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Crossroads XTRA

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Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal



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

 998
SORTIES

18,413
LODGED 

 4.9 M
gallons
FUEL ISSUED

Wing training day vital to readiness



Luis Correia, Ezequiel Barbosa and Eduardo Arruda, all from the 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, work together during a recent 65th Air Base Wing training day. (Photo by Guido Melo)



**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**

Saturday (a.m. / p.m.)
Mostly Cloudy
Wind NW 10 Kt
NW 10 kt
HIGH 22C / 71F
LOW 20C / 68F

Sunday (a.m. / p.m.)
Mostly Cloudy
Wind SW 15 Kt
W 25 Kt
HIGH 22C / 71F
LOW 20C / 68F

By 1st Lt. Mark Graff
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

On the second Tuesday of every month, units at Lajes Field take advantage of the 65th Air Base Wing's training day. Airmen utilize each training day in a variety of different ways, from hands-on self aid and buddy care training to completing career development courses or finishing computer based training.

The goal of wing training day is to assist leaders with maintaining a high state of readiness.

According to Chief Master Sgt. Curtis Storms, 65th ABW command chief master sergeant, the key to a successful wing training days is providing commanders flexibility in determining how their respective units will utilize the day.

"Wing leadership gives commanders the day and it's up to them to develop the training," said Storms. "Some focus on ancillary training, core group discussions or sitting down with Airmen and discussing leadership."

Lajes Field leadership instituted the training day in early 2012 and by all measures, it has been effective.

"The track record (for wing training day) is very good. Ancillary training numbers are very good. We're constantly striving to meet or exceed expectations," said Storms.

Wing training day is also used to hone warfighting skills in efforts to maintain a high level of deployment readiness

for all, but specifically, to ensure that deploying Airmen are prepared for their upcoming missions.

"I've seen the medical group conduct 'train the trainer' events for SABC and the logistics readiness squadron going down to security forces and firing weapons," said Storms. "Our deployers are going down range fully prepared."

When it comes to determining what training Airmen need to complete, commanders and supervisors can work with the 65th Force Support Squadron's Consolidated Unit Training Management office.

Tech. Sgt. Rhoeka Daniel and Staff Sgt. Dionisio Casas, 65th Force Support Squadron consolidated unit training managers, are responsible for tracking upgrade training for the more than 50 different Air Force Specialty Codes assigned to Lajes Field.

"We provide the commanders with the most current ancillary training statistics. We push this information to the squadrons - like who is in upgrade training and who requires annual total force awareness training," said Daniel.

In addition to ancillary and deployment training, wing leadership utilizes the monthly training day to sharpen emergency response capabilities. In August, crisis action team and emergency operations center personnel came together to enhance communication and coordination efforts between the two crisis response entities.

The next wing training day is Tuesday, Sept. 11.

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



People always

By Master Sgt. Jeffrey Isenberg
65th Communications Squadron

Airmen of Lajes, it is time we take a hard look at our behavior and ensure we are looking out for one another! We repeatedly prove we're taking care of the mission—winning multiple USAFE and Air Force-level awards—and we will undoubtedly continue to do so. What we can improve upon is taking care of one another, fostering workplace and unit cohesion, and strengthening our sense of community. We must make this our focus with the same passion we display accomplishing the mission. "Mission First, People Always"—It's time to focus on "People Always."

We are a highly capable community and great at meeting any challenge. We rise to the occasion and support national and coalition efforts to address global unrest like no other. Unfortunately, we often handle "at risk" behavior in the same manner—with swift, downward directed guidance. However, our "at risk" behavior challenge is much different than our normal mission-oriented challenges. Our failure to watch out for one another has manifested into self-destructive behaviors like suicide, binge drinking, and excessive risk taking. These behaviors endanger our people, our family of professionals and the best Air Force in the world. The solution to turn this around is us, more specifically, within our young Airmen. We need your help identifying the causes of "at risk" behavior and developing solutions at the tactical level of leadership.

Our former USAFE commander and new Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Mark A. Welsh, went to great lengths crafting the "Core Groups" concept. This concept uses an analytical set of tools and group based exercises to stimulate

face-to-face and honest dialogue to identify reasons for the dramatic rise in self-destructive and "at risk" activities. Core Groups also address generational communication gaps that exist between Airmen tiers and the breakdown of face-to-face communication between peer groups.

"Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do" guide our professional conduct on and off duty and bond us together. Leadership at every level make "People Always" a top priority and need everyone's help in strengthening our Air Force family, community and sense of camaraderie based on our shared values. Core Groups implementation is simple. Once a month, we will gather in small groups to discuss Air Force values-based topics like honor, camaraderie, integrity, service, and excellence. We'll engage in face-to-face conversations about the meanings of our values and how they influence our actions, relationships, and behaviors. We'll know we're making ground when we hold ourselves accountable to each other to uphold our Airmen values. To be effective and meaningful, groups need to solicit and capture candid and honest dialogue about challenges, obstacles and shortfalls.

I encourage every one of you to seek out your next unit-level Core Group activity and get involved. Unlike many past initiatives, this concept is not borrowed from business and designed to improve metrics or bottom line productivity. This developing concept aims to identify how to make the Air Force a better place to work, how to strengthen our Air Force family, how to mitigate our detrimental behavior trends and how to utilize our Core Values to achieve the Air Force mission.



Master Sgt. Jeffrey Isenberg
65th Communications Squadron



Col. Chris Bargery

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. Chris Bargery
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



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

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New USAFE commander shares priorities, gets personal

By 1st Lt. Christine Guthrie
USAFE Public Affairs

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany -- Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, new U.S. Air Forces in Europe commander, outlined his priorities, vision, challenges and personal experiences during an interview here Aug. 8.

"I am so proud of this command—our Airmen have accomplished so much in these past three years," said General Breedlove who left Ramstein in 2009 after serving as 3rd Air Force commander. "We have an incredibly huge mission here, taking care of two vastly different combatant commands in EUCOM and AFRICOM, on two huge continents spanning over 100 countries."

As fiscal constraints continue to be a concern throughout the Air Force, USAFE leadership is faced with balancing mission requirements and dwindling resources.

General Breedlove comes to USAFE from Washington D.C. where he served as Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force and was responsible for a broad set of requirements and responsibilities. He managed major acquisition programs such as Joint Strike Fighter and the Long-Range Strike Bomber. No matter the project, his focus remained on accomplishing the Air Force mission in a constrained fiscal environment with limited resources.

"I think my past assignment will help me make

To read more on "Priorities" see page 3



Spanish, Italian folklore dancers bring culture to Lajes

By Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

just about our culture but other cultures," said Perez. "It was a good experience to have the dancers come here, and it excites me to travel more and learn more about other cultures."

Folklore dance groups from Italy and Spain shared a piece of their culture with the Lajes Field community here Aug. 13.

The 65th Force Support Squadron hosted the event for the third year in a row to bring an entertaining and unique cultural experience to the remote island of Terceira, said Tim Case, 65th Force Support Squadron operations officer.

"It's good to see other countries come out and show us their folklore dances, to make us feel like we're part of the world," he said.

Tech. Sgt. Carlos Perez, 65th Medical Operations Squadron, NCOIC of Public Health, brought his three children to the event for the learning opportunity.

"This was an opportunity to show my children what's out there, not

The dance groups, Torre Sebelenea from Italy, and Justo Del Rio from Spain performed dances based on traditional concepts such as romance and death of a loved one.

"The colorful costumes and folk music started long ago and the tradition kept going through the years," said Vanessa Meydeyros, coordinator and guide for Torre Sebelenea.

After three months of preparation, advertising, and coordinating transportation for the dancers to arrive at Lajes, the overall event went very well, said Case.

The folklore performers agreed that their visit to Lajes was beneficial for all.

"We enjoy dancing and we're happy to be here to share our culture with everyone," Meydeyros said.



Justo Del Rio, a folklore dance group from Spain, performs traditional dances at the Community Activities Center Aug. 13. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)

"Priorities" from page 2

decisions here at USAFE and also help me interact with our NATO partners" he said. "I have a good understanding of the priorities of the Chief and Secretary of the Air Force."

The general said there will be no immediate changes in USAFE, but said his priorities fall into three areas: mission, Airmen and families.

"Mission is first. Secondly, I truly believe the Airmen are our primary weapon system. Many nations in the world have great air forces; many nations in our world may rival us as our Air Force gets smaller, but no nation in the world has the Airmen that we have," said General Breedlove.

Taking care of the Airmen to enable, train and equip them properly will be one of his focuses, he said. He believes that to accomplish the mission and be an effective Airman, individuals must have their personal priorities in order, and, he said, that begins with the family.

After 33 years of marriage to his wife Cindy, General Breedlove developed a mantra that he's coveted for most of his career.

"The family was before the Air Force, the family was during the Air Force, and the family is after the Air Force," he said. "Family is permanent and the Air Force is temporary."

With family needs met, the mission takes care of itself, he added.

The Breedloves are no strangers to Europe. This is their seventh tour to the continent, and their fifth tour to Germany. He's served as commander, 31st Fighter Wing, Aviano Air Base, Italy; vice commander, 16th Air Force, Ramstein AB, Germany, and commander 3rd AF. His first assignment to Germany with the Air Force was as a captain, F-16 Falcon pilot.

"Captain Breedlove was really focused on being an incredible F-16 pilot," General Breedlove reminisced. "As I come back, it's not my job to be the ace on the base anymore; it's my job to organize, train and equip our force to ensure our Airmen meet the demands of both AFRICOM and EUCOM."

General Breedlove will don several hats in his tenure as the USAFE commander. He is in command U.S. Air Forces Africa and the Allied Air Command and is the director of Joint Air Power Competence Centre. He said he understands the importance of maintaining a fair balance between work and life, and credits his wife for keeping him grounded and focused on their children.

A southern gentleman at heart, General Breedlove was born and raised in Atlanta, Ga.

"Fried okra, cream corn and sliced red tomatoes," he smiled as he stated his favorite meal.

As a Georgia Tech graduate, he spoke on how he thought his Yellow Jackets would fare this football season.

"I will tell you that every year Georgia Tech faces challenges, and they just seem to keep having winning seasons, and keep getting to the bowl games," he said. "While they play great football, I am more proud that they graduate a lot of people with engineering degrees who go on to do something other than football."

Besides football, General Breedlove enjoys riding motorcycles. He owns a Harley-Davidson Street Glide and plans to take trips when time permits.

"Motorcycling is a part of my family," he said. "It's a passion of mine, but more importantly is my passion for motorcycle safety."

He admits that motorcycle riding can be dangerous, and encourages Airmen to wear protective equipment properly and receive proper training.

"The only way to be an old man like me riding a motorcycle is to ride a motorcycle like an old man," he said.

In his change of command, he acknowledged the changes he's seen USAFE Airmen undergo, and said he was blown away by how they accomplished missions in Libya and handled other conflicts.

"I am jealous for not having been here while we conducted missions in places like Libya," he said. "Day-to-day our Airmen do incredible work, and I am proud to be back on the team."

Helpful information for parents, students at Lajes E/H School

By Laurie Salafia
School Liaison Officer

School opens in the next few weeks. Below is a list of resources and dates to help you prepare for a successful transition to the new school year.



- School supply lists are available at the Exchange and www.lajesfss.com.
- Free and Reduced Lunch/Bus Transportation Applications are available at the school, the School Liaison Office in T-112 and on the FSS website. You may also contact the SLO, Ms. Laurie Salafia at 535-5711.
- Newcomers should register their children as soon as possible at the school. Please contact Ms. Cidalia Dias at 535-3357 for any questions regarding registration.

Dates to Remember

- **Aug. 27** - School begins for students in grades 1-12
- **Sept. 1** - Back to School Summer Bash at 8 p.m. in the grassy area across from T-100. Free food and games
- **Sept. 4** - Kindergarten begins
- **Sept. 13** - Sure Start begins

At this time, school orientation dates are not available.

Useful Websites for Students and Parents

- **School Liaison information and forms:**
<http://www.lajesfss.com/About-Lajes-Newcomers/School-Liaison-Office.html>
- **Lajes E/H School information:**
<http://www.laje-ehs.eu.dodea.edu/activities.htm>
- **Free 24-hour online tutoring in all subjects for military students:**
www.tutor.com/military
- **Military students in grades 7-12 and students involved in the Student to Student program can get information on college, transitioning, and educational resources:** <http://www.schoolquest.org>
- **Information regarding bullying:** <http://www.stopbullying.gov/>
- **Information regarding DoDEA schools:** <http://www.dodea.edu/home/>
- **Information on all branches of the service:**
<http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>
- **The latest information on scholarships:**
www.MilitaryChild.org/parents-and-students/scholarships
- **Military Child Education Coalition:** www.militarychild.org/



For more information, contact Laurie Salafia at 535-5711.

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



Name: Brandon Elkins
Rank: Technical Sergeant
Unit: 65th Communications Squadron
Hometown: Norwalk, Wis.
Duty Title: NCOIC, Comm Focal Point
Accomplishments: Elkins leads the 65th Communications Squadron Communications Focal Point team responsible for tracking communications equipment valued in excess of \$54 million. He keeps wing and squadron leaders informed of communication

outages, fix actions and trends. Elkins manages, coordinates and tracks maintenance actions and documentation in Integrated Maintenance Data System, Work Order Management System, and Remedy databases. His direct efforts helped resolve over 1.6 thousand trouble tickets for the wing's command, control, communications and computer infrastructure. Additionally, Elkins tracks time compliance technical order implementation and is responsible for scheduling and reporting completion of preventive maintenance inspections and equipment up-time rates to higher headquarters and the Air Force Weather Agency.



Name: Brenna L. Bennett
Rank: GS-05
Unit: 65th Communications Squadron
Hometown: Huntsville, Ala.
Duty Title: Secretary/Office Automation
Accomplishments: Bennett is the primary office assistant for the 65th Communications Squadron, supporting 135 military members and 15 civilians. Using multiple automated

systems, Bennett is responsible for tracking external and internal suspenses and taskers, reviewing and coordinating staff summary sheets and all correspondence documents entering and/or leaving the squadron. Additionally, she routes and tracks to completion all evaluations and decorations for all squadron personnel. Bennett also maintains the calendars of key Communications Squadron personnel and serves as the greeter for all visitors in the office. As a spouse of a DODEA teacher, Bennett enjoys volunteering at the Lajes Elementary High School and she is an active member in her faith community.



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

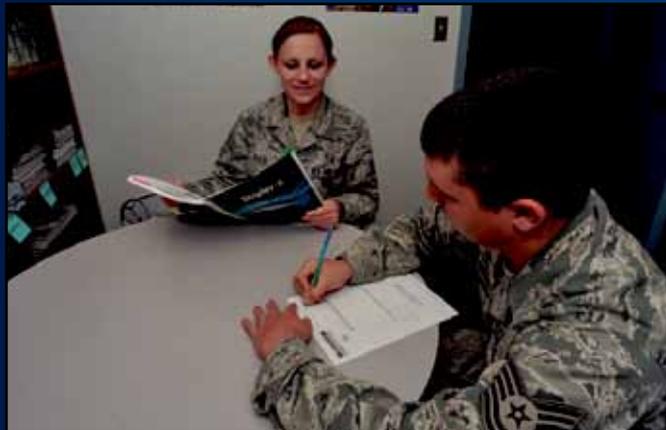
Feature



Airman 1st Class John Seuss, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, cuts a piece of metal utilizing plasma cutters Aug. 9. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)



Airman 1st Class John Seuss, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, quality checks a wooden stool prior to delivery Aug. 9. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)



Staff Sgt. Nicole Kuck, Family Advocacy NCOIC, administers the Shipley exam to Tech. Sgt. John Thompson, NCOIC Mental Health, Aug. 9. The Shipley exam is administered to determine a person's I.Q. for special duty qualifications. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)



Chaplain (Capt.) Ruben Covos and Hildeberto Cabral, both from the 65th Air Base Wing Chapel, entertain children as Smurfs during the children's parade at Praia Fest in the local community of Praia da Vitoria Aug. 11. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Maj. Nick Seeliger, 65th Medical Operations Squadron, conducts a general health screening on Abrahm Swindle, 6, during Youth Sports Physicals Day Aug. 15. Swindle is the son of Staff Sgts. Lauren and Seth Rowe, and is eager to participate in football this coming season. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)



Mark your calendar

AFSA KICKBALL TOURNAMENT: The Air Force Sergeants Association will be hosting a Kickball Tournament at the Ocean View Softball Field Aug. 18 starting at 9 a.m. For more information or to enter a team please contact Staff Sgt. Jacory Williams at 535-3669 or Staff Sgt. Michael Murphy at 535-7043. Entry fees will be \$10 per person/10 per team. Anyone can play, so get your teams ready for fun.



SUM DINNER: Visit the Chapel Fellowship Hall for a Single and Unaccompanied Members Dinner Aug. 20.

EAGLES & CHIEFS GOLF TOURNAMENT: Aug. 23 the Chief's Group Annual Golf Tournament will be at the Golf Club. 8:45 a.m. shot gun start. \$35 per player for 4 person teams. Breakfast is \$5. Sign-up deadline is Aug. 21 at 4 p.m. For more information, contact Chief Master Sgt. Robert Marquez (535-6703) or Chief Master Sgt. Neil Turnbull (535-3213).

USAFE DOWN DAY: Aug. 24 is a USAFE Family Day. It is the last day of the DoDDS-E Summer Break.

MONTHLY PROMOTION CEREMONY: The Promotion Ceremony is scheduled for Aug. 30 at 3 p.m. in the Community Activities Center ballroom.

7th ANNUAL BUILD A BOAT CHALLENGE:

The Build a Boat Contest is Aug. 31 at 2 p.m. at the Base Swimming Pool. Register at the Community Activities Center by Aug. 17. Open to all base squadrons, one team per squadron. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place & the Titanic award. For more information, call 535-5216.

U.S. HOLIDAY: Sept. 3 is Labor Day.

LAJES 2012 AIR FORCE BALL: The Air Force Ball is Sept. 29 at the Golf Club of Terceira ballroom. Social hour is 6 p.m. Dinner is 7 p.m. Servicemembers wear mess dress or semi-formal uniforms. Civilians wear formal attire.

POSTAL VOTING MESSAGE 2012: Due to our location and flight schedules the Lajes Post Office recommends dropping off your casted ballot no later than 5 p.m. Oct. 22.

THEATER ADMISSION INCREASE: Effective Aug. 17, the price of theater admission will increase by \$.50 for adults and \$.25 for children for regular release showings. Admission for adults is now \$5 and \$2.50 for children. For more information, call 535-1124.



Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: Excuse me. Can I have your attention please?

PORTUGUESE: Desculpe posso ter a vossa atenção por favor?

PRONUNCIATION: Deshculpeh, pohssu tier ah suah attens-san pohr phavoHOR?

BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE



Friday, Aug 17: 6 p.m. Agualva
 Saturday, Aug 18: 6 p.m. Agualva
 Saturday, Aug 18: 6 p.m. Port of S. Mateus
 Sunday, Aug 19: 6 p.m. Agualva
 Tuesday, Aug 21: 6 p.m. S. Brás
 Tuesday, Aug 21: 6 p.m. Terreiro, Posto Santo
 Tuesday, Aug 21: 6 p.m. Feteira
 Tuesday, Aug 21: 6 p.m. Fonte Bastardo
 Wednesday, Aug 22: 6 p.m. Fonte Bastardo
 Wednesday, Aug 22: 6 p.m. Lameirinho, Angra
 Wednesday, Aug 22: 6 p.m. S. Brás
 Thursday, Aug 23: 6 p.m. Fonte Bastardo
 Friday, Aug 24: 6 p.m. Rua do Pico, Fonte Bastardo



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

Every year the Air Force loses great Airmen to drunk driving. Please help save a life and your 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.

ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima
Community Relations Advisor



The truth about the Azorean live waves of August



Although some people believe that the so-called ocean "live waves of August" are very dangerous, the truth is, according to the Hydrographic Institute of Portugal, they are just like other ocean waves that take place during other months of the year, especially in March and September.

Still, according to the Hydrologic Institute, the "live waves" that sometimes cause incidents or even fatalities are normal at this time

of the year. What happens is that sometimes there's a conjunction of the high tides with the wind and the ocean roughness which cause those "live waves" that can hit people who are standing or fishing on the low rocks at the ocean level.

The Hydrologic Institute of Portugal also noted that the tides alone do not generate large waves, although this is a perception shared by the population. If the waves are not generated by the wind, even if the tide rises too much because it is August or September, there is no risk to people. The tides only affect how far the waves can reach.

According to Senhor Bruno Nogueira from the 65th Air Base Wing Safety Office, people need to be careful while fishing or standing on the rocks next to the ocean, especially if those rocks are almost at sea level, but not only during the month of August. These type of incidents can occur any month of the year with emphasis to the winter months.