

Crossroads xtra

Vol. 15, No. 48 • December 17, 2010

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

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

CY 2010
(as of Dec. 10, 2010)

 **1,532
SORTIES**

**25,617
LODGED** 

 **6.66 million
gallons
FUEL ISSUED**

Weekend Weather Forecast (Lajes Weather Flight)

Friday (a.m. / p.m.)
Mostly Cloudy / Partly Cloudy
Wind E 30 - 40 mph
High 63
Low 48 

Saturday (a.m. / p.m.)
Partly Cloudy
Wind E 13 - 18 mph
E 10 mph
High 63 / Low 46 

Sunday (a.m. / p.m.)
Mostly Cloudy / Cloudy
Wind SE 15-20 mph
W 20 - 30 mph
High 68 / Low 55 

Lajes provides fuel for the oldest Navy P-3 squadron



Two P-3 Orions from the 46th Patrol and Reconnaissance Squadron land at Lajes Field to refuel before returning home after a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom Dec. 6, 2010. More than five P-3s from the 46th Patrol and Reconnaissance Squadron have landed here this month. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)

By Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

More than five Navy P-3 Orions from the 46th Patrol and Reconnaissance Squadron stationed at the Navy Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash., touched down at Lajes Field to receive more than 15,000 gallons of JP8 jet fuel.

The P-3s were returning home from a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Landing at Lajes was very refreshing because we got to get out of the plane and stretch our legs while the plane got refueled," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Ryan Roberson, a member of the VP-46, as they often refer to their unit.

"While I was excited to stretch my legs, I wanted to get back on the plane so I could get home to my wonderful,

Jeni," added Petty Officer Roberson.

The unit was deployed to the area of responsibility for more than 190 days.

The VP-46 is the oldest American maritime patrol squadron and the second oldest squadron in the entire United States Navy. VP-46 has participated in every major U.S. military conflict since the squadron's inception and has constantly maintained the highest standards of service.

"With this being my first deployment with this unit, it's cool being a part of history," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Douglas Novoa.

The squadron holds a Pacific Fleet record with more than 40 years and more than 300,000 hours of accident-free operations. The command has earned the title, "The Oldest and the Best."

Lajes garners command accolade 2010 Best Clinic in USAFE

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

Lajes clinic continues to excel, not just at the wing level but at the command level through various outstanding programs and services.

Recently, the 65th Medical Group Airmen, consisting of servicemembers and their Portuguese partners, garnered a United States Air Forces in Europe's accolade,

when the clinic was named the Best USAFE Clinic of the Year for 2010.

According to Lt. Col. Teresa-Ann Jones, acting 65 MDG commander, the award was very competitive, and winning is a testament to the hard work of the 65 MDG Airmen. The Lajes Clinic competed with seven other facilities in USAFE for the award.

To read more on "Best Clinic" see page 6



Holiday wishes from the 65 ABW commander

By Col. Jose Rivera
65th Air Base Wing commander

As the year 2010 comes to an end, I'd like to take this opportunity to Thank You for all that you do. In an era of persistent conflict, you managed to excel in your professional duties, take care of your families and prepare for future challenges. As we celebrate this holiday season, let's not forget the brave men and women who are serving far away from home--our entire nation owes them a debt of gratitude.

It's been a busy year, and while being our Air Force's preeminent enroute expeditionary focused combat support organization, you have set new standards in numerous areas. No matter your area of expertise, you man-

aged to excel in numerous inspections and staff assistance visits during this last year. The generosity of our community is evident as you share your blessings with those less fortunate. Your involvement in community activities fosters and nurtures our sense of who we are as a people. And you do this in the middle of a struggle that years from now will undoubtedly be referred to as a defining moment in history.

No doubt the Ops tempo will remain high. But we do this with a sense of conviction and pride that our cause is just and that as our nation's sword and shield, we will execute our mission and prevail.

April, Sofia and I wish you and your family the very best holiday season and a joyous new year.

New government travel card coming to Lajes Field soon!

Compiled from staff reports

The Air Force is once again leading the way as it becomes the first Department of Defense agency to begin service-wide distribution of the new Citibank Controlled Spend Account government travel cards. With more than 480,000 traditional travel cards currently in use, the program is being rolled out in phases between now and late spring of 2011. For Team Lajes, that means we can expect to see the cards arriving in the March or April time frame.

The new CSA card differs from the traditional card in that the card is only activated when an approved travel order exists in the system. The spend limit (credit limit) on the card is set to reflect the estimated costs (i.e. lodging, per diem, transportation, miscellaneous expenses) that are expected to be incurred in completing the mission. Since not all expenses are predictable, and to allow for changing requirements, Citibank allows both cardholders and agency program coordinators to call for temporary spend limit increases on the card.

Mike Bilbrey, the Air Force banking officer, calls the CSA card "the most innovative solution to the government travel card program since its inception," highlighting "higher levels of security, lower delinquency rates, and best of all, instant approval, since there is no credit check required to have a CSA."

All Air Force members/employees are eligible for, and required to have, the new CSA card for all official travel. Current GTC cardholders will be automatically enrolled into the CSA program, with infrequent travelers coming on-board first. Since e-mail notifications are used to inform users when their card is on the way, it is imperative that users update their email and mailing addresses prior to Lajes coming onto the program. Members/employees previously ineligible or not in possession of a GTC, will be processed separately.



The new CSA program, although very similar to the current GTC program, incorporates some unique changes. The most significant being the voucher settlement. Vouchers will continue to be filed through the finance office and processed at the Air Force Financial Service Center, but rather than a split disbursement being done between the card and the member, 100 percent of the disbursement will be sent to Citibank. The charges on the card are then reconciled against the payment, and any residual funds become available on the card for the user's personal use. Cardholders also have the option of having the residual balance transferred to a personal account or they may withdraw the cash from an ATM. With this last option, please note the associated fee for the cash withdrawal is not reimbursable.

From a commander's perspective, the CSA and its new disbursement process is invaluable. According to Mr. Bilbrey, "With Citibank receiving 100 percent of the travel voucher payment, the number of delinquencies will be minimal, ensuring Airmen and APCs can focus on the mission at hand." By eliminating the arduous, time-consuming GTC oversight responsibilities the Air Force alone can save over 382,000 man-hours per year.

It is essential for users to understand how the CSA program works. To that end, the

To read more on "GTC" 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

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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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NCC in business!

By Staff Sgt. Preston Brown
65th Communications Squadron

The 65th Communications Squadron hosted a formal ribbon cutting ceremony to open their new Network Control Center in building T-714 Dec. 2.

While the event was momentous for the base because of the upgrades it will provide for the 65th Air Base Wing, it also served as a history reminder of the role Lajes has played in America's past.

Starting in the 1940's the base played a major role in supporting anti-U2 German submarine operations.

But did you know that the NCC made it possible for man to walk on the moon? It's true—one of NASA's mandatory criteria to launch the first mission to the moon was to broadcast the event so Americans could watch this historical moment.

A critical connection was a feed from Spain, and before it reached the States, the signal was received, reconditioned, and resent through the NCC here at Lajes! Without this footage, NASA would have scrubbed the mission.

Another event that most are aware of was the 2003 Atlantic Summit. Three heads of state, including former President George W. Bush, converged on Lajes for a historic gathering. The small island of Terceira, with a population of just 50,000, quickly found itself swelling by an additional 2,000 members, mostly news reporters and security details. The base faced many demands it had not faced in the past, and communication requirements were beyond current capabilities.

But in typical communications-warrior fashion, in less than 24-hours a new switch supporting 144 data and phone lines was installed and traversed the NCC ensuring all requirements were met.

Now not all events were as impactful as the last two, but to the members who lived through the turbulent weather that the Azores can throw at us, the floods of 1971 and 2009 always come to mind. In 1971 a torrential down-pour soaked Terceira with 11 inches of rain per hour. Airmen throughout the base fought to keep the water out and keep critical services running. At the NCC, members stacked furniture, jackets and various other materials to fend off the quickly



Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, and members of the 65th Communications Squadron cut the ribbon indicating the grand opening of the new Network Control Center in building T-714 Dec. 2. (Photo by Guido Melo)

rising waters. A similar situation happened just last year. In December of 2009, the NCC fought off rising waters as the rain and winds seemed to go on forever. In the NCC alone, there was 2-4 inches of standing water. Without the hard work and dedication of every Airman, the base would have lost a major portion of its communications capabilities, in addition to costing millions to replace.

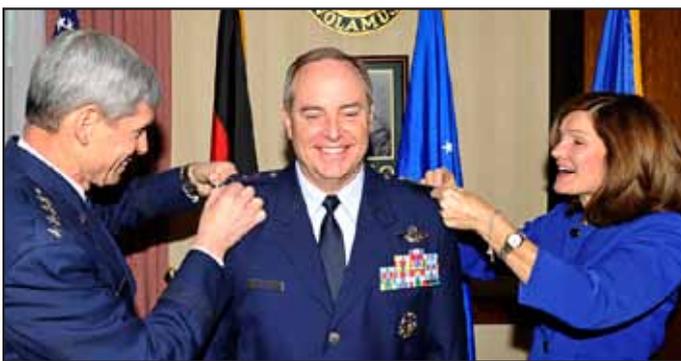
Finally, over the past 70 years, the growing demand for technology has resulted in continuous change for the NCC.

Starting in 2006, many organizations were involved in the planning and building of the facility. Without the 65th Civil Engineers, Contracting, our counterparts from the 1st Communications Maintenance Squadron, and of course the 65th Communications Squadron, this NCC could not have been possible.

Some of the major changes that were built into the NCC were: A raised floor ensuring proper cable management and protection from floods, dedicated air handlers ensuring proper climate control, preventing our mission from overheating and ultimately stopping, and the installation of state-of-the-art power sources, allowing for increased stability for our equipment.

The opening of the NCC was representative of what everyone, past and present, worked so hard to make happen.

General Welsh assumes command of USAFE



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz and Betty Welsh pin on the fourth star of Gen. Mark A. Welsh III in a brief ceremony immediately before taking command of U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Dec. 13, 2010. Gen. Welsh is responsible for Air Force activities, conducted through 3rd Air Force, in an area of operations covering almost one-fifth of the globe. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Desiree Whitney Esposito)

By Capt. Tristan Hinderliter
U.S. Air Forces in Europe Public Affairs

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany -- Gen. Mark A. Welsh III assumed command of U.S. Air Forces in Europe from Gen. Roger A. Brady at a ceremony here Dec. 13, becoming the 34th commander of USAFE.

"Certainly, succeeding General Brady as commander is a daunting

prospect, but the Air Force is so very fortunate to have in Gen. Mark Welsh an accomplished Airman and leader who is equal to the challenge," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz, who co-officiated the ceremony with Adm. James Stavridis, U.S. European Command and NATO Supreme Allied Commander, Europe.

"Your proven leadership at the squadron, group and wing levels, as well as the high praise you received for an outstanding job as the USAFE Director of Plans and Programs, has poised you for success as the next USAFE commander," General Schwartz said to General Welsh. "As you step into this new role, we are all confident that you will continue to excel."

Admiral Stavridis also welcomed General Welsh to the command, emphasizing the importance of USAFE to the EUCOM mission.

"Now, I know I'm a Navy admiral, but I think I'm allowed to celebrate airpower as well, and in no place on earth does it come together as capably as it does here," he said. "This is a command that operates across the entire spectrum of operations -- from combat air power to humanitarian operations and building partnerships. Taken together, I would call that 'smart power.'"

General Welsh said he was humbled to have the opportunity to lead USAFE, Allied Air Command Ramstein, and the Joint Air Power Competence Centre. He discussed his priorities and outlined his vision of where he wants to take the command.

"Providing combat-ready forces and unfailing support to U.S. and NATO commanders engaged in contingency operations remains our number-one priority," General Welsh said. "I also believe success is

To read more on "General Welsh" see page 6



FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
17 WSA Holiday Party at TORC 6 p.m. Preteen Fear Factor at Lajes Youth Program 6 p.m.	18 Kids Holiday Reading at the Library 1 p.m. Wings of Dixie at Ramo Grande, Praia 9:30 p.m.	19 Cantata at the Chapel 5 p.m.	20	21	22	23
24	25 Organic Market Tour at Bio Fontinas by 9 a.m. Holiday SUM Social at Airmen Ministry Center by 11 a.m.	26	27	28	29	30 Wing Promotion Ceremony (TENT) POC: OSS at TORC at 10 a.m.

Officials seek enlisted for AFIT degree

By staff reports
Air Force Personnel Center

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFNS) -- Air Force Institute of Technology officials are offering six NCOs the opportunity to pursue an advanced science, engineering or management degree at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.

The NCOs will be selected in February to attend the Enlisted-to-AFIT program. The program is designed to provide commanders with a diverse and renewable source of highly proficient and educated career NCOs.

Nominations are due to the Air Force Personnel Center here by Feb. 4 and can be sent to afpc.dpafe.orgbox@randolph.af.mil.

Airmen interested in applying for the 18- to 24-month program must be at least a technical sergeant select with a minimum of eight years time in service, 24 months time on station and three years retainability upon graduation. They must have completed the appropriate skill-level upgrade and in-residence Noncommissioned Officer's Academy, officials said.

Applicants must also possess a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university and a Community College of the Air Force degree.

Besides academic transcripts, applicants have to provide test scores from either the Graduate Record Examination or Graduate Management Admission Test, depending upon the specific AFIT degree-program requirements.

AFIT is the Air Force's graduate school of engineering and management and its institution for technical professional continuing education. Since residence degrees were first granted in 1956, more than 16,000 master's and 350 doctorate of philosophy degrees have been awarded.

Since the Enlisted-to-AFIT program began in 2002, 67 servicemembers have graduated, including 57 Air Force and 10 Marine NCOs. There are presently 18 enlisted Airmen attending AFIT.

For more details on nomination procedures visit the Air Force Personnel Services website or call the Total Force Service Center at (800) 525-0102. For more information on the program visit http://www.afit.edu/en/admissions/usaf_usmilitaryapply.cfm#enlisted.

(From the Air Force Personnel, Services and Manpower Public Affairs)

SARC, it is all about respect

By Capt Fred Doehle
65th Air Base Wing SARC

It's all about respect. Respect is why the Air Force has stepped up its fight against sexual assault by introducing Bystander Intervention Training. BIT is a unique training course that is something completely different than any other training the Air Force has introduced. All uniformed service members are required to attend this course by 2012.

So what is a bystander anyway? Some would define it as someone who observed a dangerous situation and was either passive or refused to take action. Others may describe a bystander as someone who witnessed an accident and calls for help or jumps in and renders aid to those in need. Still others would describe a bystander as someone like a friend who stepped in and made a difference during a time they may have experienced some sort of harassment.

In reality we are all bystanders everyday to various events that may lead to sexual violence. It may start as a crass joke or a suggestive comment maybe so subtle no one really noticed or showed they cared. But the smallest thing can begin to erode the respect and dignity we should all be showing one another. When we are at a party do we look the other way when two people are extremely intoxicated and one seems to be forcing themselves on the other? Or do we do the right thing and step in and be a responsive bystander? We are all witnesses to events everyday that may have the potential to lead to sexual assault. Do we have the tools to know what to do?

BIT provides us the tools to know how to manage a situation that can so easily get out of hand. The training will give us the confidence to know the signs to be aware of and the strategies to use that will make a difference. This is an opportunity to step up and join the Air Force in its fight to do away with sexual assault. Bystander Intervention Training; it's all about respect.

For more information please contact the SAPR office at 535-2123/2124.

For emergencies call 535-7272 or 966-677-266, 24/7

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



(Left to Right) Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, Chief Master Sgt. Samuel Hagadorn, 65 ABW command chief, Master Sgt. Ronald Freeman, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron's Fire Department superintendent, and Chief Master Sgt. Kenneth Bennett, 65 CES chief, pose to celebrate Master Sgt. Freeman's completion of the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy in Montgomery, Ala., Dec. 9. (Photo by Chief Master Sgt. Dennis Vannorsdall)



Petty Officer 2nd Class Tim Brown, 46th Patrol and Reconnaissance Squadron flight engineer, conducts a preflight engine inspection on a P-3 Orion after receiving fuel from Lajes Field Dec. 6, 2010. The P-3s were returning home from a deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)



Lt. Col. Robert Dotson, 65th Operations Support Squadron, briefs Col. Michael Monson, USAFE Finance functional manager, and the Lajes leadership during Colonel Monson's visit to Lajes Dec. 5. During his visit Colonel Monson toured various units here. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Chief Master Sgt. Pete Casiano, functional manager of the Public Affairs career field, takes a tour of the control tower during his visit to see his team at Lajes Field, Azores, Dec. 10, 2010. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Santa Claus reads to more than 25 children, accompanied by their parents, during the 'Every Child Ready to Read' event at the Library Dec. 11. Also on Dec. 18 from 1 to 2 p.m. and Dec. 31 from 1:30 to 5 p.m., the library will be hosting special story time events. For more information, contact the Lajes Librarian at 535-6253. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Olufemi Owolabi)



Enjoying the Cowabunga festivities, Hanna Marcellus, daughter of Capt. Harry James, 65th Operations Support Squadron, takes a moment to smile for the camera Dec. 11 at the Youth Center. There were 130 kids, ages 5-16, who participated in the fun-filled event. (Photo by 1st Lt. Mara Title)



Mark your calendar

CHANGE IN ROTATOR SCHEDULE FOR HOLIDAYS: There will be a change in the normal Space-A rotator schedule from Dec 27-31. For more details, please contact the AMC Passenger Terminal at 535-33227/3582.

TAX VOLUNTEERS: The 65 ABW/JA office is looking for highly motivated individuals to be

unit Tax Representatives. We are asking for two people per unit. These individuals will be responsible for tax preparation in their respective unit. Volunteers are asked to get approval from their respective chain of command and to contact TSgt Cohen or MSgt Wade at 535-3546.

STARS & STRIPES LETTERS TO SANTA PROGRAM: This year Stars & Stripes will honor all Santa Claus letters and cards sent to the address below. Stars & Stripes will reply back to the senders via postcard. All APOs are requested to honor and process "Letters to Santa" as MPS correspondence. This program ends on 24 December 2010.

Send to: Letters to Santa Unit 29480, APO AE 09211

TRACK OPEN: The track has re-opened. All members due for their PFA test will now take their test on the track. We kindly request everyone to please KEEP OFF THE IN-FIELD.

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.

TOBACCO CESSATION CLASS: A Tobacco Cessation class is scheduled for the following dates in January at the Health and Wellness Center.

Dates: 3, 5, 12, 14 January 2011 time: 1200-1300 hrs

Location: T-333, HAWC conference room

You may bring your lunch. To sign up call: 525 HAWC or email hortencia.ramon@lajes.af.mil

"Best clinic" from page 1

"The men and women of the 65 MDG worked very hard over the last year and a half, and everything that we do day to day goes in to this overall accomplishment," she said. "It's a true testament to their professionalism and to the level of work that we do here."

The Lajes individual medical readiness and dental readiness were rated the best in the command. To crown it all, the clinic was also rated number one in USAFE for its outstanding customer service with a 98 percent satisfaction rating.

"We have a very personal relationship with our customers and patient population at Lajes," said the acting commander.

Other additional achievements that contributed to the clinic's success are its members' performances in the wing annual awards and involvement in the wing inspection programs. The USAFE award was accompanied by some other individual award winners as well, added Colonel Jones.

"Anytime you (an individual and a unit) are considered the best in USAFE, you take extreme pride in that, and that is a huge accomplishment for the entire medical group," said Chief Master Sgt. Marc Dowler, 65 MDG superintendent. "The biggest part of that is the fact that everybody gets to enjoy this within the medical group. Individual awards are wonderful in themselves; this particular award recognizes each and every man, woman, military member, civilian and contractor, who puts hard work into what we do every day. They (USAFE officials) saw it fit to recognize us for that, and I am extremely happy to be a part of that."

Moreover, the clinic provided outstanding support for the 65th Communications Squadron, assisting in their Cyber Readiness inspection. The clinic ensured correct patch management of 28 servers and 176 workstations.

"It's not just because of our medical programs; we touched other wing programs as well," Colonel Jones added.

The medical group is also getting ready for an upcoming Health Services Inspection, which takes place every three years. According to officials here, members are working hard, even on weekends, to ensure maximum compliance for this inspection, scheduled for the first week in February.

The medical group's Airmen are currently working hard to ensure another outstanding result in the upcoming inspection by polishing up their programs and showing a good track record that will "wow" the inspectors.

"Everyone is working hard and is proud of (his/her) programs," said Colonel Jones with a show of confidence. "I am proud of all their programs as

Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: Where can I buy a Christmas tree?

PORTUGUESE: Aonde posso comprar uma árvore de Natal?

PRONUNCIATION: Ah-own-day po-su com-praar uu-ma Ar-vooh-ray duh na-tAI?

At the Movies

7 p.m. Friday - RED (PG-13)
7 p.m. Saturday - Hereafter (PG-13)
4 p.m. Sunday - RED (PG-13)
7 p.m. Sunday - Jackass 3D (R)



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

well. I know that we're going to do very well, and we are going to show all the inspectors why we are the best clinic in USAFE."

As the number one/best clinic in USAFE, Lajes will be represented by the clinic by competing at the Air Force level.

"Travel Card" from page 2

Lajes Finance Team is here to help! In the near future, we will be coming out to units to brief at commander's calls, posting additional articles, and working one on one with resource advisors and current APCs to get everyone on board for success! For more information, visit www.airforcetravelcard.transactionservices.citi.com.

Tech. Sgt. Amaani Lyle, with the Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs, and Master Sgt. Patricia Brooks, 65th Comptroller Squadron, contributed to this article.

"General Welsh" from page 2

all about people, pride and performance. I will insist we walk the talk when it comes to taking care of those great Airmen we are privileged to lead."

The general comes to USAFE from the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C., where he served as the Associate Director for Military Affairs. A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1976, he also holds a Master of Science degree in computer resource management from Webster University.

He has served as a fellow in several programs, to include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Seminar XXI; national security studies programs at Syracuse University and John Hopkins University; Ukrainian Security Studies at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; the General Manager Program at Harvard Business School; and the Pinnacle Course at National Defense University. He is a command pilot with more than 3,400 hours in various fighter and trainer aircraft.

This is not General Welsh's first assignment in Europe. In the early 1980s, he served as an A-10 instructor pilot, flight commander and wing standardization and evaluation flight examiner at Royal Air Force Woodbridge, England. In 2001 to 2003 he was assigned to USAFE headquarters as the Director of Plans and Programs.

General Welsh's previous command experience includes a cadet squadron at the Air Force Academy, a fighter squadron, an operations group, a fighter wing and a training wing. The general also served as Commandant of Cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy; deputy commander, Joint Functional Component Command for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, U.S. Strategic Command; and as the Vice Commander, Air Education and Training Command.

"We are thrilled to be back with our European hosts," said Betty Welsh, the general's wife. "We loved our previous time in USAFE and can't wait to meet the great Airmen and families who are here today."