

CROSSROADS

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Vol. 18, No. 8 March 1, 2013

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

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

FY 2013



551
SORTIES

5,503
LODGED



3,27 M
gallons
FUEL ISSUED

Popular Numbers

Medical Appointment:

Base: 535-3261
Off base: 295-573-261
Base Alt: 535-1089
Off base Alt: 295-571-089

Emergency:

Base: 911
Off base: 295-571-911

Lajes Against Drunk Driving:

Fri & Sat: 295-57-5233

Sexual Assault Response Coordinator:

24/7: 535-7272
Off base: 966-677-266

Weekend Weather Forecast

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

Mostly Cloudy
Wind SW 14 mph
SSW 23 - 35 mph
HIGH 17C / 62F
LOW 11C / 51F

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

Mostly Cloudy
Wind SSE 35 - 52 mph
WNW 29 - 52 mph
HIGH 17C / 62F
LOW 11C / 52F

Netherlands F-16 departs Lajes



An F-16 pilot from the Netherlands Air Force prepares to depart Lajes Field after a refueling mission Feb 25. They are returning home after participating in a Red Flag exercise at Nellis AFB, Nev. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

Lajes optometrist wins Armed Forces award

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

A Lajes officer was recently awarded the 2012 Armed Forces Optometric Society Junior Officer of the Year.

Maj. Tara Jayne, 65th Medical Operations Squadron optometrist, was surprised with the news when Col. Lorn Heyne, 65th Medical Group commander, and his wife visited her home Feb. 17 with a congratulatory bottle of wine.

"I was ecstatic, of course," she said. "It's nice to be recognized."

Jayne's squadron commander, Lt. Col. Kenny Harryman, said, "I think it is awesome she won the award. She truly deserves it. She is a dedicated professional and Airman; I am honored to know and work with her."

The purpose of the award was to promote the progression of optometry and public health. Jayne's package consisted of ways in which she has helped others throughout the past 10 years within her career.

Jayne began her career as an optometrist on Vandenberg AFB, Calif. There she started a program called Opening Eyes for special needs children participating in the Special Olympics.

"Opening Eyes was a new program that was just starting in the U.S. at the time," Jayne said. "I took that to Santa Maria, Calif., and got together with a local lab. They donated all of their lenses, and I got a frame company to donate their safety specs. We did eye exams in a tent for all the participants in Santa Barbara County. We did eye exams on every kid that was competing and actually made their glasses as they waited."

Everyone who had eye problems with a need for prescription glasses received them. Swimmers received

swim goggles. Basketball players received safety spectacles. Everyone received sunglasses.

"It was great," Jayne said.

Her next assignment was Osan AB, South Korea. There she worked with the local orphanage by providing eye screenings and participating in several other programs with the orphanage.

Hickam AFB, Hawaii, followed after. There she worked with the Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command whose members traveled throughout the world to recover missing Americans from past wars through remains and artifacts recovered from the sites of conflict.

One day the Hawaii State Police visited JPAC with a pair of glasses from a suspicious vehicle, the only item they found while searching for a missing young Japanese girl. Without enough evidence to get a subpoena to investigate the individual who owned the vehicle, they sought the assistance of the JPAC.

"He was driving a truck that had liquid fertilizer," said Jayne. "Apparently, her glasses had fallen under the seat and they couldn't get a DNA match because the chemicals from the truck had killed it all, so they went to JPAC to ask how they would identify someone based on a pair of glasses, and JPAC sent them over to me."

Because the missing girl had a very specific eye disease, Jayne was able to do a match that was much more significant than DNA.

"We were able to match those glasses to her with absolute certainty," Jayne said.

The Hawaii police was then able to get their subpoena, and the man confessed as soon as they arrived at his place.

To see more on "Optometrist" see page 3

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



Why A Little 'Goodness' Goes a Long Way

By Major Dawn Standridge
65th Force Support Squadron

Anyone who's been on this beautiful island any time at all has inevitably heard the term 'Lajes Goodness' or 'LG' if you prefer. This simple phrase has become a mantra, a badge of honor, and a reminder that we are a part of something so much bigger and so much better than any one of us could ever hope to be. And this 'Goodness' isn't just something we talk about; rather it has become a symbol and perhaps a catalyst for the deep-rooted sense of community that drives respect, compassion and cooperation among its members. It's why we lend our cars to each other, why we wave and smile at passersby and why we cook meals and rock babies for our new mothers.

I've spent quite a bit of time over the past two years trying to put my finger on exactly what makes this base and this community so much more united than any other I have seen in my fifteen years of service. The optimist in me thought that if I could identify the key elements that make this place so special, then perhaps I could recreate this environment (or at least some resemblance of it) at future assignments.

After a thorough analysis and careful consideration, I have come to the conclusion that my theory was somewhat flawed. You see, I've decided that much of the 'goodness' we've come to know and love is a product of the uniqueness of this island. Case in point; one of my favorite "Lajes-isms" is the way we welcome our newcomers. From the moment we step off the plane, we know that we are part of a society

that legitimately cared that we arrived. That notion is further strengthened when we are personally escorted to our lodging rooms where we soon discover that our cupboards and refrigerators have been generously stocked with our favorite food and beverages. I think most of us are genuinely touched when we realize that someone invested their time, money and effort for our wellbeing...before they ever even met us. The lasting impact of this simple gesture is immeasurable; yet, I can't help but wonder if we would do the same if there were a 24-hour Wal-Mart outside the gate.

Another important aspect of the 'Goodness' is the unbelievably strong vein of cooperation and care among our community. Last year's Polar Express event was a classic demonstration of our "all-in" culture. One Airman had a vision of giving our children (both American and Azorean) an experience they would

remember for a lifetime. This initiative, however, required tremendous amounts of cooperation from various segments of the community. It was not at all surprising that before long there were more volunteers than opportunities. Some dressed up like characters from the film, some handed out gifts and sang with the children, some built and participated in Polar express-themed displays, while others collected, tagged and strung (donated) Christmas lights along the bus route. This project wasn't an anomaly, rather one of many that succeeded because we are uniquely invested in each other.

We are colleagues, neighbors, friends and family and because our lives are so closely tied together, we support one another...and that's when amazing things happen.



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

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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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Correction

An incorrect annual award winner was published in the Feb. 22 issue of the Crossroads. The Local National Category II of the Year for 2012 is Ricky Baptista, 65th Medical Operations Squadron.

Local National Civilian Cat. II of the Year
Ricky Baptista
65th Medical Operations Squadron





AFN keeps Team Lajes in the fight

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

The American Forces Network is everywhere.

We listen to their radio broadcasts on our drive to work, participate in their daily mid-day shows, watch their commercials from our living rooms, and we even see them broadcasting live at many base events.

And while they seem to be having a lot of fun, they're actually providing vital command information to our Airmen and their families in a unique but effective approach.

"Our mission here at AFN Lajes is to provide command information in a timely manner to 2,500 active duty members, civilians and their families," said Master Sgt. Eric Kerr, AFN Lajes station manager. "We are the giant voice of this base."

Not only does AFN cover command information but they also maintain morale and provide entertainment through their radio and TV programming to a base that is isolated.

"The place AFN works the best is at remote locations, like Lajes" said Kerr. "On average each week, we reach from 2,500 to 8,000 on our Facebook page. That's a reach meaning a friend from a friend saw it and shared it."

AFN covers local information, but they also tell the world that Lajes is in the fight.

"We have several different venues where we send our stories from the United States Air Forces in Europe to Air Force Link, Pentagon Channel, and several web pages that give Lajes access to a worldwide audience," said Kerr.

AFN Lajes has definitely done its part to share the Lajes goodness with the world. They are a three time Thomas Jefferson award-winning broadcasting station.

"The Thomas Jefferson award is the highest military award that a broadcaster can be bestowed upon," said Tech. Sgt. Jason David,

AFN Lajes operations manager. "We're here at little Lajes doing big things, and everybody knows."

AFN is primarily composed of radio and TV broadcasters, but there's one major component that shouldn't go unrecognized -- the cyber transport maintenance team. The cyber transport maintenance team handles all the equipment that AFN uses to perform their daily mission.

"We perform a myriad of technician features," said Master Sgt. Eric Merkison, who is AFN's broadcast maintenance manager. "We are a one stop shop from small computer repair to Commercial Satellite Downlink center. We maintain over \$4.1 million worth of equipment here at Lajes Field. On base we house the only cable-headend system. We have professional camera systems that we maintain to make your picture look great on your television."

This team also troubleshoots, repairs and tests outboard gear such as audio mixers, microphones and amplifiers.

"They receive specialized training before heading to AFN, and they are the subject matter experts on all of our equipment," said Kerr. "We are the operators and we know to operate the camera, but they know the interworkings of the camera, so we always want to bring a maintenance person along with us."

AFN Lajes is not only shaping the future of Lajes, but they have also had a major hand in shaping the island of Terceira.

"We have a guy who has worked with us for over 51 years and he said people used to watch AFN so they could learn English by watching Sesame Street," said Kerr, who also added that Terceira was one of the first islands to have cable and view American TV shows because of AFN. "AFN has been shaping people and have influenced the way that this island has grown up and lived for the past 60 years."

Kerr attributes all of AFN's success to the members of his team. "The experience level and the kind of experience that we have is what makes us successful," he said.

"Optometrist" from page 1

He now sits in jail for murder.

"I was an optometrist sitting there working as a forensic expert for Hawaii police," Jayne said. "It was so random but something that was just awesome -- something that you normally couldn't do."

At Ramstein AB, Germany, Jayne worked two years in optometry and one year in the Exceptional Family Member Program before moving to Lajes Field, Azores, in August 2012.

Here she works along with her technician, Staff Sgt. Peck, in taking care

of all the active duty, family members and retirees on Lajes.

"He's my right hand, so we work really well together," she said. "I don't think people can get awards or get the job done if they don't have a crew that they work well with."

Peck said he was not surprised to hear that Jayne had won at the Armed Forces level award.

"She is, by far, the most proficient optometrist I've worked with, and you can really tell she enjoys helping patients," Peck said.

Jayne has also served on a number of humanitarian missions to the Dominican Republic, Thailand, Philippines and Djibouti.

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK

Name: Dionisio Casas
Rank: Staff Sergeant
Unit: 65th Force Support Squadron
Hometown: Rosamond, Calif.
Duty Title: Unit Training Manager
Accomplishments: Casas works in the Consolidated Unit Training Management office as the unit training manager. He is responsible for managing the upgrade training and on-the-job training program for nine squadrons. He administers career development courses and schedules formal training courses for the entire base. He is also responsible for instructing the Air Force training course and routinely conducts squadron site visits to ensure all training plans comply with AFI standards. Casas is also a selfless volunteer. He recently spent 20 hours assisting the Demand Reduction Program. Additionally, he has been involved with promotion ceremonies, fundraisers and other community volunteer efforts.



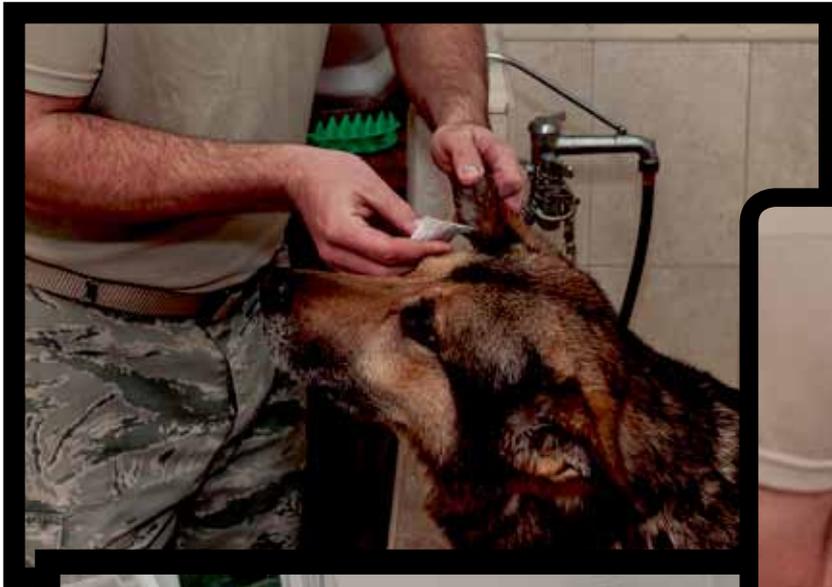
Name: Rosanne Callens
Rank: GS-09
Unit: 65th Force Support Squadron
Hometown: Woodland, Calif.
Duty Title: Community Readiness Consultant
Accomplishments: Callens has been a part of the Air Force team for almost six years. She has worked in a myriad of positions that promote resiliency programs for Airmen. Her passion is finance and she has conducted hundreds of financial briefings to encourage everyone to meet their financial dreams, no matter how large or small. Callens loves "to think outside the box" and use her creativity to help everyone. One of her main focuses include collaborating with other base agencies and squadrons to improve work place communication. She has also conducted Four Lenses Personality assessments, Heart Link classes for new spouses, Bundles for Babies, Pre-separation Counseling and is integral to the success of our #1 in USAFE SOCKS Program.





On the job: Military Working Dogs

Feature



Staff Sgt. Alexander Colon, 65th Security Forces Squadron Military Working Dog handler, ensures the health and welfare of the military working dogs assigned to Lajes Field Feb. 1.

The military working dog teams provide a safe and secure environment for all personnel and families assigned to and transiting through Lajes Field.

The military working dogs are trained to detect narcotics, explosives and personnel when needed. They also provide dignitary support, psychological deterrent and raise overall morale of all personnel they come in contact with.

All dogs and handlers are trained at Lackland AFB, Texas.

(Photos by Lucas Silva)



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

Feature



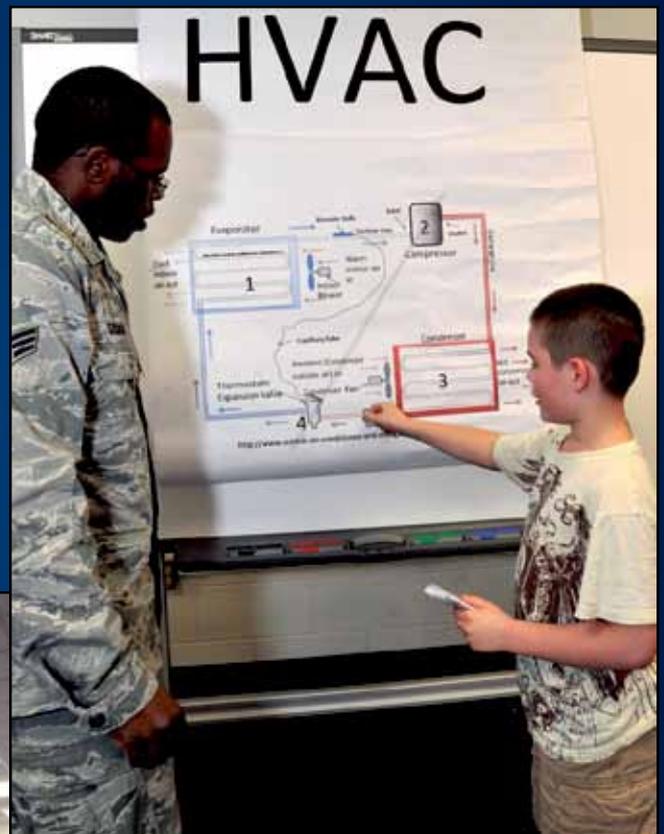
Lt. Col. Teri French, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron commander, and Senior Airman Karen Weber, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron Quality Insurance personnel, watch Lajes Middle School / High School students as they build a tower using marshmallows and spaghetti during Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day Feb. 21. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Staff Sgt. Anna Arbic, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron GeoBase (mapping and surveying section) NCOIC, helps students with a tower building project in which they competed to see who could build the tallest tower using engineering techniques during observation of National Engineers Week Feb. 17 to 23. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Senior Airman Kenneth Gibson, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron heating, ventilation and air conditioning technician, shows fourth and fifth graders equipment he uses for his duties and answers questions about the HVAC profession Feb. 20. The 65th CES brought awareness to the engineering career field with a variety of presentations and demonstrations to Lajes students. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Senior Airman Kenneth Gibson, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron heating, ventilation and air conditioning technician, talks to fifth grade student Ryan Black, about an HVAC diagram Feb. 20. The 65th CES honored National Engineers Week Feb. 17 to 23 by bringing awareness to the engineering career field with a variety of presentations and hands-on demonstrations for Lajes students. (Photo by Guido Melo)



(l-r) Senior Airman Kenneth Gibson and Airman 1st Class Reese Callewaert, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron heating, ventilation and air conditioning technicians, brief fourth and fifth graders about their HVAC profession in honor of National Engineers Week Feb. 20. This year's theme for National Engineers Week is 'Celebrate Awesome' and it was designed to celebrate the positive contributions engineers make to society. (Photo by Guido Melo)

LAJES ON THE WEB



Lajes Field

6-5...
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"Lajes Link" - www.lajes.af.mil

The Air Force Assistance Fund campaign kicks off March 22. Points of contact are Capt. Pedro Colon and Master Sgt. Jennifer Bjorkman.

Got a question? Need detailed information? There's a tab for that!

Lajes Link has 7 newly redesigned tabs that take you directly to information that you need and want. Check them out today!



See the latest Lajes Field videos online! Call Public Affairs at 535-3467 for video support.



Lajes Field, Azores

www.facebook.com/65abw.lajes

Lajes Field is one of the most popular Facebook pages in USAFE, with more than 4,200 fans!

Each day, we're interacting with you, answering your questions, sharing your content and bringing you the latest news and command information from the 65th ABW.

'Like' Lajes Field, Azores for the latest news stories, photos, videos and weather updates!



Lajes Field Photos

www.flickr.com/photos/lajesfield/collections

Looking for photographs from the latest promotion ceremony or Warrior Welcome?

Find us on Flickr to see all of the photos you've been looking for and more!

We're posting event photographs online so that Airmen, civilians and family members can access the photos anywhere.



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



What historical places or monuments can be visited on Terceira Island?

Terceira Island has several historical sites and monuments that can be visited throughout the year.

Starting in the city of Angra, the first town in the Azores to be raised to the status of city in 1534, one can visit the Fortress of St. John the Baptist, one of the most impressive Portuguese fortresses of the 16th century. This military structure is a thick wall approximately 3.7 miles long that surrounds the base of Mount Brazil facing the city. The Spanish built it during their occupation of the island between 1582 and 1640.

On top of Mount Brazil lies a monument with a Portuguese cross. The monument was erected in 1932 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the Azores.

On the other side of the bay is the Fort of São Sebastião. This small fortress was used by the Portuguese and British forces during World War II.

On top of the city's garden lies the "Memória" monument, an obelisk that recalls the presence of Portuguese King Dom Pedro IV on the island. From this place one has a dazzling view of the entire city of Angra.

Other places worth a visit in Angra include the Museum, which

features many old artifacts and military items, the Town Hall, and the Palace of Captain Generals, a former Jesuit monastery that features a collection of ancient furniture and works of art. The main Cathedral and the Churches of Colégio, Misericórdia, and São Francisco are other places worth visiting.

One of the most famous historical places is Salga Bay. This bay located in the village of Porto Judeu was the site of a famous battle on July 25, 1581 between the Spanish who were trying to invade the island and Portuguese forces joined by the local population. According to history records, the Spanish fleet was defeated when a young woman named Brianda Pereira, with the help of the local people, gathered more than 1,000 cattle and drove them against the enemy.

Another historical place worth a visit is the Fort of Santa Catarina located next to the commercial port in Cabo da Praia. This former military structure is the last of several fortresses and walls that defended Praia bay at one time.

In the City of Praia one can find the Main Church with its 15th century Gothic doorway, the Church of Holy Christ as well as the Town Hall.