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# Crossroads TRA

Vol. 17, No. 38 September 28, 2012

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

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

 1069  
SORTIES

20,559  
LODGED 

 5.37 M  
gallons  
FUEL ISSUED

## Fighters, airlifters fill Lajes' ramp



Two U.S. Marine Corps F/A-18 Hornets depart Lajes Field en route to a combat mission, Sept. 24, 2012. Members of the Marine Fighter Attack Squadron, stop at Lajes for refueling and crew rest before heading further downrange into combat mission. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



**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 / Rainshowers  
Wind N 5 Kt  
NE 5 Kt  
HIGH 20C / 68F  
LOW 19C / 66F

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

Partly Cloudy / Mostly Cloudy  
Wind E 5 Kt  
SE 5 Kt  
HIGH 20C / 68F  
LOW 19C / 66F

## Lajes Comptrollers:

# "No money, No mission"

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

Within the last two years, the 65th Comptroller Flight's small, but efficient team has won numerous awards to include having the number one United States Air Forces Europe Government Travel Card program, the best USAFE financial services office and the number one USAFE Comptroller Squadron in financial metrics for 2011.

"We have a strong comptroller flight," said Capt. Frank Skrypak, the 65th Comptroller Flight commander. "This includes all of our Airmen and our local nationals; they are a powerhouse."

Two sections within the flight—Financial Services and Financial Analysis—stay incredibly busy.

"Our Financial Services Office primarily handles military pay and travel pay while the Financial Analysis Section handles the budget for the base," said Skrypak.

While FSO handles the day-to-day mission and ensures the Airmen are focused on their mission and not getting their pay, FMA aids in funding that mission.

Each year the budget section receives an allocation of money from USAFE to run the wing's mission and its priorities financially, says Skrypak.

"We are able to provide financial resources to the wing to do their mission, and we also provide decision support to foster efficiencies," said Skrypak, whose personnel in the budget sections are trained in expert decision support. "This is especially important in this day and age as financial resources are becoming more and more scarce."

This time of year, one hot item the CPTF manages is the end of the fiscal year closeout.

"We are obligated to the congressional budget which runs on a fiscal year that starts on Oct. 1 and ends on Sept.

**To read more on "Finance Office" see page 4**



## Donley talks sequestration, explains AF budget plans

Tech. Sgt. Julie Weckerlein  
Air Force Public Affairs Agency

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- The threat of sequestration continues to overhang "all budget decisions across the federal government," said Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley here Sept. 17.

During his keynote remarks at the 2012 Air Force Association Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition, Donley conveyed the careful strategic choices made by the service in crafting the service's budget.

Sequestration would kick in extensive spending cuts -- \$500 billion from defense spending over 10 years on top of \$350 billion in spending reduction already identified over that period -- if Congress fails to take further deficit-reduction action.

"These additional and arbitrarily applied, across-the-board cuts would leave the military without a workable strategy to counter global threats," warned Donley, who pointed out that Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and other Defense Department leaders have broadly communicated their concerns about sequestration's inherent dangers.

The "sequestration" mechanism in the nation's new debt-reduction law is unacceptable given the multitude of threats facing America, Panetta said to reporters in an Aug. 4 press conference at the Pentagon.

Donley echoed those sentiments during his speech.

"We need Congress to de-trigger the Budget Control Act's sequester provisions before the end of the year," he said.

Despite the threat of the sequestration, Donley said Air Force officials still must balance Air Force capabilities against competing needs for force structure, readiness, and modernization.

This means making a conscious choice in the Air Force budget to protect readiness by "trading size for quality," he said.

To this end, the Air Force proposed force structure reductions as part of recent budget requests, including the divestment of 286 aircraft and removing about 9,900 personnel from the ranks within the next five years.

"As you know, our proposals have met resistance in Congress, particularly with regard in reductions in the Air National Guard and Reserve," Donley said. "Simply put, in beginning to program for these reductions, it is impossible to

avoid impacts to Airmen, various civilian and contractor workforces, and the communities in which they live."

Although the entire Air Force will get smaller together, plans are in place to strengthen the total force integration, to include supporting the Air National Guard's strategy to rebalance resources and improve readiness in about 39 units, increasing the number of active-air reserve component unit associations from 100 to 115, and the F-16 service life extension program.

"We need to ensure that we remain well-grounded in the foundations of our Air Force," Donley said. "The more uncertainty there is, the more budgetary churn ahead, the more important it is to come back to the basics."



Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley during his address at the Air Force Association's Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition in Washington, D.C., Sept. 17, 2012. (U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash)

## Perspective

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.

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## After successful kick-off, Lajes CFC continues

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

Lajes Field began its Combined Federal Campaign Sept. 17 with a 'Tuff Mudder' obstacle course but the campaign continues through Nov. 19.

The kickoff raised just over \$700, and CFC Project officers Capt. Ruben Covos and Master Sgt. Keith Morales are confident the Lajes community will keep on giving.

"Lajes is a small, but giving community," said Morales, operations superintendent for the 65th Security Forces Squadron. "Everyone's pockets are tight these days, but I encourage others to give what you can."

CFC was given its name when charities were 'combined' in 1964 after on-the-job fundraising in the federal workplace was regulated less. After an experiment in 1971 when six cities consolidated all drives into a one-time donation period and contributions jumped significantly, President Richard Nixon announced that the CFC would be the only uniformed fundraising method for the federal service.

"CFC is the only approved fundraiser for military personnel and it's also the most effective," said Morales. "It's a combined campaign so many charities are represented and many organizations can donate."

Last year, Lajes Field raised \$91,000 for the CFC, and led United States Air Forces in Europe bases with a 95% contribution rate.

"We have a huge footprint with the CFC," said Covos. "We had deployed members that were contacted, and they contributed as well."

One specific charity is the Family Support and Youth Programs, FSYP, which is a Lajes-specific charity.

"Last year, we raised \$91,000 and \$13,000 of that went straight back to Lajes," said Covos, the Chaplain for the 65th Air Base Wing. "We don't give a cut or a percentage. Those are direct Lajes dollars, and we can use it for playgrounds, gym improvements, or youth facilities."

In addition, the donations made to the FSYP help fund child care, emergency assistance, community education and other quality of life programs and facilities.

This year, Covos and Morales hope to maintain that same goal from last year.

"\$91,000 would be awesome, but we're shooting for higher participation and 100% contact," said Morales.

Those that donate during the campaign period support eligible non-



Airman 1st Class Zachary Thompson, 65th Communications Squadron, cyber systems technician, slides down a hill with muddy water during the Tuff Mudder challenge, Sept. 17, 2012. (Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)

profit organizations throughout the world.

"Anybody can donate," said Morales. "If you are an active duty member or an LG/GS employee, you can donate, and anyone can give a one-time donation or payroll deduction. The local community can donate as well, but it has to be a cash contribution."

Even if you only give a one-time donation of \$4, that will go far.

"\$4 will get a portable water filter- a product called LifeStraw- so people can drink clean water and they're good for 6 months... just four dollars," said Covos. "How much do we pay for a Starbucks coffee? Use that money to donate; there's a stack of charities that depend on our contributions."

In 2012, contributors who pledge \$150 or more, which is just \$12.50 a month, will receive the CFC collector's coin, and units that are eligible can also receive an award depending on the average amount raised and the unit's participation.

"Just about every unit on base received an award last year," said Morales. "It takes a community to do this, and raise this much money, and we pulled together and did it."

To contribute to this year's Combined Federal Campaign, contact your unit representative.

## Medical Group begins internal CFC push

By Capt Darin Oakes  
65th Medical Operations Squadron

LAJES FIELD, Azores -- The 65th Medical Group started their 2012 Combined Federal Campaign with a "Pie In Da Face" fundraiser, organized by the Medical Group CFC Committee.

Committee members Capt. Darin Oakes, Staff Sgt. Hakim Conroe, Senior Airman Thomas Taylor and Airman First Class Krista Kollias organized the event in conjunction with a Medical Group picnic. Airman enjoyed an Italian themed potluck and reveled in team building games before wrapping things up with the "Pie In Da Face" finale.

More than 100 people attended and the event raised more than \$1300.00 for the CFC, with the added bonus of securing 100% contact for the Medical Group.

The key instigator for the event was the Medical Group's own Chief Master Sgt. Tracy Lewis. Col. Lorn Heyne, 65th Medical Group commander said of her efforts, "Chief Lewis is all about doing what is right, setting an example for all of us through encouragement, enthusiasm and maybe even a little needling."

"We had a small group of folks led by Capt Oakes with a lot of excitement to raise money for the CFC. The Medical Group is about caring for people and that is why we are supporting with CFC. As to be expected the Medical Group always comes through. We work hard together and play even harder together. You couldn't ask for a better group to be associated with when it comes to fundraisers," said Lewis.



Col. David "Bogey" Parr, 65th Air Base Wing vice commander (left) and Col. Lorn Heyne, 65th Medical Group commander (right) are receiving their pies at the Medical Group picnic Sept. 21. This year the 65th Medical Group kicked off the Combined Federal Campaign season with a "Pie In Da Face" fundraiser. (Courtesy photo)

## Cholesterol Education Month

### TOTAL BLOOD CHOLESTEROL LEVELS:

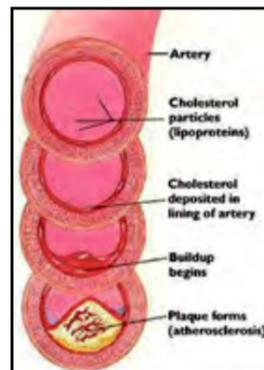
Less than 200 mg/dL> Desirable  
200-239 mg/dL> Borderline High  
240 mg/dL and higher> High

### LDL CHOLESTEROL LEVELS:

Less than 100 mg/dL> Optimal  
100-129 mg/dL> Near Optimal/Above Optimal  
130-159 mg/dL> Borderline High  
160-189 mg/dL> High  
190 mg/dL and higher> Very High

### HDL CHOLESTEROL LEVELS:

Less than 40 mg/dL> Low  
40-59 mg/dL> Normal  
60 mg/dL or higher> High





# Airmen urged to reenlist, extend current enlistments before MilPDS upgrade

By Tech. Sgt. Steve Grever  
Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas -- Air Force officials are urging Regular Air Force Airmen who are eligible to reenlist or extend their current enlistment in December and early Jan. 2013 to complete these personnel actions through the myPers website and their base military personnel sections or force support squadrons by Nov. 15 to avoid processing delays and military pay issues.

Airmen need to accomplish these actions because the Air Force is upgrading and transferring the Military Personnel Data System to the Defense Information Systems Agency's Defense Enterprise Computing Center in December. The upgrade project is scheduled to take about 23 days to complete, during which time, MilPDS will not be available.

MilPDS is the primary records database for personnel data and actions that occur throughout every total force Airman's career. MilPDS is also used to initiate Airman pay actions, maintain Air Force accountability and strength data and support a host of interactions with other Air Force processes and systems that rely on personnel data.

Airmen should access the myPers website and work with their base MPSs or FSSs to minimize the impact the MilPDS upgrade will have on processing military personnel transactions like reenlistments or extending current enlistments.

Reenlistment-eligible Airmen or Airmen with service-directed retainability requirements such as Permanent Change of Station or retraining orders should contact their base MPS and complete their reenlistment or enlistment extension paperwork by Nov. 15.

"Airmen who accomplish their reenlistment or enlistment extension

by Nov. 15 should not experience interruptions in their pay because their MPS can process their actions and clear any rejects in the system prior to the MilPDS upgrade," said Michael McLaughlin, Air Force Personnel Center reenlistments branch chief. "Getting these personnel transactions completed and into the Defense Finance and Accounting Service system are the fastest means to update an Airman's pay and entitlements and will reduce the need for DFAS to manually override or correct an Airman's pay record."

Airmen can reenlist during the upgrade in December, but they may experience additional delays in processing these transactions to DFAS if their date of separation expires during the MilPDS upgrade. The Air Force processes more than 60,000 reenlistments and enlistment extensions annually.

Reserve and Guard members will receive specific instructions from the Air Force Reserve Command and Air Reserve Personnel Center concerning how the MilPDS upgrade will impact their personnel programs. More information is available on the ARPC public website at <http://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123316601>.

FSS and MPS representatives are continuing to host MilPDS upgrade briefings to help base leadership and Airmen understand the upgrade's impact on Airmen and Air Force personnel programs.

Officials will continue to release additional information and guidance to the Air Force's manpower, personnel, services and pay communities and total force Airmen to continue to educate them on how the service will perform critical personnel and pay tasks during the MilPDS upgrade.

For more information about the MilPDS upgrade, visit the myPers website at <http://mypers.af.mil>.

## "Finance Office" from page 1

30 the following calendar year," said Skrypak. "We have to have all of our money spent by that time, so any purchasing and mission requirements must be on the books and accounted for, otherwise, we lose that opportunity. In addition, a new law starts and a new appropriation is given to us, and we start all over."

Many people may believe closeout is just frivolous spending, but, according to Skrypak, that is a common misconception.

"The intent is to spend what Congress has approved and provided," said Skrypak. "They do not expect the money back."

CPTF also handles the fallout money that's used for unfunded requests. This year, they were ahead of the game.

"We scrub our books at the Air Force and major command levels," said Skrypak. "They filter down money that they don't necessarily need to the lower levels, such as the wings, to allow them to execute a little bit more than what they were able to do before. This is where we see the ramp up to spend money on critical things we need. It takes a joint effort, like a strong acquisition community, to acquire these things. It's a joint effort between the contracting and comptroller flights and all the resource advisors around the wing to make this happen."



Capt. Frank Skrypak, 65th Comptroller Flight, commander and Arsénio Romeiro, 65th CPTF, budget analyst, review financial documents during their close-out process, Sept. 26, 2012, Lajes Field. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

This year, Skrypak and his team quickly reached out to each unit before closeout and fallout to get their unfunded requests. Once wing leadership racked and stacked them, they were ready to go in case more money filtered down.

"You have to be ready. You can't be left on the starting blocks when the gun goes off," said Skrypak. "We did a great job liaising with USAFE Financial Management and getting our unfunded requests paid."

Because the base was prepared, they were able to get an additional \$800K from USAFE.

"We were ready, so we received the benefits," said Skrypak. "Command post was able to purchase a new command and control system, the civil engineer squadron got fire fighting equipment, and the operations support squadron was able to purchase crash and recovery equipment."

During the ceremony in which he took command of the 65th CPTS in June 2012, Skrypak left the podium with one mantra that put the finance office into perspective: "No money, no mission."

"If there was no money, we wouldn't be able to fund the things we do at Lajes that make up our mission, such as servicing the aircraft that land here," said Skrypak. "They make their missions happen, and we fund the unit that makes it happen."



(Left) Pilots from a Marine Fighter Attack Squadron, prepare to launch their F/A-18 Hornets. (Right) Maj. Matt Walker, F/A-18 pilot, 314th MFAS, prepares for departure, Sept. 24, 2012, Lajes Field. The Marines stopped at Lajes for refueling and crew rest before heading downrange for combat operations. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

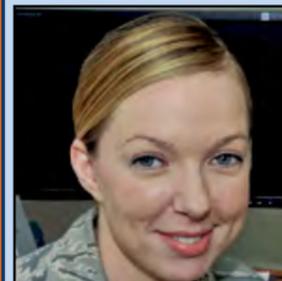


## Winner of Airman Magazine Air Force Photo Contest of the Week



Lajes photographer Lucas Silva, scored one more time winning the Airman Magazine Air Force Photo Contest of the Week with this photo published on last week's Crossroads front page. The Air Force Facebook page got crowded with 2,775 likes and 2,154 comments.

## LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



**Name:** Echo R. Best  
**Rank:** Technical Sergeant  
**Unit:** 65th Force Support Squadron  
**Hometown:** Montana  
**Duty Title:** NCOIC, Career Development

**Accomplishments:** Sergeant Best always showcases service before self, she has dedicated her time to taking care of the "A"irmen. Whether she is going above and beyond to help a customer in need, mentoring the Lajes Airman through FTAC, NCO/SNCO PEC briefings, or just being the Wingman who always ensures her fellow Airman are taken care of; she sets the standard high and embodies the Wingman Concept. Her positive "can do" attitude allows her to take on any challenge and accomplish any task handed to her. Leading the largest section in MPS, her team continuously emulates her professionalism; which is supported by the multiple "kudos" they receive from customers at all levels.



**Name:** Laurie Salafia  
**Rank:** Civilian  
**Unit:** 65th Force Support Squadron  
**Hometown:** Westfield, Massachusetts  
**Duty Title:** School Liaison Officer

**Accomplishments:** Mrs. Salafia has worked in a myriad of positions that promote developmentally appropriate activities and learning methods for children of all ages. She is wholeheartedly dedicated to providing students with enhanced educational opportunities and resources. One of her main focuses is collaborating with other base agencies and squadrons to improve educational opportunities and recruit volunteers for specific needs at Lajes E/H School. The most rewarding part of her job is when she receives verbal thanks and appreciative correspondence from families, students and teachers for helping them transition, recruit volunteers, and integrate programs into the school that increase awareness or benefit students' education.



# Mark your calendar

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

**POW/MIA RUN:** AFSA Chapter 1653 will host a "Flag Run" on Thursday, Oct. 4 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the base track. Units and private organizations are encouraged to sign up for one-hour increments to keep the POW/MIA moving for the entire day. Contact Senior Airman Lucas Thompson at 535-3877 for more information.



**POSTAL VOTING MESSAGE 2012:** The general election occurs this year on Nov. 6. The casted absentee ballots need to be collected and "postmarked" no later than noon on Oct. 30. This date provides the last possible time casted ballots have a "reasonable" expectation of reaching the appropriate voting office before the election. 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.

**TMO PERSONAL PROPERTY CLOSURE:** TMO Personal Property will close every Friday at 12 p.m. for training. Our new hours will be Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. -12 p.m. TMO Passenger Travel Office will be open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**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](http://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.



**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

## Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



**ENGLISH:** I do not speak Portuguese, do you speak English?

**PORTUGUESE:** Eu não falo português. Você fala inglês?

**PRONUNCIATION:** Ew now pha-lo por-ou-geash. Vo-say ph-la engleash?

## BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE



Friday, Sept. 28: 5:30 p.m. Canada das Mercês, Feteira  
 Saturday, Sept. 29: 5:30 p.m. Canada das Mercês, Feteira  
 Sunday, Sept. 30: 5:00 p.m. Rua dos Moinhos, Agualva  
 Monday, Oct. 1: 5:00 p.m. São Carlos  
 Wednesday, Oct. 3: 5:00 p.m. Figueiras do Paim, Praia  
 Thursday, Oct. 4: 5:00 p.m. Figueiras do Paim, Praia  
 Friday, Oct. 5: 5:00 p.m. Figueiras do Paim, 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.

# ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima

Community Relations Advisor



## Meaning of the symbols and color of the Portuguese flag as well as the lyrics of the Portuguese national anthem.



The current Portuguese flag was instituted in June 1911 and replaced the Monarchy flag following the foundation of the Portuguese Republic.

The flag is divided in two main colors, the green and red.

The center of the flag has the national coat of arms with different symbols. The five blue shields in the middle of the flag represent the five Moorish kings who were defeated by Dom Afonso Henriques, the first Portuguese king and father of the Portuguese kingdom in the Ourique battle in 1139. The dots inside each of the blue shield represent the five wounds of Christ.

The seven golden castles on the red border of the big shield represent the fortified locations or castles conquered by Dom Afonso Henriques to the Moors during his reign.

The yellow armillary sphere -- a navigational instrument and symbol of the Portuguese discoveries in the 15th and 16th centuries -- was the personal symbol of King Manuel I and was added to the national flag in 1815.

The green and red colors, which replaced the white and blue in the monarchy flag, stand respectively for hope and the courage and blood shed by the Portuguese who fell in combat.

The following is the English translation of the Portuguese National Anthem's lyrics, also known as "a Portuguesa"(the Portuguese). It was written by Henrique Lopes de Mendonça and features the music of Alfredo Keil. It first played in 1890 and was approved as the national anthem in 1911.

Heroes of the sea, noble people  
 Valiant and immortal nation,  
 Arise today once more  
 The splendor of Portugal.  
 From out the mists of memory,  
 Oh homeland, feel the voices  
 Of your great forefathers  
 That shall lead you on to victory!

*Chorus*  
 To arms, to arms  
 On land and sea!  
 To arms, to arms  
 To fight for our Homeland!  
 Against the guns we march, we march!