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Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

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

FY 2013



575
SORTIES

5,956
LODGED



3,51 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 with Winds
Wind NW 40 - 52 mph
NW 29 - 40 mph
HIGH 14C / 57F
LOW 10C / 50F

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

Partly Cloudy
Wind NW 17 - 23 mph
NW 12 mph
HIGH 13C / 55F
LOW 9C / 48F

65 ABW earns Outstanding Unit Award



Maj. Frank Skrypak, 65th Comptroller Flight commander, puts a ribbon on a guidon after an announcement stating the 65th Air Base Wing was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for exceptionally meritorious service from Oct. 1, 2010 to June 15, 2012. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

Library relocation: creating a "community complex" for base customers

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

The base library will be relocated to the Solid Rock Oasis area in the Community Activities Center this March, creating a convenient one-stop "community complex" for Lajes' Airmen and families.

This move is part of an initiative for Services and Morale, Welfare and Recreation areas to continue to better take care of Airmen and families.

"The idea was to consolidate and come up with what we call a 'commons' area," said Jeff Adams, the 65th Force Support Squadron director. "This will be a place where customers can go and interact in a few different facilities, instead of having to drive and park around the base."

The base librarian has moved due to a permanent change of station, and because of budget constraints, a new librarian will not replace him this year.

"With us losing our librarian, this would cause a reduction in library hours and possibly closing it one more day per week," said Adams. "By moving the library, I'll be able to extend the hours of the library

and the CAC and still be open six days a week."

The library's new location will be in the two rooms of the current Airman Ministries Center. The shelving and books will be in the back area, and the front area will have the children's books along with a seating area. This also gives the library the opportunity to purge books that haven't been checked out in over five years.

"The magazines are going into the Café Bean area while the DVD's and video games will go to the front of the CAC," said Adams. "Customers will be able to grab a cup of coffee and read a magazine or check out a book."

Customers can expect new programs with the move as well.

"New library programs across the Air Force include checking out gaming systems such as Playstation 3's and Xbox 360's," said Adams. "This gives us the synergy to move the video games from the library to the CAC so customers can check out the games for free."

One of the many benefits of moving the library to

To see more on "Library" see page 3

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



Time now to get smart on sequestration, furlough

By **Debbie Gildea**
Air Force Personnel Center

Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta notified Congress recently that should sequestration occur, the Department of Defense will initiate furlough for its 800,000-plus civilian employees. Congressional notification is required at least 45 days from a planned furlough, with implementation anticipated for late April, Air Force officials said.

"The potential for sequestration-driven furlough continues to be a sensitive topic of discussion," said Robert Corsi, Air Force Assistant Deputy Chief Staff for Manpower, Personnel and Services. "It has headlined every news product for months, and Air Force leaders at every level are working to determine how to minimize negative impact on people and the mission."

In the event of sequestration, furlough will be implemented across the Department of Defense, with all the services working with the Department to execute furloughs similarly, including how and when employees will be notified (subject to applicable laws, regulations and collective bargaining agreements).

"DOD-wide, installation leaders are discussing furlough impact with union representatives to determine the most effective, least disruptive way to implement furlough, should it become necessary," Corsi said.

If implemented, civilians will be furloughed for no more than 16 hours per pay period. In addition to duty hours and pay impact, furlough will affect employees in other areas, including benefits.

"I encourage all Airmen to study the guidance on furlough and ask questions to be sure you understand how you're affected, or how your employees are affected," Corsi said. "Civilians - especially those relatively new to service - will turn first to their supervisors for explanations and guidance."

To learn more go to the myPers site at <https://mypers.af.mil> and enter "Civilian: Furlough

Home Page" in the search window. For other furlough information, visit the Office of Personnel Management site at www.opm.gov.

Civilian Airmen must also be aware of the impact on leave accrual, benefits and Thrift Savings Plan contributions, particularly if they are planning vacations or nearing retirement, he said.

According to Office of Personnel Management guidance, the accumulation of non-pay status hours can affect the accrual of annual leave and sick leave. For example, when a full-time employee with an 80-hour biweekly tour of duty accumulates a total of 80 hours of non-pay status from the beginning of the leave year (either in one pay period, or over the course of several pay periods), the employee will not earn annual and sick leave in the pay period in which that 80-hour accumulation is reached. If an employee is furloughed for 176 hours (22 days), he or she will lose two pay periods worth of annual leave and sick leave accrual.

"Employees who have extended leave plans need to understand that they will not accrue those hours while on furlough," Corsi said.

In addition, where TSP contributions are based on a percent of pay, employees will see a reduction in TSP contributions. Employees in the Federal Employee Retirement System will also see a reduction in agency automatic contributions and may experience a reduction in employer-matching contributions, depending on employee contribution amounts, Corsi explained.

While leaders at every level work to develop alternatives to sequestration, the possibility of a furlough must be taken seriously and Airmen must be smart about the impact on their lives, the director said.

"If sequestration and furlough are averted, so much the better. In the meantime, I ask every Airmen to actively prepare for the days ahead and review the information already available. I cannot overemphasize the importance of planning for a potential reduction of income," said Corsi.

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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USAFE-AFAFRICA/CC talks sequestration

By **Gen. Philip M. Breedlove**
Commander USAFE-AFAFRICA

Our outstanding team of resource managers have tirelessly planned for the upcoming automatic budget cuts, and we are prepared to implement them if necessary. We will remain responsive to the needs of our combatant commanders and we will meet all emerging requirements with the same poise and professionalism you routinely exhibit.

Nevertheless, it won't be easy. Across the command, we are looking at deferring training opportunities and much needed maintenance on everything from our aircraft to our buildings. Our biggest challenge will be paying the bills generated from current and potential future operations on the two continents we support.

I want to be clear we are continuing, and not just beginning the critical task of shrewdly stewarding the resources we do have. Our nation faces a grave threat in its growing national deficit, and USAFE-AFAFRICA is doing its part to help reduce this threat. We've curtailed the amount of travel we do to accomplish the mission and developed more efficient ways to provide base services.

Through all of this effort, my priorities remain the same: our mission, our Airmen, and our families. USAFE-AFAFRICA Airmen have always been the key to delivering responsive, decisive airpower, and I am confident you will continue to meet new challenges, accomplish the mission and ensure the security of our great Nation.



Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

By Tech. Sgt. Candice Compton
65th Air Base Wing Equal Opportunity

Throughout the Department of Defense, the month of March is set apart to recognize and celebrate the achievements of women in the United States.

It began in 1981 when Congress passed a joint resolution proclaiming a Women's History Week. In 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand the national celebration from a week to an entire month. Since then, the National Women's History Month Resolution has been approved with bipartisan support in both the House and Senate.

The 2013 theme focuses on celebrating women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) professions. While there have been many significant contributions by women in these fields, such as Stephanie Kwolek who invented Kevlar and Sally Ride who was the first woman in space. There is still a great need to expand in this area.

Despite the fact that women hold professions that make up approximately half of the job market, they are filling less than 25 percent of the positions in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The Lajes Women's History Month Committee has several events planned this month to not only educate and commemorate the accomplishments of women, but also to inspire and motivate Airmen to be innovative and imaginative in all that they do.

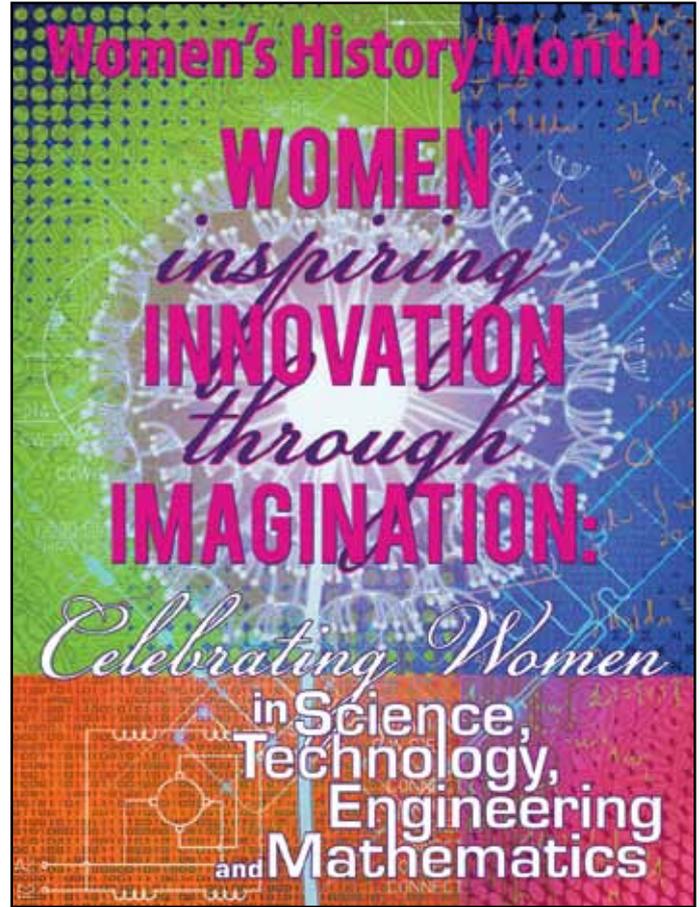
"This month is to reflect on the contributions women have made in technology throughout the years and how we can better prepare the future generations to carry on this legacy and make their own history," said Capt. Cami Mercado, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron and project officer of Women's History Month activities.

The following events will be held throughout the month of March.

Book displays related to Women's history Month will be available at the base library.

Students in grade levels 6-12 were asked to participate in an essay contest. Contestants were asked to submit an essay on "A woman who inspires them". Winners from each category will receive a gift card and all participants will receive a certificate.

March 28: Women's History Month luncheon, 11:30 a.m. at the TORC, featuring 65th CES commander, Lt. Col. Teri French. Tickets are \$13 and can be purchased through your squadron representatives.



March 30: Open Mic/Poetry Night, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Café Bean. Come express yourself through poetry, song, quotes, or musical performance about a woman that has inspired you, motivated you, or influenced you in any way.

"Library" from page 1

the CAC is the open ballroom space to hold events.

"The library tends to get crowded with programs such as the Dr. Seuss reading program and even the video game contests," said Adams. "We can hold these events in the ballroom and they're still considered library programs. This is very beneficial to the community."

Airmen, single and unaccompanied members who reside in the dormitories look forward to the new library location.

"I've been here for around nine to 10 months and would use the library a lot for the Internet," said Airmen 1st Class Malcolm Belton, a Public Health technician with the 65th Medical Operations Squadron. "If the Internet went out, I'd check out books or the latest magazines to keep up with the news."

Belton is the vice president for the dormitory council as well as the spokesperson for the single unaccompanied members group.

"Instead of walking all the way up and down the huge hill, you can walk across the street and it's right there," said Belton. "This is convenient for people who are going back to school or taking advantage of the College Level Examination Program – CLEP tests."

Other opportunities can emerge for our dorm residents as well.

"This gives the Airmen a chance to get out of the dorms and meet more people and provides convenient ways to volunteer, like reading to the kids," said Belton. "It's right there! Distance-wise, time-wise, it's efficient!"

A common misconception is that the Solid Rock Oasis Airmen

Ministries is going away.

"Last fall, before the idea to move the library, the chapel changed the focus of the SRO Airmen Ministries. Our new vision is 'The SRO is a concept, not a location,'" said Chaplain (Maj.) Jeff Granger, 65th Air Base Wing Chaplain. "The mission of the SRO Airmen Ministries does not change. We'll continue to host events for Airmen, and we'll move the weekly lunches to the fellowship hall in the chapel."

"We partner with the Solid Rock Oasis and host free lunches, dinners, retreats and trips," said Belton. Within the dorm council, we'll let the residents know that even though the library is moving in, the programs that we usually participate in will continue and the kitchen space in the area can still be utilized by us."

Customers that were used to having the library right at the gate entrance have a little more walking to do, but in the end, they'll benefit greatly from it.

"In theory, you'll have the fitness center, post office, shoppette, Arts & Crafts, Subway and Café Bean all in that little community area," said Adams. "With the extended operating hours, this move will ultimately benefit the customers."

The move will start mid-March in three phases. First the reference books will be moved to the education center followed by the magazines to Café Bean. During the third phase, the books and shelving will be moved to the CAC starting with the children's books.

Estimated completion for the move will be April 1. For more information, contact the 65th FSS/Director or 'Ask Paulette' on www.lajefss.com.



On the job: Dental Clinic

Feature



In honor of National Children's Dental Health Month in February, Dental Clinic professionals educated students on how to properly care for their teeth.

Among the various events that the Lajes Dental Clinic provided in support of the campaign was a comical dental skit performance for children at the Youth Center Feb. 27. The skit aimed to teach children the importance of brushing and flossing as well as the effects of poor oral hygiene.

The 65th Medical Operations Squadron Dental Clinic works diligently to establish and maintain healthy teeth and gums for its patients by providing education and preventative dental services.

(Photos by Lucas Silva)





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

Feature



Middle and High School students at Lajes Field Department of Defense Dependents School participated in a science fair at the community activity center March 1. Science fairs encourage students to utilize basic scientific processes and principles as they develop a topic, complete research and conduct an experiment or inquiry. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)



Franklin Johnson, a junior at DoDDs, shows off his magnetic machine during the school science fair at the community activity center March 1. Science fairs offer an opportunity for students to apply the scientific method and conduct research on a topic they choose. They display their research and compete against their peers for the best scientific presentation and proper use of the scientific method. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)



Joshua Case, a junior at DoDDs, shows off his 'Mobile Ez' machine during the science fair at the community activity center March 1. Case designed and created this piece of equipment to help people with limited mobility, such as wounded veterans, move around. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)



Michael Watson, a freshman at DoDDs, ensures his display is ready before his interview with the judges during the science fair at the community activity center March 1. The students conducted scientific research and experiments and presented their conclusions during the science fair. Various experts in the medical, scientific and engineering career fields judged their projects. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)

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.



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- 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



Historical facts about the São João Batista Fortress



São João Batista Fortress, one of the most important European fortifications of the 16th and 17th conquest centuries, was constructed in the wake of the occupation of Terceira Island in 1583 by the troops of Philip II of Spain.

In 1580, King Phillip II of Spain had forcibly occupied the Portuguese throne following the defeat of Portuguese King Dom Sebastião and his troops by the Moors and Turks in North Africa two years earlier. Portugal was then to be governed by the Spanish monarchs under a principle of dual monarchy.

The construction of the fortress, located at the base of Mount Brazil in Angra do Heroísmo with its thick walls partially surrounding the mount, started in 1592. It was initially called San Philippe Del Monte Brazil, and later renamed São João Batista. It's still the biggest fortress in Europe being used by the military.

The Spanish choice to build a fortress on Terceira Island fell on

Mount Brazil because it dominated the whole city, while at the same time protected the entrance to the bays on both sides of Mount Brazil against the attacks of pirates and other enemy ships.

There are no exact records of how long the construction lasted, but it is estimated that the main wall was completed in 1620. The fortress was the biggest military installation of its kind at the time and was part of Spain's defensive structure and considered the stronghold of its defensive system against other European powers.

The church inside the fortress was built in 1643 and was the first public building to be built after the Portuguese people restored their independence in 1640. The Spanish occupants were under siege by the Portuguese forces inside the fortress until March 6, 1642. When they left the fortress they were honored for their brave conduct during the siege.

The fortress is currently being occupied by the Portuguese Army's Regiment of Garrison No. 1. It's the oldest home of operational troops in Portugal, with more than 400 years of uninterrupted military presence. The church and other parts of the wall inside the Garrison can be visited during normal hours of operation, Monday thru Friday. Visitors just need to go to the front guard shack and ask permission to visit this historical structure.