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# Crossroads



Vol. 17, No. 21 May 25, 2012

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

## Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha  
Threat Level: Low

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

 **751  
SORTIES**

**11,872  
LODGED** 

**3.87 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  
Wind NE 15 - 20 mph  
NE 10 - 20 mph  
HIGH 17C / 63F  
LOW 13C / 55F

**Sunday (a.m. / p.m.)**  
Partly Cloudy / Mostly Cloudy  
Wind NW 10 mph  
NW 10 mph  
HIGH 17C / 63F  
LOW 14C / 57F



Senior Airman Ryan Miller and Alvaro Silva, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, open up a receipt fill valve for the 10 million gallon jet fuel tank at South Tank Fuel Farm May 21. (Photo by Guido Melo)

## Water, fuel system maintenance team in the fight

By Senior Airman Ryan Miller  
65th Civil Engineer Squadron

The Water and Fuel System Maintenance shop has three active duty military members and a 25-man civilian work force. Until just a couple of years ago, the Water/Waste Water shop and the Liquid Fuels Maintenance shop were separate. Due to the fact that a portion of the tasks are similar, the Air Force made the decision to combine the career fields and the shops.

The WFSM shop at Lajes is tasked with maintaining and safeguarding 45 million gallons of total fuel capability, "the second largest in the Air Force." They maintain two fuel tank farms: South Tank Farm and 18 hydrants which house fuel tanks with storage capabilities from 500 thousand to 10 million gallons. They also operate the Water Distribution System here on base, which includes eight wells, 280,000 linear feet of piping and the base pool. Each day, they ensure roughly 450,000 gallons of potable water are delivered safely and free of contaminants to the base populace and other customers. They also maintain more than 250 fire suppression systems, more than 400 fire hydrants, and more than 300 back flow prevention devices to ensure the safety of all personnel and aircraft visiting Lajes.

In a mission that is unique to Lajes, they are also tasked with operating the base fuel spill response team, which happens to be the only "Maritime" fuel spill team in USAFE, the only spill team in the Azores, and the largest in Portugal. When a fuel tanker arrives to offload at the TTU Pier, they activate the spill team and place 2,000 feet of fuel containment boom around the tanker before offloading procedures can begin, "helping to safe guard Praia bay which contains 95 percent of the islands sandy beaches." They work very closely with off base local officials during offloading procedures, including the mayor of Praia, Portuguese Harbor Captain and Praia Police; this helps to maintain strong host nation bonds. They are also hand selected to represent the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron for the Statue of Mary Distinguished Visitor's Brief. They have briefed individuals from Congress, the Senate, Ambassadors, COMUSAFE, SecAF and anyone in between.

Without this team, fuel would not flow, planes would not fly, no one would be able to shower and everyone would have to use porta-johns. The WFSM team plays a vital role in maintaining the 65th Air Base Wing's ability to support Today's Fight, Airmen and Families, Host Nation Relationships and Future Challenges.

*Today's Fight—Airmen and Families—Host Nation Relationship—Future Challenges*



## Put me in, Coach!

By Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Storms  
65th Air Base Wing command chief

How many of you can remember a time when you were sitting on the bench during a sporting event waiting for the coach to give you a shot? For some, this may have been years ago. For many others, it could have been recent. And for a few, it may not even be something you have experienced. However, if you were like me, you had to battle your way into the starting lineup, but once given the opportunity to be on the field or court, you never wanted to allow someone to take it from you without a fight. The desire to be the best you could be would drive you to practice and learn your craft in an effort to be the best at the job you were given.

This experience of battling for a starting roster spot on a sports team reminds me of my many assignments in the military. At each new assignment I always wanted to prove to

my supervisors and leadership that I deserved a starting spot on the team. I wanted to show them that when given the opportunity and having earned their trust that they picked the right person. Many times my supervisors, much like my coaches in the past, didn't recognize me right from the start. I had to work extra hard and ask for an opportunity to show my skills and talent. Once they saw my dedication and commitment to better the team, I became someone they could rely on.

I challenge each of you to have the "Put me in, Coach" mentality. Have the desire, dedication and commitment to be the best you can be. Reach out to your supervisors and ask for an opportunity if they have not come to you. Supervisors, much like coaches, don't always see the starters sitting right in front of them. But I know from experience that once given the opportunity, I never gave up my starting position without a fight. Put me in, Coach; I'm all in!

## Memorial Day marks beginning of Critical Days of Summer

By Maj. Gen. David Scott  
U.S. Air Forces in Europe vice commander

Memorial Day is a day to remember our fellow Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice for us and an opportunity to spend time with family and friends.

Take this time to honor those who gave their lives to defend our freedoms and those that continue to do so today. Whether you observe this Memorial Day visiting cemeteries and memorial events or use the extended weekend to travel or spend time with family and friends, join us in actively managing risk and staying safe while on and off duty.

This year's Memorial Day weekend marks the beginning of the "Critical Days of Summer" safety campaign and traditionally where each of us begins to increase travel and outdoor activities.

The Air Force has lost 218 Airmen in accidents during the last 10 summers – 26 losses in USAFE – largely due to poor risk

management, speed and alcohol. This year's "Critical Days of Summer" safety campaign stresses "Safety – It's Personal."

It is a personal responsibility to comply with and enforce standards, to intervene when a friend is behaving badly, and to consider the impact of your actions on those you love. During this period, no one wants to endure the unnecessary loss of another Airman to a preventable mishap.

Before the Memorial Day weekend begins, leaders at all levels must lead discussions with each of their Airmen concerning safety, risk management and mishap prevention.

Express personal concern for their safety and offer mitigating measures focused on managing risks associated with their work and leisure activities.

Use every tool at your disposal to help prevent another mishap this summer. Enjoy the Memorial Day weekend and the summer months ahead, be a good wingman and continue to make safety a personal matter.

## BIM and Expo is May 30

By Master Sgt. Thomas Robinson  
65th Contracting Flight

The 65th Air Base Wing will host its annual Business Information Meeting and Products Exposition on May 30 at the Top of the Rock Club from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The objective of these events is for the 65th Air Base Wing to explain requirements for doing business with the U.S. government and to give local and regional Azorean vendors an opportunity to showcase their products and services.

These events will make it easier for U.S. personnel and Portuguese business owners to interact with one another.

"This is a mutually beneficial event aimed

toward informing the local business community how to do business within the structure of U.S. requirements, as well as an opportunity for members of the base organizations to meet with local businesses and become aware of what's available locally," said Senhora Filomena Meneses, the 65th Contracting Flights Director of Business Programs.

"Last year we had 32 vendors participating in the Products Exposition, and we hope to surpass that number this year," Senhora Meneses added.

The Products Exposition will help business owners in Portugal to advertise their products and services to the American component

To read more on "BIM" 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

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.

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# Lajes brings the heat in Kombat Kitchen *Feature*



Members of the "Mmm" Team from the 729th Air Mobility Squadron were awarded a trophy for best prepared dishes using items from Meals Ready-to-Eat packages during Lajes' second Kombat Kitchen competition May 17. (Photos by Lucas Silva)



## Lajes spouse loses 200 pounds during weight loss journey

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

"I don't believe in quitting."

This is one of many of Catina Kimble's mottos as she has continued a weight loss journey that has changed her life.

Catina Kimble, wife of Tech Sgt. Floydzell Kimble from the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron and mother of two boys, has struggled with weight loss since childhood.

"I decided to make a change when Thomas was about five years old," said Catina, who then weighed 405 pounds. "We were at the fair and I was taking pictures of Floyd and Thomas on the rides that I wanted to ride. I wanted to be in the action photos, but I was too large for the safety belts, and I told myself 'enough is enough' and signed myself up for Weight Watchers.

The first few weeks Catina lost 13 pounds and started walking with her husband. Once she started incorporating the gym into her daily routine, she was able to lose an additional 50 pounds. However, she became comfortable and went back to her old habits.

At this point, Catina was almost back to her original weight at 400 pounds.

"At first it was hard to get back to the starting point all over again," said Catina. "I weighed and measured everything, being conscious of what I put in my mouth. 'If you bite it, write it' was my motto, and it took many years for me to realize that you have to eat to lose. Your body needs food for energy, but it needs the right food."

Catina continued making small steps to change her life. She made it a goal to go to the gym everyday and became brave enough to take a kickboxing class, and she loved it.

"At first, I wasn't able to do all the moves, but I kept going," she said. "Then I got curious about other classes the gym offered and the gym became my new best friend. I would work out 2 to 3 hours a day."

After a year and a half, Catina had lost about 150 pounds, but that's not where this story ends. Her husband got orders to Korea and she found she was pregnant with her second child.

"I was so scared and nervous that I worked out my entire pregnancy, and watched what I ate, but I still managed to gain about 85 pounds back," she said.

Since then, she has lost 200 pounds, with 78 of those pounds lost since she's been at Lajes Field.

Catina said she feels great that she no longer has to take two different blood pressure medicines, but the best part has been being able to shop.

"I can go shopping without worrying if they will have clothes to fit



Catina Kimble, wife of Tech. Sgt. Floydzell Kimble, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, has lost 200lbs, with 78 of those pounds lost since arriving to Lajes Field. (Courtesy photos)

me, and I can buy clothes for myself without special ordering them," she said.

She works out five days a week with her husband who creates a mixture of work out routines that includes cardio and weight training.

"My husband was my biggest fan," said Catina. "He ate what I ate and did not eat things I was not eating in front of me. I still remember laughing when washing his uniforms, sometimes finding candy paper in his pockets and him saying 'oh baby, I picked that up off the floor, you know people leave their trash lying around.'"

Kimble tries to challenge his wife with different workouts but said he sometimes feels that she's in better shape than he is.

"She motivates me more than anything," he said. "I simply try to feed that motivation by keeping our workouts fun and interesting. Half of the things we've done, like running two marathons, I would have never even thought to sign up for."

Catina is very proud that she completed the Okinawa marathon. "My motto is 'I don't have to be first, but I will not be last,'" she said referring to the Okinawa marathon and Lajes half-marathon.

For those who are facing the challenge of losing weight or just getting in better shape, Catina has a piece of advice.

"Get started and keep going," she said. "Small goals add up to completion."

Catina said she attributes her success to her family and friends. "I'm so thankful for all the support that I've had during my journey," she said. "I love to work out, and I hope I can inspire people who want to change."



# Don't mail lithium batteries

Lithium batteries cannot be sent as mail matter for transport on commercial passenger aircraft to or from international locations, including APOs, FPOs and DPOs. This USPS prohibition includes lithium batteries mailed separately, along with devices, or installed in electronic equipment. Electronic devices can be mailed as long as the lithium batteries are removed.

*This list is not all inclusive and provides examples of common electronic devices containing lithium cells or batteries*

Video cameras 	Walkie talkies (2 way radio) 	GPS devices 	Radio controlled toys 
Cameras 	Scanner 	Cellular Phones 	MP3 players 
Bluetooth headsets 	Smartphones/mobiles 	Laptop computers 	Shavers 
Power Drills 	Tablets 	Portable DVD players 	Measuring equipment 

*If you would like further information on this issue, please contact your customer service representative or the postmaster.*

### "BIM" from page 2

on base, creating more opportunities for U.S. servicemembers to purchase items locally and regionally. In fiscal year 2011, the 65th Contracting Flight awarded 71.22 percent of the total dollars to the local economy.

The Products Exposition is open to the public and everyone is

encouraged to attend, especially Lajes Field government purchase cardholders and unit requirement generators, because the event will give them a chance to see the variety of items available and also enable the 65th Air Base Wing to continue its support to the local economy.

For questions or information on how to participate, please contact Senhora Filomena (Phyllis) Meneses at 535-1465.

## LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



**Name:** Melissa Droddy  
**Rank:** Staff Sergeant  
**Unit:** 65th ABW Legal office  
**Hometown:** Arlington, Texas  
**Duty Title:** NCOIC, Military Justice  
**Accomplishments:** Sergeant Droddy is responsible for preparing and processing courts-martial and nonjudicial punishment actions. She also drafts and notarizes powers-of-attorney and other documents for legal assistance clients. Sergeant

Droddy drafts various legal reviews and educates personnel on numerous preventive law issues at Right Start and Smooth Move briefings. Additionally, she provides Uniform Code of Military Justice and progressive discipline briefings for First-term Airmen and NCO Professional Enhancement students. Sergeant Droddy is currently prepping for an upcoming deployment, where she will share her expertise with personnel serving in the AOR.



**Name:** Matthew Griffing  
**Rank:** Volunteer  
**Unit:** 65th ABW Legal office  
**Hometown:** Round Rock, Texas  
**Duty Title:** Volunteer Attorney  
**Accomplishments:** Mr. Griffing is responsible for providing legal services, primarily in the areas of civil law and legal assistance. He has prepared over 35 legal reviews for various topics including support agreements, AFI/LFI reviews, fund-

raisers, and Early Return of Dependent packages. Mr. Griffing's sound research and analysis ensured each review was legally sufficient. In order to assist in other areas of the law, he has completed Volunteer Income Tax Assistance training and computer-based training on contracts and environmental law. Additionally, Mr. Griffing also assists the judge advocates with providing legal assistance to U.S. servicemembers to ensure their interests are protected as well as working to ensure the wing is in compliance with all international agreements and obligations.



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

Feature



Lajes Field firefighters extinguish a fire during a Real Fire Exercise at the Lajes Fire Department Airplane Simulator May 18. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



A Final Guard Mount ceremony was held in honor of fallen police officers May 17 at the 65th Air Base Wing headquarters building during National Police Week. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Chief Master Sgt. Marc Dowler, 65th Medical Group, is arrested during the 65th Security Forces Squadron's Jail and Bail fundraiser during National Police Week May 18. Approximately \$3,700 was raised for the Fallen Officer's Foundation. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Staff Sgt. Ryan McGraw, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, observes contractors May 18 as they remove the carpet at the Community Activities Center which was flooded during a storm that affected all of Terceira Island May 11. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Hannah Schmedthorst (left), daughter of Maj. Randall Schmedthorst from the 65th Air Base Wing Safety office, and Maeve Sweeney (right), daughter of Maj. Robert Sweeney from the 65th Operations Support Squadron, participate in the limbo game during the Annual School Carnival May 18. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Erica Horner)



Team Lajes children run in Lajes Base Housing during the Armed Forces Kid Run May 19. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



# Mark your calendar

**Art in the Vineyard:** Art in the Vineyard will be May 26 at 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Community Center. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Only 140 tickets available. Price includes 5 wine tastings and hors d'oeuvres. Beautiful commemorative wine glass with each ticket. For more information call 535-5216.



**Down Day:** May 28 is the U.S. Memorial Day holiday, as well as the Portuguese holiday "Segunda-feira do Espírito Santo."

**BIM & EXPO (Product Exposition):** The 65th Contracting Squadron is hosting its Annual Vendor Products Exposition on May 30 in the Top of the Rock Club from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The exposition gives Azorean vendors the opportunity to showcase their products and services available to American units and personnel on Lajes. This event is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to stop by and see what is available in our local market.

**Promotion Ceremony:** The monthly promotion ceremony is scheduled for May 31 in the Community Activities Center ballroom.

**Senior Breakfast:** The senior breakfast will be held on Saturday, June 2 at 10 a.m. at the TORC ballroom. Seniors and their parents will receive a complimentary ticket. The breakfast fee for others wanting to attend is \$5 per person. Tickets may be purchased and picked up at the University of Oklahoma office, Education Center T-146, Room 214, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., weekdays, until May 25. For more information, contact Christina Adams, aplajes@ou.edu or 535-3171.

**MSG CoC:** The 65th Mission Support Group change of command ceremony is scheduled for June 6 at 2 p.m. at the Lajes Field fire department. Col. Archibald Bruns will pass command to Col. John Oliver. Military will wear the uniform of the day and civilians will wear business casual clothing.

**Combat Dining Out:** The Combat Dining Out will be June 14 at 5 p.m. in T-605. For more information please contact Staff Sgt. Edgardo Cadungog at 535-3685.

## Phrase of the Week

### A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



**ENGLISH:** Can you give me the exact time? It is ten until three.

**PORTUGUESE:** Pode dizer-me as horas certas? São três menos dez.

**PRONUNCIATION:** PODdeh deeZER-meh ahsh OHRush SERtash? Saw thraysh MENosh daysz.

## BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE



Saturday, May 26: 6:30 p.m. São Mateus  
 Monday, May 28: 6:30 p.m. São Mateus  
 Monday, May 28: 6:30 p.m. Terreiro, Terra Chã  
 Tuesday, May 29: 6:30 p.m. São Luis, (near Angra)  
 Wednesday, May 30: 6:30 p.m. Terreiro, São Mateus  
 Thursday, May 31: 6:30 p.m. Rua do Rossio, Praia da Vitoria  
 Friday, Jun 1: 6:30 p.m. Rua do Rossio, Praia da Vitoria  
 Saturday, Jun 2: 6:30 p.m. Rua do Rossio, Praia da Vitoria

### 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.):

**May 29 - 101 Critical Days of Summer (DoD stresses safety during the summer season)**

**May 31 - BIM/Expo (Highlighting local vendors and businesses)**



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



## Holy ghost houses



The Holy Ghost Houses or "Impérios do Espírito Santo," as the Portuguese call them, are another important part of the Holy Ghost tradition in the Azores in general and on Terceira Island in particular.

These buildings that look like small chapels with a triangular shaped front and the Holy Ghost symbol - a crown and dove - on its top, usually have the doors and windows' trims painted with vivid colors. They can be found throughout Terceira Island, usually near or in front of each town's church.

The "Impérios" are closed during the year except for the Pentecost and Trinity Sundays as they open its doors to host the "emperor" (the individual holding the Holy Ghost festivities for that week) and his guests.

In these two Sundays, immediately following the crowning ceremony at the church, the Holy Spirit crowns and other insignias (flags and rods) are taken to a nearby storeroom called "despensa" where the priest blesses the bread and wine that will be given out to the people shortly after that ceremony.

Then the Holy Ghost procession proceeds to the "Império" where the crowns and insignias will be placed on an altar and will remain until late afternoon, at which time they will take part in another procession heading to a new "emperor's" home after the day's celebrations.

In the afternoon of those two Sundays a social gathering called "Bodo" takes place right in front of the "Impérios." During the event, the "emperor" and the members of the local Holy Ghost Brotherhood often invite the passers-by and local town people to pay a visit to the "Imperio" or the "despensa" and taste the roast beef, sweet bread and the local wine "vinho de cheiro."

In return, these visitors usually leave a monetary donation in honor of the Holy Ghost, which will be used for the maintenance of the "Impérios" buildings and help with future Holy Ghost celebrations.

It's also customary to have concerts by a local marching band during the "bodo" afternoons in some of the towns, such as Lajes, Vila Nova, Agualva, Biscoitos, etc. This year's "bodos" will be celebrated May 27 and June 3.

According to local cultural photographer and author, Mario Duarte, Terceira alone has 69 "Impérios," the oldest being the "Império of Outeiro" in the town of Conceição in Angra.