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Crossroads



Vol. 17, No. 11 March 16, 2012

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

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

 **498
SORTIES**

 **8,583
LODGED**

 **2,5 M
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

(21st Operational Weather
Squadron)

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

Partly Cloudy

Wind NE 10 / 15 mph
E 10 mph

HIGH 16C / 61F

LOW 10C / 50F

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

Partly Cloudy

Wind SE 10 / 15 mph
SE 10 / 15 mph

HIGH 15C / 59F

LOW 8C / 46F

Fueling the fight from the Atlantic



Victor Almeida, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, taps on a beaker to get the water to separate from the JP-8 fuel; this tests the particle content of the fuel sample during a monthly fuel check, March 13, 2012. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)

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

The Air Force mission to fly, fight and win cannot be accomplished without gas.

At Lajes Field, the main mission is to fuel aircraft as they transit over the Atlantic Ocean. Approximately 7,000 aircraft land and receive 5.4 million gallons of fuel every year which is supplied by the 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron fuels management flight.

But there is more to the 65th LRS mission than the fuels dispatch personnel who fuel the aircraft. At first glance, the distribution and accounting shops seem like just another Air Force "desk job." However, these shops are accounting for more than 35 million gallons of fuel worth \$134 million, which is the largest fuel supply in the United States Air Forces in Europe and the second largest in the Air Force.

Within the fuels management flight, there are nine different and distinct shops, one of which is the cryogenics shop.

"Most people don't know that LRS supplies liquid oxygen to aircrafts," said Tech. Sgt. Gwendoline Berrones, fuel information service center section chief.

The cryogenics shop maintains liquid oxygen and is in charge of ensuring that only quality aviator breathing oxygen is provided to the crew.

"My job here is important because it is up to our shop to make sure that the fuel the aircraft is getting doesn't have any problems and is the proper grade," said Victor Almeida, fuels lab technician.

The fuel laboratory runs tests on all the fuel received. This shop also conducts weekly and monthly inspections on all stored fuel to ensure it hasn't been contaminated and remains within quality control. Checking for water and particle content is just a couple of the tests the lab technicians run.

"We make sure the fuel is clean and dry," said Mr. Jaime Silva, fuels lab technician. "I have been working in the lab for 18 years and our shop has a great responsibility to provide the best service because if the fuel is not top notch and there is something wrong, the problem can't be fixed once the plane is in the air."

Despite the fact that aircraft are not fueled every day, the preventative and refueling maintenance shops have to

To read more on "Fuels" see page 4



Are your junior enlisted Airmen ready?

By Master Sgt.
Thomas Robinson, Jr.
65th Contracting Flight
superintendent



Rewind to 2001...A young senior airman, while standing in a very unnatural position under an F-15 Eagle changing a jet fuel starter, was met by his supervisor, expeditor, flight chief and commander. They walked out onto the ramp shortly before midnight to congratulate this airman's promotion to staff sergeant. "Well deserved..." they said. The senior airman tested out of cycle the previous month due to a deployment, and the supplemental results had just hit his commander's desk earlier that day. The staff sergeant select was elated, proud, a little nervous, but all in all ready--ready because of a very important, if not the most important person in his military career--his immediate supervisor, then a staff sergeant and member of the NCO tier.

One of the duties of a staff sergeant and NCO is to serve as an immediate supervisor. The immediate supervisor is just that--he or she functions in an "immediate" fashion. AFI 36-2618 got it right. In this "little brown book" we should all know so well, Chapter 4 - NCO Responsibilities, removes any and all ambiguity as to how an NCO should be earning his or her paycheck. The focus on mission accomplishment, becoming expert technicians, the development of leadership capabilities, supervisory skills, managerial skills and mentorship qualities are all there in black and white. It's the understanding and the implementation of these responsibilities

that solidify the continued dominance of our Air Force and the successful completion of the day to day mission. But with that also comes the number one responsibility at the core of it all...the responsibility for the development of the junior enlisted airman tier.

Now let's go back to that staff sergeant... one of the most important and influential responsibilities he had while serving in the NCO Tier was to continue the molding process that began at Lackland AFB. For an NCO, that molding is not simply made up, strewn together or pieced from duplicating peer actions. It is the setting of standards, observing the standards and evaluating those standards--a process which isn't always easy. It's human nature to want to "take care" of our junior enlisted airmen. We do that in so many ways; however, the best and most effective way to "take care" of our junior enlisted airmen is to set them up for success from the beginning. The Enlisted Evaluation System is designed for just that. As an NCO, it's imperative standards are set, holding accountable those who stray from them and praising those who surpass them. As an NCO, each time an enlisted airman becomes assigned to you, be thankful for the opportunity to leave your mark on the Air Force long after you've departed. Be a positive example for them to follow, not an excuse for their failure. Continue the molding process. Train them to become proficient and experts in their craft. Mentor them wisely and fairly. Explain and uphold customs and courtesies. Be there to commend them, but be certain to equally step

To read more on "ready" see page 4

What the FY13 Budget means to USAFE

By Gen. Mark A. Welsh III
U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander

Since the first Gulf War, the U.S. has been engaged continuously in combat operations and U.S. Air Forces in Europe have played a critical role. Not only have we deployed thousands of our Airmen and assets, we have also served as an essential support platform enabling the long-term projection and sustainment of combat power throughout the U.S. European Command, Central Command and Africa Command areas of responsibility. At the same time, NATO has increased both in size and scope of operations. Through all this, USAFE has steadily increased engagement and strengthened relations with our partners and Allies. We demonstrate the value of forward-based forces every day.

However, our challenges today are many and changing: a global economic slowdown, shrinking defense budgets, continuing operations in Afghanistan and the rise of missile threats to the U.S. and our allies. We're also witnessing a significant transition in the command's mission as we inactivate 17th Air Force and assume the role of air component to U.S. Africa Command in addition to our traditional role as the air component to U.S. European Command. We must meet these challenges head on to maintain our

effectiveness and capabilities within a much larger area of responsibility.

Dealing with the same challenges on a global scale, the Department of Defense recently concluded a thorough review of our defense strategy and has begun a transition to a new approach that emphasizes future challenges, supports federal deficit reduction, and accounts for the declining costs of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Operating within constrained budgets is simply a reality. On February 13, the President presented a proposed budget to Congress that reflects these strategic changes and reductions, and includes a reduction of about \$8 billion, or about 5%, in FY13 for the Air Force. Over the next 10 years, the DoD will need to cut more than \$487 billion; \$54 billion will come from Air Force accounts. Furthermore, within the next year, the Air Force will bring the Total Force end strength down by around 9,900 Airmen.

What do these reductions and strategy changes mean for USAFE?

For the DoD and the entire Air Force, all of this means a shift in focus and a change in how we do business. Our senior leaders, including the President, have determined that our national focus needs to emphasize Asia and the Middle

To read more on "Budget" 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



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

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Military Spouse Employment Partnership: A new alternative

By Richard Lambert

Chief, Lajes Field Airman and Family Readiness Center

Did you know America's top companies are actively seeking military spouses and veterans? Unfortunately, statistics show that military spouses earn 25 percent less than their civilian counterparts, and 85 percent of military spouses either want or need work, yet there is a 26 percent unemployment rate among them!

To address this serious issue, the government has established the Military Spouse Employment Partnership! President Obama put his name behind this strong initiative to increase civilian career and employment opportunities within the private sector for our military spouses and vets.

But MSEP goes way beyond simply helping the military spouse or veteran find new jobs every time they relocate to a new place. Because of the transient nature of our military culture, it's about ensuring our spouses and vets can obtain careers with big companies, and then transfer within the company when they need to relocate, due to military orders or retirement. It's also about being able to earn tenure and compete for promotions--to essentially climb the company ladder!

It's typical for military spouses to constantly start over and find new and different jobs when they PCS with their active duty military spouses. On average, military families relocate 14 percent more frequently than civilian families.

On March 7, 2012, Lajes Field had three MSEP representatives provide an orientation on this exciting initiative. Twenty-five Lajes spouses learned how the MSEP program provides opportunities through a diverse number of corporate partners, who actively reach out to military spouses and veterans. These big national and international companies are keenly aware of the true value and unique skill sets that military spouses and veterans bring to their work force.

Tremayne Chestnutt, International MSEP Account Manager, shared that the mission of MSEP is to create a partnership with national and international corporations, which will enhance employment opportunities for military spouses. He further stated the vision is to create a mutually beneficial, self-sustaining and expanding partnership



Tremayne Chestnutt, International Military Spouse Employment Partnership Account Manager, briefs Lajes members about the MSEP program at the Lajes Airman and Family Readiness Center, March 7, 2012. More than 20 military spouses attended the class. MSEP is a part of the Office of Secretary of Defense programs, which has partnered with America's Fortune 500 companies to help military spouses seeking career opportunities. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)

between military spouses and organizations from the public and private sectors. The intent is for corporate partners to establish a strategic relationship with employment personnel assigned to military communities, allowing them to tap into a readily available, diverse and talented pool of candidates.

The MSEP program is for spouses of active duty, reserve and veterans, as well as spouses of wounded warriors and surviving spouses. It's simple to use this program--just go to www.msepjobs.com and visit the job portal to apply for vacancies.

Is it worth your time? Just ask any of the over 120,000 plus Department of Defense spouses who have connected with jobs and launched careers!

Lajes Field Elementary/High School New Teacher Spotlight



Name: Dan Bennett
Hometown: Huntsville, Ala.
Current Teaching Assignment: Speech Therapist and High School/Middle School Learning-Impaired teacher
Expertise: "I received my BA in Speech Pathology from Auburn University and my MA in Collaborative Special Education from Alabama A&M. I have worked with students with special needs in the medical, public school and private practice settings for the past 12 years as a teacher, advocate, and therapist."



Name: Tina Bodenheimer
Hometown: Memphis, Tenn.
Current Teaching Assignment: English as a Second Language, Read 180
Extra Duty Assignments: After School SAT tutoring, Newsletter, Saturday School
Expertise: "MA English, MS in Education, BA in International Relations, and AA in Computer Science. I am excited about next year, and can't wait to see how well my students do on their essays!"



Name: Yvette Rose "ZEE" McKenzie
Hometown: New York, N.Y.
Current Teaching Assignment: English Instructor
Extra Duty Assignments: Continuous School Improvement Leadership Team Co-chair, Middle School Student Council Sponsor, History Club-Medal of Honor Program Sponsor
Expertise: "I was born to teach (a gift from God), and after retiring from the Air Force, I pursued teaching. I maintained my certification during my time in the Air Force."



Name: Michael Morris
Hometown: Olympia, Wash.
Current Teaching Assignment: 4th Grade
Extra Duty Assignments: Homework Club, Continuous School Improvement Leadership Team
Expertise: "I enjoy teaching, first and foremost, because I love working with children. I have been working with children in a classroom setting, as a care provider, or a facility director, since 1999."



Name: Amy Griffing
Hometown: Austin, Texas
Current Teaching Assignment: Learning-Impaired /Pre-School Child Development Teacher,
Grades: Pre-K-5th
Extra Duty Assignment: Case Study Committee Chair
Expertise: "I've been a teacher for 10 years, and I love being a part of the Lajes community, serving the families of the military by educating their children. I've also been a classroom teacher, interventionist, special education teacher and an instructional coach."



"Fuels" from page 1

perform refueling checks on fuel trucks daily for maintenance issues, damage, corrosion and serviceability. If a vehicle is taken out of service for any reason, the refueling maintenance shop diligently works to get it back into operational

standards. The fuel fleet must not drop below the mission essential levels. "I love my job because of the physical aspects," said Staff Sgt. Jason Swanson, refueling maintenance supervisor. "If the maintainers were not here to keep the trucks serviceable, transit aircraft would have to refuel in the air."

"ready" from page 2

in to correct substandard performance. To NCOs, becoming a member of our Armed Forces and Air Force is a very unique opportunity filled with adventure; it also gives just as much as it asks of us. Comprehend and execute your NCO responsibilities and the fruits of your labor will become evident in your junior enlisted airmen. As an NCO, the most important thing asked of

you is to prepare your airmen for increased responsibility, challenges and leadership. That responsibility is without a doubt challenging but fun, endless but precious and above all, necessary. I can guarantee you that if you utilize all available resources, including, but not limited to, "the little brown book", your subordinates will have the necessary tools and knowledge to feel ready when the time comes to pass the torch. Are you making your junior enlisted airmen ready?

"Budget" from page 2

East. However, the new strategy also calls for continued engagement in Europe and Africa. As recent operations in Libya proved, USAFE's forward presence and close relationships within NATO and throughout our entire area of responsibility are of critical importance.

We must also target investments to ensure we have the resources to execute the missions of the future. We will be smaller, but we will be effective and well-trained. Let me be clear, even with these budget cuts, our military and our Air Force are by far the best resourced, best trained and best equipped in the world. We can and will adapt to the new paradigm. And as we always have in the past, we will meet these challenges head on.

Of course, changes to our strategic focus and reductions in Defense spending will change how USAFE looks in the future. The 81st Fighter Squadron at Spangdahlem will be inactivated as part of an overall reduction of five A-10 squadrons. In addition, the 603rd Air Control Squadron at Aviano will be inactivated. While personnel reductions Air Force wide will often hit close to home, what that means for USAFE is still unclear.

However, this is not just about downsizing. It's about adapting to a changing environment. As Ballistic Missile Defense becomes more critical, our investment and participation in Integrated Air and Missile Defense in theater is increasing. We are also taking a hard look at

all of our installations to ensure we are operating efficiently at every location and that we are postured to support future operations. There are certainly more changes to come, but we will work through them all carefully and we will ensure our people are taken care of.

The bottom line: USAFE has been and will remain critical to our national defense strategy. We have an expanding mission in terms of geography and operations, and the new strategy will continue to draw heavily on our forces and our enduring capabilities -- mobility access and throughput; communications throughput; logistical support and throughput; contingency response; and command and control in Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, Air Operations, ballistic missile defense, and humanitarian response. We will also continue to rely on and partner with our close friends and Allies, especially those who host our bases, personnel and families.

I know change is never fun, but it is necessary ... it is an opportunity to get better at what we do and there is no doubt in my mind that we will. As we move into the future together, let me thank you for all you do to ensure freedom's future.

Additional Information:

The FY13 budget overview is available on-line at <http://www.saffm.hq.af.mil/budget/> provides a great look at many of the efforts we will continue to pursue from training, to building partnerships, to supporting our Allies, and more.

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



Name: Connie Pires
Rank: LGS-09
Unit: 65th Contracting Flight
Hometown: Ribeirinha, Terceira
Duty Title: Contracting Officer
Accomplishments: Sra. Pires is a proud member and contracting officer assigned to the Base Support section. She is responsible for the preparation and administration of contracts, Blanket Purchase Agreements and commodity purchase

requests up to \$150,000. She follows up on purchase orders to ensure timely delivery and proper invoicing. She works with contractors to ensure correct invoicing is accomplished and that proper registration to do business with the government has been completed. Additionally, Sra. Pires assists 65th ABW customers with the development of their requirement through education and training of the acquisition process, ensuring a complete and detailed requirements package. This is key to insuring the customer describes exactly what is necessary, preventing the need for duplicate efforts. Sra. Pires' spirit and commitment to excellence earned her the position of the 65th CONF Booster Club president.



Name: Yvette D. Prioleau
Rank: Tech. Sgt.
Unit: 65th Contracting Flight
Hometown: Summerville, S.C.
Duty Title: Contract Specialist
Accomplishments: Tech. Sgt. Prioleau, a member of the Infrastructure Section, is responsible for managing a variety of service and construction contracts. Additionally, she assists contractors and customers on their requirement documenta-

tion in defining the acquisition process, ensuring compliance with applicable acquisition regulations. She arrived in November from Langley Air Force Base, Va., ready to produce. Her "can-do" attitude, character and attention to detail were key in her election as the Lajes African American Heritage Committee Treasurer. Sergeant Prioleau enjoys base and community involvement and has already planted her feet firmly on the ground with regards to making an impact on Lajes during her tenure. She was instrumental to this year's culmination of AAHC events, 65th CONF Booster Club fundraisers and currently is a proactive Air Force Assistance Fund representative.



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

Feature



Master Sgts. Mario Saenz, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron and Nikki Drago, 65th Security Forces Squadron, celebrate their promotion to the rank of senior master sergeant during a ceremony at the Top of the Rock Club, March 9. (Photo by Guido Melo)



(Left) Jakob Holsonback, son of Tech Sgt. Luther Holsonback, Lajes Airman Leadership School commandant, and emcee Master Sgt. Gregory Lee, 65th Medical Support Squadron superintendent, listen to the judge panel's comments during the Lajes Has Talent event held at the Community Activity Center, March 10, 2012. Holsonback placed second overall and will compete in U.S. Air Forces in Europe's You Got Talent competition. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Artist Carly Swenson, wife of Tech. Sgt. Casey McKinney, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, stands in front of her art exhibition at the Youth and Arts Academy in Praia da Vitória, March 10. The showcase will run Monday through Saturday from 1 to 6 p.m. until April 10. (Courtesy photo)

Firefighter support...

(Left) Dimas Martins and (right) Senior Airman Larry Diaz, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron Lead Firefighter, and Driver Operator, perform a hazardous material check on an Air France Airbus A340, following an emergency landing at Lajes Field, March 5, 2012. (Photo by Lucas Silva)





Mark your calendar

ST. PATTY'S DAY CELEBRATION: On March 17, 9 p.m. in the E'lounge you can show your Irish pride in the "I be a lucky Leprechaun" costume contest. On the menu...Corned beef & cabbage with parslid potatoes or Reuben sandwich specials! Search our 'Pot-o-Gold' for surprises! So you think you can dance? Show us your best Irish Jig! Only Members can win prizes!



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS: These meetings occur every Tuesday from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Solid Rock Oasis, Bldg. T-307. Call the Lajes Field Chapel for more information at 535-4211, or an AA member at 966-653-592.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH LUNCHEON: The Women's History Month Luncheon, featuring guest speaker Brig. Gen. Stayce D. Harris, Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Africa Command, the Pentagon, Washington, DC., will take place at 11:30 a.m., Friday, March 30, in the TORC Ballroom. The deadline to purchase tickets through your squadron POCs is March 26.

OTHER WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH EVENTS: Movie Night... twice! March 17 ("Bridesmaids") and 24 ("The Holiday"), both at 7 p.m. at Warrior Park

--Children's Reading Hour at the base library - March 22, at 3 p.m.

--Lunchtime volunteer opportunity to read to kids at the school – daily Contact Maj. Emily Eschbacher, 535-5177, for information

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY/DAYS OF

REMEMBRANCE: Committee for Holocaust Remembrance Day/Days of Remembrance is seeking volunteers to assist with planned activities for the week of 15 - 22 April 2012; if interested please contact Staff Sgt. Begley via email: lora.begley@lajes.af.mil

LAJES 2011 ANNUAL VOLUNTEER AWARDS: On 19 April 2012, the Airman & Family Readiness Center will host the Annual Team Lajes Volunteer Recognition Ceremony at the Community Center from 1500-1600. The event will include the presentation of awards followed by an Ice Cream Social. The ceremony is held to honor all volunteers for their many contributions to the base and community. Contact Sandy Rocha, 535-4138, for submission information; packages are due no later than COB Friday, 30 March 2012. Late submissions will not be accepted.

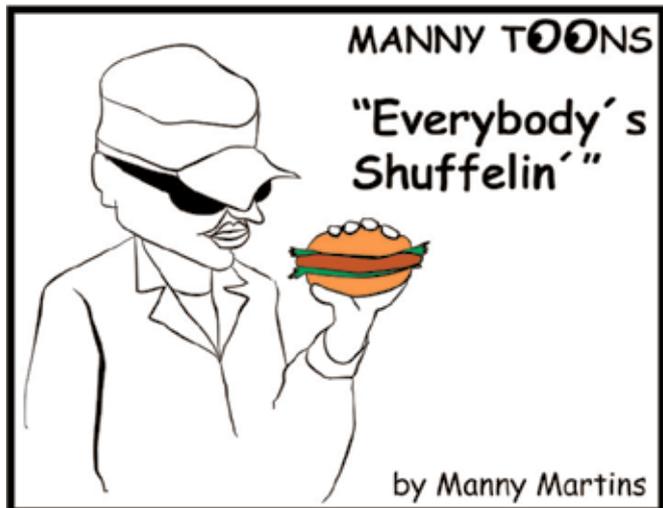
Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: When does it stop raining?

PORTUGUESE: Quando vai parar de chover?

PRONUNCIATION: Kuandoo vah parahar da shoover?



ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima
Community Relations Advisor



Renowned Continental Army soldier native of Terceira Island



Most residents of the town of Porto Judeu, on Terceira Island, probably haven't heard the name Peter Francisco or know he was a native of their town.

According to the U.S. Military History magazine, Peter Francisco was one of the most remarkable American Revolution War heroes who fought in General Washington's Continental Army.

Also, according to researcher John E. Manahan, Peter Francisco, who was so named by the British colonists who found him on the docks of City Point in Virginia in 1765, was supposedly abducted by pirates from his home village of Porto Judeu on Terceira Island and taken to America.

He was estimated to be 5 years old at the time he was found and spoke a foreign language, what might have been Portuguese, and kept repeating "Pedro Francisco." He was later taken by Judge Anthony Winston as a servant and remained with his family until the beginning of the American Revolution. Francisco joined George Washington's Continental Army in 1777 and fought for the first time in the Battle of Brandywine near Philadelphia, where he and his regiment helped General Washington save his army from the hands of the British.

Francisco wounded his leg during the fighting, the first of many wounds he would suffer throughout his military career. He participated in many battles under different commands, and due to his huge size, strength, and uncommon bravery, was known as the "Virginian Giant" or the "Virginian Hercules."

George Washington was later cited saying that without Peter Francisco he "would have lost two crucial battles, perhaps the war, and with it, freedom." After the British acknowledged the American's independence and with the end of the war, Francisco acquired an education and re-entered civilian life. He married three times, purchased property, and raised children.

Francisco was appointed Sergeant-At-Arms of Virginia in 1825, and died in 1831 at the age of 70. He was buried in Richmond's Shockoe Cemetery with military honors, where his tombstone describes him as, "A soldier of revolutionary fame."

The state of Virginia has named March 15 as Peter Francisco Day in his honor.