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# Crossroads XTRA

Vol. 17, No. 22 June 1, 2012

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal



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

 **782  
SORTIES**

**12,427  
LODGED** 

 **3.97 M  
gallons  
FUEL ISSUED**



**Don't drink  
and drive  
call  
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 Rainshowers

Wind S 10 mph  
SW 10 mph

HIGH 21C / 70F

LOW 17C / 63F

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

Mostly Cloudy Rainshowers

Wind SW 15-25 mph  
SW 10 - 20 mph

HIGH 21C / 70F

LOW 16C / 61F

## Lajes Marches to Remember



Members of the 65th Communications Squadron honor fallen communicators May 24 with a 4.5-mile ruck march on Terceira. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

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

On May 24th, 30 members from the 65th Communications Squadron gathered for a ruck march to honor their fallen members across the military, and to ensure the Airmen's accomplishments did not go unnoticed; they also unveiled the prestigious 65th Communications Squadron Fallen Warrior Remembrance wall.

This was no ordinary remembrance ceremony; but instead, it was a 4.5 mile ruck march across the hills of Terceira, through wind and rain, and with ruck sacks weighing as much as 80 pounds.

"We wanted to do something that would create camaraderie amongst squadron members and that we could all be a part of and remember," said Master Sgt. James Baird, 65th Communications Squadron, when asked about the ruck march. "It was an opportunity for everyone to express what was on their minds and a chance to offer their remembrances."

Before the march began, the members reflected on the amount of personnel that have made the ultimate sacrifice across the communications career field, and the rest of the military.

"The numbers that we focused on were 6,430 from

Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation New Dawn. Of those, 136 have been Air Force members, five coming from communications career fields," said Baird. "We chose to not only recognize members that perished in those conflicts but any that were communicators and gave their lives while serving their country."

After the brief ceremony, the Airmen began their march to the St. Mary's Statue in nearby Praia da Victoria. Upon their arrival, the communications Airmen paused to reflect on their fellow communicators who have perished in harm's way.

"We read the names of 10 communication warriors that had given the ultimate sacrifice and provided a brief background on the individual," said Baird.

After the ceremony, and a set of "memorial" push-ups, the Airmen returned to their squadron building to unveil the 65th Communications Squadron Fallen Warrior Remembrance Wall.

"Some of the fallen warrior tiles were hung by Airman that knew the individuals," said Baird. "This was a great opportunity for people to remember those that they had served with and I think for many may have been the first time that they were able to talk about it with other people that understood."

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



# Reflections of Lajes

By Col. Archibald Bruns

65th Mission Support Group commander

For the past several weeks I've been approached by an increasing number of individuals inquiring about the amount of time I have left on the island as the 65th Mission Support Group commander (rather the lack thereof)...and how does it feel to be "short." My standard answer has been (half jokingly) that I'm in a state of denial and that as long as I don't think about it, maybe my departure won't actually happen. Well, try as I might to prolong the inevitably, my reality is upon me and I must face it head-on and unemotionally (yeah...like that's going to happen). What seems to make this whole departure thing bearable are the many memories that I will take with me.



We've been through a lot during my tenure here at Lajes.

This includes two compliance inspections, an ORI, Internal and External ESOHCAMPs, ATSEP and IAAP inspections, exercises, SAVs and other assessments. The list goes on and on. Throughout all of these I've marveled at the dedication and professionalism exhibited across the wing to garner one positive outcome after another. However, the actions taken by the organizations within the Mission Support Group (associate units included) I hold with even greater esteem. You have made me proud to come to work each and every day of my tour!

Reflecting on all of these accomplishments is proof positive that being a small base has never been a disadvantage for Lajes. Rather,

it's a force multiplier that turns our size into an advantage that no large base can duplicate. Bottom line: there's nothing little about Lajes and certainly not our expectations!

Reflecting on the people of Lajes will admittedly be the hardest part about leaving. For 26 months I greeted new arrivals and said goodbye to hundreds of Lajes "A"irmen. Goodbyes are never easy, but when you factor in the intimacy and closeness that breeds an esprit d' corps that's second to none, it becomes exponentially more difficult. This process is inclusive of our local national workforce and partners. This integral group of professionals who provide the critical continuity for our mission never ceased to amaze me, not to mention the rest of the Air Force, as evidenced by the many awards and accolades that they continually received. This extended family and community will always hold a special place in my heart and

my thoughts and prayers will always be with them.

As I posture myself to give up the reigns of group command, Ingrid and I would like to send out our sincere thanks and appreciation to all the members of Team Lajes, past and present. We couldn't imagine a better command opportunity or a better tour experience. Everyone's hospitality, commitment to excellence, friendship, trust and faithfulness has truly made this tour outstanding for us. We take a portion of each and every one of you with us in our hearts and while we've strived to do our best to leave a positive legacy by our own actions, we will always remember the "big" island in the middle of the Atlantic.

## Commander's Action Line

535-4240

65abw.actionline@lajes.af.mil

*The Commander's Action Line is your link to the commander for suggestions, kudos and as a way to work problems or issues within the 65th Air Base Wing for which you can't find another solution.*



*Your chain of command should always be your first option — but when that's not the answer, call or e-mail the Commander's Action Line at 535-4240 or 65abw.actionline@lajes.af.mil.*

Col. Jose Rivera

Col. Jose Rivera  
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



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

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

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

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*All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.*

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## Saving and investing – Lajes style

By Ingrid Bruns

65th Force Support Squadron

Setting a goal is the first step to achieving your financial success. Without a dream or a vision of your future, you have nothing to strive for. Create some financial goals for yourself. Each of you will have your own goals, but here are some possibilities: retiring comfortably, paying children's school/college tuitions, putting a down payment on a home, buying a new car, starting a business, buying new furniture or purchasing a dream vacation.



If you are new to saving, getting started is more important than the amount. It is okay to start small – just start saving something. Then, each year, raise the percentage a few points. For each promotion or increase in base pay, save a majority of the new pay towards investing in your goals.

While stationed at Lajes Field, we can experience some challenges. One of these challenges is a constraint to opening a new investment account with a U.S. based bank. There is an existing agreement between the United States and Portugal that prevents Americans stationed at Lajes from establishing any new investment tools, such as mutual funds, IRAs, insurance funds, etc. The Financial Regulatory Authority (FINRA) acts as the administrator for this ruling, not the DoD. While a U.S. citizen lives at the "09720" zip code, financial institutions will flag the account to restrict the creation of any new investment account. A deposit account such as a

savings or checking account is exempt from

To read more on "Saving" see page 4



# Lajes Senior Selected for Naval Academy *Feature*

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

Class Council, Varsity Basketball, Varsity Soccer, Junior Varsity football quarterback, International Student Leadership Institute conference and Academic Bowl.

A Lajes High School student was accepted to attend the Naval Academy this year.

Toderick Stevens, 17, son of Tech. Sgt. John Stevens, 65th Medical Group, will graduate Lajes High School June 8 and begin his new journey at the Naval Academy in the fall of 2012.

Here, this young, dynamic student responds to several questions which gives you insight into his life, goals, character and excitement upon receiving acceptance to this top choice, prestigious school.

### How did you feel after learning of your acceptance into the Naval Academy?

I'll never forget that moment. I came home from school and went straight for the phone to call the Naval Academy Admissions office to find out about my application status. When I got in contact with a receptionist, she transferred my call to an admissions officer, and he told me I had received an Offer of Appointment to the Naval Academy. While I was on the phone, I signaled to my mother that I got in and she began to scream with joy; all I could do at the moment was laugh with pure delight. When I hung up the phone I gave my mom a tight hug while she continued to scream and dance. It was a surreal feeling; one I will never forget.



### When and why did you select the Naval Academy?

I feel that it will give me a perfect opportunity to use my talents in serving my country and I also love the sense of tradition that the Naval Academy has.

### The Naval Academy is a challenging school. How prepared do you feel?

I feel confident in the job that my amazing teachers have done throughout high school equipping me with a strong academic background to prepare me for the academy.

### What kind of student would you say you are?

I am very disciplined in doing my schoolwork and budgeting my study time. I also understand the importance of education and I go into each day knowing what my goals are and how I am going to use my education to achieve them.

### What is your favorite subject?

Math and science, because they are both practical and analytical. They are both very defined studies in such a way that, if you understand the processes of the formulas and functions then the problems will always work out.

### What kind of activities were you involved in during school?

I was involved in many activities such as the National Honor Society, Future Educators Association, Future Business Leaders of America,

### What are some leadership roles you had while in school?

I have been team captain of my high school's varsity basketball and soccer teams, class vice president during both junior and senior year, vice president of my high school's FEA chapter, vice president of the NHS chapter, parliamentarian of my high school's FBLA chapter, and captain of my school's academic bowl team. I've also attended the International Student Leadership Institute. In addition, I was privileged with the opportunity to experience what it was like to be a wing commander during a mock deployment on my school's job shadow day.

### What are some significant awards you've won?

Some significant awards I have won include the DoDDS Europe European Basketball Championship All-Tournament Team Selection 2012, Chemistry Student of the Year 2011, The Principal's Award 2012, Perfect Attendance 2012, Academic All-Conference Team Selection 2011, and Lajes High School Offensive Player of the Year for Basketball 2011.

### How do you feel about graduating on June 8?

I'm torn between excitement and sadness. I'm excited because I know that I will be able to pursue my goals and dreams and make a positive change in this world. However, it is a bittersweet moment because I'm going to really miss all the friends I made in high school and all of my teachers. I'm also going to miss the friendly and comfortable environment that Lajes High School provides.

### What are your future goals?

I hope to be graduating from the Naval Academy, serving my country, and I want to become a doctor.

### How have your parents played a role in your decision?

My parents have given me a solid foundation. They've instilled in me to always have integrity, excellence in what I do, being punctual and the importance of family. I'm just grateful to have such loving and supportive parents.

### Is there anything else you'd like to share?

I would like to thank everyone from family to school members to community members who have supported me and helped me to achieve this great accomplishment and I really appreciate all the support. Also for all freshmen who are looking to attend the Naval Academy, I encourage SAT practice and participation in a lot of extracurricular activities such as sports and school clubs. The academy looks for well-rounded students with a high GPA and who display exemplary leadership skills, so it is very important to challenge yourself with honors and advanced placement courses along with extracurricular activities.

## AFI 36-3026, Identification cards for members of the uniformed services, their eligible family members, and other eligible personnel

12.2. Individual Responsibility. The card is the property of the U.S. Government, and shall be in the personal custody of the member at all times. The common access card surface shall not be amended, modified, or overprinted by any means. No stickers or other adhesive materials shall be placed on either side of the CAC. No holes shall be punched into the CAC. The chip or laminate shall not be removed

or insertion of materials between the card stock and the laminate is prohibited; doing so would be considered defacing the CAC. Defacing the CAC will affect the validity of the CAC and its applications.

If you have any questions, please contact the Wing Information Assurance Office at 535-2232.



"Saving" from page 2

this policy and the Thrift Savings Plan is also excluded because it is a benefit of your employment. We are able to manage any existing investment accounts from here - just not able to start a new one. With this in mind, we should all be good sponsors to our incoming Airmen to ensure they are aware of the restriction and take action prior to PCSing here if they would like to open a new investment account.

Like any challenge, we should look to the opportunities it lends and not dwell on the negative. Living at Lajes lends itself well to paying down your debt and saving money for your future. Take advantage of your COLA. Try the calculator tool at www.powerpay.org to learn how to save time and interest by paying a little extra each month to your existing debt.

If you do not have an emergency fund, now is the time to start working on that. Consider how much you will require having on hand should you need to travel home in an emergency, should you need a

repair on your car, or if your home in the States should need a new water heater, etc. Start by putting a little away every payday to ensure you are prepared in the case of a financial emergency.

Once you have a handle on your debt and emergency fund, you should look into saving for "Future You." Pay yourself first and allot a specific amount each payday toward reaching your goals. Start a TSP account if you do not already have one. Active duty participation rate in TSP is only 38.4 percent. The TSP offers a low-cost, tax-advantaged way to save for the future. If you already have an account, increase the percentage of your contribution if possible. Use a windfall to help you reach your goals faster. This "free money" includes increased income from pay increases, birthday gifts, insurance settlements, escrow overages, tax refunds or inheritances.

There will always be reasons to delay saving. Instead, find a way to set up your emergency fund or start up the Thrift Savings Plan. There are hundreds of resources to help you learn more about saving and investing, but only you can decide to get started.



Tech. Sgt. Mitchell Mercadal from the 65th Air Base Wing performs a traditional Filipino bamboo dance formally called "Tinikling," which is one of the most popular and well-known traditional Filipino dances, during the Grande Finale of the Asian Pacific American Heritage Association celebration month May 24. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

Wingmen... They take care of each other

"It's a promise, a pledge, a commitment between Airmen."

By Sra. Maria Nunes  
65th Air Base Wing Safety

The term Wingman started in the flying community and essentially says "A lead pilot will never lose his or her Wingman." Being a Wingman is much more than a friendship or partnership; it is a mindset. That mindset includes looking out for others and treating others with the

respect that we all deserve.

There will always be negative forces that challenge you to be a good Wingman; I believe the first challenge is when you try helping someone who does not want to be helped.

You must search for a positive force that will overcome the negative. Some positive forces include family support, education, caring and friendship. Those are elements of being a good Wingman.

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



**Name:** Maria Nunes  
**Rank:** LGS-4  
**Unit:** 65th ABW Safety Office  
**Hometown:** Fontinhas, Praia da Vitoria  
**Duty Title:** Safety Clerk  
**Accomplishments:** Sra Maria Nunes serves as an administrative assistant in the wing safety office. She is responsible for organizing office records, scheduling various training courses and maintaining

meeting minutes. She designs the monthly Safety Stall Talks flyer and assists with the monthly motorcycle safety Experienced Riders Course. Nunes is currently working on her European Safety Technician certification.



**Name:** Antonio Williams  
**Rank:** Technical Sergeant  
**Unit:** 65th ABW Safety Office  
**Hometown:** Cairo, Georgia  
**Duty Title:** Ground Safety NCOIC  
**Accomplishments:** Tech. Sgt. Antonio Williams recently joined the Lajes Wing Safety team, coming from Spangdahlem AB, Germany. He quickly immersed himself in the Lajes goodness by volunteering as WSA's Air Force Assistance

Fund assistant POC. In his first two months here, Williams inspected three units and identified 95 findings. He's also recently graduated from the NCO Academy where he won the Commandant's Challenge Award for physical fitness.



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

Feature



Lajes Field Airmen prepare for a Warrior Return/Send-off ceremony in front of the Top of the Rock Club May 23. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Lajes Field family members pet various animals from the petting zoo during the Summer Block Party May 26. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



An F-16 Falcon stops at Lajes Field May 29. The aircraft is being returned to the U.S. Air Force by the Italian ministry of defense, which leased the fighters to provide an interim air defense capability between the retirement of the F-104 Starfighters and arrival of their Eurofighter Typhoon in 2001 under the Peace Caesar program. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Team Lajes members enjoy "Art in the Vineyard" at the Community Activities Center May 26. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Team Lajes members participate in the Family and Pet 2K Run/Walk during the Summer Block Party May 26. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



## Mark your calendar

**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. For more information, contact Christina Adams, [aplajes@ou.edu](mailto: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. Arch Bruns will pass command to Col. John Oliver. Attire will be uniform of the day or business casual.

**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.

**Golf Tournament:** The Lajes Spouses Club will be holding a Golf Tournament in observation of Flag Day on Thursday, June 14. Breakfast is at 7:45 a.m. and tee-off is at 8:45 a.m. The fee is \$35 per player. Deadline to sign up is Tuesday, June 12 by COB. Contact Ron Salafia to sign-up at 924-249-169 or 295-512-518 or [sgt\\_rjs@yahoo.com](mailto:sgt_rjs@yahoo.com).

**Hunger Games:** The base theater will be hosting a Red Carpet Premiere for the movie "Hunger Games" June 15. It will begin at 9 p.m.

**Single and Unaccompanied Members (S.U.M.) Dinner:** The S.U.M. Dinner will be June 18 at the Chapel from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. It is hosted by the 65th Medical Group.

**Vacation Bible School:** Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 25 to 29 from 9 a.m. to noon for ages 3 through 12th grade. VBS is sponsored by the Lajes Field Chapel Protestant Community.



### Lajes Against Drunk Driving 295-57-LADD (5233)

Every year the Air Force loses great Airmen due to drunk driving. Please help save a life and career by calling Lajes Against Drunk Driving. LADD is a base program that provides free rides for individuals who've had too much to drink. LADD will be available between the hours of 9:30 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. every weekend.

The LADD program is available to all Lajes Airmen, so if you are the one who ends up needing a ride this or any weekend, call LADD.

For more information, please contact your squadron representative.



### Phrase of the Week

#### A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



**ENGLISH:** Would you like to have a dessert now? No thanks. Only the check please.

**PORTUGUESE:** Desejam a sobremesa agora? Não, obrigado. Só a conta se faz favor.

**PRONUNCIATION:** DehSEHzhahm ah sobrehMaysah ahGORah? Nawn, ohbreeGAHdoo. Soh ah CONtah, fahsfahVOR.

### BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE



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  
 Monday, Jun 4: 6:30 p.m. São João de Deus, Angra  
 Tuesday, Jun 5: 6:30 p.m. Rua da Pereira, Angra  
 Tuesday, Jun 5: 6:30 p.m. Fonte, São Sebastião  
 Wednesday, Jun 6: 6:30 p.m. Terreiro, São Mateus  
 Thursday, Jun 7: 6:30 p.m. Serra São Tiago, (behind CE compound)  
 Thursday, Jun 7: 6:30 p.m. Terreiro do Passo, Ribeirinha  
 Friday, Jun 8: 6:30 p.m. São Luís, São Bento (near Angra)

### 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.):

**June 4 - 101 Critical Days of Summer (DoD stresses safety during the summer season)**

**June 6 - BIM/Expo (Highlighting local vendors and businesses)**

**June 8 - Space A (Tips on getting a seat on Space-A)**

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



### Can a U.S. citizen buy land, house or build property on any Azorean island?

Any foreign citizen, including Americans, may buy land, a house or even build property on any Azorean island as well as any other part of the Portuguese territory, provided they have legalized their stay in the country through the Portuguese equivalent of Immigration and Naturalization Services.

For example, an individual who comes to the Azores as a military member and decides to retire and live here would have to apply for an authorization or visa that would allow him or her to permanently live in the country.

However, foreign citizens must follow all legal procedures with the applicable Portuguese government departments in order to ensure the house or land they are buying is legally registered in their names.

After the potential buyer reaches an agreement with the landowner or the owner of the house concerning price of the property, he or she needs to make an appointment at the notary office for the deed. Once the deed is finished, the buyer also needs to register the property, land or house, in the Property Register Office (Conservatória do Registo Predial).

In addition to that, the buyer also needs to contact the Portuguese equivalent of the Internal Revenue Service (Repartição de Finanças) to register the property in that department. Any foreign citizen who owns property in Portugal will then be subjected to pay taxes just like any Portuguese citizen.

If one intends to build a house on land that is already legally owned, the first step is to contact the city hall of the respective district where the land sits so he or she can get the required approval for the construction. This is a process that can take several months in some cases, depending on the location of the land and the city hall resources.