



Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

"6-5...
IN THE FIGHT!"
FY 2012

 330
SORTIES

6,030
LODGED 

 1,78K
gallons
FUEL ISSUED

In a real-world emergency, call the Public Affairs Straight Talk Line, 535-3542.

Don't drink and drive; call LADD: 295 57 LADD

Medical 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 / Cloudy Rain
Wind N 10 mph
NW 5 mph
High 61F / 16C
Low 55F / 13C

Sunday (a.m. / p.m.)
Mostly Cloudy
Wind N 10 mph
N 10 mph
High 57F / 14C
Low 54F / 12C

Lajes helps close out Iraq, Part 1

By Staff Sgt. Angelique N. Smythe
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Approximately two weeks before the U.S. completely withdrew all of its troops from Iraq on Dec. 18, 2011, one Lajes Field Airman boarded a C-130 to leave the country knowing he had done all he could within six months to mentor the local nationals on how to run, operate and manage an airfield.

Capt. Harry James, 65th Operations Support Squadron, who currently runs Airfield Operations at Lajes, recently deployed from May through December 2011 as the 407th Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron director of operations on Ali Air Base, formerly Talil Air Base, Iraq.

This was a base that was primarily run by Army personnel, however, Air Force members worked to perform senior airfield authority duties.

Capt. James' assignment was different in that this operations support squadron contained not only airfield management, but also weather, transient alert, security forces, the explosive ordnance disposal unit, the fire department, etc.

"We trained the Iraqis in every aspect of running an airfield and we had projects going on all the time on the airfield," he said. "It was our job to train the Iraqis how to do emergency response, security, fire their weapons, drive on the airfield, run an airfield, and the civil engineers taught them how to fill holes on the airfield."

As the airfield operations flight manager director of operations, Captain James accomplished many tasks but his main functions were airfield management, as well as working the air control tower. He needed to make sure the airfield was ready to go all the time.

The old Soviet-era airfield had over 300 cracks and was deteriorating, Captain James said. "We were constantly out there digging it up and replacing it. We wanted to leave a good product for the Iraqis. We did everything we could to make sure it was up to standard before we left. We also pulled out the cables that go across the runway and the arresting systems."

Captain James and his team worked side by side with the Iraqis everyday to help them continue their progression

as air traffic controllers.

A year before he arrived, he said, a contractor was brought in to train the Iraqis. After the contractors left, it was up to them to continue mentorship on air traffic control.

"During my deployment, there were Iraqi Training and Advisory Mission military personnel who were supposed to bring a team in to train the Iraqis on airfield management," he said. "However, for some reason, that team didn't make it to Ali, so I had to train the Iraqis on airfield management."

Captain James designed a week-long course and trained two classes of Iraqis. He also taught them how to drive on the flightline.

"I taught them basically everything about an airfield that I could teach in a week, and they were pretty excited," he said. "It takes months to learn all that stuff but I did everything I could in that week to give them a strong foundation. I also gave them all the regulations. When I got done, they were happy that they'd received the training, and I received a letter of appreciation from the Iraqi chief pilot for doing that training."

Of course, being in the warzone, the airfield was often hit by enemy rockets. As part of the post attack reconnaissance team, Captain James often got up in the middle of the night to do runway sweeps, look for holes, and then reopen the airfield.

"As we were drawing down, people were constantly moving out, so there were times we were moving 700 or 800 people, maybe more, a day," he said. "Not continuously, but some days a lot of people were moving."

When it came time for his departure, Captain James said he was definitely happy to help but was very happy to leave, too, and reunite with his family.

"I think we definitely went above and beyond in training in the time limits that we had," he said. "We left them with a good airfield. We did everything we could to leave it in good working order."

Captain James said he believes the Iraqis have a good challenge in front of them, but they will learn through trial and error just like everyone else.

"Hopefully, we've given them the tools, the education, knowledge and everything they need to start building whatever they're going to build there," Captain James said.



Capt. Harry James, 65th Operations Support Squadron, who currently works in the air traffic control tower on Lajes, was recently deployed from May through Dec. 2011. (Courtesy photo)

Meet Master Sgt. Billie Clark, 729th Air Mobility Squadron's Additional Duty First Sergeant

What motivated you to join the Air Force?

A friend of mine. We are still both in and are following each other from base to base.

What was your previous assignment?

I came from the 436th Aerial Port Squadron at Dover AFB, Del.

What is your hometown?
Blaine, Wash.

When did you decide you wanted to become a first sergeant?

I have wanted to be a first sergeant for a while. Since there is no position here for a diamond-wearing first sergeant, I think being the additional duty first sergeant is the next best thing. It has helped me already in my leadership and management skills.

What's an aspect about being a first shirt, or about being a part of 729th AMS, you think would be interesting for people to know?

Being a first shirt can sometimes be isolating; you are the one who has to be objective to everything. Being part of the 729th is unique in itself. We are a tenant unit with our group at Rota, Spain and our wing at Ramstein, Germany. It is difficult to get results for certain things when your leadership is in a different country.

Could you list one or two main highlights of your Air Force career?

I would say the biggest highlight in my Air Force career was the four years I spent working on the EF-111 Aardvark. I can actually say that I worked on the Fat Tails and get away with it.

How would you say Lajes differs from other bases you've been assigned?

It is isolated, but more family oriented than most places.

What's one piece of advice you could give to young Airmen?

If you make a mistake, fess up to it. You can always bounce back from an accident, but it is harder to bounce back after you lie, cheat or steal.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

No matter what anybody says, you can be whatever you want. There are obstacles that can get in your way, but take that leap or go around them to get where you want to go. I wasn't expecting to be the squadron superintendent or additional duty first sergeant, but these positions have helped me grow and learn a lot about who I am and what I want to do in the future.



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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Gourmet meals made in Kombat Kitchen

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

Meals Ready-to-Eat are nothing new to military members who find themselves trading the strawberry milkshake mix for a lemon pound cake or peanut butter for the jalapeno cheese spread. Since MRE's were introduced, Airmen have found ways to spice up a variety of 24 entrees, which also have vegetarian and Kochoer options.

Mr. Jeff Adams, 65th Force Support Squadron director, decided to make a MRE competition called Kombat Kitchen challenge, which combines the popular television show Chopped and Iron Chef.

Four teams will test their culinary skills in hopes of becoming the winner and winning a trophy for their squadron. The judges will evaluate the teams on their appetizer, entree and a desert, all made from MRE's and a "special" ingredient.

"This will be a fun event, and we encourage families to come and support the chefs to see who will bring the trophy home to their squadron," Tim Case said, 65th FSS and point of contact for the event.

With 30 minutes to prepare each course of the meal, they will receive

scores for plate appearance, time, taste and originality. Each team may be awarded 20 points for each category totaling 80. An additional 20 points will be given for "dress and appearance" and teamwork.

"I cut red meat and pork out of my diet in 2005 and I had to find new and creative ways to cook," said Tech. Sgt. Chevon Kemper, 65th Medical Operations Squadron, NCO in charge of diagnostic imaging.

"Back in 2007 while I was deployed I ate MRE's everyday and there are just so many varieties of vegetarian MREs you can get before you are creating your own combinations of gourmet meals. So when I saw the e-mail from the chief regarding the Kombat Kitchen, I knew it would be something for me, plus, I love the show Chopped," she added.

The teams will compete in the first Kombat Kitchen competition in the Top of the Rock Club ballroom on Jan. 27 starting at 4:30 p.m. Kombat Kitchen will be every quarter with the winning team going to the next quarter's competition. The four

teams competing this quarter are the 65th Force Support Squadron, 65th Comptroller Squadron, 65th Medical Support Squadron, and 65th Medical Operations Squadron. All of Team Lajes' members are invited to see which teams will be chopped.



Motorcycle safety: everyone's issue

By Ricky J. Baptista

Lajes Motorcycle Safety Foundation RiderCoach

Our mission is to fly, fight and win. We acknowledge that in our Airman's Creed and each day we go to work. In order to perform that mission, our main priority is safety. Performance without safety is luck; since I am not one for letting "lady" luck dictate the outcome of mission success, I stress the importance of safety. One area which involves constant safety vigilance is motorcycle riding. Those who choose to travel on the road of "freedom" with two wheels instead of four must be safety conscious, for every ride contains life-threatening hazards. Motorcycle safety is not only for some, it is for all, not only for Airmen, but also for our brothers and sisters in other services. While we don't offer the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's SportBike RiderCourse mentioned in the article below here at Lajes, we do conduct the MSF Experienced Rider Course. For the U.S. Navy, their mission might be to sail, fight and win, but in the following article, you can see that motorcycle safety affects all.

Vice Chief of Naval Operations Advocates MSF Motorcycle Safety Training (Excerpted from the Motorcycle Safety Foundation website)

"The Military SportBike RiderCourse is a proven tool..."

In preparation for the holiday season and the start of 2012, Admiral Mark Ferguson, vice chief of naval operations, issued a communication to all Naval Commanding Officers directing them to review their compliance with the current naval requirement that all Sailors who ride sport bikes must complete the MSF Military SportBike RiderCourseSM (MSRC) after they have completed the MSF Basic RiderCourse.

Fatalities among Sailors who ride have dropped in recent years. "The winning combination of engaged leadership, enhanced training and personal responsibility has made this possible," said Admiral Ferguson.

The Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Military SportBike RiderCourse, developed in close collaboration with the U.S. Navy and U.S. Army safety centers, was created to address an increasing number of military personnel who were involved in sport bike crashes. The course is a "next-level" training course for military riders who have completed the MSF Basic RiderCourse.

Admiral Ferguson is a firm believer in MSF's Military SportBike RiderCourse. "The MSRC is a proven tool that gives our riders the mental and physical skills they need to be successful," said Ferguson. Success, in this case, means fewer crashes. "The goal of the BRC and MSRC is to provide riders with a way to further develop personal rider strategies and decision-making abilities to help them minimize their risk," said Dr. Ray Ochs, MSF director of training systems.

For riders, whether they are military or civilian, training doesn't end after just one or two classes. The MSF Rider Education and Training System provides multiple lifelong learning opportunities beyond the BRC or MSRC. In his communication, Admiral Ferguson also drew attention to the Navy's focus on keeping riding skills sharp through lifelong learning. "All riders must complete refresher training every three years," says Ferguson. "The training is available, it saves lives, and we must ensure our Sailors who ride sportbikes complete it."

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Retired and thriving

By 1st Lt. Mara Title
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Retiring from the military after a long career might seem daunting, especially after achieving great success. But Cynthia Burney, a retired Air Force chief master sergeant, proves that life after the Air Force is exactly what you make of it.

Two years after retiring in 2003, Burney became a civil servant, taking on the positions of a drug and alcohol prevention manager at Sheppard AFB, Texas, a sexual assault prevention and response assistant at Tyndall AFB, Fla., a supervisor for the U.S. Transportation Command Awards and Decorations Program at Scott AFB, Ill., and currently serves as an Airman and Family Readiness Center community readiness consultant at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal.

And when she got to Lajes, she set some very distinct goals for herself.

"On April 13, 2010, during Right Start, Chief Master Sgt. Hagadorn challenged us with his, "Go for the Goal" cards," said Burney. "I still have mine posted in my office today."

Her goals encompassed visiting all nine Azorean islands (which she accomplished in August 2011), getting fit, visiting Italy, Spain and Germany (which she has also accomplished), seeing all 72 "spirit houses" on Terceira island, and speaking Portuguese. Piece of cake! Few Americans who are stationed here make it to all nine islands--it was her tenacious attitude that got her there.

Aside from living on Terceira, the first island Burney traveled to was Sao Jorge in May 2010, and the last one was Pico in August 2011. Her usual mode of transportation was flying, although she took a ferry once, and her average length of stay would be from two to three days in a hotel.

"But on Flores, I stayed in a small rural house," said Burney.

A Portuguese friend of hers showed her a renovated village in a book, and recommended she stay there.

"It was absolutely wonderful," she said. "It's world renowned, and was even featured on the Travel Channel."

She said among all the islands she visited, Flores is her favorite, with majestic waterfalls, and teeming wildlife. She said she saw 15 whales and nearly 50 dolphins during her short stay.

Burney recommends less is definitely more for packing when traveling, saying, "If I don't pack it, I'll buy it; if I can't buy it, I don't need it." She prefers to travel with one bag, unless she knows she'll be doing some serious shopping, in which case she'll bring an empty suitcase with her. As for her favorite local dish, she'll order in Portuguese the "bacalhau com natas," which is codfish and cream, with ice cream



Cynthia Burney, retired Air Force chief master sergeant, visits the Azorean island of Graciosa, Aug. 21, 2010. (Courtesy photo)

served in a plastic half coconut shell for dessert.

For Burney, every island has its own personality as seen through their natural beauty.

"I love how the locals love where they live, no matter which island I visit," she said. "That's the feeling I get no matter where I go."

She was scheduled to leave Lajes Field in mid-March, but she's extended for a year because she says she's "not quite done yet." Although she's away from her husband right now, who's also a retired Air Force chief living in O'Fallon, Ill., the two traveled to Germany and Austria to celebrate Christmas and New Years (which means she can also cross off visiting Germany from her list).

For aspiring military travelers, Burney says exploring the other Azorean islands and Europe isn't as expensive as some might think.

"I go through the Top Atlantico travel agent on base," she said, "and average about \$100 a day including air fare and hotels on the islands. I've been to Spain, Italy, Germany and Austria--I'm not letting being on the island stop me from traveling. It might take a little longer, but it's worth it."

Burney says she's looking at heading to Japan as a next assignment. And as for her future travel destinations..."Africa, hopefully this summer," she said. "In the meantime, I want to visit the Portuguese island of Madeira."

She might be retired from the Air Force, but she proves she's anything but sedentary and loving every minute of it.

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



Name: Sarah Brooks
Rank: Airman 1st Class
Unit: 65 CPTS/FMF
Hometown: Buffalo, New York
Duty Title: Customer Service Technician
Accomplishments: A1C Sarah Brooks joined the Air Force in January 2011, arriving to Lajes Field in June of 2011. As a customer service technician, she handles a myriad of tasks including

permanent duty and temporary duty briefs and voucher reimbursement, separation and retirement processing, and all facets of the LeaveWeb program. Our shining star, A1C Brooks puts a friendly face on finance, evidenced by her 9.6 of 10 customer service rating. She garnered both 3rd and 4th Airman of the Quarter awards and was the CPTS' Airman of the Year for 2011.



Name: Sr. Jose Dias
Rank: LGS - 07
Unit: 65th CPTS/FMFC
Hometown: Vila Nova
Duty Title: Civilian Pay Supervisor
Accomplishments: Sr. Jose Dias began working at the 65th Comptroller Squadron in May of 1984 as a temporary employee in the accounting office. When a position in the Civilian Pay office opened up,

Jose was selected, becoming permanent. Now as chief of our civilian pay office, he works closely with both the Portuguese government and the Defense Finance and Accounting office consistently ensuring that over 900 local nationals and U.S. civilians receive their pay and entitlements correctly and on time. When problems do arise, Jose uses his magnitude of knowledge to resolve issues at the lowest level quickly and efficiently. Jose is married to Sra Cidalia Dias, and has an 18-year old daughter and 2-year old son.



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

Feature



Ms. Yvette McKenzie, a Department of Defense Dependents Schools teacher, speaks to more than 100 Team Lajes members about Dr. Martin Luther King, who was her uncle, during a Martin Luther King Observance at the chapel, Jan. 13. President Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law in 1983, and it was first observed on January 20, 1986. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)



Six Team Lajes warriors stand at the Top of the Rock Club to be recognized for their dedication in deploying to various locations around the world to support the national defense, Jan. 11. Returnees and departing members are welcomed and sent off in a base-wide ceremony. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



A Dassault Falcon 50 from the 24F Unit of the French Navy stationed in Lorient, France, lands at Lajes Field for a Gas-N-Go during a training mission, Jan. 17, 2012. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Cynthia Burney and Richard Lambert, both from the 65th Force Support Squadron, and Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, congratulate the top five Lajes Field spouses on their SOCKScess as they hold up their socks with numbered ranks for the Spouse Online Computer Knowledge and Skills (SOCKS) program, Jan. 17. Lajes Field ranks number one in U.S. Air Forces Europe for number of participants and course completion in the SOCKS program. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)

**2011
USAFE
Ground
Safety
Achievement
Award**

**65th Air
Base
Wing
Safety**



(Left) Maj. Randall Schmedthorst, Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Young, Bruno Nogueira, and Maria Nunes, all members of the 65th Air Base Wing safety office, are winners of the U.S. Air Forces in Europe Ground Safety Achievement Award, Category III, Jan. 17. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Mark your calendar

COMMISSARY SCHOLARSHIP: Don't forget to pick up a college education on your next trip to the commissary! The Scholarships for Military Children Program can help with a \$1,500 scholarship! For information, contact your local commissary, school guidance counselor, or visit the program website at www.militaryscholar.org or www.commissaries.com. The application deadline is Feb. 24, 2012.



LAJES COLLEGE NIGHT: The Junior and Senior High School will be having a College night Monday January 23th from 5:30 to 8 p.m. We are looking for people willing to share information and about their colleges. If you have the desire and school pride to share your alma mater please contact Mr. Dave Gronke at 535-4228. The 65th ABW leadership would like to give the students an opportunity to learn about the opportunities available to them. As a wing we can provide a lot of information.

WINTER OLYMPICS: Jan. 23 to 27 - 1 to 5 p.m. - Blind Volleyball (Basketball Court); Feb. 13 to 17 1 to 5 p.m. - Wallyball; March 19 to 23 - 1 to 5 p.m. - Indoor Soccer (Basketball Court)

ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY: The 2011 Annual Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Jan. 20 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Top of the Rock Club.

SHOPPETTE AND EXCHANGE CLOSING DATES: The Shoppette will be closed on Monday, Jan. 23, and the Exchange will be closed on Thursday, Jan. 26, for year-end inventory.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR: The professional development seminar is scheduled for Jan. 23 (Conflict Resolution in the Workplace) at the Education Center Auditorium in Building T-146. For more information, contact SMSgt David Harvat in 535-6197.

Feature

Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: What time does the restaurant open? The restaurant opens at six o'clock.

PORTUGUESE: A que horas abre o restaurante? O restaurante abre às seis horas.

PRONUNCIATION: Ah kay orash ahbre oo restaurahnt? Oo restaurahnt ahbre ahs saysh orash.

For movie times and schedules, please visit the Lajes.af.mil website, and click on the "ReelTime Movies" button.



The Word on PLAYpass

What is the PLAYpass Program?

The new PLAYpass card replaces the DePLAYment program offered during the Year of the Air Force Family and expanded to provide deployment respite support for not only deployed-affected families but also support for returning single Airmen. The program is based on discount cards that provide members and their eligible family members the opportunity to participate in Air Force Force Support/Services Squadron programs for free or reduced cost. The goal of the program is to provide deployed-affected single Airmen and Air Force families respite from the challenges of deployment and encourage members the opportunity to reintegrate and reunite through MWR-focused social, recreational, fitness and learning programs upon their return.

How does it work?

Installations are provided PLAYpass discount pass cards for distribution to deployed-affected eligible members and families. The pass card is preprinted with specific dollar value coupon blocks that can be applied to the specified programs offered at each participating Air Force installation.

Please contact the Airman and Family Readiness Center for more specifics on this program at 535-4138.

PLAYpass	CH. 40 (ON-BASE CABLE)	CH. 7 (OFF-BASE SATELLITE & 96.1 FM)
Learn to PLAY! Recreational, fitness, life skills or network classes	\$40	\$40
Recreational, recreational programs and events on activities	\$25	\$25
Explore! Customer Recreation or off day trips	\$25	\$25
	\$50	\$50

ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima
Community Relations Advisor



What historical places or monuments can be visited on Terceira Island?

Terceira Island has several historical sites and monuments that can be visited throughout the year.

Starting in the city of Angra, the first town in the Azores to be raised to the status of city in 1534, and a port of call for the ships plying the oceans during the 15th and 16th centuries, you can visit the Fortress of St. John the Baptist.

One of the most impressive Portuguese fortresses of the 16th century, this military structure features a thick wall approximately 3.7 miles long that surrounds the base of Mount Brazil facing the city of Angra. The Spanish built it during their occupation of the island between 1582 and 1642. On top of Mount Brazil lies a monument with a Portuguese cross. The monument was erected in 1932 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the Azores by Portuguese navigators.

On the other side of Angra bay is the Fort of São Sebastião. This small fortress is also known as "Castelhino," which means small castle, and was used by the Portuguese and British forces during World War II. Its inside installations were renovated and now accommodate a small inn. On top of the city's park is the "Memória" monument, an obelisk built in 1834 to evoke the presence of Portuguese King Dom Pedro IV on the island. From this place you have a dazzling view of the entire city of Angra.

Other places to visit in Angra include the Museum, which features many old artifacts and military items, the Town Hall, and the Palace of Captain Generals, a former Jesuit monastery that features a valuable collection of ancient furniture and other works of art. The main Cathedral and the Churches of Colégio, Misericórdia, São Francisco and São Gonçalo display a variety of carved woodwork, glazed tiles, sculptures and panel paintings.

One of the most famous historical places on the island is Salga Bay. This small bay located in the village of Porto Judeu was the site of a famous battle on July 25, 1581 between the Spanish troops who were trying to invade the island and Portuguese forces joined by the local population. According to history records, the Spanish fleet was defeated when a young woman named Brianda Pereira and a monk, Friar Pedro, thought of a stratagem to defeat the invaders. They gathered more than 1,000 cattle and drove them against the enemy. The Spaniards fell back to the shore, where almost all of them perished while trying to reach their ships.