



## Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha  
Threat Level: Low

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

 **422  
SORTIES**

**7,329  
LODGED** 

**2,2 M  
gallons  
FUEL ISSUED** 

In a real-world emergency, call the Public Affairs Straight Talk Line, 535-3542.

Don't drink and drive; call LADD: 295 57 LADD

### Medical Appointment:

Base: 535-3261

Off base: 295-573-261

### Emergency:

Base: 911

Off base: 295-571-911

### Weekend

#### Weather Forecast (Lajes Weather Flight)

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

Mostly Cloudy / Partly Cloudy

Wind E 10 mph

S 10 mph

High 14C / 57F

Low 14C / 57F

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

Mostly Cloudy / Partly Cloudy

Wind E 10 mph

S 10 mph

High 15C / 59F

Low 14C / 57F

## OSI -- in the fight

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

Agents of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations are very small in number, but their impacts are tremendous.

Most people rarely hear about these Air Force members or see them in the news, but they're always around... investigating threats and providing protection so the Air Force mission can be done.

The AFOSI team here on Lajes is tasked with providing the 65th Air Base Wing and transiting U.S. military and allied forces with superior counter-threat and felony level investigative services throughout Portugal, Madeira and the Azorean Archipelago.

If Airmen on Lajes have ever considered joining this elite team, Special Agent Jeff Goodson of Detachment 516, has shed some light on this very challenging yet rewarding career field.

"While the AFOSI career might not be for all, for those taking up the challenge it can be profoundly life-changing," he said. "Personally, I can think of no calling more rewarding than that of an AFOSI special agent."

In his 24 years of military service, Goodson has directly impacted the safety and security of hundreds, possibly thousands, of people.

"Events and actions that I have been personally involved with guaranteed that those being harmed were no longer in danger and no longer forced to live in fear," he said. "I've also had to disprove wrongful allegations, which have saved many lives and careers."

The general mission of AFOSI is to identify, exploit and neutralize criminal, terrorist and intelligence threats to the U.S. Air Force, Department of Defense and U.S. government.

Airmen are reminded that complacency in personal safety and security are prime threats for which everyone should remain on guard.

"As with any other area overseas, Lajes personnel should enjoy what their location has to offer in terms of tourism and entertainment," Goodson said. "While traveling in the area of responsibility, Airmen should maintain situational awareness and be cognizant of the fact that we live in a world where not everyone is our 'friend.' Be smart and be safe.

"The vast majority of AFOSI's investigative activities pertain to felony crimes, including murder, robbery, rape, assault, major burglaries, drug use, drug trafficking, sex

offenses, arson, compromise of Air Force test materials, black market activities and other criminal activities," Goodson said. "Besides being inquisitive and able to interact with a variety of different personality types, agents must be able to take initiative and be detached enough to handle the possible shock in criminal investigations."

Those considering becoming AFOSI agents, should also be aware of the challenging and long, extensive training they must go through once approved for retraining.

"AFOSI retraining standards are high and it is tough to 'make the cut,'" Goodson said.

Agent candidates attend training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Ga. They complete both an 11-week Criminal Investigator Training Program and seven-week AFOSI-specific course. Both courses offer training in weapons use, forensics, surveillance and surveillance detection, antiterrorism techniques, crime scene processing and interrogations. After these courses and successful completion of a one-year probationary period, some agents receive specialist training in economic crime, antiterrorism

service, counterintelligence, computer crimes and other sophisticated criminal electronic, photographic and other technical surveillance countermeasures.

The AFOSI has been the Air Force's major investigative service since Aug. 1, 1948, and reports to the Inspector General, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force.

AFOSI has eight field investigations regions, seven of which are aligned with Air Force major commands. AFOSI Region 5 supports U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

While the various field regions support the investigative needs of their aligned major commands, all AFOSI units and personnel remain independent of those commands, and their chains of command flow directly to AFOSI headquarters. This organizational independence ensures unbiased investigations throughout the Air Force.

AFOSI special agents are assigned here at Lajes Field from 15 to 24 months and are very much deployable as well.

"At any given time, there are approximately 200 AFOSI personnel deployed at more than a dozen locations," Goodson said. "In the past year, more than 950 combat support missions have been conducted by AFOSI in Afghanistan and Iraq."

To read more on "OSI" see page 4

## Meet Master Sgt. Kurt Megela, Superintendent, 65 ABW/IG

### What motivated you to join the AF?

Patriotism first and foremost. I also needed to get my life moving in another direction 21 years ago. My father served in the Air Force as a dentist during Vietnam. I've never regretted joining and it's going to be difficult to one day hang this uniform up.

### What was your previous assignment?

Training Squadron Three, Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Fla., 2005 – 2011. I was the Supt., Air Force Liaison Office-Joint Undergraduate Pilot Training, and responsible for all administrative and personnel actions for over 30 instructor pilots and 100 Air Force student pilots annually.

### What's your hometown?

Murrysville, Pa.

### What's an aspect about the IG that people should know?

We are impartial, and we take neither side. The IG just looks at each case on its own merits. The IG is the "eyes and ears of the commander"—we keep leadership informed on the morale of the wing.

### Could you list some career highlights?

In my 21+ years in the Air Force, prior to arriving here, I have only been stationed at one Air Force Base. All my other assignments have been joint or NATO assignments. It's nice to walk around and see everyone wearing the Air Force uniform. I also spent 7+ years working at the National Security Agency, which was very interesting.

### How does Lajes differ from other bases you've been assigned?

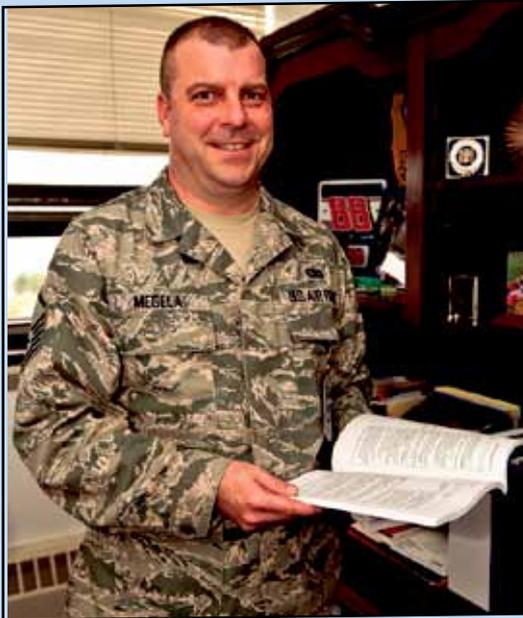
At no other assignment have I felt as welcomed, and been given complete support from leadership to help me succeed. After two months on the island, I'm a believer in "Lajes goodness."

### What's one piece of advice you could give to young Airmen?

Get your associate and bachelor degrees; take advantage of the educational opportunities afforded to you. Don't be on the 21-year plan like myself.

### Are there any particular quotes you live by?

"Don't take life too seriously. You'll never escape it alive anyway." - Elbert Hubbard  
 "In three words, I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on." - Robert Frost



### 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. Jose Rivera

Col. Jose Rivera  
 Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



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

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## Not feeling well?

By Capt. Jason Parkinson, RN  
 65th Medical Operations Squadron

With the cold season in full swing, many people are confused on when and if they should see their primary care provider. A "common cold" refers to a mild upper respiratory viral illness that can involve sneezing, nasal congestion and discharge, sore throat, cough, low grade fever, headache and feeling worn down and tired for about 5 to 10 days. For the majority of these symptoms, the only treatment is time. Most colds don't require a clinic visit and will resolve on their own. A main concern for the cold season is to prevent the transmission of these viruses to others. The primary means

of spreading a cold is through hand-to-hand contact or from objects that have been touched by someone with a cold. By following simple methods, such as washing your hands after coughing and sneezing or staying home while you're having these symptoms, the chances of transmitting the virus will be lowered.

What options are available to you if you're unfortunate enough to catch a cold? For a typical cold, the only option is to treat the symptoms, since antibiotics do not cure colds. The Base Exchange, Commissary and Shoppette offer a wide variety of over-the-counter medications that will lessen the

To read more on "feeling" see page 3



# The Lajes weapons system

Feature

By Capt. Levi Davis  
65th Civil Engineer Squadron

It's indisputable the major weapons system here at Lajes is the runway. With its large size, it's a visual symbol of the base. A lot of time and effort from different organizations goes into ensuring it's ready and equipped for us to execute the mission. Several recently completed and ongoing construction projects have provided needed upgrades to our airfield infrastructure.

The last major repair the Lajes Field runway received was in 1987. Due to the poor condition of the surface, major work was required to prevent pavement failure. In May 2009, the Portuguese Minister of Defense approved a runway cost-share agreement project, making this the first ever cost-share project between Portugal and the U.S. The \$7.1 million repair was awarded locally to Tecnovia

Açores and was divided into four construction phases. Construction of the first phase started in September, 2010, with all phases being completed one year later. A total of 3.5 million square feet of asphalt was used to repave the runway surface; this project has increased the life of the runway by 20 years.

In addition to the repair project, two other major projects were awarded to a local Portuguese contractor, and are currently ongoing.

One project is replacing the airfield flood lights, while the other is working to improve the airfield drainage system. The flood lights project supplies more adequate illumination to the airfield parking aprons, increasing safety and security while improving energy efficiency and maintainability. The drainage project will reduce open channel storm water as well as improve the general slope of the ground

in the area along the airfield. Approximately 3,500 meters of a newly buried storm sewer is being installed with grate inlets, including backfilling, grading, and hydro seeding to eliminate critical areas of ponding (where water gathers in a large depression in the ground, creating a 'pond'), which in the past has created potential hazards to aircraft by attracting birds.

The completion of these landmark projects has been the result of a 65th Air Base Wing team effort, involving coordination between key leaders, the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, the 65th

Contracting Squadron, and the 65th Operations Support Squadron. The Lajes runway is 300 feet wide and more than two miles long, allowing it to accept any airframe in the world, to include the space shuttle. With the partnership of the 65th ABW, the Portuguese government, and local contractors, these recent improvements to the runway should provide aircraft of all types the opportunity to keep visiting Lajes Field for another 20 years.



The DC-8 weekly rotator plane from the American Transport International Air Company, McGuire AFB, stops at Lajes Field, Feb. 12, 2012, on its way to Baltimore, Md. The rotator average of 1,600 passengers per year, and can carry up to 10 pallets of cargo per flight. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

## "feeling" from page 2

symptoms. Increasing your fluid intake is essential during this time because most medications that treat congestion do so by drying out the mucus. However, if symptoms become severe or you develop chills, profuse sweating, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, or a high fever (greater than 100.4 deg. for children under 3 months old, and greater than 102 deg. for adults and children over 3 months old), you should contact the medical clinic to schedule an appointment or contact the physician on-call for concerns after duty hours or on weekends.

What if your only symptom is a sore throat? Sore throats are very common and they are usually caused by a virus. Most sore throats resolve on their own without any complications. Only about 10 percent of adults and 30 percent of children with a sore throat have "strep throat". Strep throat is caused by bacteria and has other symptoms associated with it, such as fever (greater than 100.4 deg.), enlarged lymph glands in the neck and white patches on the sides or back of the throat. There is usually no cough or runny nose associated with strep throat, and is diagnosed with a throat culture. If your only symptom is a sore throat, the Family Health Clinic now offers a walk-in Sore Throat Clinic for beneficiaries between the ages of 13 and 65 years old. The Sore Throat Clinic will be available Monday through Friday between 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. (excluding the second Tuesday of the month, since the 65th MDG is closed for training). Your symptoms will be evaluated by one of our medical technicians and/or registered nurses and, if warranted, they will do a throat culture. If you need a throat culture, they will do both a rapid strep test (results available within about an hour) and a regular throat culture that takes 48 hours, because a very small percentage of the rapid tests are inaccurate. Your treatment plan will be based on your results and in most cases you won't need to see your Primary Care Provider.

The Family Health Clinic is a great resource to help you with answering your basic health questions. If you're unsure if you should see a provider or treat your illness at home, you can leave a telephone consult and receive a call back from a nurse. Supervisors are able to give 24 hours of quarters to their subordinates without the



Tech. Sgt. James Alexander, 65th Medical Operations Squadron, takes a patient's temperature at the clinic, January, 2012. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

recommendation of a medical provider. If the supervisor thinks the person should be on quarters longer than the initial 24 hours, the active duty member must see their Primary Care Provider. If you have any questions, the 65th Medical Group is here to answer them. During duty hours we can be reached at 355-3261; if you have a medical concern that needs immediate attention after duty hours, you can reach a physician at 927-156-485.



"OSI" from page 1

To read more about some of the impacts AFOSI agents have had worldwide, visit their official website at [www.osi.andrews.af.mil](http://www.osi.andrews.af.mil).

"In my experience, AFOSI agents have not done the job for money, glory

or gain, but to be part of something bigger--to make their base, community and their Air Force a better place for all," Goodson said.

Lajes Airmen interested in hearing more about pursuing a career with AFOSI can call AFOSI Detachment 516 at 535-4180.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Military Saves Week Program</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Call 535-4138 to Register for Workshops <span style="float: right;"><a href="http://www.militarysaves.org">www.militarysaves.org</a></span></p>			
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21	WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22	THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23	FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24
COUPON BLITZ!*	COUPON BLITZ!*	COUPON BLITZ!*	COUPON BLITZ!*
9-10 a.m.--Wing Staff Mtg Kick-Off (First-Term Airman pledge to invest in TSP) (T-100)	9-10 a.m.--Better than a Budget – Develop Your Spending Plan-Build Wealth, Not Debt! (A&FRC)	9-10 a.m.--Stretching My Money in a Tight Economy (A&FRC)	9-10 a.m.--Take Complete Control of Your Finances – Avoid Drowning in Debt – Borrow Wisely! (A&FRC)
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.--Financial Planning for Transition Tips When Departing the Military - Bring your Lunch (A&FRC)	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.--Dream Big-Plan Now! Make Your Ideal Retirement a Reality – Bring your Lunch (A&FRC)	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.- Safeguarding Your Credit – Maintaining Good Credit is Priority #1 – Bring your Lunch (A&FRC)	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.--Making That Desert Money-The Savings Deposit Program with CPTS – Bring your Lunch (A&FRC)
1-2 p.m.--TSP – Pay Yourself First (A&FRC)	1-2 p.m.--Riding Out the Storm – Investing in a Turbulent Market (A&FRC)	1-2 p.m.--Home Sweet Home – Strategies for Home Buying (A&FRC)	10:50 a.m.-2:30 p.m.--MS/HS classroom workshops – (DODDS School)
6:30-7:30 p.m.--Financial Matters for Spouses with Lajes Spouses' Club (A&FRC)	5-6 p.m.--Money Management for Couples – How to Make it Work! (Wing Night @TORC Ballroom)	5:30-6:30 p.m.--Savers' Pledge and Information Table (SUM Dinner @ Chapel)	6-7 p.m.--Now That You Have a Job, What Are You Going to Do With Your Money? Save For Future YOU! (LYP)**

\*Coupon Blitz at Commissary--Top 4 submitted receipts w/ highest savings win prizes!

\*\*Youth Saves Essay Contest!--Submit Essays to LYP by COB Thursday, Feb 23. Winner will be announced on Friday, Feb 24! LYP providing prize!

[Selected workshops in collaboration with 65th CPTS and Pentagon Federal Credit Union]



## LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK



**Name:** Norberto Arruda  
**Rank:** LWG-10  
**Unit:** 65th CES  
**Hometown:** Agualva, Terceira Island  
**Duty Title:** Pavements and Equipment Crew Leader  
**Accomplishments:** Sr. Arruda is a native of Agualva. He moved to Canada 20 years ago to pursue a career in construction. When he came back home in 2005, Sr. Arruda was assigned to the 65th Civil Engineer

Squadron's horizontal shop working as the pavements and equipment crew lead. Some of his duties entailed providing crucial restoration of the airfield, roadways, and perimeter fencing throughout the base. His superb knowledge and perseverance led to the successful completion of a 920-ft. base beautification fencing project around the Ocean View softball field. Additionally, Sr. Arruda selflessly worked as a liaison between 29 local national civilians and four military personnel within three shops, supported 12 different additional duty programs, and kept a fleet of 31 vehicles properly maintained.



**Name:** Troy Adams  
**Rank:** Airman 1st Class  
**Unit:** 65th CES  
**Hometown:** Schriever, La.  
**Duty Title:** Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Apprentice  
**Accomplishments:** After completing Basic Military Training and six months of technical training, Airman Adams was assigned to Lajes Field, where he quickly put his skills to the

test when diagnosing a faulty water heater control circuit in base housing. He safely isolated the system and cleared the fault, alleviating the grueling task of replacing the unit. This superb effort earned him an "Unsung Hero" award. In addition, Airman Adams held the highest End of Course score percentage in his section, received three Letters of Appreciation, and applied "real world" Self-Aid & Buddy Care to an injured worker. This phenomenal display of "Excellence in All We Do" made Airman Troy Adams 65th CE's Lajes Field Warrior of the Week.



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

Feature

## Chief Master Sergeant Recognition Ceremony

Chief Master Sgt. Robert Stuart

Chief Master Sgt. Gregory Rousey



A Chief Recognition Ceremony celebrating the promotion of Senior Master Sgt. Robert Stuart, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, and Senior Master Sgt. Gregory Rousey, 65th Communications Squadron, to the rank of chief master sergeant, took place at the Top of the Rock Club, Feb. 10, 2012. (Photo by Guido Melo)



(Seated center, front) Maj. Scott Hopper, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, leads a discussion during the Joint Operational Planning Seminar at the Education Center, Feb. 9, 2012. The seminar was held to provide information on the Joint Operation Planning Process and mission analysis for servicemembers. (Photo by Guido Melo)



Richard Lambert, Chief, Airman and Family Readiness Center, speaks during the "Balancing Life, Family, and Command" seminar for deputy and career track officers at Lajes Field, Feb. 10, 2012. The seminar focused on handling stress, health and wellness, and resiliency. (Photo by Lucas Silva)



(Left to Right) Air Force Fuels Airman of the Year, Senior Airman Lucas Thompson, AF Fuels Civilian Supervisor/Leader of the Year, Maria Avila, AF Fuels Civilian Technician of the Year, Pedro Belo, AF Material Management Civilian Technician of the Year, Luis Baltazar, and Unit Safety Representative, Staff Sgt. Adrian Gerdon. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

### 2011 USAFE AWARD WINNERS

### 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron



# Mark your calendar

## VOLUNTEER TAX ASSISTANCE AT LAJES:

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance through June 15  
 The Lajes Field Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program will be running now through June 15. The VITA program is here to assist our military members with free tax filing of simple tax returns. Our VITA volunteers offer free tax advice, tax preparation, and assistance to military members and their families on military specific tax issues, such as combat zone tax benefits and the effect of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) guidelines. If our volunteers are unable to assist with your taxes under VITA rules we will recommend that you seek professional tax services. If you wish to complete your taxes on your own the following tax sites offer free tax filing for military personnel meeting certain requirements:



- <http://www.irs.gov/efile/freefile> <<http://www.irs.gov/efile/freefile>>
- <http://www.taxslayer.com> <<http://www.taxslayer.com>>
- <http://www.turbo.tax.com> <<http://www.turbo.tax.com>>
- <http://www.militaryonesource.mil> <<http://www.militaryonesource.mil>>

For more information, contact the legal office at 535-3546.

## SINGLE/UNACCOMPANIED MEMBERS (SUM) DINNER:

At the Lajes Field Chapel fellowship hall from 5:30-7:30 p.m., the 65th Communications Squadron will host the monthly SUM dinner, Thursday, Feb. 23. On the menu is oven-fried chicken, potatoes au gratin, green bean casserole, corn, apple cobbler and vanilla ice cream. The dinner is sponsored by the Lajes Field Chapel.

**LEGAL OFFICE CLOSURE:** The Legal Office will be closed for training on Friday, Feb. 24, 2012. Normal duty hours will resume on Monday, Feb. 27, 2012 at 9 a.m. Please contact the On-Call JAG at 963-413-121 for emergency assistance.

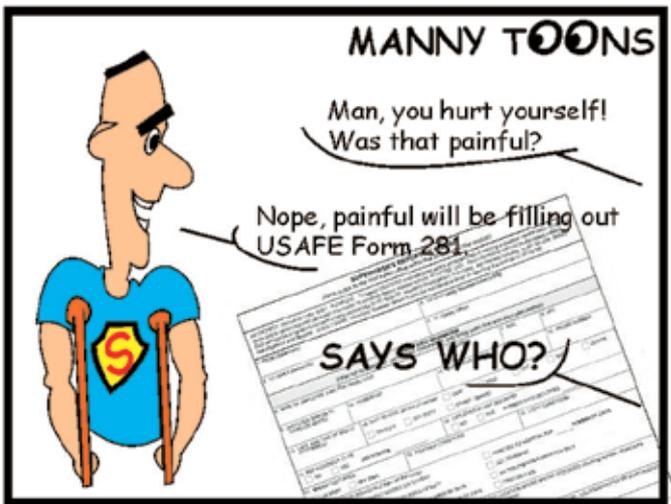
## LAJES FIRST SERGEANTS COUNCIL DODGE BALL

**TOURNAMENT:** The Lajes first shirts will be hosting a dodge ball tournament at the Chace Fitness Center, Friday, Mar. 2, at 8 a.m. There is a sign-up fee of \$60 per team (6 people on a team) raising money for the Lajes troops support fund. There will be trophies for first and second place teams and best unit participation. Registration POCs: Master Sgts. Daniel Guzman, 535-5214, and Jason Miest, 535-1222, or your unit's first sergeant.

## Phrase of the Week A LESSON IN PORTUGUESE



**ENGLISH:** Where is the closest bus stop?  
**PORTUGUESE:** Onde é a paragem de autocarro mais próxima?  
**PRONUNCIATION:** Own-day eh pahrahzhaim de ottokarho miesh proseemah?



# ASKED

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

By Eduardo Lima  
Community Relations Advisor



## Carnaval kicks off tomorrow

Carnaval, or Mardi Gras as it's called in New Orleans and other U.S. locations, will be celebrated throughout mainland Portugal, Madeira and the Azores tomorrow (Feb. 18) through Tuesday.

The historical origin of Carnaval is vague but seems to relate to pre-Christian customs, i.e. the pagan Roman and Greek festivals. On Terceira, Carnaval has a peculiarity of its own: the "Danças de Carnaval," or carnival dances. These are dancing groups that travel from town to town for three days and four nights, almost non-stop. These groups usually include 12-24 dancers dressed in colorful costumes, some of whom carry and play musical instruments.

Their performances are actually plays, which include three distinct parts: the salutation, where the dancers greet the audience; introduction of the theme or topic where the plot of the play is developed; and lastly a farewell, in which the dancers thank the audience for their attendance and say goodbye. The performances usually take place in community centers (Casa do Povos), theaters and other public areas.

The groups often take advantage of this occasion to criticize government policies or make fun of certain situations or events that happened throughout the past year since any criticism is traditionally accepted during this period.

Carnaval is coming to be an important tourist attraction on many mainland Portugal locations, Madeira and the Azores, and is celebrated in various forms and styles.

Traditionally, the Angra High School students organize a Carnaval parade through Angra's main street, followed by a comical bullfight in the Angra's bullring. This year's parade is scheduled to start Sunday at 1:30 p.m. followed by the bullfight at 3 p.m.

Some local nightclubs, pubs and bars will also organize masquerade balls and other Carnaval-related events during these days. The Portuguese Officers Club on base will host a masquerade ball tomorrow while the Sargentos Club will host a similar event tonight at 9 p.m. The Academia de Juventude da Ilha Terceira (Youth Academy of Terceira Island), located next to the movie theater in Praia, will also host a Carnaval ball tonight at 8 p.m., which includes a dinner and performance by two Carnaval dances. Tickets for these events can be purchased at the door at the respective locations.

A final word of caution for those who live off base or intend to watch the Carnaval activities--there's a local custom for kids and other participants, usually wearing masks, to throw water balloons at cars or passers-by during these days, so make sure your car windows are rolled up and try to avoid those pranksters if you are walking.

Have a great weekend and enjoy Carnaval!