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Crossroads



Vol. 17, No. 34 August 31, 2012

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

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

 1006
SORTIES

18,761
LODGED 

 5.1 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**

Saturday (a.m. / p.m.)

Mostly Cloudy
Wind NW 5 Kt
NW 15 Kt
HIGH 23C / 73F
LOW 19C / 66F

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

Mostly Cloudy
Wind NW 5 Kt
NW 15 Kt
HIGH 24C / 75F
LOW 20C / 68F

Political Affairs: Your liaison to our Portuguese counterparts



U.S. and Portuguese Air Force security forces members work together to coordinate a military working dog event for the Lajes 2012 Open House. The 65th Air Base Wing political affairs office is a vital link to our Portuguese counterparts. (Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)

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

Despite what you may have heard, the 65th Air Base Wing is actually a tenant unit on Portuguese Air Base 4.

One Wing Staff Agency, Political Affairs or POLAD, helps the entire 65th ABW understand our unique relationship with our Portuguese counterparts.

"This is a Portuguese Air Force installation, not a United States Air Force base," said Lt. Col. Shawn Cotton, the 65th Operations Support Squadron commander, as well as the Chief of Political Affairs. "So being tenants here, we have hosts with whom we need to coordinate, communicate and cooperate."

The POLAD office, also manned by Capt. Rui Amaral, Sra. Celina Cristovao and Tech. Sgt. Ualter Freitas, is located in the wing headquarters building, and like other wing staff agencies, executes a highly specialized mission. The POLAD office plays a vital role in conducting operations with our Portuguese counterparts, both on and off the installation.

"Any correspondence or coordination between the USAF and the Portuguese Air Force has to go through this office," said Cotton. "We are the switchboard."

The POLAD office handles an average of 2,300 documents per year that are routed between the Portuguese Air Force and the 65th ABW. Those documents range in purpose from notice of off base traffic infractions to facilitating approval of construction projects for the Civil Engineer Squadron.

Unlike some overseas bases, Lajes Field does not have a Status of Forces Agreement. Instead, American and Portuguese cooperation is governed by several documents, to include the Technical Agreement.

The POLAD office works with incoming commanders to brief them on the unique working relationship between the 65th ABW and our Portuguese counterparts and how to sustain host nation relations, said Cotton.

"We discuss the agreements that we have here, to include the Technical Agreement, and we talk about the role of the POLAD office and why we are here," said Cotton of POLAD's relationship with commanders. "We want to make their jobs easier and help the wing operate more efficiently."

There are some linkages already established and those operations can continue without further coordination through POLAD, said Cotton. Some examples of American and Portuguese coordination include highly functional relationships in some organizations throughout the base.

"Security forces, air traffic control and the weather shop presently operate jointly with the Portuguese Air Force. If there is a change in operating procedures, or they go outside the lines that are already established, then they would have to coordinate with our hosts through this office," said Cotton.

The bottom line for POLAD is to support 65th ABW leaders and to facilitate interaction with our Portuguese hosts.

"We're not the ones who make the decisions; we just coordinate and get the right people involved," Cotton said.

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



The Mighty Fine... 729

By Master Sgt. William Palmer
729th Air Mobility Squadron

The island we live on is absolutely wonderful! I love waking up and watching the sun rise over the ocean from my patio in housing.

I am not the only one that has this spectacular view, and being stationed on such a wonderful island can present certain challenges to us military personnel here at Lajes. A few of those challenges are how we get mail, commissary goods, supply items and medical supplies.

Well, that is where the 729th Air Mobility Squadron helps the Lajes Field personnel overcome those challenges. Our squadron is a tenet unit here, or as we like to say, a Mission Partner to the 65th Air Base Wing.

We are an Air Mobility Command unit which is part of the 521st Air Mobility Operations Group located at Rota Naval Station, Spain, and our wing is the 521st Air Mobility Operations Wing located at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

We provide command and control of those missions that arrive at Lajes and bring the mail, commissary goods, supply items and even the people to the island so we can perform our mission.

On top of providing the Air Mobility command's mission, we also have additional duties which is about 10 per person on average. We provide a critical service to the base by safely and correctly performing our duties to ensure those items arrive in one piece and on time.

Last week, our major command, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, sent an inspection team to conduct a Logistics Compliance Assessment Program inspection to ensure we are operating

the mission here according to applicable Air Force Instructions and other instructions as well as performing in a safe manner.

The team arrived and was able to experience what each new person arriving at Lajes sees and that is the Lajes Goodness Welcome at the Passenger Terminal. The inspection team was in awe of the welcome each person received, and that set the tone for our inspection.



Master Sgt. William Palmer
729th Air Mobility Squadron

The inspection went well because we perform our duties correctly, not just for an inspection, but to ensure that those items mentioned arrive on time and intact.

On Aug. 17 we received the outbrief and as expected, we received an "Excellent" rating. The inspection covered our unit's compliance in conducting passenger service, fleet service, ramp service, air terminal operations center duties, special handling, as well as our training program.

This inspection team conducted 105 inspections by a team of seven personnel and noted that some of the strengths of our unit were our Passenger Service operations, as well as our aircraft loading team procedures.

Each person in our unit performed as they do every day ensuring we are compliant with the governing instruction.

The LCAP team recognized two outstanding performers, Staff Sgt. James Purdon and Maria Aguiar.

So rest assured Team Lajes, the Mighty Fine 729 AMS performs a vital mission to help support the men and women of our installation and the proof was in our grade from the inspection.

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

Col. Chris Bargery
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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Editorial Staff

- Col. Chris Bargery**
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing
- 1st Lt. Mark Graff**
Editor-in-Chief
- Mr. Eduardo Lima**
Community Relations Advisor
- Staff Sgt. Angelique Smythe**
Editor
- Mr. Manuel Martins**
Layout Designer

Are your Airmen ready for HYT changes?

By Dr. Todd Fore

Executive Director,

Air Force Personnel Center

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas – Most Airmen affected by high year of tenure changes announced in December will have one more opportunity to test for promotion before changes take effect in September 2013. If they don't make it, they'll be separated from the Air Force.

Are your Airmen ready? As commanders, first sergeants, supervisors, leaders and mentors, we all play a role in our fellow Airmen's success. Promotion testing is very strict – no group study or study support is allowed – so maybe you don't think you can do anything to help your people prepare.

The fact is we have responsibilities, and with only one more shot at promotion, your Airmen need you now more than ever.

Educate and communicate. Those are your

responsibilities.

Promotion tests are hard. They require serious, long-term study. To do well, Airmen must develop and stick with a study routine. Do your Airmen understand that? If they're approaching HYT, they may not, and they may not know where to start. You must educate them on how to develop, implement and follow through on their study plan.

Have you spoken personally with your Airmen about this issue? Do you know why they haven't been selected for promotion? Do you know if personal or professional barriers are inhibiting them? If the answer is no, you are failing to communicate. Sure, it's a two-way street, but as a leader, your job is to grow and develop Airmen. You can't do that if you don't communicate with them.

We cannot afford to lose valuable Airmen

To read more on "HYT" see page 3



Redesigned program eases Airmen's transition to civilian life

By Joel Fortner
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

A redesigned program will help ease every Airman's transition to civilian life and better apply their military experience, Air Force officials said.

The program is the first major overhaul of the transition assistance program for military members in nearly 20 years.

The effort began in response to a call from President Barack Obama in August 2011 to ensure all service members are "career ready" when they leave the military.

Slated to begin servicewide in November, the current three-day, optional program will be expanded to five days and has been redesigned into a comprehensive, mandatory program that includes pre-separation counseling, a military-to-civilian skills review, a Veterans Affairs benefits briefing, financial planning support, job search skills building, and individual transition plan preparation.

A pilot program was held July 9-13 at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, which, according to officials, allowed Departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs to test the initiative.

According to Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley, the redesigned program bolsters and standardizes the transition services that service members receive prior to retiring or separating from the military to make them employment ready.

"Our goal is to provide Airmen with a comprehensive transition assistance program that prepares them for life after the military, whether that's pursuing education, working in the public or civilian sector, or starting a business," Donley said.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Roy said the program is as good for the civilian sector as it is for Airmen.

"Employers are looking for educated, trained, experienced people like those who are separating from the Air Force," he said. "This program will help smooth our Airmen's transitions to civilian life."



Under the old program, separating Guardsmen and Reservists were often left to their own devices. Roy said another benefit of this new program is the inclusion of the Total Force.

"We want to take care of all our Airmen, and this program does that," he said. "No component of our Total Force deserves more help transitioning than another."

By October 2013, three two-day optional sessions on pursuing a technical certification, starting a business, or pursuing a higher educational degree will also be offered to Airmen.

"Our Airmen have extraordinary technical expertise and world-class leadership skills that are in high demand," Donley said. "This program will help them apply their experience to additional training, formal education, and develop successful civilian careers."

For more information, contact the Lajes Airman and Family Readiness Center at 535-4138.

Recycling: It's in the Bag

By Aisha Robins
65th Civil Engineer Squadron Environmental Element

Consider for a moment the simple plastic shopping bag. It has become part of our global culture for anyone born after 1982. Before that, grocery store baggers would always ask, "paper or plastic?"

In 2003, the Environmental Protection Agency estimated that the global annual use of plastic bags is between 500 billion and one trillion. By now that number has reached or exceeded the upper limit of that range. Of this staggeringly high amount, only 1 percent of these plastic bags are recycled.

The advantages of plastic bags, that they're light weight and they hold liquids as well as heavy contents, are also the reasons they are such a danger to the environment. Because they are "as light as air," the wind blows them to streams, rivers, and natural habitats,

which harms birds, fish, and mammals. And because they are so durable, they take hundreds of years to decompose.

So what can we do?

Actually, there are several solutions. The best is to use non-plastic

totes for groceries. However, since we usually go to the store with long shopping lists, this isn't often practical.

The next best solution is to take our plastic bags to the store to re-use.

Third, we can recycle at home by using plastic bags for trash cans, putting other recycling items into, and cleaning up after our dogs.

Fourth, we can make sure plastic bags make it to the recycling bin.

And when we buy one or two small items, we can tell the checker that we don't need a bag.

Any combination of these will help.

The next time you're in the base exchange, ask them about their policy on taking a few cents off your purchase when you BYOB (bring your own bag).



"HYT" from page 2

because they didn't know how to prepare or were unable to overcome barriers on their own. You can't study for (or with) your Airmen and you can't take the promotion test for them, but you can help them learn the

formula for success if you take the time to communicate with them. Will you pass the leader/mentor test?

For HYT details, go to the myPers website at <https://mypers.af.mil>, select the "search all components" option and enter "Enlisted High Year Tenure" in the search window.



LADD volunteers drive program

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

Lajes Against Drunk Driving is a program designed to provide Lajes Airmen with a safe and sober ride home if their plans fall through. The goal of LADD is to get Airmen home safely and to avoid driving under the influence. But the goal doesn't drive the program – volunteers do.

Every weekend Lajes Field volunteers commit themselves to providing a safe and sober alternative to drinking and driving. These Airmen volunteer with a selfless spirit and a desire to assist those who face a potentially deadly situation: getting behind the wheel after consuming alcohol.

Here's a look at why some LADD volunteers do what they do...

**Senior Airman
Julian Perez**
Cyber Operations Technician
65th Communications
Squadron



Since arriving to Lajes in May, Perez has volunteered for LADD on two occasions.

"The reason I volunteer is so I can possibly prevent someone of making that mistake of driving while intoxicated. That's not something that someone wants to have on their record. I just want to be available in case someone runs out of options. I want to be that fallback."

"I've volunteered twice, both times as an operator. It was alright, mainly people were

calling from Praia and closer towns."

"It's a great bullet and you can always prevent someone from making that mistake. You can be there for someone else."



**Senior Airman
Matthew Campanelli**
Unit Deployment Manager
& Supply
65th Security Forces
Squadron

As the Rising 6 LADD representative, Campanelli coordinates volunteer sign-ups for the Rising 6. He also volunteers as a dispatcher and driver.

"On a busy weekend, I have received up to 12 callers requesting rides. On a slow weekend, sometimes I only receive one call. The monthly average is about 20 calls or roughly five per weekend."

"The LADD program ensures the safety and well being for all Lajes Airmen, and that is why I volunteered. The most important thing about LADD is simply that it is available and we're willing to provide a safe means of travel for anyone seeking a ride."

Staff Sgt. Angel Smythe
Public Affairs Specialist
65th Air Base Wing
Public Affairs



Smythe typically volunteers to be a LADD dispatcher and has done so numerous times.

"I live pretty far away from the party towns here, yet still I've volunteered several times as a dispatcher to contribute to the LADD program. I love seeing other people have fun, but I cannot stand to see anyone get hurt or in trouble for something that could have easily been prevented."

"It's always my pleasure and never a bother to serve as a wingman to my fellow Airmen in this simple manner."



**Don't drink and drive!
Call 295 57 LADD**

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



Name: James Purdon
Rank: Staff Sergeant
Unit: 729th Air Mobility Squadron
Hometown: Constantine, Mich.
Duty Title: Aircraft Services Supervisor
Accomplishments: Purdon loads and unloads transiting aircraft and freight processor. He performs functions as the Air Terminal Operations Center and Ramp controller. During the recent Headquarters Air Mobil-

ity Command Logistics Compliance Assessment Program inspection, Purdon was noted as an "Outstanding Performer" for his role as Team Chief during the ground handling activities for the 747 Cargo mission that arrives from Germany. His superior work helped the 729th AMS achieve an "Excellent" rating. Purdon's hobbies and interest include spear fishing, hiking and computer games.



Name: Maria Aguiar
Rank: GS-06
Unit: 729th Air Mobility Command
Hometown: Fontinhas, Praia da Vitoria
Duty Title: Lost and Found Luggage Monitor
Accomplishments: Aguiar is the Lost and Found Luggage monitor for the 729th AMS passenger terminal. She also works all passenger services functions to include passenger sign

up, check-in and passenger transportation. She was recently identified by Headquarters Air Mobility Command to be an "Outstanding Performer" during the 2012 Logistic Compliance Assessment Program Inspection, assisting the squadron in receiving an "Excellent" rating. Her hobbies and interests include sports, hiking, traveling, taking pictures and swimming.



Spotlight on Portuguese LNs

Feature



Paulo Inacio assists Marco Machado install in a new fence at the softball field Aug. 28. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Paulo Inacio, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, maintenance technician, puts the finishing touches on a newly installed fence at the softball field Aug. 28. Inacio has been part of the 65th CES, maintenance team for 16 months. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Members from the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron ground maintenance team replace a worn out fence at the softball field Aug. 28. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Catarina Melo, an aerobics instructor, leads several Lajes spouses during a Zumba Class at Lajes Chase Fitness Center Aug. 29. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Lajes spouses perform basic Zumba moves during a Zumba class at Chase Fitness Center Aug. 29. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Mark your calendar

LEGAL OFFICE CLOSURE: The Legal Office will be closed due to minimum manning on Friday, Aug. 31. Normal duty hours will resume Tuesday, Sept. 4 at 9 a.m. For emergencies only, contact the on-call JAG through the Command Post at 535-4200.

WINE FESTIVAL: This year's wine festival will take place Sept. 1 in Biscoitos. The festival will kick off around 2:30 p.m. with a parade between the Wine Museum located at Canada do Caldeiro. For more information, contact Eduardo Lima at 535-3413.

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH: This year's DoDDs Back to School Bash is Sept. 1 at 8 p.m. in the grassy area across from Building T-100.

TOPS IN BLUE: The Air Force performance group is coming to Lajes Field and will perform Sunday, Sept. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Portuguese hangar. Admission is free.

9/11 REMEMBRANCE 5K: Lajes First Responders will host a 9/11 Remembrance 5K Sept. 10 at 7:30 a.m. beginning at the Chace Fitness Center. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Floydzell Kimble at 535-2240.

9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY: The 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Sept. 11 at the Base Fire Department Building T-773. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Floydzell Kimble at 535-2240.

DOGGY DAYS OF SUMMER: Sept. 23 is Doggy Days of Summer at 6 p.m. at the base pool. There will be free dog treats. The baby pool will be open for small dogs. Friendly dogs are welcome to go off leash. For more information, call the kennel at 535-3855.

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: The price of theater admission has increased 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.

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



Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



ENGLISH: How do I get to the hospital?

PORTUGUESE: Como chego ao hospital?

PRONUNCIATION: KOHmoo SHEHgoo aoo ashpitohl?

BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE

Saturday, Sept. 1: 6 p.m. Rua das Pedras, Cabo da Praia

Wednesday, Sept. 5: 5:30 p.m. Santa Luzia

Thursday, Sept. 6: 5:30 p.m. Santa Luzia

Saturday, Sept. 8: 5:30 p.m. Rua do Picão, Lajes

Saturday, Sept. 15: 5:30 p.m. Amoreiras

Wednesday, Sept. 19: 5:30 p.m. Porto Martins

Thursday, Sept. 20: 5:30 p.m. Porto Martins

Saturday, Sept. 22: 5:30 p.m. Canada Maria João, Juncal

Saturday, Sept. 22: 5:30 p.m. Porto Martins

Wednesday, Oct. 3: 5 p.m. Figueiras do Paim, Praia

Thursday, Oct. 4: 5 p.m. Figueiras do Paim, Praia

Sunday, Oct. 7: 5 p.m. Rua da Saúde, Praia



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.



AFN LAJES Radio 96.1FM
 - The Morning Wake Up Call: 0600-1000
 - The Double D MidDay Show: 1200-1300
 - The Afternoon Drive: 1400-1800
 Request Line: 535-3121 or 295-57-3121

ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima

Community Relations Advisor

Why some of the chimneys seen on older homes on Terceira Island are "A" shaped? Also, what is the purpose of the rock walls that divide the fields throughout the Azores, and where do the rocks come from?



To answer the first part of the question, the shape of some of the chimneys on Terceira Island, as on other islands, is related with the customs of architectural styles brought to the Azores by the first settlers.

Those settlers came from different regions of mainland Portugal and even France, whose architecture was influenced by other peoples who lived in the Iberian Peninsula, as is the case of the Moors in the southern province of Algarve.

In the case of Terceira, the chimneys look very similar to the ones in the mainland province of Alentejo. Some schools of thought have it that the first settlers who colonized Terceira came from that Portuguese region, hence the reason why the chimneys are shaped

that way. However, there's no historical or any other kind of proof that this is the case.

As far as the rocks that make up the stone walls, obviously they come from the ground.

As the first settlers were trying to clear up the fields to make them fit for crop growing, they removed the rocks from the ground surface they were tilling, and used them to divide the land. In the Azores, sometimes small portions of land belong to many land owners, and there's a need to divide the fields.

The rock walls also make a good cover to protect the crops from the winds that sometimes blow hard, especially during the winter months.