



## Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha  
Threat Level: Low

"6-5...  
IN THE FIGHT!"

CY 2010  
(as of Dec. 3, 2010)

1,532  
SORTIES

25,166  
LODGED

6.49 million  
gallons  
FUEL ISSUED

### Weekend Weather Forecast (Lajes Weather Flight)

#### Friday (a.m. / p.m.)

Rainy/Mostly Cloudy  
Wind NE 29 - 40 mph  
NE 34 - 51 mph  
High 64 / Low 55



#### Saturday (a.m. / p.m.)

Mostly Cloudy/Mostly Cloudy  
Wind N 11 - 18  
W 17 - 28 mph  
High 64 / Low 52



#### Sunday (a.m. / p.m.)

Mostly Cloudy/Partly Cloudy  
Wind NW 11-18 mph  
NW 11-18 mph  
High 57 / Low 50



## Lajes Defenders deploy to Africa



Airman Christian Johnson, 65th Security Forces Squadron, Lajes Field, assists with providing security while on a deployment to western Africa. The Lajes Security Forces members are responsible for enabling airpower by providing physical security, for all U.S. and allied forces at Lajes Field. (Courtesy photo)

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

Lajes in the fight, one of the most commonly used rally cries here, became a reality for a team of the 65th Security Forces Squadron Airmen when they packed their bags for a deployment to western Africa Nov. 2.

After conducting several preparatory, combat training exercises, the four-member team, led by Tech. Sgt. Bradford Johnson, departed for Mali to join a team of Airmen providing security for a training mission in the country.

"We are providing security for PL2 (protection level) aircraft at a Malian Air Base," said Sergeant Johnson. "We are working with 151st Air National Guard unit from Utah, and the aircraft out of Puerto Rico. The aircraft is being used on a training mission with the Malian Air Force in Gau."

According to these Airmen, they are also helping with walking patrols, entry control points and controller duties, among many others.

"I like the experience of getting to help the Air Force on an important mission," said Airman 1st Class Cody Green.

For some of the first-term deploying Airmen, going to Africa was an exciting experience.

"I mean, we aren't exposed to most of what others are exposed to, but all in all, it is a great experience," said Airman 1st Class Matthew Dunlap.

Airman Dunlap also shared his experience saying

he was very excited to receive the tasking because the training experience at Lajes had prepared him for the duties at the deployed location.

On the other hand, Airman Christian Johnson expressed her excitement when she said not very many people get the chance to go to Africa on a short deployment.

"Deploying to Africa is an unforgettable experience," she said. "I have learned to appreciate all of the small things, (we take for granted), a lot more."

One survival tool that helped the 65 SFS Airmen to get through the daily grind of the mission was teamwork.

"I feel that teamwork and the support from others help us get through the mission day to day, and we help each other out in any way we can if anybody needs something or some kind of support," said Airman Green. "I feel that our team here has done a very good job on the teamwork aspect and the mission."

Airman Johnson also echoed her counterpart's comment. She added that they understand that everyone in the team is vital in accomplishing the daily mission.

"We all work together to get things done," Airman Johnson said. "Even though we are the lowest ranking, we do the same job and have the same goals."

The Lajes Security Forces members are part of the 65th Security Forces Squadron, responsible for enabling airpower by providing physical security, police services, resource protection and antiterrorism and force protection for all U.S. and allied forces at Lajes Field.



# Are you vREDy?

By Maj. Juan A. Robinson  
65th Force Support Squadron

The Thanksgiving feasts have passed, and we are now officially in the holiday season. With thoughts of loved ones across the world, supervisors and coworkers will inevitably rally around our single and unaccompanied members here at Lajes with the intent of making sure that they are not left out.

This is what we do for those that we care about, so it only makes sense that we do so for our extended Air Force family members. Yes, special occasions often cause us to reflect on the relationships in our lives, but are you taking care of your family during the offseason as well? Have you discussed with your Airmen what happens when something happens to them? Better yet, have you discussed with your family what happens when something happens to you?

No one among us wants to be reminded of his or her own mortality, but death is the most certain thing in life. To discuss your own is a very uncomfortable conversation at best, but one that we owe to those we care about. We owe it to our Airmen to ensure that they understand what the Department of Defense's role is in the event of their death, and we owe it to our spouses, parents, siblings and/or children to ensure that they understand what will happen if they are ever faced with the unthinkable. I urge you to take time out to walk through a DD Form 93 or virtual Record of Emergency Data with those closest to you. Required by law, military members complete the form upon entering military service and are required to

update it at least annually. Since hardcopy personnel files are a thing of the past, you no longer have to visit the Military Personnel Section to review or update your personal data. However, now that your vRED is maintained in a virtual environment, it is even more imperative that you set a schedule to accomplish this task at least once every six months and upon Permanent Change of Station, deployment or any other important change in your life. You can access your vRED through the Air Force Portal via the virtual Military Personnel Flight application.

The vRED is a crucial part of military estate planning. This document is the only source that the DoD uses for contact information for your primary next-of-kin, secondary next-of-kin, and other persons to be notified or excluded in the event of your injury, death or other emergency. It also serves as the official document for designating beneficiaries for receipt of a Death Gratuity or Unpaid Pay and Allowances, and the Person Authorized to Direct Disposition (PADD).

The Death Gratuity is a lump sum payment from the DoD to designated individuals identified by the servicemember. It is a tax exempt value of \$100,000 intended to defray the cost of immediate expenses that may arise at the time of death. A servicemember may now designate one or more persons (to include non-relatives) to receive all or a portion of the DG payment, not to exceed a total amount of \$100,000. However, if married, members who designate less than 100 percent DG payout to

To read more on "vREDy?" see page 6

**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. Jose Rivera

**Col. Jose Rivera**  
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



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

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# Lajes kick starts holiday season with tree lighting ceremony

By Capt. Naomi Evangelista  
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Over 300 men, women, children, and Airmen joined at the Community Center for the Lajes Tree Lighting Ceremony Dec. 2.

The event started with a welcome and prayer from Chaplain Dominic Vitaliano which was followed by the singing of carols from the Lajes Field Chapel's AWANA, which was composed of about 20 children. However, the singing was not just limited to the AWANA children- the entire room was buzzing with cheerful melodies of the holiday season.

"I think this is a great idea especially because it's an opportunity to gather everybody together," said Maj. Gen. Manuel Rolo, Headquarters Azores Air Zone commander. "I think the main idea around this is mainly to get all the people all together around the Christmas time for good singing, good spirits."

"It's very important to keep people motivated in the Christmas time- it's always a nice season," he added.

While the event was originally supposed to take place outside where an impressively sized tree was positioned, due to inclement weather, the event was moved indoors. However, the



ceremony still proved to be a great way to kick off the holiday season at the 65th Air Base Wing and Lajes Field.

"It's a family tree- with Portuguese and Americans getting together to celebrate the start of the holiday season," said Col. Jose Rivera, 65 ABW commander. "I call it the start of the Christmas season where we share all those values with the Americans and our Portuguese partners."

The tree lighting was hosted by the Lajes Field Chapel but required a lot of outside assistance in order for everything to come together.

"We received amazing support from everyone-

To read more on "Tree lighting" see page 6



# Colorado C-130s transit Lajes via Israel firefight

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

Two C-130 Hercules from the 302nd Airlift Wing transited Lajes Dec. 6, 2010, via a mission in Israel to provide aerial firefighting support.

The C-130s and their crew of about 50 members were supported by Airmen of the 65th Air Base Wing, which is a transit point for aircraft trying to make it across the Atlantic.

During the transit at Lajes Field, the Airmen of the 65th Operations Support Squadron provided transient alert support while members of the Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants shop helped refueled the aircraft.

"We provided parking and coordinated for fuel for these aircraft during the stopover at Lajes," said Tech. Sgt. Richard Osborn, 65 OSS transient alert maintenance technician. "After we got the required information from the base ops, our Airmen found out what the aircraft and the crew needed, and we got them everything they needed to complete their mission."

While the two aircraft were here, they both consumed more than

8,000 gallons of fuel before departing Lajes for Colorado.

"We are responsible for refueling all aircraft that stop at Lajes," said Francisco Costa, POL supervisor. "When we received a call from transient alert, we immediately dispatched our driver and the refueling unit."

The fuels section usually receives notification from transient alert or the command post, depending on the hours of the day the call is initiated.

The 65 OSS Airmen also provided support by coordinating the personnel billeting information with the 65th Force Support Squadron, which transported the crew members to their respective lodge.

"Our support to these aircraft is very critical to their mission," said Sergeant Osborn. "We help the aircraft and the crew member get enough rest during their transition here so that they can get to their final destinations safely."

The 65th Air Base Wing and Lajes Field is the U.S. Air Force's pre-imminent, en-route, expeditionary-focused, combat support organization for aircraft and crew members traveling across the Atlantic.



## New family lounge opens

By Capt. Gregory Ross  
729th Air Mobility Squadron

The Michael Passenger Terminal has added a new family lounge to allow families to access a nursery and family area in the non-sterile area of the passenger terminal.

To better serve the needs of AMC's esteemed customers, the 729th Air Mobility Squadron, in coordination with its mission partners of the 65th Air Base Wing, put forward an effort to reutilize vacant space in the best interest of those passengers traveling with babies and small children.

As mission partners, the 729 AMS held a ribbon cutting ceremony with guest ribbon cutters Col Jose Rivera (65 ABW commander), Col Regenor (521 AMOG/CC) and Mrs. Raquel Lopes (729 AMS/CSS and nursery designer).

The family lounge consists of a small room with a variety of furnishings, such as a baby crib, toys for children, refrigerator, microwave oven, TV, sofa, etc., and will provide a desperately needed space as well as the benefit of isolating activities which could be disruptive in other parts of the terminal.

The lounge is located right next to the Passenger Service Center counter and will be available when the terminal is open for business. For additional info contact the AMC Passenger Terminal at extensions 535-3227/3582.

## Phase III of Runway Project

By staff reports  
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

The Lajes Field runway resurface project is currently in progress, and it is scheduled to be completed in the winter of 2011. The overall project, which is in phases and awarded to a contractor in the local community, is estimated to cost about \$7 million.

In order to continue the mission at Lajes, the 65 Air Base Wing developed this project to resurface the runway with no impact to the military or civilian flying mission.

This project mills and repaves 3.5M square feet of runway, eight taxiways to the hold short-line. The project will also re-paint all required runway markings. Re-paving is scheduled to be completed in September of 2011, with a break for winter exclusion.

According to the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron officials, this project marks a new high in bilateral relations with the Portuguese partners, as it is the first time cost sharing has been used to maintain joint facilities.

Currently both ends of the runway, measuring approximately 1,700 feet by 300 feet have been completed. After the winter exclusion is over the remaining section of runway will be resurfaced. This will be broken into two phases of 9,200 ft by 150 ft.

The runway markings and lighting will be adjusted for each phase to allow for continued use of the runway for both military and civilian aircraft. Once the runway has been completely resurfaced it will decrease the hazards that were posed by ageing asphalt. The desperately needed project is moving forward as a great testament to the outstanding partnership between the U.S. Air Force and Portuguese Ministry of Defense.

The runway was last resurfaced in 1987. Over this time the surface has deteriorated and emergency repairs have been completed to keep it operational.





# WING EVENTS CALENDAR

# DECEMBER

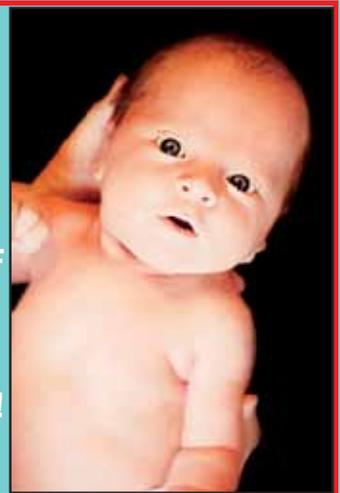
# Feature

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
10 Teens late night basketball tournament  Last day to re-take CLEP, DSST and ECE FREE at EducationCenter!	11 Cowabunga Youth Center Gym 12-2 p.m.  Kids Holiday Reading Library 1-2 p.m.	12	13 Kids Fine Arts Exhibit Cafe Bean 5-8 p.m.	14 Wing Run Fire Dept 8 a.m.	15 Rising 6 Meeting	16 Wings of Dixie performances: 11 a.m.- CES 11:20 a.m.- Fiddler's Green 1:55 p.m.- Commissary 7-8 p.m.- CAC
17 Preteen Fear Factor 6-7 p.m.	18 Kids Holiday Reading- Library 1-2 p.m.  Wings of Dixie performance at Ramo Grande, Praia 9:30 pm.	19 Cantata @ Chapel 5-6 p.m.  FSS Letters from Santa on-going until Dec. 22!	20 Taste of Home starts until Dec 22 at CAC	21	22	23 FAMILY DAY!



Capt. Levi Davis (right middle), 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Christopher Coleman (right front), 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, receive "goody bags" from the wing chaplains at the members' Warrior Departure at the TORC Dec. 1. (Photo by Guido Melo)

Welcome Team Lajes' newest member: Mitt Philip Eves, son of James and Kim Eves. Mitt was born at RAF Lakenheath on Oct. 7 weighing 9 lbs 1.5 oz. Congratulations!

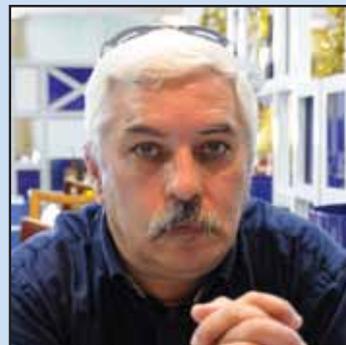


## LAJES AIRMEN OF THE WEEK



**Name:** Olufemi Owolabi  
**Rank:** Staff Sergeant  
**Unit:** 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs  
**Hometown:** Lagos, Nigeria  
**Duty Title:** Journalist  
**Accomplishments:** SSgt Owolabi superbly manages the base's primary internal informational documents- the Crossroads Xtra newsletter, the Weekly Bulletin and the base's website. Sergeant Owolabi is also a distinguished

member of the Lajes Honor Guard team and also plays on the base soccer team. He provides sound guidance in Public Affairs areas, assisting in the production of wing communication plans, talking points, advertisements and media releases.



**Name:** Guido Melo  
**Rank:** LGS-9  
**Unit:** 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs  
**Hometown:** Quatro Ribeiras  
**Duty Title:** Photographer  
**Accomplishments:** Guido has worked as a photographer for the 65th Air Base Wing for 30 years and is a key asset in fulfilling the Public Affairs mission of highlighting our priorities and people. Mr. Melo has captured over 10K operational images

that ensure the Lajes story is highlighted. He also is one of two alert photographers and responds to provide photographic support and documentation of significant events. Guido is a trustworthy, talented and professional member of the 65 ABW PA office.

# "6-5...IN THE FIGHT!"



Senior Airman Johnathan Parker holds the U.S. flag up while facing Staff Sgt. Joseph Hoh after the two Honor Guard members completed unfolding and re-folding the flag at a retirement ceremony at Lajes Field at the Top of the Rock Club ballroom Dec. 1. Flag folding is a traditional ceremony to recognize honorary members. (U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Naomi Evangelista)



The pilot of a Eurofighter Typhoon prepares to exit the aircraft after landing at Lajes Field to get refueled Nov. 30. The aircraft was part of the British Royal Air Force and is a twin-engine, multi-role aircraft. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Congratulations to the 65th Security Forces Squadron for winning the 2010 Flag Football League Championship. (Photo by Chief Master Sgt. Samuel Hagadorn)



Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, makes opening remarks at the Wing Safety Day at the base theater Dec. 3. The event's goal was to remind Airmen to keep safety in the forefront of their minds throughout the year. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Members of the Lajes Field Company Grade Officer Council donate clothing items to a local orphanage Nov. 30. (Photo by Guido Melo)



(Left to right) Col. Alexandre Figueiredo, Air Base 4 commander, Maj. Gen. Manuel Rolo, HAAZ commander, and his wife, Paula, join the members of the 65th Air Base Wing in singing holiday carols at the Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Community Center Dec. 2. (Photo by Guido Melo)



## Mark your calendar

**WINGS OF DIXIE:** The United States Air Forces in Europe band, the Wings of Dixie, will be coming to Terceira island to perform for Team Lajes and the community. The performance, open to all of Team Lajes, will be Dec. 16 at the Community Center from 7-8 p.m. On Dec. 18, the jazz band will perform at the Ramo Grande Auditorium in Praia da Vitoria at 9:30 p.m. This final performance is open to

everyone. Contact SMSgt Glen Robinson if you have any questions.

**CHANGE IN ROTATOR SCHEDULE FOR HOLIDAYS:** There will be a change in the normal Space-A rotator schedule from Dec 27-31. There will also be a KC-10 aircraft to provide transport to the U.S. this month. For more details, please contact the AMC Passenger Terminal at 535-3227/3582.

**CAN YOU PLAY THE BASS?** The wing band is looking for an experienced bass guitarist. The member can be active duty, U.S. or a Portuguese civilian employee. Contact Tommy Brooks at Donald.Brooks@lajes.af.mil if you're interested.

**EVERY CHILD READY TO READ:** On Dec. 11 and 18 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and Dec. 31 from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., the library will be hosting special story time events. The library is looking for five to six volunteers each day to read stories and assist with ornaments and decorations. Volunteers should contact Mr. Niblick, Lajes Librarian, via e-mail: william.niblick@lajes.af.mil or DSN 535-6253.

**CANTATA:** The Christmas Cantata will be Sunday, Dec. 19 at 5 p.m. at the Base Chapel. For more information please call 535-4211. The event is sponsored by the Lajes Field Chapel.

**LETTER FROM SANTA:** Santa is preparing to write letters to your children. All you have to do to help him out is come by the Community Center. Cost per letter is \$2. Deadline is Dec. 17. Call 535-5216 for more information.

**COWABUNGA:** Bring your kid to the Cowabunga celebration Saturday, Dec. 11, Noon - 2 p.m., at the Youth Center Gym. There will be bouncy castles, face painting, balloon modeling, and a movie for kids all ages. Kids under the age of 9 must be accompanied by a parent. Call 535-3273.

### "vREDY" from page 2

their spouse will, by law, have written notification sent by DoD advising the spouse of that decision. When discussing the vRED with your family, be sure to explain the difference between Death Gratuity and SGLI. DG is not life insurance. It is a completely separate entitlement that will be paid out regardless of cause or manner of death.

The Unpaid Pay and Allowances entitlement will also be paid to the beneficiary designated on the vRED. This entitlement includes any base pay and other authorized allowances that have accrued up to the time of the member's death. It may include payment for up to 60 days accrued leave, amounts due for travel and per diem, family member transportation, HHG shipment and unpaid portions of reenlistment bonuses. DFAS will perform a complete audit of the member's pay record and issue a check to the designated beneficiary. However, it should be noted that this is not an automatic action and that it must be initiated through a specified claim form, the SF 1174.

Finally, the Person Authorized to Direct Disposition, or PADD, is one of the most important designations an individual will make on the vRED. This designee is the one person who will be authorized to receive and dispose of a service member's personal effects in the event of death or incapacitation. In case of death, this individual will also have sole authority in decisions relating to funeral, burial or cremation arrangements. By law, the PADD must be a spouse, blood relative of legal age or an adoptive relative of the deceased member.

If you have made it to this point in my commentary, then I applaud you. As I mentioned earlier, this is not an easy topic to discuss, nor is it a fun one. All too often we dismiss it by adopting the "it-only-applies-to-someone-else attitude," but I can guarantee that if you take a look in the mirror, there's a 100 percent chance that it applies to the person you're looking at. It also applies to your subordinates, coworkers and fellow Airmen. Having seen first-hand what an outdated DD Form 93 can do to a family, I urge everyone to give it the importance it deserves. So take time out to walk through the vRED with your Airmen to ensure that they understand it. Finally, it is just as important to walk through it with the people who are identified yours.

## Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



**ENGLISH:** When does it stop raining?

**PORTUGUESE:** Quando vai parar de chover?

**PRONUNCIATION:** Kuandoo vah parahar da shoover?

## At the Movies

**7 p.m. Friday** - The Social Network (PG-13)

**7 p.m. Saturday** - Life as we know it (PG-13)

**4 p.m. Sunday** - The Social Network (PG-13)

**7 p.m. Sunday** - Life as we know it (PG-13)



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

### "Tree lighting" from page 2

Civil Engineering squadron, Force Support squadron, Communications squadron, protocol, and the TORC provided us with cookies and hot chocolate," said Chaplain (Maj.) Hector Colon, wing chaplain.

There was also a unique group of helpers that also was key in making the event a success- the Lajes Field Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, including the Cub Scouts, Brownies, Daisies and AWANA group.

"I like meeting new people and getting to help by handing out pamphlets. It's fun," said Charles Scharf, 10.

The tree was lit by Teresa and Hailey, wife and daughter of Staff Sgt. Timothy Emeott respectively. Also with them to light the tree was Sergeant Emeott's mother-in-law, Ruthie Bogart. Sergeant Emeott is assigned to the 65th Contracting Squadron, and he is currently deployed.

"They are here representing our warriors and our deployers," said Colonel Rivera.

The ceremony was not only attended by U.S. military members and their families, but also Portuguese military members and their families.

"I like it very much because of the Americans' spirit of Christmas," said Cabo Luis Curado, Air Base 4. "The music was very nice, and when the Christmas tree lights turned on, it was beautiful. It had nice Christmas spirit."

"In Portugal, Christmas is in fact our favorite season- it brings a sense of aggregation, of bringing people around the same spirit of helping other people," said General Rolo regarding the holiday. "It's a good time for people to get together and help each other."