

Rated #2 Best Web-Based Publication
in the Air Force for 2011

www.lajes.af.mil

Crossroads



Vol. 17, No. 17 April 27, 2012

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

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

 656
SORTIES

10,180
LODGED 

 3,29 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.)
Mostly Cloudy Rain
Wind N 15 - 20 mph
N 15 mph
HIGH 15C / 59F
LOW 14C / 57F

Sunday (a.m. / p.m.)
Cloudy Rain / Partly Cloudy
Wind N 10 mph
W 10 mph
HIGH 16C / 61F
LOW 16C / 61F



Maj. Darren Stastny, 65th Security Forces Squadron commander, makes a contribution to the Air Force Assistance Fund during the campaign kick off March 2. In 2012 Lajes raised \$48,619. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chyrece Campbell)

Lajes AFAF campaign breaks all records

By Capt. Steve Mackinder

65th Air Base Wing Installation Project Officer

The 2012 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign officially ended at Lajes Field April 13 and Team Lajes raised a phenomenal \$48,619. That is 402.5 percent of the \$12,079 goal given by the Air Force, thanks to an astonishing 90 percent participation rate. The normal Air Force-wide participation average is approximately 29 percent, so Lajes very well crushed it.

A special appreciation goes to the 65th Communications Squadron and their unit project officer, Master Sgt. Jason Miller. As a squadron, they contributed more than \$14,000 to the campaign and had a 100 percent participation. Another special appreciation goes to the assistant installation project officer, Master Sgt. Mike Tryner, 65th Operations Support Squadron, whose tireless efforts made the entire campaign run like clockwork.

Over the course of six weeks, there were 15 different fundraisers, and the men and women of Lajes came through time and time again. Approximately \$8,500 were brought in by those fundraisers. It was quite amazing how everyone on base kept giving, even in light of the current economic climate.

One hundred percent of the funds raised here will go back to Airmen. A few weeks ago in the Crossroads Xtra newsletter, there was an article on how the Air Force Aid Society helped a Team Lajes family pay for their newborn child's funeral when they were young Airmen. The AFAS also helped another Airman by providing an interest loan so he could fix his car when it broke down. Without that

loan he would not have been able to get to work. These contributions also provide tuition assistance to spouses and pay for the Airmen and Family Readiness Center's Bundles for Babies program, as well as many other support programs.

Most people are probably familiar with AFAS, but many also donated to the Air Force Village and the Air Force Enlisted Village. These charities help provide very low cost retirement homes for retired Airmen, their spouses, and widows. These warriors spent the majority of their lives defending our country and the AFV and AFEV ensure that their service is honored. This is yet another example of Airmen taking care of Airmen. Interestingly, the AFV and AFEV also help active duty members by providing temporary housing in times of disaster or adverse family situations. Many of the people these organizations help have nowhere else to turn but their Air Force family.

The last charity Team Lajes helped support is the Lemay Foundation. The money provides retired Airmen, their spouses, and widows with no-questions-asked grants. These grants assist those whose incomes fall below the poverty line. In addition, they give grants for things such as wheelchairs and prosthetics. They also give each beneficiary \$100 for Christmas and \$50 for Thanksgiving to help them celebrate the holidays even in tough times. This charity is critical in helping these warriors stay in their homes through their later years.

Team Lajes' accomplishment of a 90 percent participation rate along with raising 402 percent of its goal is amazing.

To read more on "AFAF" see page 4



PCS decorations must be earned

By Master Sgt. Kurt Megela

65th Air Base Wing Inspector General

Awarding of decorations when an individual permanently changes stations is not always a simple decision.

The closing line on an Air Force commendation medal reads, "The distinctive accomplishments of Sergeant or Airman X reflect credit upon him or herself and the United States Air Force."

PCS decorations are awarded for one or more years of hard work, progression toward an educational degree, and involvement in the community and base. Nowhere in Air Force Instruction 36-2803 does it state that just because an individual is PCSing they are entitled to a decoration.

AFI 36-2803, para 2.1 states, "All military personnel on active duty are eligible for consideration for a US military decoration." The key words in that sentence are "eligible for consideration." Note that it doesn't say that individuals are entitled. When you PCS, you are "eligible for consideration," for the possibility of receiving a PCS decoration.

Further statements within the AFI make it about as clear as possible. AFI 36-2803, para

2.2.6, states, "No individual is automatically entitled to an award upon completion of an operational TDY or departure for an assignment."

The decision to award PCS decorations rests clearly on the supervisor and unit leadership. They must consider whether you excel at your job, are involved in the community and base, and continue your education through CCAF or PME. Not everyone juggles these at the same time.

Demonstrate your willingness to be the best airman you can possibly be and the decorations will certainly follow. The amount of decorations that you will earn in your career is a direct reflection of the effort that you put into your career.

If you believe that showing up for work on time and doing the minimum will earn you a PCS medal, you need a new angle. Try writing your own decoration and see if you struggle to define your accomplishments. It's never too late to sign up for that class or volunteer for community service. Your efforts now will shape your career path in the future. Do your accomplishments over the length of your tour reflect credit upon yourself and the United States Air Force?

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

Col. Jose Rivera

Commander, 65th Air Base Wing

Lajes expects a clean bill of health

By Vitor Berbereia

65th Civil Engineer Squadron
Environmental Element

The Air Force is serious about ensuring its installations protect the environment and the health of everyone who lives and works on base. This is why a special team of environmental and occupational health experts will be at Lajes from May 7 to 11 to conduct an in-depth assessment to evaluate our Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health Compliance Assessment and Management Program, or ESOHCAMP.

The objectives of an ESOHCAMP are to identify problem areas, recommend process improvements, propose corrective actions and supporting projects, and highlight innovative practices the base has adopted as part of a comprehensive and adequately implemented Environmental Management System. Components of Lajes' EMS have been developed as part of a continual improvement cycle, and the ESOHCAMP team will also gauge the success of our "Plan-Do-Check-Review" process as it relates to environmental and occupational health.

Led by an Air Force Center for Engineering and the Environment expert, the 14-member ESOHCAMP team includes environmental and occupational health specialists from USAF Headquarters, an environmental attorney, and a representative from the Defense Logistics Agency, which provides global support to military installations in many environmentally related technical areas.

Thirteen environmental and ten occupational health areas will be assessed. These include Air Emissions, Water Quality, Pesticide Management, Pollution Prevention,

Hazardous Waste, Hazardous Materials, and Toxic Substances. The management of the activities, systems, and elements within each area, or "protocol," will be evaluated against requirements written into the Final Governing Standards for Portugal, the Department of Defense, U.S. Air Force, and USAF instructions, Code of Federal Regulations, and Air Force Occupational Health and Safety Standards. Lajes' ESOH and EMS programs must demonstrate that they effectively address problems that could significantly degrade the environment and adversely affect the health of employees.

External ESOHCAMPs, which are conducted every three years, create a snapshot of Lajes' environmental and occupational health, but Lajes does base-wide "spring cleaning" all year, every year. In preparation, a cross-functional team led by the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Element has worked with Unit Environmental Coordinators from 65th Medical Group, 65th Operations Support Squadron, 65th Force Support Squadron, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, and AAFES to correct deficiencies found during past ESOHCAMPs and ensure that all units perform their work in ways that do not create new deficiencies.

The visiting experts will look into every nook and cranny of potential problem areas and will pay particular attention to significant aspects the CFT has identified. For example, the water experts will assess treatment of wastewater, the condition of Lajes' water distribution system and determine whether the water system is managed to provide the highest quality drinking water. Other assessors will look at Pollution

To read more on "ESOHCAMP" see page 4



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.

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

Contents of the Crossroads are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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JNCO apartments now available at Lajes

By Staff Sgt. Erica Horner
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

There is usually a stigma associated with the dormitories: Airmen have to share a bathroom and a kitchen, the rooms are too small, and they typically get stuck with a suite mate who either locks them out of the bathroom or doesn't help to clean during room inspections.

This may be especially difficult if they are a junior non-commissioned officer and have previously lived on their own. They're accustomed to having their own space, their own kitchen, and not having to deal with a roommate who they hadn't chosen.

At Lajes, JNCO's can now live right on base in their very own apartment.

"When people see the rooms, I get nothing but surprised looks and statements such as, 'I could live here; this isn't bad at all,'" said Tech. Sgt. Elizabeth Aguilar, a resident of the apartments since September 2011. "The only common areas we share are the dayroom and the laundry room; it really is my own little apartment."

The JNCO apartments are located next to the Top of the Rock

Club and the bowling alley, which makes it a short walk to any place on base.

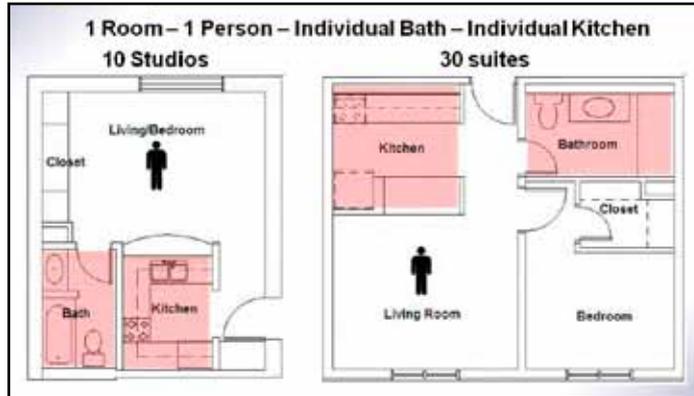
"It was very convenient when I didn't have my car here when I arrived on island; it was the best decision for me to make," said Aguilar. Also, since it is an apartment, there is no bay orderly detail.

"We police ourselves when it comes to keeping the building clean, so the Dorm Management Team doesn't have to worry about giving us a schedule," said Aguilar.

There is also no need for room inspections.

"Currently, the procedure is to inspect the JNCO common areas only," said Chief Master Sgt. Neil Turnbull, superintendent at the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron. "However, we have the right to inspect any or the entire dorm if a situation warrants an inspection."

There are 30 suites and 10 studio apartments. The suites are two separate furnished rooms, and the studios are a furnished



single room with an open floor plan.

Unaccompanied members with more than three years of service in the ranks of E-4 to E-6 are eligible to move into the JNCO apartments. For more information, contact the Dormitory Management Team at 355-4173.

Lt Gen Brown shares spiritual values with Lajes Airmen

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

More than 300,000 people are currently answering our nation's call by serving on active duty in the U.S. Air Force.

Every year there are Americans around the world who answer

another national call: the National Prayer call. The call is answered with various venues from National Prayer Breakfasts to National Prayer Luncheons around the world until the National Day of Prayer set for the first Thursday in May.

"The National Prayer Luncheon is a good venue to speak and remind ourselves about our service to our country and faith," said Lt. Gen. (retired) Richard "Tex" Brown, retired acting Assistant Vice Chief of Staff, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C. and Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

General Brown was the guest speaker for the Lajes

National Prayer Luncheon on April 25 in the Lajes Top of the Rock club. During his speech he used references from Psalms 91 and told stories about how people have used their faith or Psalm 91 to help protect them in times of danger and times of combat.

"Psalms 91 is considered the Psalm of protection, often referred to as the Soldier's Psalm or could be the 'Airman's' Psalm, too," Brown said. "It is a Psalm from the Bible that talks about God's protection on his people. We need to take care of ourselves and our people and ensure they are ready professionally, spiritually, socially and emotionally. I always thought that the spiritual element of a human

being is an important part of each one of our makeup. I try to make sure that I am not pushing one particular way to be spiritually filled or ready. We all have different ways we can do that."

Team Lajes members of different faiths came together and prayed for the nation, other service members and leaders.

"It's an awesome opportunity to come together and pray while knocking down the barriers between the religions," said Senior Airman Roderick Aust, Armed Forces Network Detachment 6 media producer and distinguished faith group leader for the Lajes Open Circle service.

Various faith groups of Team Lajes participated in the luncheon through song

and dance.

"I like the fact that the National Prayer Luncheon is open to all



Lt. Gen. (ret.) Richard Brown speaks to Airmen during the National Prayer Luncheon April 25. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

To read more on "Luncheon" see page 4



Enjoy a quick bite at the commissary

There are a number of reasons which justify the opening of the "Quick Bite" area at the commissary. Besides offering the option of a hot meal, it's also a sitting area where people may catch up with co-workers or friends and enjoy their meals.

Since several members of the Lajes community mentioned how nice it would be to have a nice hot bowl of soup during the winter, there was research and communication with commissary customers to see if having fresh soup available to them would be beneficial. All customers said they were very excited with just having the possibility.

Along with offering fresh soup daily, there is a large healthy selection of vegetables which reduce the risk of heart disease, help control blood pressure and protect against certain cancers. There are also hot sandwiches, rotisserie chicken and fresh ribs which can be taken away as options for lunch or dinner.

The commissary's outdoor sitting area was set in place in 2011; this year, there is an indoor sitting area. Who knows what could be next. Take advantage of the commissary services here at Lajes – it's worth the trip.

"AFAF" from page 1

Here is an e-mail message that was received only halfway through the campaign from Col. Linda Egentowich, USAF (retired), Chief Operating Officer of the AFAF:

"A-M-A-Z-I-N-G! 58.7% active duty participation rate! This is what the rest of the installations need to strive for! THANK YOU for all you're doing in support of your fellow Airmen! Historically, Lajes has done AWESOME

& I wish we could capture whatever you all have and ship to all the other installations! Keep going strong!"

Ninety percent of Team Lajes gave to the Air Force Assistance Fund. The next highest participation rate in the Air Force is 35 percent. Every member of Team Lajes should be proud of themselves and this community.

On behalf of all four charities and the Air Force Fundraising Chief, thank you very much for all of your support during the campaign and for a job extremely well done!

"ESOH CAMP" from page 2

Prevention issues such as the proper storage of cardboard for recycling. There must also be documentation that all personnel who have been appointed to manage hazardous materials and dispose

of hazardous wastes have received proper training. The one-week assessment gives us the chance to find and correct any deficiencies and it also will give us a "vector check" on whether we are performing Lajes' mission under conditions that support environmental and occupational health.

"Luncheon" from page 3

faith groups and it doesn't matter what or who you believe in, we all are welcome to come and pray for a common goal," said Tech. Sgt. Donna Anchundia, 65th Force Support Squadron NCO in charge of customer support.

According to Air Force Instruction 36-2618, Airmen must be technically, physically, mentally and spiritually ready to accomplish the mission.

"I am always prepared and balanced in all areas technically,

physically, mentally and spiritually to be ready for a mission," said Senior Airman Timothy Begley, 65th Medical Operations Squadron ambulance service medical technician

Sergeant Begley recently return from a medical mission in Peru. "My wife helps me stay balanced and I love her very much," Begley said. "Communication is key to our success."

The official National Prayer Breakfast is a yearly event held in Washington, D.C., on the first Thursday of February each year since 1953. Every U.S. president since Dwight D. Eisenhower has participated in the annual event, including President Obama.

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



Name: Paul R. O'Brien
Rank: Airman 1st Class
Unit: 65th Security Forces Squadron
Hometown: Lombard, Illinois
Duty Title: Patrolman
Accomplishments: Airman 1st Class Paul O'Brien is a hard charger. He arrived in Aug 11 from Lackland AFB, Texas. He works in the operations section and patrols the installation to include military family housing and the joint flightline. He was recently

recognized by the Wing Commander for scoring an "Outstanding" 93 percent on his Career Development Course end-of-course test and earned the title "Exceptionally Well Qualified" for scoring a perfect 100 percent on his initial Desk Sergeant evaluation. O'Brien is also an integral part of the base Emergency Services Team fully trained and equipped to respond to any high risk scenario. His can-do-attitude continually earns him accolades from leadership at all levels. He will be furthering his career this fall as he moves on to Hickam, Hawaii.



Name: Sra. Paula Sousa
Rank: Civilian, LGS-06
Unit: 65th Security Forces Squadron
Hometown: Toronto, Ontario
Duty Title: Resource Advisor

Accomplishments: Sra. Paula Sousa is responsible for financial budgeting and resource procurement for the 65th Security Forces Squadron. She held the position of the Commander's Secretary for 12 years prior to taking the position as the unit Resource Advisor. During her startup of this position she re-organized all data tracking for a \$304,000 budget and put into place a management tracking system for upcoming funding requests. She is an instrumental part of the unit, dealing directly with the MSG-RA all the way up to the USAFE-RA, for all unit funding requests to include the remodeling project for the Lajes Field Small Arms Indoor Range, bringing the range into 2012 standards. Sra. Paula Sousa is truly amongst the best working with the 65th Security Forces Squadron.



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

Feature



Congratulations to all the award winners at the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Crew members of a C-130 Hercules from the 86th Airlift Wing and 79 Team Lajes members pose for a group photo after landing at Lajes Field. Members from across Lajes were able to fly Space-A to Germany for Spring Break 2012. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Col. William Parker, 65th Medical Group commander, and Col. Eduardo Faria, Chief of Staff, Azores Air Zone, plant a tree in celebration of Earth Week April 24. The purpose of Earth Day is to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the environment. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Col. Arch Bruns, 65th Mission Support Squadron commander, putts while Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Storms, 65th Air Base Wing command chief, watches during the CGOC Golf Tournament held as a fundraiser for DoDDs School scholarships April 24. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Airmen observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month with a blind volleyball game at the Chace Fitness Center April 19 with the theme "Don't be blind to sexual assault." (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Richard Brown (center) gives motivational words during the warrior welcome at the Lajes community activity center April 25. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Mark your calendar

1st QUARTER AWARDS BREAKFAST: The 1st Quarter Awards Breakfast will be on May 3 from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. at the TORC Ballroom. The uniform of the day will be ABUs for military and casual for civilians. The cost is \$11 for members and \$13 for non-members.



“Visual Journaling”: The Youth and Arts Academy of Terceira Island will sponsor the workshop “Visual Journaling” taught by the American artist Carly Swenson, May 14-18 from 6 to 8 p.m. This workshop deals with the exploring of mixed techniques that comprise this type of plastic arts. For more information or to sign in e-mail academia@cmpv.pt or call 295 545 700.

Cinco de Mayo Potluck Celebration: This is scheduled for May 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at TTU (where car shipments are received/picked-up) All are welcome; please bring a dish. Donations accepted. Contact Tech. Sgt. Catina Hull at 535-4138 with the dish you plan on bringing in order to track itemization. There will be a door prize raffle, bouncy houses, music, face painting, piñata, and many more

Medication Take Back: Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal on April 28 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Turn in will be at the Commissary from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and the BX from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.



Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: Poisonous - Keep it away from children.

PORTUGUESE: Tóxico - Ponha-o em sítio não acessível a crianças.

PRONUNCIATION: TOHseekoh - PONyah-oh aim SEEteeoh now akseesEEvul ah Kreehanssas.

BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE



Sunday, May 1: 6:30 p.m. Largo da Fonte, S. Sebastião

Sunday, May 1: 6:30 p.m. Fontinhas

Sunday, May 1: 6:30 p.m. Fonte da Ribeirinha

Sunday, May 5: 6:30 p.m. Terreiro, S. Mateus

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.):

- 30 Apr – Kid’s Exercise (Kids get a first-hand look of an Airman’s job)
- 2 May – Mentorship (Lt Gen (Ret) Brown comes to Lajes with inspiring message)
- 4 May – UMUC Commencement (Lajes takes part in historic graduation event)

ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima
Community Relations Advisor



Street bullfight season begins May 1

Traditionally, the street bullfight season starts every year on May 1 and continues through Oct. 15, which is the last official day for this type of event.

Street bullfights have become a well-liked cultural event and an important part of the summer festivals around the island. It’s still an event that attracts hundreds, sometimes thousands of people to a single village.

The bulls, usually four, are transported in boxes from ranches in the center of the island where they are raised, to the villages where the bullfights will be held. A motorcade of villagers travels to the ranch to observe the selection of the bulls, usually preceding the truck carrying them.

When it’s time for the bullfight to begin, usually at 6 or 6:30 p.m., a blast that sounds like fireworks lets everybody know it’s time to release the first bull, and warns those who don’t want to play bullfighter that they should look for a safe place behind wooden barriers, high walls or balconies along the streets where the bullfight is to be held.

After the bull is released, eight men dressed in white shirts and grey pants—known as “pastores” (rope handlers)—control the distance the bull can travel by holding on to a rope attached to his neck, as he pursues those who dare to harass him or stand in his way.

After the men in the crowd tease the bull for about 30 minutes, the rope handlers pull the bull back into the box for a well-deserved rest—both for the bull and the men. Two blasts let everybody know it’s safe to walk or drive down the street again, but only for about 10 minutes, which is how long it takes the pastores to place the rope around the next bull’s neck. This routine continues until all four bulls are released into the street and the bullfight ends.

The street bullfights also feature another old tradition related to the island’s culture and local food, which are the food stands called “tascas.” In these portable stands, people can find some of the island’s best-known local wine, beer, sodas, as well as seafood and pork sandwiches called “bifanas.”

All Americans are encouraged to witness a street bullfight while they are stationed at Lajes Field, though it’s important to remember U.S. military members, civilians and dependents are prohibited from actively participating in any type of bullfighting on the island. This includes people here on temporary duty status or just passing through.

Local bullfights are certainly a tradition worth seeing, but not without keeping safety in mind. Bullfights can be dangerous if spectators don’t take proper precautions. Always make sure to watch the bullfights from a safe area—a high place at least five or six feet from the ground offers the best protection.

Every year a few careless spectators and participants are gored or hit by the bulls, or burned by the rope and end up in the hospital with serious injuries. There have even been some fatalities in the past because people misjudged the bulls.

To better your chances of finding a safe place to view street bullfights, it’s good to arrive early. More importantly, be careful and use common sense while the bullfights are ongoing. If you are caught driving through a bullfight area, slow down and pay attention to the traffic. Also pay attention to the blasts that will let you know whether the bull is out in the street or inside the box again. But remember to venture out and enjoy this unique island tradition.