base and squadron had shown up for the arrival. I have to admit that it really was a great welcome. But to be honest, it was such a blur that I barely remember who met me.

What I remember most was that I hadn't shaven in a few days and was wearing my old baseball hat and probably looked like crap in front of my new commander. What also stuck out to me (was) how quickly my new squadron mates gathered up my bags, dog, and family and had us out the door. We had the keys already to get the dog in the kennel and also had the keys to get into billeting. When we arrived at billeting, some squadron members had gotten food and diapers for our little ones knowing that it would be difficult to get those items late at night or on a Sunday. And one squadron mate even left us his car to borrow until we could square away our car situation.

I was so surprised by the greeting and very thankful too. My squadron and sponsor certainly went the extra mile to help give us a smooth transition.

We are all family in this Air Force, and we must take care of each other. Leave no one behind! My sponsor and squadron cared and it showed. I owe everyone a great thanks. Please remember it's about the details. If you find yourself a sponsor, just think about your arrival and what you would have liked or what would have made your PCS a little bit easier.

way to self-improve is to increase our individual levels of education.

Remember, education is how we prepare ourselves for the uncertainty of tomorrow.

I know that increasing our education levels isn't always as easy as it sounds. Thankfully, the Air Force helps with one of the limited resources we balance every day: money.

Scholarship and tuition assistance programs help pay for many advanced degrees and education programs.

Another limited resource most people struggle with is time. Our challenge is making time to find beneficial education programs and then the important part: completing them. After all, if it were easy, then time wouldn't be an issue and everyone would have multiple degrees.

Making a commitment to complete education and self-improvement programs may

To read more on "AETC", see page 4

**Commander's Action Line**  
**535-4240**  
**65abw.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 65abw.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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**NCO PROFESSIONAL ENHANCEMENT COURSE**

Twelve members from the 65th Air Base Wing, Lajes Field, completed the NCO Professional Enhancement course, designed to augment and reinforce information taught in Basic Military Training, technical training, ancillary training, PME and job experience. The course included a welcome brief from Col. Poore, 65th Air Base Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Samuel Hagadorn, 65th Air Base Wing command chief, followed by several military, professional and leadership briefings. (Courtesy photo)



**65 CPTS CHANGE OF COMMAND**

Maj. Raymond Castro assumes command of the 65th Comptroller Squadron from Col. Peggy Poore, 65th Air Base Wing commander, during the 65 CPTS Change of Command ceremony on July 12. Maj. Castro joins Team Lajes from MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Darrell I. Dean)



**65 CES CHANGE OF COMMAND**

Lt. Col. David Scharf receives the 65th Civil Engineering Squadron guidon from Col. Arch Bruns, 65th Mission Support Group Commander, on July 7th. Lt. Col. Scharf is assuming command of the 65 CES from Col. Douglas Wise. (Photo by Guido Melo)



**65 MDOS CHANGE OF COMMAND**

Col. Brian Witt, passes the 65th Medical Operations Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Gwendolyn Johnson on July 8. Lt. Col. Johnson is the new commander of the 65 MDOS. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Darrell I. Dean)



**RAF MILDENHALL KC-135 TRANSPORT**

Col. Peggy Poore, 65th Air Base Wing commander, presents a print of Lajes to Maj. Eric Fryar, RAF Mildenhall, on July 7. Col. Poore presented the print as a token of thanks to RAF Mildenhall for providing a KC-135 to transport the Lajes Field Annual Award winners to the USAFE competition at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Darrell I. Dean)



## Mark your calendar



**SNCO INDUCTION CEREMONY:** CMSgt (Retired) Bob Vasquez, the USAF Academy Seminar Course Director, will be the guest speaker at the Lajes Field 2010 SNCO Induction Ceremony, hosted by the Lajes Top III. The ceremony will be Friday, July 30 in the TORC Main Ballroom. Social hour starts at 6 p.m. with the official ceremony starting at

7 p.m. Dress for military members is mess dress or semi-formal; civilians should wear suit/tie for gentlemen and an evening dress for ladies. Contact your unit POC to sign up or call MSgt Velsor at 535-6445.

**TOBACCO CESSATION CLASS:** The Lajes Health and Wellness Center will host a Tobacco Cessation Class Monday, July 19 at 12 p.m. in the Chace Fitness Center. To sign up, call the HAWC at 535-4292.

**SITAR CONCERT:** SITAR is a musical instrument from India and is played by just a few artists outside India. Paulo Sousa, a Portuguese musician, is one of them and he is coming to Terceira Island to host a free concert at Angra do Heroismo Museum on Saturday July 17 at 930 p.m.

**65 ABW CHANGE OF COMMAND:** 65th Air Base Wing Change of Command will be Thursday, July 22, at 1000 in the field in front of T-100. If you have any questions, call the wing Protocol office at 535-2325.

**SUM DINNER:** 5:30 p.m. July 22 at the chapel. For more information, call (Ch, Maj.) Colon at 535-4211.

**2ND BIKE-RIDE TOURISM:** If you like riding a bicycle, get yourself ready for the 2nd Bike-ride during Praia Festivities. The bikers will get together at Praia Main Square on August 1, at 9 a.m. and they will leave 30 minutes after. This event is free and is not a race/competition.

**FAMILY AQUA FUN:** As part of Air Force Fit Family, the base will host a Family Aqua Fun event Friday, July 23rd from 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. at the base pool. The event will be sponsored by the Lajes Outdoor Recreation and will have water safety classes, games, bouncy castles and clowns! Bring your family to this fun event!

**TRACK CLOSED:** The base running track is completely closed (24/7) for construction and will re-open once construction is completed, which is expected to be around September 2010. All personnel who are scheduled to take their official Air Force fitness test will need to do their 1.5 mile run on the AEF ramp, which needs to be reserved prior to your test date. Contact your Unit Fitness Program Manager for details on how to reserve the ramp. If you have any questions, contact Mr. Agostinho Silva at 535-5151.

**HAWC MONTHLY HEALTH COOKING SHOW:** The HAWC invites you to learn how to prepare tasty, healthy meals by attending a cooking show held every last Friday of the month from 12-1 p.m. Call MSgt William Carter at 535-4292 to sign up or visit the HAWC in the fitness center.

### "Lajes Facebook", from page 1

let everyone know. And wasn't our base's Freedom Festival just a blast? Let us know you liked it!

These interactions provide a unique perspective of life at Lajes that can give a newcomer a special glimpse of what life is like here on the island, and can let all our family and friends back home know all of the fun they are missing!

We also use this page to enhance our Weekly Bulletin and "Mark Your Calendar" sections of the Crossroads. Not only do we advertise events happening around the wing, but we can also quickly update the page with short-notice events or cancellations.

However, Public Affairs is not the only organization that can get involved in social media. Individual squadrons and units can also start their own social media projects. Whether it's starting a Facebook page, posting videos on a YouTube channel, or sharing photos on Flickr, there are many opportunities for units to showcase their missions to a global audience. Keep in mind that any official page has to comply with specific guidelines and Air Force instructions. The Public Affairs office can provide you with the guidance to get you started.

If you have a Facebook account and would like to follow the Lajes Field page, simply search for "Lajes Field, Azores" from your account. Click the "like" button to receive all of the latest updates directly on your home page.

If you would like to start a social media product for your organization and/or would like any guidance on social media, please contact the Public Affairs office at DSN 535-6161, or 65abw.pa@lajes.af.mil.

## Phrase of the Week

### A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



**ENGLISH:** Do you accept credit cards here?

**PORTUGUESE:** Você aceita um cartão de crédito?

**PRONUNCIATION:** vohSAY ahSAYtah oom cartOW de CREHdeetoo?

## BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE



Saturday, July 17	6:30 p.m.	Ribeirinha
Saturday, July 17	6:30 p.m.	Santa Rita Hill (Before old AFN Station)
Sunday, July 18	6:30 p.m.	Altares
Sunday, July 18	6:30 p.m.	Vila Nova
Monday, July 19	6:30 p.m.	Porto Judeu de Cima
Tuesday, July 20	6:30 p.m.	Port of Porto Judeu

## At the Movies



- 7 p.m. Friday - Shrek Forever After (PG)
- 10 p.m. Friday - Letters to Juliet (PG)
- 7 p.m. Saturday - Letters to Juliet (PG)
- 10 p.m. Saturday - Sex and the City 2 (R)
- 4 p.m. Sunday - Shrek Forever After (PG)
- 7 p.m. Sunday - Sex and the City 2 (R)

Movie times and schedule are subject to change. Call 535-4100 for the latest update.

### "AETC", from page 2

move other priorities to the side.

When you're weighing the relative importance of each, remember that education and self-improvement are activities that will help you no matter where life takes you.

If you decide to stay in the Air Force, it will help better serve the nation. If you decide to shift into another career outside the Air Force, higher levels of education and study will help translate into increased pay and responsibilities.

Either way, you win, and are better prepared to successfully handle the challenges that life throws at you, especially when you least expect it.

In the end, the better prepared you are, the better the chance you could be the "idea person."

Tomorrow's challenges will certainly be bigger than those we face today. Our Air Force -- and our nation -- needs you to better prepare now. Your investment in education and intellect is the best weapon to combat the uncertainty that tomorrow will bring. We can't afford not to invest in education.

## ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

The Annual Safe Drinking Water Act Consumer Confidence Report is available at the Post Office and on the Lajes website ([www.lajes.af.mil](http://www.lajes.af.mil)). Information pamphlets will also be distributed to each unit's First Sergeant for distribution. Contact Bioenvironmental at 535-6206 if you have any questions.