

CROSSROADS

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Vol. 18, No. 12 March 29, 2013

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

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

FY 2013



671
SORTIES

6,886
LODGED



3,87 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 / Cloudy
Wind SW 17 - 29 mph
SW 17 - 29 mph
HIGH 19C / 66F
LOW 14C / 57F

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

Mostly Cloudy / Partly Cloudy
Wind NW 23 - 35 mph
NW 23 - 35
mph
HIGH 17C / 63F

AFAF kicks off at Lajes Field



Tech Sgt. Dustin Guiducci, 65th Operations Support Squadron, air traffic controller, tries to escape Tech Sgt. Bethany West, 65th Contracting Flight, during the Air Force Assistance Fund kickoff event Mar. 22, 2013, Lajes Field. Lajes kicked off the AFAF campaign with a Zombie Run which raised a total \$1,183 towards the Air Force Enlisted Village, the Air Force Village, the Lemay Foundation, and the most widely recognized, the Air Force Aid Society. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

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

Lajes Field began the 2013 Air Force Assistance Fund with a base-wide Zombie Run on Mar. 22.

The kickoff raised a total of \$1,183 and the AFAF Installation Project officers Capt. Pedro Colon and Master Sgt. Jennifer Bjorkman are confident the Lajes community will keep on giving.

"I believe that Lajes as a whole is wonderful at giving to all those that need it," said Bjorkman, 65th Comptroller Flight non-appropriated funds financial analyst. "We have a fantastic group of people assigned here and I do believe that our competitive natures will help us to exceed our goals."

Just like last year, this year's goal is to raise \$12,000. However, true to the Lajes way, that goal was completely surpassed.

Lajes was able to donate \$48,700 to AFAF in 2012 and they are hoping the numbers will be just as high this year.

"I think there's something special about this island," said Capt. Colon, 65th Medical Support Squadron Pharmacy Flight commander. "Our generosity is always so high and it's interesting because we're a short tour remote and yet we continue to pull off these big numbers."

The AFAF's mission is to raise money for the Air Force Enlisted Village, the Air Force Village, the Lemay Foundation, and the most widely recognized, the Air Force Aid Society. All of these charities focus on taking care of the Air Force family, to include active duty, retirees, reservists, guard and their dependents, as well as surviving spouses.

"This campaign is important because it's about us, supporting us," said Bjorkman. "They provide grants and loans to members to get home on emergency leave or get groceries and pay bills when they have sudden expenses. They provide bundles to new babies, retirement homes to help the widows and retired veterans, and many other services."

Units at Lajes Field are ensuring that Lajes members have many opportunities to contribute to the AFAF through numerous unique events, said Capt. Colon.

"We have a few fundraisers in the works," said Capt. Colon. "AFN is holding a radio-a-thon from April first through the fifth, and we have a dodgeball tournament lined up, as well as a pie in the face, car smash and a bowling tournament."

Furthermore, 100% of the proceeds go towards AFAF.

"The great thing about the AFAF is that all the

To see more on "AFAF kickoff" see page 3

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



'Background' noise at Lajes still important business

By Capt. Robert K. Hughes
65 Logistics Readiness Squadron

Considering the projected changes at Lajes Field due to the transition and budget limitations, it's natural for anyone to wonder, "why am I assigned here". From there, it is a short leap to understanding why Lajes Field is here and the many uses of Lajes' airfield that make maintaining an American presence on the island so critical. As most of you remember from your "Right Start" briefing, or have noticed from the large fighter movements that roar through town, the mid-Atlantic gas station is the prominent military use of Lajes Field. So what else is happening in the background when we are not serving as host to the U.S. and partner military missions? What exactly is happening with the non-USAF aircraft that, while still low in volume, generate most of the background airport noise at Lajes Field?



First, moving iron to the fight and serving as a gas station for ourselves and our NATO allies is our primary military function. Although military flights and fighter movements are largely dictated by operational need, making them sometimes infrequent, the airfield is important to other operations as well. In addition, aside from serving as a military base, Lajes Field's role as a commercial airport is yet another reason why the airfield is so crucial. The island of Terceira relies on this airfield for travel between islands, medical evacuations and search and rescue when ships are lost at sea. The impact to the local community of "routine operations" is immeasurable and with both PoAF and USAF support to the civilian airport, the airfield continues to function and serve many different purposes.

So what are "routine operations" at Lajes Field? The amount of scrambling life-and-death activities that happen in the background on a daily or weekly basis might surprise those who are not directly involved.

For instance, in mid-March on a routine Friday afternoon while most of the base was finishing a long week hundreds of lives hung in the balance over the Atlantic Ocean. A commercial flight from Germany heading to the U.S. declared an emergency 150 miles out from Lajes Field. The pilot reported smoke in

the cockpit and determined that he needed to land as soon as possible. It was joint USAF and PoAF Air Traffic Control that guided the pilot in and talked him to the ground, even while he began to have difficulty seeing through the smoke on the flight deck. It was the USAF Fire Department and PoAF flight safety officer that responded to the incident and ensured the aircraft stopped and evaluated for safety. More than 200 passengers deplaned safely and spent the night until a second aircraft arrived to take them on their way. All of this happened quietly in the background of a windy Lajes Friday, but is it a rare occurrence?

At least twice monthly since October, an aircraft has diverted into Lajes due to medical issues, aircraft malfunctions, or both. Commercial flights have landed with a single engine, flight control problems, security-related matters and with patients in critical condition whose lives would have been lost if they'd attempted to complete their journey. With all of these emergencies Portuguese medics, Air Force Fire Rescue, Crash Recovery, Airfield Management and Transient Alert are on scene to provide assistance and minimize delays for passengers. In addition, Portuguese Medic and Rescue flights, supported by Navigational Aids maintained by the 65th Communications Squadron and controllers from the 65th Operations Support Squadron have scrambled on more than 20 missions in FY13. These flights recover patients from the other islands and locate vessels or personnel missing at sea providing a critical safety net for all of the Azores. Overall the emergency response efforts that Lajes provides to trans-Atlantic and local flights have impacted more than 1,100 lives since last October.



Lajes Field's support to USAF, NATO and other military missions is and should be our primary focus, and the first answer to why we are here because that is what places us "in the fight." In the background of performing that mission, we must remember that Lajes airfield continues to provide a vital service to both the local Azorean community and everyone who boards a flight traveling across the North Atlantic.

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.



Col. Chris Bargery

Your chain of command should always be your first option — but when that's not the answer, call or e-mail the Commander's Action Line at 535-4240 or 65abw.actionline@lajes.af.mil.

Col. Chris Bargery
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



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

The Public Affairs Office (Unit 7710, APO, AE 09720) is located in Bldg. T-100, Room 240.

Submissions can be e-mailed to 65abw.pa@lajes.af.mil or faxed to 535-6326 and are due the Thursday prior to the required publication date. Call 535-6161 for more details.

This Air Force funded newspaper is an authorized weekly publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas.

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AFAF kicks off at Lajes Field

Feature

Master Sgt. Diane Strohm, 65th Medical Operations Support Squadron, functional manager, applies make-up to Tech. Sgt. Bethany West, 65th Contracting Flight, contracting officer, for the Air Force Assistance Fund kickoff event, Mar. 22, 2013, Lajes Field. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Members of the 65th Air Base Wing and associate units participate in a Zombie Run to kick off this year's Air Force Assistance Fund campaign, Mar. 22, 2013, Lajes Field. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



Members of the 65th Medical Group, traverse the football field with wooden shoes as a team during the Air Force Assistance Fund kickoff event, Mar. 22, 2013, Lajes Field. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Michael Peters, 65th Air Base Wing, protocol, played the role of a zombie during the Air Force Assistance Fund kickoff event, Mar. 22, 2013, Lajes Field. (Photo by Guido Melo)

"AFAF kickoff" from page 1

money goes back to the Air Force and it stays in house," said Capt. Colon. "The motto for the AFAF is 'for the Airmen, by the Airmen,' and so that's the goal, to take care of our Airmen."

And that's exactly why Staff Sgt. Alexander Colon, 65th Security Forces Squadron military working dog handler, plays a role in AFAF every year - because in 2001, when he first joined the Air Force, AFAF took care of him.

"When I was a young Airmen stationed in England, several Airmen, including myself, didn't get paid for two months," said Colon, who said

there was a glitch in the finance system. "Since we were cops and didn't use meal cards, AFAF gave us each \$400 to get groceries."

Colon said that it was such great help and that since then; he always donates to the AFAF and motivates others to donate to the AFAF.

"Not many people know about the AFAF. They can help from small things like a finance glitch to travel expenses to attend a funeral of a family member," said Colon, who is the SFS project officer.

"Even if you just donate \$1; that can help an Airman one thousand miles away in any situation that may arise."

To contribute to this year's Air Force Assistance Fund, contact your unit's project officer.



On the job: LRS Vehicle Ops/Maintenance *Feature*



(Above) Marco Brasil and Fernando Sousa, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, vehicle mechanics, perform daily maintenance checks on their vehicle fleet at Lajes Field, Azores, Mar. 18, 2013. The vehicle maintenance section performs routine maintenance and inspections on 123 vehicles per month.

(Middle left) Helio Ávila, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle operator, checks the radiator before driving the bus to the airfield. The vehicle operators and dispatchers are responsible for 338 government operated vehicles on base.

(Middle right) Eduardo Ponto Graça, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, vehicle mechanic, checks the tire pressure before signing the vehicle out to a customer. The vehicle maintenance section performs routine maintenance and inspections on 123 vehicles per month.

(Below) Jose Pereira, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron, motor vehicle dispatcher, organizes the government operated vehicle inspection forms prior to customer pick-up.

(Photos by Guido Melo)



2013 Community Assessment Survey coming to Lajes soon

By 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Lajes Field active duty members and appropriated-fund civilian employees will be invited to complete the survey by an email invitation. Of note, spouses will be mailed postcards inviting them to complete the survey. However, all participants will complete the survey online.

The Air Force will launch the eleventh rendition of the Community Assessment (CA) Survey themed, "A Strong Community Depends on You" March 31. The Lajes Field Integrated Delivery System (IDS) team is sponsoring the survey here. The team's goal in administering the survey is to provide data on community wellness, strengths and risks that have direct impact on mission readiness. For the first time, the CA Survey will be administered to the Total Force: Active Duty members and their spouses, Reservists and their spouses, civilian employees, and for the first time, Air National Guardsmen and their spouses.

The survey will be completely anonymous -- neither the Air Force, the government, the contractor (IPSIS) can link any aspect of the members' responses to personal identifiable information.

The results will be used by base leadership and the Air Force to target resources where they are most needed, to improve the delivery of community services and to enhance the well-being of our members. Past survey findings have resulted in providing additional services and programs to benefit both service members and families.



Completing the survey only takes about 30 minutes.

"The Lajes community is uncommonly resilient, diverse, and talented and we know more than many what our Air Force needs," said Col. Chris Bargery, 65th Air Base Wing commander. "Being uniquely qualified, it's our duty to participate. Please participate in the survey!"

The 10-week CA Survey period will be from March 31 through May 31, with results released back to the Lajes Field IDS in October 2013.

"I want everyone to know that we're listening, so please speak up," said Ms. Cynthia Burney, 65th Air Base Wing Community Support Coordinator. "Colonel Bargery is confident our IDS team will evaluate the survey results and identify where resources are needed most to enhance the well-being of the Lajes community to keep it strong."

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact, Ms Cynthia Burney, Community Support Coordinator (Installation Resilience Specialist) @ DSN 535-3585.

Daylight Savings Time starts March 31 Set your clocks ahead 1 hour Sat. March 30

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK

Name: Maria Cavaco
Rank: LGS-09
Unit: 65th Operations Support Squadron
Hometown: São Bras, Terceira
Duty Title: Weather Forecaster
Accomplishments: Sra. Cavaco is an operational weather forecaster for the 65th OSS Weather Flight. She is an expert at dissecting global weather models, scrutinizing weather instrumentation and applying atmospheric dynamics for accurate and comprehensible weather forecast products. She has been instrumental in forecasting for the safe movement of 120+ NATO Aircraft across North America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East. She was also key in accurately forecasting winds exceeding 79 mph and near record rainfall totaling 8 inches so far in the month of March. Her vigilance, accuracy, and dedication to duty help keep the Wing informed as well as our people and equipment safe.



Name: Joseph Haar
Rank: Technical Sergeant
Unit: 65th Operations Support Squadron
Hometown: Aberdeen, S. D.
Duty Title: Air Traffic Control Watch Supervisor
Accomplishments: TSgt Haar provides exceptional supervision in the joint Air Traffic Control environment which services DoD, Portuguese Air Force, commercial carriers, third-nation military, and oceanic search and rescue missions daily. He also serves as the 65 OSS Booster Club President. He has coordinated food and supplies to feed incoming aircrew members during Trans-Atlantic Coronet missions, as well as numerous squadron morale boosting activities and fundraisers. Additionally, TSgt Haar volunteered over 15 hours with the PTO assisting school employees during Terra Nova testing.

LAJES ON THE WEB



Lajes Field

6-5...
in the FIGHT!

"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



Holy Ghost Festival Explained. Part I



Every year, the Azoreans, especially the inhabitants of Terceira, celebrate the Holy Ghost Festival. This religious celebration begins Easter Sunday and runs for eight weeks until Pentecost and Trinity Sunday.

This ancient religious tradition began on mainland Portugal around 1296 by initiative of Portuguese Queen Isabel. She founded the first Holy Ghost brotherhood whose intent was to honor the poorest man in the kingdom. According to the tradition, every year the poorest man in the kingdom

was placed on the king's throne and crowned "emperor" for one day during a religious ceremony held in his honor in the royal church.

Following the crowning ceremony, a royal procession took the crowned man from the church to the royal palace where a banquet was then offered in his honor. Considered an act of humbleness, the tradition was first introduced in the Azores through the first settlers around 1432 and practiced through subsequent generations.

Though the tradition has disappeared on the mainland Portugal, it is still actively celebrated in the Azores, as well as in Azorean communities in the United States (California, New England States, Hawaii), Canada and Brazil.

Although royalty and noblemen originally celebrated this religious event, over time, the common people adopted it and silver crowns replaced the royal crown. Traditionally, during natural catastrophes like volcano eruptions and earthquakes, or when someone is seriously ill, the Azorean people carry the Holy Ghost crowns to the churches and pray for the Holy Ghost to save them.

If their prayers are answered, they host a week-long festival to honor the Holy Ghost.