



Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

**"6-5...
IN THE FIGHT!"
FY 2011**

**813
SORTIES**

**15,695
LODGED**

**4.4 million
gallons
FUEL ISSUED**

In a real-world emergency, call the Public Affairs Straight Talk Line, **535-3542**, or visit the Lajes Facebook page for instructional information.

Appointment:

Base: 535-3261
Off base: 295-573-261
Emergency:
Base: 911
Off base: 295-571-911

Weekend

Weather Forecast (Lajes Weather Flight)

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

Mostly Cloudy
Wind W 10 - 15 mph

High 73F / Low 64F

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

Mostly Cloudy
Wind NW 10 - 15mph

High 72F / Low 64F

Air Force life motivates Airman after devastating incident

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

You may think you have an issue with the Air Force fitness test, especially during a profile after an injury. But wait until you talk to Master Sgt. Monica Strong, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron's quality assurance superintendent, who recently completed a triathlon with more than 700 participants in Germany, and came in sixth in her age group, after a car incident in 2007 that left her crippled.

Strong said maybe her strength evolved because she's living up to her last name, or it came due to her strong personality. All she knows is that she wouldn't let anything bring her down—not even the Air Force fitness program after multiple bone dislocations.

"In 2007 when I was in Korea, I was getting into a taxi cab, and it took off when I was half-way in it," Strong said.

After the incident, her right foot was broken, her knees, hips and shoulder dislocated, and her spine disrupted, too. Some people had already written her off, thinking she wouldn't be able to walk properly again.

Despite these injuries, Strong still had her focus on the Air Force. Knowing her chances of staying in remained slim unless she got back on her feet, she kept pushing herself.

And her Air Force family and friends were there for her. "What motivated me was my love for the Air Force," said Strong. "I didn't want to get out of the Air Force," she said. "I didn't want to get forced-retired or kicked out based on my fitness."

According to the master sergeant, if an Airman cannot pass consecutive physical training tests or evaluations due to the same injury, he or she has to go through a medical board.

"The medical board will look at your history to make a determination to kick you out or medically retire the individual," she said.

Sergeant Strong would not allow this to happen to her. She kept pushing.

She did all exercises and therapy she was asked to do in crutches. She went above and beyond to foot some of the bills the military wouldn't cover in order to get in the physical form she wanted.



Master Sgt. Monica Strong completes the 20-kilometer bike race portion of the Mussbach Triathlon, June 5, 2011, in Germany. Despite numerous injuries in her Air Force career, she has fought to stay in peak physical shape. (Courtesy photo)

It took more than two years, and she was later given a cane to walk with. The paperwork to terminate her Air Force contract was never filed because she was motivated to remain in the Air Force.

"I fought to stay in the Air Force," the sergeant said. "I had great leadership that supported me; they saw my motivation. The doctors too knew I was trying my hardest to get fixed."

"Nobody could tell me, no," she said. "The only person

To read more on "incident" see page 4

10 Weeks remaining until the... ORI



Professional reading: Not just a hobby

By Maj. Scott Hopper

65th Logistics Readiness Squadron
commander



Last week I finished the book *Caring for Victor: A U.S. Army Nurse and Saddam Hussein* by Robert Ellis. The book provides a fascinating account of Ellis' personal interactions with Saddam Hussein while caring for the deposed dictator at Camp Cropper. The story also highlights the internal struggle experienced by those responsible for enemy prisoners of war. This week I am working on *The Places in Between* by Rory Stewart. Stewart's book covers his journey on foot through Afghanistan at the outset of U.S. operations following 9-11. After Stewart's book, I'll turn my reading program toward my current responsibilities at Lajes. The first will be *Operation Alacrity: The Azores and the War in the Atlantic* by Norman Hertz. I hope this book will give me insights to the origin of the U.S. military relationship with the Azorean islands. I also wrote to Darrell Kastin, author and professor at the University of Massachusetts Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture, and asked him to send me a list of books to read about Portuguese history and culture. The books he recommended will be arriving from Amazon.com shortly.

In April of last year, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton A. Schwartz said, "Professional reading, in equal measure to physical training, continues to be vital to maintaining our initiative today and our preparation for the future." As members of the profession of arms, we should read as much as we run. We have a moral

obligation to society to enhance our expertise through a professional reading program.

Professionals are responsible to society to continuously enhance their expertise. Webster's Dictionary defines a profession as "a calling requiring specialized knowledge and often long and intensive academic preparation," and a professional as one that is "characterized by or conforming to the technical or ethical standards of a profession." An immediate correlation can be drawn to a doctor. Doctor's require long, intensive academic training. Doctor's have an ethical obligation to continuously develop their expertise and use that expertise only in the best interests of society. Professionals are servants.

As Airmen, we too are servants. As members of the profession of arms, we are responsible to provide security for the nation. As servants, we are ethically bound to use our specialized knowledge according to the values held by our society. As professional Airmen, we provide expertise on the employment of Airpower to ensure the defense of our nation and its allies. We must maintain our professional skills at the highest level for those we serve. Just as the nation wants its doctors to be preeminent experts in all things medicine, she wants her defenders to be the top experts in all things security.

Being an Airman is not a job, it's a profession. The Air Force will provide us with much of the training we need in our specialties, however, each of us has an obligation to

To read more on "reading" 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. Jose Rivera
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing

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Commander, 65th Air Base Wing

Crazy Lajes weather

By Master Sgt. Michael Hanks

65th Operations Support Squadron

Have you ever left Praia da Vitoria on a clear, blue day only to arrive in Angra 20 minutes later, welcomed by cloudy skies and rain? Anyone who has spent a significant amount of time at Lajes Field has seen how quickly weather conditions can change simply by driving a couple of miles. It is truly surprising how different it can be from Praia to Angra to Biscoitos to Serreta. What may make it vexing is the lack of accurate island weather information (the weather channel is of no use).

Lajes can see extended bouts of rain and cloudiness as well as powerful winds during the winter, mainly due to the ridgeline to the south. It can trap clouds and funnel winds over the base, increasing wind speeds as much as 15 miles per hour than those over the water. Conversely, if the clouds are coming from the opposite direction, it can be extremely cloudy over the center of the island and clear along the coastal areas.

Unfortunately, many outside (internet) weather sources only use computer models without ever knowing where the island of Terceira is located. Whereas the Lajes weather flight has five Portuguese forecasters with

over 100 years of collective Terceira weather forecasting experience. Each forecaster is well-versed on the smaller details that can help determine if it's going to just be cloudy or if it is actually going to rain. They have several tools to help them do this; the main one being the only Doppler radar in U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

In an effort to share this information, the weather flight has created a sharepoint website. This website provides real-time wind data, weather webcams from every Azorean island, links to the National Hurricane Center and AFN's European forecast, and shows the Lajes Field Five Day forecast. The newest addition is the Special Event Forecast Request, where the weather flight can provide a tailored forecast for your unit or wing activity as early as five days prior to the event.

The weather flight strives to provide the most up-to-date and accurate weather information for the base populace. We are always looking to add to our website in order to provide the best information (<https://ice.usafe.af.mil/sites/65abw/OSS/OSS/Weather%20Flight.aspx?PageView=Shared>). We only ask that you remember we are in the business of prediction, not production. However, I do hear that Chaplain Hector Colon may have some influence in the production arena.



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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July 4 picnic brings Airmen, host nation together at Lajes

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

Airmen of the 65th Air Base Wing and their nation's partners spent about eight hours together having fun at the Independence Day picnic held at Lajes Field, Azores, July 4.

The fun-filled event, called Freedom Fest 2011, had various entertainment for children, including games and bouncy castles, food booths, and a local live band to "rock" the entire day.

The event was organized by the 65th Force Support Squadron.

"Independence Day is important because 235 years ago, our founding fathers in America fought for our freedom," said Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Storms, 65th Air Base Wing command chief. "So, it's very important we celebrate that, because it is something that other countries are still fighting for today."

The Freedom Fest ended the night with a fireworks display.

Lt. Col. Charles Tobia, 65th Air Base Wing Political Affairs, who was deployed last year, said it was an event that allowed Team Lajes to spend quality time with their loved ones on such a special day.

"This celebration was very special because I was able to spend 4th of July with my family and see in their eyes the wonder and excitement of the fireworks," said Tobia. "In other places in the world, they don't have the freedoms we have. And I know the sacrifices that a lot of people, including ourselves and our families, make day in and day out so that we can enjoy freedom and the American dream."

Storms, who was also deployed this time last year, echoed the colonel's statement. The chief said the event gave him an appreciation for those family members celebrating this year's event without their deployed spouses.

"It is so important we do not take for granted the freedoms and liberties we have, and we should celebrate them," Storms said. "And remember... They were fought for."

According to most participants, during the celebration all the Lajes families were able to come together.

Storms added that it was even more fun celebrating these values with our host nation's partners.

"Many of the Portuguese that we had at the celebration are dual citizens," the chief said.

Some of them have American citizenship also, and they know what it is like to be free, said Storms.

"We share some beliefs and values, and it is so important that we were able to show them some of our celebrations, beliefs and values," Storms said. "I believe they had a great time with us out there."



Team Lajes members watch fireworks during the Freedom Fest celebration, July 4, 2011 at the Security Forces softball field, Lajes Field, Azores. More than 200 Team Lajes members attended the Freedom Fest celebration. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)

Air Force to enhance travel orders for deployment

By Master Sgt. Amaani Lyle
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

In an effort to improve customer support and expedite travel voucher payments, Air Force financial management leaders will mandate standardized use of the Defense Travel System for contingency, exercise and deployment travel, officials said here June 28.

The change will be mostly transparent to the traveler, who will still receive a paper CED order from the personnel readiness unit; however, these orders will now be stamped "Certified in DTS," reminding the traveler and the local financial services office to file the settlement voucher in DTS, officials added.

"The FSO will continue to support the traveler throughout the entire process," said Chief Master Sgt. Jesse Stirling, financial management's enlisted career field manager.

Finance management officials said this translates to significant reductions in voucher turnaround time; DTS payments average three days, whereas filing a paper voucher averages 8 days.

"Standardized CED travel operations will provide a consistent practice for all Airmen without regard to deployed location or primary duty station," said Joan Causey, deputy assistant secretary for financial operations. "Expanding DTS procedures for CED travel to all locations will bring long-range benefits such as increased transparency and timelier travel payments to Airmen."

Chief Stirling explained the new process will positively impact Airmen in exercises or downrange, allowing them to focus more on the mission and less on getting mired in the administrative side of filing travel claims.

"For example, scheduled partial payments (or accruals) for the duration of the trip will become automatic after the initial payment is loaded into DTS," Chief Stirling said. "This new procedure will standardize voucher computation across the Air Force and streamline the filing process for the customer."

Full implementation of this program at Lajes is scheduled for Aug. 1, 2011. For more information, contact the 65th Comptroller Squadron at DSN 535-CASH.



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that could tell me, no, was myself. I said to myself, 'I still want to stay in the Air Force,' and more or less, nothing could bring me down."

Some people had twisted ankles and weren't doing what Strong was doing, despite walking with crutches.

"The incident affected my fitness big time, but eventually, I got through it," she said. "The worst was running because I had a bad hip injury, which took longer time to recover from."

In 2010, as her fitness was getting better, she began contemplating how she could participate in a triathlon, but she dislocated her shoulder again and went through another session of therapy.

When she recovered from the shoulder injury, she decided to finally do the Mussbach Triathlon, which was scheduled for June 5, 2011, in Germany. She started practicing every day for the 500-meter swim, 20-kilometer bike race and a 5-k run.

Unfortunately, she developed gall stones, went to the emergency room and went through surgery, just a few months before the triathlon.

She didn't give up, though. She did the triathlon anyway and was categorized as one of the top 10 participants in her age group.

Strong describes herself as a "go-getter." She detests it when someone tells her she can't accomplish something.

"Since I was little, I have always wanted to be in the military; I have

always enjoyed it when my father was in the Marine Corps," Strong said. "The patriotism that my dad and my family showed motivated me. So, after high school and ever since I joined the Air Force, I have always wanted to be supportive and take care of our country."

For Strong, the Korean car incident was simply a challenge to test her fitness perseverance. She believes staying in shape is vital to every aspect of life. It could prevent certain disease, and it helps combat stress.

"I think fitness is very important," she said. "It has helped me get healthy and 'Strong' again, like my last name."

She added that anybody could come back from a similar experience. If members have injuries or obstacles with physical fitness, it's on them to make the decision to complete their goals, she said.

"The triathlon was a goal for me," she said. "I have little goals in life that I would like to accomplish, and a triathlon was one of them. The feeling of saying I did it was amazing for me. I did it after I was crippled; I was sick and bed-ridden, and had all other things going on, and I still finished it. I completed it. I didn't quit or stop."

When she crossed the finish line and everyone was cheering for her, not only did she make herself proud, but she had represented the Air Force in doing it.

"When they said my number and my name at the finish line, they also said where I came from - 'Monica Strong, United States Air Force, Azores' -- and everybody heard that."

"reading" from page 2

enhance our development as members of the profession of arms. Society relies on your expertise. That means you need a rigorous professional reading program. According to the Chief of Staff, it's of equal importance to physical fitness. How many hours a week do you spend reading? Have you read our National Security Strategy?

As a defense professional, can you articulate our nation's security strategy to your family and friends?

As Airmen we have done well in integrating fitness into our ethos and personal lifestyles. As professionals, we also need to incorporate reading into our daily regimen. We need to read as much as we run. It is our moral obligation to society.

LAJES FIELD OPEN HOUSE, JULY 10: You are all invited to the Lajes flight line on July 10 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for a relaxing day of food, fun, and airplanes! The day will be celebrating the U.S. Air Force and Portuguese partnership at Lajes and to thank the local community for all their support. There will be U.S. and Portuguese aircraft on display, a classic car show, live music to include the USAFE Band, children's entertainment, armored personnel carrier rides, and plenty of food and beverages. This will all be taking place on the flight line in front of the 65th Operations Support Squadron, Building T-810, and admission is free.

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



Name: Sra Anne Borges
Rank: Civilian
Unit: 65th Comptroller Squadron
Hometown: Feteira
Duty Title: Civilian Pay Technician
Accomplishments: Sra Borges manages over 640 local national payroll accounts. She coordinates all payroll actions and processes 10K leave and pay transactions annually. She assisted the Air Force Audit Agency by rectifying 88 trip codes, ultimately

saving the Wing 10.7K euro. Sra Borges expertly accounted for 1,200 euro between the Portuguese Internal Revenue Service and Social Welfare Tax funds, never once incurring an interest penalty payment.



Name: Evon Pierce
Rank: Staff Sgt.
Unit: 65th Comptroller Squadron
Hometown: Howell, Mich.
Duty Title: Deputy Disbursing Officer
Accomplishments: Staff Sgt. Pierce is making things happen for team Lajes. As the Deputy Disbursing Officer, she holds a unique position as the Military Banking facility. She enhances host-nation relations by disbursing a yearly local national payroll of \$58.8M! She

also manages the custom fee payments for all the household goods that are shipped to Lajes Field. She enjoys working out and giving her time to agencies on base. All of her efforts lead to the 65th CPTS receiving an "Excellent" rating, in the March 2011 Staff Assistance Visit.

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



Ambassador Allan J. Katz, Ambassador of the United States of America to the Portuguese Republic, shakes hands with Senior Airman Nicolas Favela, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, after the Airman Leadership School graduation at the Top of the Rock Club, Jun 30, 2011. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Crew members from a KC-10A Extender from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, conduct maintenance of the aircraft wing fuel tank panel at Lajes Field, July 5, 2011. The KC-10A Extender primarily functions as an aerial tanker and transporter. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)



Col. William Parker, 65th Medical Group commander, passes the guidon to Lt. Col. Zoya Lee-Zerkel, 65th Medical Support Squadron commander, as Master Sgt. Dorothy Poles, 65th MDSS superintendent, looks on during the change of command ceremony in front of the Top of the Rock Club, July 1, 2011. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)



Col. Arch Bruns, 65th Mission Support Group commander, passes the flag to Maj. Taona Enriquez, 65th Contracting Flight commander, during a change of command and re-designation ceremony at the Top of the Rock Club, Lajes Field, July 1, 2011. (Photo by Guido Melo)



(From left to right) Senior Airman Megan Kittler, SrA Travis Smith, SrA James Purdon, SrA Nicholas Favela, SrA Judah Trimmer, SrA Javona Tarpley, instructor Tech. Sgt. William Horton, instructor Master Sgt. Carlo Gutierrez, instructor Tech Sgt. Luther Holsonback, SrA Kristen Foster, SrA Emily Leeder, SrA Kerric Henry, SrA Wesley Nesting, SrA Robert Maurer, and SrA Jordan Sowle pose during the graduation ceremony for Airman Leadership School on June 30, 2011 at the Top of the Rock Club, Lajes Field. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Mark your calendar

ART SHOW AT AIRMAN MINISTRY CENTER:

The Airman Ministry Center is proudly showcasing the art of Mr. Manuel Martins, a Lajes Field illustrator, who has been showing his art since 1993. The Grand Opening will be July 9, 2011, at 4 p.m. in Building T-307, with the artist in attendance to answer questions. The art show is entitled "A Bit of Nature," and will run from July 9–23.



GOVERNMENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

For up-to-date information of government job opportunities available at Lajes, please see the online Weekly Bulletin. You can also contact the Airmen and Family Readiness Center for guidance at 535-4138, and the 65th Force Support Squadron website contains numerous sites on base for additional job information.

65th AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS STRAIGHT TALK LINE:

In the event of an emergency, please call DSN: 535-3542, or commercial 295-57-3542, to hear the latest information for base personnel to follow. You will be given instructions for actions to take and the appropriate precautionary measures to adhere to.

65th MDG INTERACTIVE CUSTOMER EVALUATION (ICE):

The 65th MDG wants to hear from you! Please go to <http://ice.disa.mil/> to evaluate the services provided by the 65th Medical Group. Your feedback is used to improve our products and services. Thank you for your feedback.

65th MDG TRAINING DAY:

The 65th Medical Group and the appointment line will be closed on the 2nd Wednesday every month from 0800-1300 for unit training. Normal operations will resume at 1300 hours.

Feature

Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: I would like to order a plate of Alcatra.

PORTUGUESE: Gostaria de encomendar um prato de Alcatra.

PRONUNCIATION: Gosh-taria day padeer um prah-too day Alkah-tra.

At the Movies



7 p.m. Friday - Jumping the Broom

7 p.m. Saturday - Priest

7 p.m. Sunday - Closed

Jumping the Broom: Two very different families converge on Martha's Vineyard one weekend for a wedding. Rated PG-13, 112 min.

Priest: A priest disobeys church law to track down the vampires who kidnapped his niece. Rated PG-13, 87 min.

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

Lt. Dan Band: When you stream "Lt. Dan Band: For The Common Good" - one out of every four dollars will be donated to The Gary Sinise Foundation which honors our nations defenders by supporting the USO, Operation International Children, Snowball Express, and other such charities and efforts that support the military, first responders and their families. Thank you for helping us give back to those willing to give all! <http://www.ltdanbandmovie.com/>

BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE



Saturday, July 9: 6:30 p.m. Ribeirinha

Saturday, July 9: 6:30 p.m. Corpo Santo, Angra

Saturday, July 9: 6:30 p.m. Casa da Ribeira

Sunday, July 10: 6:30 p.m. Altares

Monday, July 11: 6:30 p.m. Boa Hora

Wednesday, July 13: 6:30 p.m. São Bento

AFN LAJES
ISLAND 96
CH. 40 (ON-BASE CABLE)
CH. 7 (OFF-BASE SATELLITE)
& 96.1 FM

ASK ED

A column that looks at the culture and history of the Azores.

By Eduardo Lima
Community Relations Advisor



The history of Air Base No. 4, Part 1

The aeronautics evolution, especially during the first decades of this century as the result of World War I, originated a quantity of aerial achievements that amazed the world.

The flights over the Atlantic were undoubtedly the most spectacular events and included, in May 1919, the first successful transatlantic flight of the "Curtis Flyer" seaplanes. They flew from the U.S. to the United Kingdom using Horta Bay on the Island of Faial as a stopping point.

Some believe the interest in the Azores as a stopping point in the middle of the Atlantic resulted from a crash of a Polish airplane on the Island of Graciosa in 1928, while trying to cross the Atlantic. The ideal position of the Azores between Europe and the new continent was evident.

In 1928, the Portuguese considered the possibility of constructing an airfield on one of the Azorean islands and it was decided it should be constructed in Achada, a flat area located near Cinco Picos in the center of Terceira Island. It was from this improvised runway that the first airplane, a single-engine Avro biplane, took off on Oct. 4, 1930, maneuvered by Capt. Frederico de Melo, a native of the village of Altares in Terceira.

The airfield of Achada was soon abandoned due to constant foggy and rainy weather, and it was decided to construct another airfield on the Lajes flatlands, which became a crucial element with the outbreak of World War II.

In 1934, the Portuguese Military Engineering Service began the construction of a dirt runway in the Lajes plain.

In 1941, due to the evolution of World War II, the Portuguese government assigned the Azores an Expeditionary Corps, among which were two flying squadrons equipped with Gladiator aircraft. These flying squadrons were assigned to the Santana airfield on the Island of São Miguel (#1) and to Lagens Airfield on Terceira (#2).

In 1942 the Corps expanded their activity, patrolling the ocean around the archipelago's central group of islands, protecting the convoys traveling in the area and also performing reconnaissance and meteorological flights, and were designated as Air Base N.º 4 (in S. Miguel) and Air Base N.º 5 (in Terceira).

(The remainder of this article will appear in next week's Crossroads Xtra.)