



Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

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

 **397
SORTIES**

**6,959
LODGED** 

 **2,1M
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 S 10 mph
SE 10 mph
High 17C / 63F
Low 15C / 59F

Sunday (a.m. / p.m.)
Mostly Cloudy / Cloudy Rain
Wind SW 10 mph
SE 10 mph
High 17C / 63F
Low 15C / 59F

Lajes aids in new ALS test development



Lajes Airman Leadership School members get ready for the Beach Run, November 2011. Eighteen previous ALS graduates from Lajes will help with the development of a new ALS test. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

By Tech. Sgt. Luther Holsonback
Lajes Airman Leadership School commandant

The Thomas N. Barnes Center/Academic Affairs Enlisted Professional Military Education at Maxwell-Gunter AFB, Ala., is in the process of developing exams for the new Airman Leadership School Distance Learning Course (Course 3). Course 3 is the ALS distance learning course our Guard and Reserve partners take for their Professional Military Education. In order to ensure they provide the best product possible, the Barnes Center has requested support from active duty senior airmen and staff sergeants who have attended

resident ALS within the past year. Those who volunteer will take the new test and help with the validation process.

Unlike the students attending in-resident ALS courses, students who complete the distance learning exams do not receive immediate feedback and remediation. This also means EPME is unable to determine if questions are too hard, too easy, or invalid altogether. By having prior ALS students complete this test, it will give EPME the statistics needed to guarantee they are providing a valid test.

Since successful completion of this course provides our Total Force teammates an opportunity for promotion, we want to ensure the exams are valid without risk to

the student. Therefore, the Barnes Center has asked the Lajes Airman Leadership School to help with this extremely important project by contacting previous Lajes ALS graduates who've attended the in-resident course in the past year. These volunteers will take the Military Professional/Expeditionary Airman Exam and/or the Supervisor of Airmen/Supervisory Communicator Exam. In order to get as much data as possible, they need

at least 300 students from across the Air Force to take part in this validation project.

The testing process will be identical to the one used in the resident course. Students will receive a paper exam, and then enter their scores into a computer

program run by EPME. After all students have completed the exam, the ALS instructor will conduct remediation by going over each question with the students. Potential problems or valid test challenges will be noted. This information will then be sent back to EPME for analysis.

The timeframe for this project Air Force-wide was Jan. 16 to Feb. 10.

Lajes had 18 individuals selected to complete these tests and was done by Feb. 3. All personnel who volunteered to take this test will receive a letter from the Barnes Center recognizing their Air Force-level impact.

Since successful completion of this course provides our Total Force teammates an opportunity for promotion, we want to ensure the exams are valid without risk to the student.



ESOHHCAMP team to be on Lajes May 7-11 for evaluation

By Susana Simões
65th Civil Engineer Squadron

The Air Force has a long-standing commitment to the health of the natural environment at all of its installations, as well as the safety of its personnel. In 1997, the Environmental Compliance Assessment Management Program was established. In addition to environmental experts, safety and occupational health personnel have always been involved in this program. Therefore, in 2006 the program was officially expanded to include Safety and Occupational Health and the acronym was changed to ESOHCAMP.

Every three years, an ESOHCAMP assessment team, led by Headquarters United States Air Forces in Europe, spends one week at Lajes to ensure we are in compliance with all U.S. Federal, Department of Defense, USAFE, and Final Governing Standards-Portugal--regulations that govern environmental protection, safety, and occupational health. Besides compliance, a successful assessment of all components of these standards demonstrates to our host nation that we are providing the best stewardship possible in support of U.S. operations at Lajes Field.

This year, a 14-person ESOHCAMP team will be here from May 7-11. During their thorough evaluation, which could involve as many as 15 environmental compliance categories,

such as hazardous waste, recycling, water quality, waste water, Pollution Prevention, and toxics (such as pesticides we use), they will be looking for documentation that we have corrected past problems and are continuously monitoring our programs. They will also provide recommendations for improvements.

The report from the assessment will inform the 65th Air Base Wing commander about the health of Lajes Field's environmental and occupational health programs. In turn, required improvements will provide justification for environmental funding for the next year and beyond. Problem areas are given priority based on whether the problem, or "finding," is significant, major, or minor. As with all assessments of this type, our commitment is to having no significant and as few as possible major findings.

This is why awareness of the physical and environmental health of your workplace is critical. While some units are more directly involved than others, all 65th ABW and tenant organizations should be vigilant to watch for situations and events that could affect their people and the environment. The point-of-contact for the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental office is Mr. Duarte Fainha, 535-6557. Tech. Sgt. Jason Scott, in the Bioenvironmental office, 535-6206, can provide information concerning occupational health.

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.

The Public Affairs Office (Unit 7710, APO, AE 09720) is located in Bldg. T-100, Room 240.

Submissions can be e-mailed to 65abw.pa@lajes.af.mil or faxed to 535-6326 and are due the Thursday prior to the required publication date. Call 535-6161 for more details.

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National Children's Dental Health Month

By Airman 1st Class Brooke N. Busby
65th Medical Operations Squadron

Parents often wonder when is a good time to teach their children how to brush their teeth. However, many of them don't know all of the details. With February being National Children's Dental Health Month, the Lajes Dental Clinic will be coming to primary schools to teach children how to take care of their teeth.

Practicing good dental hygiene with your children at home is very important. According to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, preventive dental care for children includes: proper nutrition, brushing and flossing, fluoride, regular dental check-ups, and guidance for erupting teeth.

As a parent, you should be making sure your child is not eating or drinking too many sugary substances throughout their childhood development. Increased sugar in your child's mouth may result in tooth decay. Substituting sugary drinks and snacks with water and healthy snacks, such as fruits, vegetables, and cheese, will help prevent tooth decay. In addition, your child's teeth should be brushed at least twice a day and flossed at least once a day. They may not like it at first, but you are teaching them healthy habits that will benefit them for the rest of their lives. Scheduling your children for regular dental checkups and fluoride treatments will also keep you informed



on your child's oral health and help strengthen their teeth against bacteria that cause cavities. A few consequences of not giving your child proper guidance to healthy teeth are multiple cavities, inflammation, infection, or loss of teeth.

Teaching proper oral hygiene habits now will give your child a lifetime with a healthy smile and overall improved health. Contact your local Dental Clinic for an appointment or more information.

References:

- www.ADA.org/1586.aspx
- www.AAPD.org/publications/brochures/preventdent.asp



A celebration of culture, past and present

By Lt. Col. Gwen Johnson

65th Medical Operations Squadron commander
and African American Heritage Council mentor

We often find ourselves in situations in life that are less than ideal, and perhaps early on are not encouraged to succeed. When disappointments arise and our dreams don't materialize, we tell ourselves that sometimes we're placed in these situations for a reason. I also believe people are placed in our lives for a reason, and that reason could be to help us grow as individuals or simply to learn life lessons. As we celebrate African American Heritage Month, we'll reflect on how two amazing Americans went on to achieve greatness, in the midst of dismal and challenging circumstances. Moreover, Mary McLeod Bethune and Dr. Mae Jemison started from humble beginnings, and through hard work and selfless dedication, they adopted a lifelong philosophy, which culminated in their extraordinary legacies.

Bethune was an educator and activist. She was born the daughter of slaves in 1875. Many people thought she wouldn't amount to much since she came from humble beginnings. Yet from that lowly start, she became the founder and president of Bethune Cookman University. Bethune also served on President Roosevelt's Black Cabinet and was the only African American present at the founding of the United Nations. An excerpt from her last will and testament reads: "I leave you love. I leave you hope. I leave you the challenge of developing confidence in one another. I leave you a thirst for education. I leave you a respect for the use of power. I leave you faith. I leave you racial dignity. I leave you a desire to live harmoniously with your fellow men. I leave you, finally, a responsibility to our young people." Although Bethune was not from a wealthy and educated family, she recognized the goodness in her life that consisted of a family rich in love; she later built upon that foundation to become a great educator and activist for human rights.

Similar to Bethune, Jemison, the first African American woman to go into space, is another great American. She was born in Alabama in 1956, but her family moved to Chicago to search for more educational opportunities and better schools. Jemison grew up during a time when people thought a person of her ethnicity and gender was inferior to other races. After hearing the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during the civil rights movement, Jemison was greatly inspired. She began to view life from a different perspective—one which broke down barriers to human potential and encouraged unity and camaraderie among all people. She believed the best way to make her dreams come true was to wake up and act on those dreams, and then work hard to bring them to fruition. In addition, Jemison attended Stanford University and received dual Baccalaureate Degrees in Chemical Engineering and Afro American Studies. Next, she earned her



Mary McLeod Bethune, American educator and activist.

Doctorate Degree in Medicine from Cornell University, before later becoming an astronaut. More importantly, Jemison never gave up hope, even when faced with daunting challenges. She persevered and was not afraid to dream big and achieve her goals. As such, Jemison has left a wonderful legacy for all of us to emulate.

Neither Bethune or Jemison tried to make a name for themselves. They simply wanted to do the best they could, regardless of the situation. Although we can learn a lesson from these extraordinary African American women, I challenge you not to think of them in terms of ethnicity, gender, creed, or background, but rather as human beings. They were human beings just like you and I, yet during their lifetime, they saw injustice, they saw the country being torn apart by racial divisions and discouragement. Rather than sit silently and let negativity tear them down, they chose to speak up; they sought to bring people together, and they dared to dream big. The challenge for all of us is the same; we must dare to dream and then dare to act. Never sell yourself short. Everyone has the ability to do something positive, work together and affect change—this is the real lesson from Bethune and Jemison. It doesn't matter where we came from or what we look like, because together we can achieve greatness.

Share your Air Force Aid Society story

If you have ever received help from the Air Force Aid Society, please consider sharing your story with the Lajes community. The AFAS provides numerous benefits, such as emergency leave travel, funeral expenses, interest-free loans, and many other things. If you feel comfortable sharing your story, please contact Capt. Steve Mackinder at 535-1362 or steven.mackinder@lajes.af.mil. You may inspire others to give to the Air Force Assistance Fund campaign, taking place at Lajes from March 5 to April 13.

AFAS College Grant Applications Up For Grabs

The Air Force Aid Society is accepting applications for the General Henry H. Arnold Education Grant Program. These \$2,000 need-based grants are open to dependent children of active duty, active guard/reserve, retired and deceased AF members. Spouses of active duty members and surviving spouses of deceased personnel are also eligible (spouse must reside stateside). Applications are available on the AFAS website www.afas.org and the deadline to apply is March 9. Visit the AFAS website or contact 2d Lt. Rebecca Hernandez at 535-4138 for more information.



(Left center) Airman 1st Class Michael Wence, 65th Communications Squadron, briefs (head of table) Brig. Gen. Warren Berry, Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Director of Logistics, Installations and Mission Support, and other HQ USAF visitors during their time at Lajes Field, Feb. 1. Wence is one of six Airmen who brief distinguished visitors as they pass through Lajes. (Photo by Guido Melo)

Team Lajes' newest promotees

Team Lajes' newest promotees were congratulated by members of the 65th Air Base Wing during a ceremony in the Community Activities Center ballroom, Jan. 31. (Photo by Guido Melo)



LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



Name: Derek Breaux
Rank: Tech. Sgt.
Unit: 65th ABW CP
Hometown: Reserve, La.
Duty Title: Superintendent, 65th ABW Command Post
Accomplishments: Tech. Sgt. Derek Breaux manages eight Command Post controllers who are the eyes and ears of the wing commander, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Command Post is the installation's

primary command and control center for all emergency incidents, which have to be up-channeled to USAFE, EUCOM and the National Military Command Center at the Pentagon. He is also responsible for managing the wing's wartime readiness program via the Status of Resources and Training System (SORTS). His attention to detail has helped the wing receive four USAFE goal days in 2011.



Name: Marquis Williams
Rank: Senior Airman
Unit: 65th ABW CP
Hometown: San Bernardino, Calif.
Duty Title: Emergency Actions Controller
Accomplishments: Senior Airman Williams began working in the 65th ABW Command Post Mar. 20, 2010. As a dual certified (USAFE/AMC) Command Post Controller, this warrior's responsibility is to provide

command and control operations, to include flight following aircraft to and from the fight, coordinating emergency actions with base agencies, carrying forward procedures and directives from higher headquarters and interfacing with wing leadership as a trusted agent on reporting issues. Furthermore, he is responsible for the wing SORTS and OPREP-3 training for all commanders and first sergeants.



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

Feature

Resiliency at Lajes

On Jan. 24, 27 and Feb. 3, Lajes Field conducted training and held activities focusing on the social, spiritual, mental and physical well-being of "A"irmen.



Lt. Col. Gwendolyn Johnson, 65th Medical Operations Squadron commander, leads her Airmen during the Resiliency Formation Run Feb. 3. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, gives Lajes Airmen inspirational words before the base Resiliency Formation Run Feb. 3. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

HELPFUL AGENCIES – We're here for you!

- Airman & Family Readiness Center**, DSN: 535-4138, Comm: 295-57-4138
- Chace Fitness Center**, DSN: 535-6126, Comm: 295-57-6126
- Chapel Services**, DSN: 535-4211, Comm: 295-57-4211
- Education Center**, DSN: 535-3355, Comm: 295-57-3355
- Equal Opportunity**, DSN: 535-6111, Comm: 295-57-6111
- Health & Wellness Center**, DSN: 535-4292, Comm: 295-57-4292
- Inspector General**, DSN: 535-3264, Comm: 295-57-3264
- Legal Assistance**, DSN: 535-3546, Comm: 295-57-3546
- Mental Health**, DSN: 535-5177, Comm: 295-57-5177
- Military & Family Life Consultant**, DSN: 535-3529, Comm: 295-57-3529
- WIC Overseas**, DSN: 535-1440, Comm: 295-57-1440



RESILIENCY...
Catching one "A"irman at a Time



(Left and far right) Col. Jose Rivera, 65th Air Base Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Storms, 65th Air Base Wing command chief, present Lt. Col. David Scharf, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, with the 2011 Intramural Sports Commander's Cup Trophy Feb. 3 at the Top of the Rock Club. 65th CES had more total combined points for both intramural and extramural sports in 2011. (Photo by Guido Melo)



At the Lajes Child Development Center, teachers spoke to children about the importance of being resilient and also had them make "Resiliency Pillows" Feb. 3. (Courtesy photo)



Mark your calendar

VOLUNTEER TAX ASSISTANCE AT LAJES:

Lajes Field will begin its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program on Feb. 13 and will run through June 15. The VITA program is here to assist our military members with free tax filing of simple tax returns. Our VITA volunteers offer free tax advice, tax preparation, and assistance to military members and their families on military specific tax issues, such as combat zone tax benefits and the effect of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) guidelines.



If our volunteers are unable to assist with your taxes under VITA rules, we will recommend that you seek professional tax services. If you wish to complete your taxes on your own, the following tax sites offer free tax filing for military personnel meeting certain requirements:

<http://www.irs.gov/efile/freefile>

<http://www.taxslayer.com>

<http://www.turbo.tax.com>

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil>

Please contact the legal office at 535-3546 for further information.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH - Celebrating Great Moments of Our Past, Present and Future: The African American Heritage Committee is planning a number of fun events for the month of February, such as the following:

- Bowl-a-thon in conjunction with a Health Fair Feb. 10;
- AAHC Luncheon Feb. 17 at the TORC;
- Gospel Celebration Feb. 19 at the Chapel;
- 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament Feb. 20 at the Gym;
- African American Heritage Month 5K Run Feb. 24;
- Black and White Gala Feb. 25 at the TORC.

Also, tune in to AFN Radio 96.1FM at 10 a.m. Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 for Black Education Talk (BET.)

Join the AAHC as they perform community service activities, such as volunteering at the Post Office Feb. 18 from 10 a.m. to noon and serve breakfast to Lajes' newest Right Start Airmen Feb. 22 at 7:30 a.m. For more information or to volunteer, contact Carlos Wade at 535-1197 or carlos.wade@lajes.af.mil. All AAHC events are open to everyone.

FLEA MARKET: Due to Youth Basketball Season there will be no Flea Market in February and March. The next one is April 21st.

Phrase of the Week
A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: Where can I go to get a good pizza?

PORTUGUESE: Onde devo ir para conseguir uma boa pizza?

PRONUNCIATION: Own-day day-vuh er pahda cohn-see-guid uh-ma boah pizza?

1503 AM
AFN THE BULL



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



Terceira's Festivals

Terceira Island, or the "Island of Jesus Christ," as it's known by some people, is very rich in traditions and festivals, hence the reason it's often called "an amusement park" by the people of the other Azorean islands.

This nickname is an allusion to the number of festivals and cultural events that take place throughout the year, with special emphasis on the summer months.

The first major cultural event of this year will begin next week (Feb. 18-21) with the celebration of Mardi Gras or "Carnaval" as it's known to the Portuguese people. This deeply ingrained tradition takes place almost non-stop for four days and three nights in theaters and community centers around the island.

With Easter Sunday arrives the beginning of the colorful Holy Ghost Festival, which will extend for eight weeks, until Pentecost Sunday. This celebration happens throughout the Azorean islands but has bigger visibility and impact on Terceira Island.

With warmer weather also comes the street bullfight season. This old tradition begins every year on May 1 and runs until Oct. 15. This is probably one of the most loved traditions, with the bullfights taking place at almost any village on the island.

The series of cultural events is followed in June by the largest non-religious festival, called "Sanjoaninas." This week-long event takes place in the city of Angra's main streets and usually attracts thousands of locals and visitors from the other islands and abroad.

Beginning in the first week of August, the city of Praia will host its renowned festival called "Praia Fest." This event is also particularly enjoyed by the American community from Lajes Field, since it's very close to the base.

The Wine Festival takes place every year during the first weekend of September at the wine museum in the village of Biscoitos. This tradition gives visitors a chance to watch the locals pick up the grapes from the local vineyards and crush them with their bare feet to produce the local wines.

In addition to the cultural events mentioned above, between May and October, all the island's villages host their festivities in honor of their patron saints, with the village of Lajes having the honor to close the festival season.

To find out more about the Azorean culture and customs, call the Public Affairs Office at 535-3413 or e-mail 65abw.pa@lajes.af.mil.