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# Crossroads



Vol. 17, No. 13 March 30, 2012

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

## Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha  
Threat Level: Low

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

 530  
SORTIES

9,218  
LODGED 

 2,6 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.)

Rainshowers / Mostly Cloudy  
Wind SE 10 mph  
SE 5 mph  
HIGH 17C / 63F  
LOW 12C / 54F

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

Cloudy Rain / Mostly Cloudy  
Wind S 10 mph  
N 5 mph  
HIGH 17C / 63F  
LOW 16C / 61F



Dr. (Capt.) Nicholas Seeliger, 65th Medical Operations Squadron, speaks with Peruvian patients in the rural highlands of the Andes Mountains in Peru as part of a medical volunteer humanitarian project in 2008. Several members from the 65th Medical Group will participate in Healing Peru April 1 through 15 by providing free medical services to many indigenous people there. (Courtesy photo)

## Healing Peru: Airmen depart to support medical needs of indigenous people

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

Several members of the 65th Medical Group, as well as a few other active duty members within the U.S. Air Force, will participate in a medical volunteer humanitarian project in the rural highlands of the Andes Mountains in Peru April 1 through 15.

This is part of a program called the Q'ewar Project -- a social work initiative program that works with the indigenous women of the Andahuaylillas village which is located in one of the rurally isolated communities where most natives speak the ancient language of Quechua and very few speak Spanish in this Spanish-speaking country.

This medical team, led by Dr. (Capt.) Nicholas Seeliger, 65th Medical Operations Squadron, will travel to the community to assist the people of the Peruvian Andes by providing free medical services, preventative health care, health education and economic assistance.

"The Q'ewar Project focuses on helping women of these communities who are usually coming from really difficult social situations; many of them are either widowed, separated or victims of domestic violence," said Seeliger. "This project brings these women in, teaches them a trade, such as how to make different types of quilts, blankets and

dolls (the founders of the project are artists and artisans) and that's how they establish themselves."

This will be Seeliger's fourth trip with medical providers he has met from various courses of life since he first formed the nonprofit organization Healing Peru while stationed at Eglin AFB, Fla., in 2007.

Through Healing Peru, Seeliger and his teams have collected money to purchase medicines and supplies to provide to these people free of charge.

Seeliger said the volunteers receive no formal training related to working in humanitarian environments or other areas that are not already set up with medical resources. They all begin from scratch upon arrival.

"We start from scratch; we bring all of our own medicine, supplies and medical technology," he said. "The community makes announcements that we're going to be there, and then the lines just start to form."

The teams usually visit the village from seven to 10 days, providing medical care for an average of 2,000 people.

"We try to help them the best we can, and then we try to give them a diagnosis and treatment," he said. "The types of illnesses these people have are things most of us take for granted, such as simple lacerations, skin infections, urinary

To read more on "Peru" see page 2



# People, not programs, create resiliency with the Air Force family

By Maj. Scott Hopper  
65th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander



I spent three weeks at Landstuhl, Germany, "stork nesting" with my family. Few corporations would fund travel, lodging, food and expenses for a month in Germany to ensure their employees welcome a new child in world-class medical facilities. However, the Storknest program isn't the best part of being in this corporation. It's the wingman culture that makes the United States Air Force the best company in the world to work for.

Romy arrived at Frankfurt airport by herself at 36 weeks pregnant with our 18-month-old son, Michael, in tow. A major from the U.S. Air Forces in Europe staff I had never met came to the airport to help Romy with her luggage and drive her to Ramstein. Major Joe Copous offered his help simply because I was a fellow logistics readiness officer. Romy didn't hesitate to hand our son to this stranger because she knew he was a part of our Air Force family.

That first night in Germany, she stayed in the home of another officer I had been stationed with

six years ago. Major Mike Boswell and his wife, Charlotte, opened their home to us throughout our stay. They delivered us meals in those first nights after the baby was born. They even gave us a double stroller, which you'll see me pushing around the commissary in the coming months.

A couple days after Romy checked into the temporary lodging facility, she was contacted by my predecessor, Lt. Col. Rod Bloker. Other than the three days of turnover we had before the change-of-command, he and I had never served together. However, the bond of us having led the same squadron was enough to spring the Bloker family into action. They took us out to eat, hosted us in their home, and provided clothes, gifts and support to our newest addition.

Another major I met briefly in 2008 came to visit Romy and I because his wife is also a Dominican-born Miami native. Major Norman Wright and his wife, Yunelis, visited with us often. They watched Michael for two days while Romy labored and recovered in the hospital. They were a great support network for our family and are already planning a trip to Lajes.

Amy Ennis, a former Lajes civilian employee,

**To read more on "Family" see page 4**

## "Peru" from page 1

tract infections, arthritis and diseases of labor. These are hardworking farmers; their bodies hurt, so most of what we do is provide pain relief. We provide pain relief medicines, nutritional supplements, prenatales and those kind of things."

Seeliger said probably the most important thing they do is provide medication for these people because even if these Peruvians visit a doctor for free and receive treatment, their government insurance will not often allow for free medicines.

"I think that's an attraction for why we have so many people," he said. "Although the Peruvian government and their healthcare system is a socialized medical system which provides for all people to have access to medical care, the majority of the indigenous people in this part of the Andes do not participate, so their medical care is usually very limited. Their willingness to seek care from their government is also limited."

Seeliger said he usually has between 10 and 20 volunteers accompanying him on this humanitarian project. This year there are 16 -- six from Lajes Field, Azores, one from Gielencirhen, Germany, one from Hill AFB, Utah, three from Eglin AFB, Fla., and several other civilian medical volunteers -- all ranging from medical technicians and administrators to family medicine residents, a family medicine physician, dentist, psychologist, nurse and others.

A 65th MDOS medical technician, Senior Airman Timothy Begley, said he's never been on a humanitarian assistance project such as this before and is definitely looking forward to it.

"I expect that I'll be helping lots of people," he said. "We'll be giving care to people who don't receive health care on a regular basis. I'm glad to have the opportunity to help them and assist with procedures and any patient care that's needed."

This is also the first year a dentist will be on the team.

"Dr. (Capt.) Merrill Alley from Gielencirhen, Germany, is a colleague of a friend of mine," Seeliger said. "Right now, the community there is incredibly excited about the dentist coming. He's bringing his own equipment, and the community is going to provide him with as much equipment as they have. The actual local municipality of health is going to help support him with technicians and translators. His presence is going to be a big deal this year."

The newest recruit to the team, Dr. (Maj.) Emily Eschbaucher, is a psychologist from the 65th Medical Group.

"My medical contact in the village inquired if I happened to know someone who may be able to help with a certain population of young adults and adolescences who've been victims of violence, domestic abuse and things of that nature," Seeliger said. "So, I asked her and she was incredibly excited about participating. She also speaks Spanish, so she's going to be great there."

Most of the doctors who've previously gone on this humanitarian project have been English speakers only who've communicated to their patients through translators.

"We've got English to Spanish and Spanish to Quechua translators, and it's interesting," Seeliger said.

This voluntary support allows active duty members an opportunity to expand their skills and flexibility in working in environments that they may not be used to working in. It also allows them to make a huge impact in a place that otherwise would not receive these benefits.

Seeliger said going back to the same town, same village, and working with the same people in this location also allows the opportunity to develop a relationship between the two countries, the U.S. and Peru.

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

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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.

This Air Force funded newspaper is an authorized weekly publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas.

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# Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell

By Austin Gill

Ms. Evans, English 10 Honors



Throughout history there have been many famous female doctors who have revolutionized the science industry, whether it was publicly, or in secret for fear of execution. One of the most profound women in scientific history is Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, who was the first woman doctor. She paved the way for other women and broke the barrier between men and women.

Dr. Blackwell was born in England in 1821. She grew up in America, and her family supported women's rights, including her father ("Changing The Face of Medicine"). Because of this, she was a very strong-minded woman, and was able to pull through

situations like no other women could before. At first she hated the thought of being a doctor, and wanted to be a historian, and later became a teacher. She hadn't decided she wanted to be a doctor until her friend, near death, told her she would have been spared her worst suffering if her doctor was a woman. ("Changing The Face of

Medicine").

At first she studied medicine with two of her friends who were professional physicists, and later she decided she would apply for college. The faculty wanted to give her a fair chance, so they let the school decide to let her in or not. The school voted yes as a joke, even though most of them hated having a woman with them. Two years later she left that college with an M.D. in her hands. She studied abroad in Paris and London, but received a serious eye infection known as ophthalmia, through which she lost her eye ("Changing The Face of Medicine").

She then went back to New York and applied for jobs but was generally denied all of them. At this point she decided she would open an infirmary for women known as the New York Infirmary for Women and Children. With the help of her sister and a fellow female physician, she became quite successful, and eventually opened up a college inside the infirmary for women. She worked at the infirmary for quite a while, and constantly supported women's rights and their freedom. She would later pass away of natural causes in 1910, forever embedded into the minds of all other physicians ("Changing The Face of Medicine").

Dr. Blackwell was one of the most renowned physicians in the world, as she was the first woman to become one. She went to college when everyone else said she couldn't. She broke the barrier between men and women forever, and when everyone else thought it was a joke, she was the one laughing in the end as the first female to ever receive a doctorate.

## AF Club gives food to local farm

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

With about 75 pounds of trash produced daily by Lajes Field Top of the Rock Club, management has found a way to reduce its waste by about 47 percent by donating it to a local pig farm.

This program can be dated as far back as 1992 when the officer and enlisted clubs combined to establish the TORC. Club employees separate paper, plastic, glass and cans as well as its food from regular trash. On average, 35 pounds of the club's daily trash is food waste.

"Due to food waste regulations, the club is not allowed to mix any food with trash," said Karen O'Camb, 65th Force Support Squadron club manager. "So all the food items are separated and given to a local pig farm."

The club initiative aids Lajes Field in keeping its rodent and stray animal control down, said Tech. Sgt. Pamela Zavatkay, 65th Civil Engineering Squadron pest management NCOIC.

"This program is a win-win for everyone," said Zavatkay.

For the past two years the food has been going to João Vieira, a local pig farmer. Vieira has been a pig farmer for about 20 years.

"Getting the food from the club helps me to feed my pigs and I would not have as many as I do if it wasn't for the food I receive from them," said Vieira. "Some days I get a little food and some days I get a lot of food. It depends on what event is going on at the club."

Pigs are omnivores, eating both plants and meat. Vieira has to feed his 12 pigs two times a day. Vieira mixes the food he gets from the club with water and pig feed.

Vieira picks up food from the club every weekday. When the pigs are about six months old, they are sold to butchers or families for meat.

"I have been working in Air Force clubs for more than 20 years and this is the first base that I have ever seen with this type of solution to such a restriction," added O'Camb. "It's great knowing that we are maintaining our recycling program with the guidelines given us and helping out a local farmer which allows us to provide support to our local community. Before arriving to Lajes I was only used to seeing clubs offer member-only meals and specials, cash back rewards and scholarship money."

O'Camb started working with the Air Force club in the early 1990s and has moved from accountant, to cook, to club manager after getting out of the service as an aircraft armament system technician in 1981.



João Vieira, a local pig farmer, unloads food scraps he received from the Lajes Field Top of the Rock to feed to his pigs March 27. Lajes TORC has been donating food waste to local pig farms as far back as 1991. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)



"Family" from page 2

offered to watch Michael so Romy and I could go out on Valentine's Day. We had several visitors from Lajes while we were there: Tech. Sgt. Luis Trumbo, Lt. Col. Shawn Cotton, April Legere and Adrian Schmedhorst all visited with us and offered their friendship and support. Every person we interacted with always said the same thing, "If you need anything..."

Adrienne Schmedhorst flew back with us, sat with my wife and helped us manage the challenge of traveling with two babies. On our return, we were greeted by several friends and coworkers all ready to help us bring luggage to our home. As soon as we got home, visitors from our street were at our door to meet the new baby. The 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron spouses have arranged for someone to deliver dinner to our home every day this week. We have received so much support from the Lajes community; there are simply too many people to list.

I started this article by commenting that no other corporation would fund the stork nest program. More importantly, no other corporation instills within their employees a Wingman culture that permeates the entire organization. Romy, still relatively new to the Air Force, was hesitant to fly to Germany to have the baby "alone" without her family. She quickly learned that she was surrounded by family the entire time.

AFAF raises funds with Hawaiian plate



Members of the 65th Air Base Wing pick up a Hawaiian plate for lunch during a fundraiser which raised more than \$800 for the Air Force Assistance Fund at the Lajes Chapel March 27. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Team Lajes welcomes newest member!

Isabella Marie Hopper was born to Major Scott and Romy Hopper on March 4 at 8:38 a.m. at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. The newest Log Dog arrived at 6lbs 14oz and 20.5-inches long. Photo is by Stephanie Grant.

Congratulations!

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



**Name:** Ashley Tanzillo  
**Rank:** Airman 1st Class  
**Unit:** 65th LRS  
**Hometown:** Palmdale, California  
**Duty Title:** Vehicle Operator/Operator Records & Licensing Clerk  
**Accomplishments:** Airman Tanzillo joined the Air Force in March 2011. She operates a wide array of government motor vehicles while assigned to the Deployment & Distribution Flight, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

She is consistently hand-picked to transport distinguished visitors that visit Lajes Field, including the Secretary of the Air Force, U.S. Congressmen, high-level Department of Defense officials and State Department personnel. Additionally, Airman Tanzillo is responsible for the operator maintenance and upkeep of 44 assigned vehicles valued at more than \$2 million. Airman Tanzillo is also the focal point for all government motor vehicle licenses and driver's records for everyone on the installation. She issues an average of 80 licenses every quarter; while validating training requirements and ensuring compliance with DoD, U.S., and European driving regulations. Finally, Airman Tanzillo is very active in the base community. She assisted in raising more than \$1,000 for the St. Patrick's Day 5K Fun Run in support of the Air Force Assistance Fund. She was also instrumental in increasing awareness for Women's History Month through base-wide flyers/posters and judging an essay contest for the Lajes Elementary/High School.



**Name:** Francisco G. Carvalho  
**Rank:** LGS-6  
**Unit:** 65th LRS  
**Hometown:** Angra do Heroismo, Terceira Island  
**Duty Title:** Chief Dispatcher  
**Accomplishments:** Senhor Carvalho has been working for the 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron since 1981. He is responsible for reviewing all transportation requests that are compiled by his team of six dispatchers.

He coordinates all movement of personnel and cargo throughout the installation; to include tractor-trailer movements of cargo between the air/sea ports. Additionally, he ensures rapid response and bed-down of transient aircrews that stop at Lajes Field. His outstanding supervision has ensured an average response time of less than three minutes, shattering the Air Force standard by 70 percent. He also guarantees the timely dispatch of the Lajes school buses, ensuring on-time delivery for more than 25 students. His outstanding support to the 65th LRS led to his selection as an Outstanding Performer and Outstanding Team during the 2011 Logistics Compliance Assessment Program Inspection, as well as the 2011 Operational Readiness/Limited Compliance Inspection.



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

Feature



Members from 729th Air Mobility Squadron perform self-aid buddy care on a simulated victim during a local unit exercise March 26. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)



Firefighters from Lajes Fire Department and Transient Alert members contain a fuel leak on an EA-6 Prowler from the U.S. Marine Corps after landing at Lajes for a Gas n' Go March 27. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



1st Lt. Elizabeth Phillips, 65th Medical Operations Squadron, looks at local art work during the wine tasting and art exhibition at the Top of the Rock Club March 23. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)



The National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony took place March 23 at the Lajes Elementary/High School Library. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Master Sgt. Chris Ramsdell serves Senior Airman David Cruz, both from the 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, during the Burger Bash sponsored by the Top 3 for dorm residents March 23. The Burger Bash was designed to create a partnership and open communication between the Airmen and senior NCOs. Top 3 members also challenged dorm residents to various games such as volleyball, hillbilly golf, corn hole and dominoes. (Photo by Guido Melo)



In costume from left to right, Maj. Christina Jimenez, Staff Sgt. Eric Hall and Tech. Sgt. Derek Breaux, deliver a candy gram to Senior Master Sgt. Brian Holes, all from the 65th Air Base Wing Staff Agency, March 22. This was one of several Air Force Assistance Fund activities conducted by members of Team Lajes as an effort to raise funds for charitable affiliates that provide support to active-duty, Guard, Reserve and retired Airmen as well as their dependents and surviving spouses. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



## Mark your calendar

**WING PROMOTION CEREMONY:** The Wing Promotion Ceremony is today at the Community Activity Center ballroom at 3 p.m. Come celebrate Team Lajes' newest promotees for the month.

**USAFE FAMILY DAY:** April 6 is Good Friday, as well as a Portuguese Holiday and USAFE family down day.

**WING TRAINING DAY:** Wing Training Day is April 10.

**MDG TRAINING EVERY 2nd TUESDAY:** The 65th Medical Group clinic is closed for unit training every second Tuesday of the month. TRICARE On-line is always available as an option for appointment booking. All beneficiaries must register at [www.tricareonline.com](http://www.tricareonline.com) for an account. For more information, call 535-3261. In case of emergencies, call 911 on-base or 295-571-911 off-base.

**MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD DINING OUT:** The Child Dining Out is scheduled for April 14 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the TORC. Contact the Youth Center for tickets or more information at 535-3273.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** AA is scheduled for 7 p.m. every Tuesday at the Solid Rock Oasis in Bldg T-307. Call the Chapel for more information at 535-4211.

**HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY/DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE:** The committee for Holocaust Remembrance Day/Days of Remembrance is seeking volunteers to assist with planned activities from April 15 to 22; Contact Staff Sgt. Lora Begley at [lora.begley@lajes.af.mil](mailto:lora.begley@lajes.af.mil)



## Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



**ENGLISH:** Good evening. A table for four, please.

**PORTUGUESE:** Boa noite. Uma mesa para quatro pessoas por favor.

**PRONUNCIATION:** Bohuh noit. OOmuh MAY sah PAR uh KWAR too pess Oahsh, pohr fuh VOR.

### AFN Highlights:

You can see these AFN stories and more this week on AFN Atlantic on the following dates (All stories shown at these times: "News Update" at 1827 and 1857, and "Around the Air Force" at 1823.):

**March 29—Bone Marrow Donor** — A Lajes Airman helps save a life by donating his bone marrow.

**March 30—Kindergarteners at the Clinic** — Lajes children learn about medicine during a field trip to the medical clinic.



## ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima  
Community Relations Advisor



### Mount Brazil is result of old volcanic eruption, relaxing leisure spot



Mount Brazil, standing next to the city of Angra, is actually the result of an old volcanic eruption that originated the mount with its shape. This elevation, although small, is a very pleasant area offering visitors some interesting vistas and a relaxing leisure spot.

One of the many attractions of Mount Brazil is the big stonewall that is part of the São João Batista fortress. This wall is more than three miles long and partially surrounds the base of Mount Brazil, separating it from the rest of the island. The fortress was built by order of Phillip II of Spain when he took the Portuguese throne in 1580 and is one of the largest former Spanish bulwarks in the whole world.

The fortress' construction began in the beginning of the 17th century and concluded in 1640 when the people of Terceira rebelled against the Spanish occupation of the island.

A number of famous and prominent Portuguese people were imprisoned in the fortress, including King Alphonso VI, the father of the former President of the Republic, Mario Soares and the chief of an important tribe from the former Portuguese African territory of Mozambique, Gungunhana. The Portuguese Army's Regiment of Garrison No.1 currently occupies the fortress.

Another site worth visiting is the monument on top of Mount Brazil. This is actually a replica of the stone monument the Portuguese explorers placed in the different territories they discovered around the world. Engraved with the dates 1432 and 1932 on each side, it was erected to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the Azores by Portuguese navigators. The monument is located on a place called "Pico das Cruzinhas" (Little Crosses Pike). This is where the Spanish installed the gibbets where some of the island's leaders were hanged during the Spanish occupation as retaliation for the resistance offered by the island's population against the Spanish presence. This site is a must-visit place, not only for its historical significance, but also for the stunning panoramic view of Angra and surrounding villages.

Visitors can also find a picnic area not far from the monument, a very enjoyable recreational place, especially during the summer months. It offers barbecue grills with stone tables and benches and has plenty of trees and shrubs that provide a pleasant shade to picnickers.

The center of Mount Brazil is actually a huge crater of an extinct volcano that is used as a firing range by the Portuguese Army stationed at the fortress and is the only area off limits to visitors.

Mount Brazil can be visited everyday between 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. during the summer months. Admittance is free.