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Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

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

FY 2013



1077
SORTIES

10,801
LODGED



6,14 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

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Deployed Lajes officer "in the fight" at Bagram



65th Security Forces Squadron operations officer, Capt. Andrew York, is deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. York was subject to an Indirect Fire attack last month, where he and his team provided medical care to injured and defended the base's perimeter. Here, Master Sgt. Joshua Clarke, Tech. Sgt. Eric Wearing, Airman 1st Class Tina Venable, York and Staff Sgt. Joshua Gary, 455th Expeditionary Security Force Squadron members stand together in their compound on Bagram Airfield. (U.S Air Force photo/ Staff Sgt. Stephanie Wade)

Security Forces Airmen recall IDF attack, bringing members closer

By Staff Sgt. Stephanie Wade
455 Air Expeditionary Wing, Public Affairs

Air Force 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron members had just finished dinner and were on the way back to their compound on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan June 18. Heading south on a perimeter road, they passed a bus stop located about 50 yards from their compound, where service members were waiting outside to catch a ride. They could see their compound through the windows of the truck. As they were turning, they heard a loud boom; then saw a cloud of dust fill the air, followed by complete darkness.

"At first we thought it was a generator exploding because the power went out," said Tech. Sgt. Eric Wearing, 455th ESFS, NCO in charge of physical security. "Then I could feel the impact in the vehicle after it hit and the vehicle was surrounded by ashes and I knew it was something more serious."

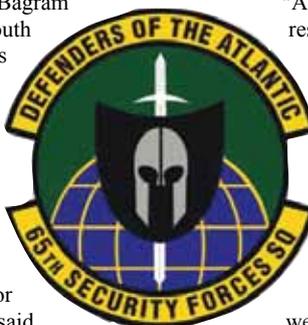
That's when Capt. Andrew York, 455th ESFS officer in charge of the sector, directed Master Sgt. Joshua Clarke, his sector NCOIC, the driver at the time, to position the vehicle as close to their command post as possible, and they dismounted.

"After taking cover in the vehicle, as first responders, we [the four SF members in the truck] immediately ran to our sector to see what assistance we could provide," said York, a native of Columbia, S.C.

Because of the IDF's proximity in the compound, many SF members were able to provide support in different ways to ensure the safety of those in the area and the mission.

"After we got out of the vehicle, the captain started giving us direction and I went to the command post where the power was completely out," said Clarke, deployed from Fargo, N.D., Air National Guard. "The only thing we could

To read more on "IDF Attack" see page 5





Don't accept "It wasn't meant to be"

By MSgt Justin Williamson

65th Contracting Flight Superintendent

How many times have you heard, "it wasn't meant to be"? I do not buy into this cliché, as I consider it a lack of preparation. You must create your own success by working harder, making things happen and learning from failure. There's no other "magic formula" out there.

It is every Airman's individual responsibility to take these steps to have a successful deployment, gain your next promotion, pass your physical fitness test, clear the next unannounced inspection or earn an academic degree, to name a few. Every Airman has the potential to prosper, but you have to make it happen.

First, let me relate, "it wasn't meant to be" into military deployments:

was it meant for you to deploy? Maybe you've wondered why it's you, as opposed to another Airman that's been tasked. Well, the answer is that the military has been training you to deploy and it is part of your duty. Now you have to get ready for the fight. You've been well-trained, given the opportunity to physically prepare and have enormous resources to do so.

In addition, the Air Force has all the programs in place that you need to prepare for leaving your family at home while you deploy. If you don't feel ready, then start your preparations right now. Prepare your family and your support system; this is vital to focusing on the task at hand.

Some deployment locations are more austere than others, but that doesn't matter when it comes to being ready. Airmen are given the tools they need to get the job done—you just need to mentally prepare to excel once you get there. If possible, one best practice is to contact the deployed unit ahead of your arrival. The Airman or servicemember you're replacing will have the best insight into the mission, workload and the all-important, ground truth. Continue with your research until you hit the ground running. You will face challenges when you arrive, but you can be confident you have the skills and expertise to crush them. By taking the initiative to prepare now, you will be



Col. Chris Bargery

Col. Chris Bargery
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing

well-postured for a rewarding and successful deployment.

"My promotion wasn't meant to be," is another statement that is all too familiar. Airmen must learn from failure in order to be successful. Getting passed over may sting for a while, but do not dwell on the past. Move on by learning

from the situation and making adjustments. Eliminate any chance of re-occurrence by preparing for the next promotion opportunity. Know when you are eligible to test again and what prerequisites are necessary. Devise a strategy and institute study routines to meet the requirement. Also, it's important to ask others for help; you may find someone who can lead you in the right direction. After all, everyone has a "nugget of truth" that you can absorb and learn.

Nonetheless, you still have to do your own homework. When the opportunity for the interview, test or board presents itself again, go in comfortable with your preparation. The culmination of your efforts will pay off.

Furthermore, what are you doing to be ready for your annual fitness test? For some this is an easy task to accomplish and for others it is very difficult. The ramifications for members who fall below standards can be very severe and in some situations, lead to a discharge. You now know the drill, so prepare!

Identify your test date and assess what you need to do to get ready. If it is not already, make balancing your diet, practicing the components you find difficult and partnering with someone who is willing to challenge you and hold you accountable, part of your daily fitness regimen. Again, this is not a formula for success. Your own dedication and determination are the best formula for success.

No matter if it is the next inspection or some other significant event in your life, without preparation, you will not do your best. If failure occurs, learn from it and put in the extra effort to defeat any future trials. Do not let it define you and know that mediocrity is never a permanent path. Take the personal responsibility to prepare, work hard and practice. In the end, do not accept that "it wasn't meant to be."



Commander's Action Line
535-4240
abw.cc@us.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 abw.cc@us.af.mil.



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Under FSS management, Lajes movie theater still a hit

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

Customers have praised the current services available at the Lajes Field Theater since the 65th Force Support Squadron took over from the Army and Air Force Exchange Services May 17.

As a result of changes in technology and upgrade costs, AAFES had to take a hard look at base movie theater operations worldwide, so the 65th FSS and Azores Exchange teamed up to keep Lajes' base theater running.

Under the new management, movies are free, a snack bar is available and there is flexibility in the base's programming abilities.

"We have received plenty of feedback from customers talking about what a great job the FSS has done with taking over the theater," said Timothy Case, 65th FSS operations officer. "Families are excited that the movies are free and about the low cost of products available. Airmen now have something to do that is fun and costs nothing."

Tech. Sgt. Bethany West, 65th Contracting Flight Infrastructure Flight contracting officer, has spent a couple Friday nights at the base theater with her seven-year-old son. Movies they've watched include, "Escape from Planet Earth" and "Despicable Me."

"It's amazing being able to have free admission and a wider variety of concession items," she said. "I've been with my son, and now he wants to go every weekend. They show are a wide range of movies to attract every demographic. There are movies for families and also movies for adults. The concessions are the only thing you pay for, and they are definitely very reasonably priced."

Free admission can make a great difference, especially for large families. Maj. Sarah Humphries, 65th Contracting Flight commander, said her family of four had a great time enjoying dinner and a movie at the theater recently. Dinner was pizza, and the family watched the movie "Brave."

"You can't beat going to a movie theater for free," she said. "Just the week before, my husband and I saw a movie in Colorado, and for three adults, the tickets alone were \$30. Snacks and pizza are so affordable here, so you don't have to choose between having M&M's or popcorn – get both."

Although the physical features of the theater have not changed, Humphreys describes the atmosphere as seeming more casual.

"This is a huge success for everyone at Lajes," she said. "The infrastructure is being utilized, a family can afford to see movies all together, and although the movies may not be what are currently in

theaters stateside, they are still great choices as well as a great variety on the big screen."

The 65th FSS continues to plan and implement a variety of ideas to keep people guessing and customers happy. One recent event hosted by the FSS was a Ladies Night.

"The program for Ladies Night was a huge success - the ladies enjoyed Hors d'oeuvres, wine and a great movie," said Case. "We are planning other fun-filled events for all age groups during the summer months."

Squadrons and families can also use the theater for events, parties or as just another place to have a get together.

"We believe the new set up has been a great move for all of Team Lajes," said Case. "On opening night we filled the seats with excited customers, and it hasn't really slowed down. The 65th FSS is excited to have yet another opportunity to keep morale high for Team Lajes – this is what we do best."

For more information regarding the Lajes Field Theater, stay tuned to the "65th Force Support Squadron" Facebook page, visit www.lajefss.com or call Tim Case at 535-1334.



Customers at the Lajes Field movie theater enjoy previews before a movie. Admission to the movie theater is now free, under new management by the 65th Force Support Squadron. Snacks and refreshments can be purchased, as well. The theater remains a fully-functioning force support service for Lajes families. (U.S. Air Force photo by Lucas Silva/released)

LAJES WARRIORS OF THE WEEK

Name: Casey M. Hamann
Rank: Technical Sergeant
Unit: 65th Contracting Flight
Hometown: Dunedin, Florida
Duty Title: Contract Specialist
Accomplishments: Technical Sergeant Hamann is responsible for the award, administration and close-out of contract and purchase orders for supplies and services in support of the entire 65 ABW. He was instrumental in the re-establishment of the base housing security contract providing 24/7 patrols in the Beira Mar and Nascero Sol housing areas as a deterrent to crime. Recently, he rose to the challenge and stepped in as a Section Chief for 6 weeks. He led 5 personnel and performed all day-to-day management activities in addition to his normal workload.



Name: Brian Feliciano
Rank: LGS-7
Unit: 65th Contracting Flight
Hometown: São Mateus da Calheta
Duty Title: Procurement Technician
Accomplishments: Mr. Feliciano assists in the management of the 65 ABW's Government Purchase Card Program. He oversees 73 cardholders who have produced over two thousand credit card transactions valued at over \$1 million dollars this year alone. Mr. Feliciano recently coordinated the annual Business Expo in which 105 vendors and representatives from Portugal attended. This effort increased the wing's contractor base and was a huge bi-lateral success. He is also an active member in the community as he serves as President of both the Terceira Handball and Foolsball Association. He regularly hosts tournaments and events throughout the island.



New aircraft, more seats for Lajes rotator travelers

By Capt. Mark Graff
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Some changes to weekly military airlift operations to and from Lajes Field mean a few additional seats available to Lajes Airmen flying on official travel or as space available passengers. The weekly rotator between Lajes Field and Baltimore now has 42 seats available, an increase in 10 seats.

The additional seats come as a result of the commercial airline contractor, Air Transport International, upgrading to a new aircraft for rotator operations, the Boeing 757. Previously, ATI pilots flew the Douglas DC-8 to and from the Azores.

Along with more seating available weekly on the 757, rotator passengers will continue to enjoy the same amenities as before, said Capt. Lee Rice, 729th Air Mobility Squadron operations officer. Frequent travelers may even notice a few improvements aboard the newer aircraft.

"Passengers will enjoy improved seating, a more efficient air conditioning system, and as always, the outstanding hospitality of ATI's flight attendants," said Rice. There is no additional space for cargo or pets on the new aircraft, however.

Operations at the 729th AMS Passenger Terminal will not be affected by the change in aircraft. Flights from Baltimore are scheduled to arrive weekly at Lajes Field on Saturday evening. Return flights to Baltimore leave Lajes Field the following day. Processing times for passengers are unchanged.

"The change in airframe will have zero impact on the processing function at the passenger terminal," said Rice. "(Passenger terminal operations) will continue with the same arrival and departure schedules."

As with all military airlift, seating priority goes to personnel on official travel. For questions about travel in Space-A status, contact the passenger terminal at 535-7039 or 295-57-7039.

With summer in full swing and families seeking travel opportunities, 729th AMS leaders are available to conduct informative briefings on Space-A sign-up for Lajes Field units. To schedule a briefing for your unit or for more information, contact Capt. Rice at 535-7291.

Lajes Airmen or travelers can also learn more about Space-A travel opportunities from Lajes Field by following the passenger terminal on social media. Search for "Lajes Passenger Terminal" on Facebook or view Air Mobility Command's Space-A Travel website at <http://www.amc.af.mil/amctravel/index.asp>.



65th Air Base Wing and Lajes Field rotator travelers will have more seating available on the weekly rotator due to commercial airline contractor, ATI, upgrading to a Boeing 757 aircraft from a Douglas DC-8. Capt. Lee Rice, 729th Air Mobility Operations Squadron operations officer, said that Lajes travelers can expect 10 more seats to be available each week. For Space-A information, call the Passenger Terminal at 535-7039. (Courtesy photo)

Community video aids sponsors, newcomers

By 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Lajes Field sponsors and inbound Airmen have a new resource at their disposal when it comes to getting familiar with life at Lajes.

Base public affairs, American Forces Network-Lajes, and marketing professionals have produced a video highlighting the base community so that newcomers have an idea of living in the Azores prior to arrival.

Sponsors are encouraged to make their inbound Airmen aware of the video, along with the base's many other resources for newcomers.

The video can be viewed on Lajes Link, by clicking on the "Newcomers" tab, or viewed directly on the 65th Air Base Wing's YouTube channel.

Coupled with the information on the "Newcomers" tab, inbound information on www.lajesfss.com, including the base's "PCS GPS" feature, sponsors can use this video to get their Airmen up-to-speed



View the Lajes Field Community Video online at Lajes Link's "Newcomer" tab, on YouTube or on Lajes Community TV. (Graphic by Manuel Martins)



"IDF Attack" from page 1

use for communication was a radio. So I sent Airman 1st Class Tina Venable to conduct accountability of our off duty personnel"

Staff Sgt. Joshua Gary, NCO in charge of supply and logistics for sector, and was instrumental to getting the power back on.

"I heard screaming and calls for supplies," said Gary deployed from Fargo, N.D., ANG. "So I immediately ran over to my supply warehouse to grab as many combat lifesaver bags as I could to give to the members providing care to the wounded. From there I began working to get the power back up and distributing extra ammo because we thought there was going to be follow-on attack."

According to the SF members, the power went out simultaneously as the IDF attack impacted.

"There was zero power," said York deployed from Lajes Field, Azores. "Everything was out including cameras and phones. Once Gary got the backup generators and light-alls units working around the perimeter, we were able to have

better situational awareness and be ready for a follow-on attack. Without him, we wouldn't have had any power at all."

But since York, Clarke, Wearing and Venable, were the first able-body members to respond to the injured outside, they had to provide care in the dark using only available light and flashlights.

"There were people everywhere walking around dazed and confused," said Wearing. "I went up to the very first person I could see and he had his arm out trying to speak."

Wearing said he assured the member he was going to be okay and went through the basic lifesaving procedures beginning with sweeps of his body.

"That's when I noticed he had a large hole about the size of my fist in his chest and an injury to the leg," said Wearing, who is deployed from Pittsburgh ANG. "York put direct pressure on the chest to stop the bleeding and I used my own tourniquet on his leg. Then I looked at Captain York and said, 'We need to CASEVAC [casualty evacuate] him right away' because the ambulance is seven minutes out and we can't wait that long."

Wearing was only on scene for roughly five minutes before he accompanied two casualties to the Craig Joint Theater Hospital.

Wearing was the only member who treated the casualties in the CASEVAC and he stayed at the hospital after that to help injured members as they came into the emergency room. The following sector members stayed on the compound providing self-aid buddy care to the remaining injured personnel and to defend the perimeter.

"This was the closest I have ever been to an IDF impact," said Wearing, a native of Evans city, Pa. "I can play it back a million times in my head, but all I remember is the training we receive just clicked and worked."

The members described it as muscle memory, stating there is a reason Air Force members are made to go through all the mandatory training.

"It really restores faith in all our training," said York. "We do a lot of battle drills here and there's a lot of comments that you shouldn't train in combat environment. But in reality, our training is what kept us from freezing and put us on autopilot to do what we had to do. We were all combat effective."

For Venable, who is on her first deployment, was one of the first five Air Force members who provided first aid assistance on the scene. She said this was her first combat experience and the military's training helped prepare her for it.

"A tech school instructor once told me, 'you never rise to the occasion, you always fall back on your training,' and that was playing over in my head," said Venable deployed from Fort Worth, Texas ANG. "Get repetitive and know and replenish what's in your individual first aid kit because you never know when you're going to have to use it."

After finishing their shift and the adrenaline wore off, two days later, the members were recommended by leadership to go to

the hospital to talk to combat stress about the attack.

"Directly after the attack I walked outside and as we were waiting for our leadership, I got down on one knee and had to take a couple breaths in disbelief like, 'did this just happen or is it a dream?'. We were so close and not a scratch on us," said York.

The five ESFS members who treated the injured said the assistance and support from the medical community and leadership was helpful, but the best thing that helped them combat the stress from the attack was sitting around the table together talking about the events that night.

"The more we talked about it, the better it got, we were the only members who saw it firsthand," said York. "Then we got comfortable enough to go talk to the other SF members in

our sector who were working that night and heard what was going on but didn't see it, that helped too."

The security forces members lives were almost lost the night but thier efforts did not go unnoticed. The five members were recognized during an Army Fallen Hero Ceremony here; Then a couple days later, an even bigger surprise.

"Talk about closure," said Wearing. "An Airman in our unit went to high school with one of the injured Army members from that night. He was stationed here with her and still talks to her on Facebook. One day on shift he came up to me."

"He said, 'Morris wanted me to tell you thank you.'

"I said, 'who's Morris?'"

"He said, 'She was the girl you transported in the CASEVAC with an injured leg. She wanted me to tell you all thanks for saving her life. She is in Germany now and doing well.'"



Last month Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan was subject to an Indirect Fire attack where five Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron members provided medical care to injured and defended the perimeter risking their lives. Capt. Andrew York, deployed from Lajes Field, is one of the security forces members that responded to the attack. This bus stop is an example of the of the area where the IDF hit. (U.S Air Force photo/ Staff Sgt. Stephenie Wade)

"After the attack I walked outside and... I got down on one knee and had to take a couple breaths in disbelief like, 'did this just happen or is it a dream?' We were so close and not a scratch on us," said York.

LAJES ON THE WEB



Lajes Field

6-5...
in the FIGHT!

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

The 65th ABW Events Calendar is online! For a complete list of events, visit Lajes Link!

- SNCO Professional Enhancement Class, July 23-26 @ Base Education Center
- Quarterly CAIB Meeting, July 23, 3pm @ Wing Conference Room
- 65th ABW Exercise, July 24, All Day - Basewide
- SNCO Induction Ceremony, July 26, 6pm @ TORC Ballroom
- FTAC Class 13-F, July 29 - August 2
- Monthly Promotion Ceremony, July 31, 3pm @ CAC Ballroom
- Portuguese Holiday, Praia da Vitoria Day, August 11
- Portuguese Holiday, Assumption Day, August 15



Lajes Field, Azores

www.facebook.com/65abw.lajes

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



Lajes Field Photos

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

We post these photos on Flickr so Airmen, civilians and family can access them anywhere.

BULLFIGHT SCHEDULE



Remember: Airmen and families assigned to Lajes Field are not allowed to participate in bullfights. If you are viewing a bullfight, you must maintain a safe distance, be behind adequate barricades or located on/in a building. Contact Wing Safety at 535-6137 for more info.

Friday, July 19: 6:30 p.m. Terreiro do Porto Judeu
Friday, July 19: 6:30 p.m. Ribeirinha
Friday, July 19: 9:30 p.m. Arena bullfight
Saturday, July 20: 6:30 p.m. Ribeirinha
Saturday, July 20: 6:30 p.m. Estrada 25 de Abril
Sunday, July 21: 6:30 p.m. Porto Judeu
Monday, July 22: 6:30 p.m. Grota do Medo, Posto Santo
Wednesday, July 24: 6:30 p.m. Fonte São Sebastião

ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima, Community Relations Advisor



A brief history of Portugal's Forcados



The "Forcados" or the "suicide squad" as Americans stationed at Lajes Field usually call them, are a group of brave young men who challenge the bull with their bare hands and grab him by the horns and neck in the arena bullfights, with the objective of immobilizing the animal.

The forcados are unique to Portugal and unlike the matadors and horsemen (cavaleiros) they are not professionals. They fight the bulls because they enjoy doing it and want to continue a very old Portuguese tradition.

The forcados have been part of the Portuguese arena bullfights for many years and it's uncertain why or when this type of bullfighting originally started.

The exploits of forcados have even been used in films. For example, in the 1951 movie "Quo Vadis," a classic film about ancient Rome and an imperial's soldier struggle to save a Christian woman he loves from the wrath of Emperor Nero, a renowned Portuguese forcado, named Nuno Salvação Barreto, appeared as the stunt

double for actor Buddy Bear, who played the role of Roman gladiator "Ursus," and fought a bull alone in the arena.

Traditionally, the forcados are asked to jump inside the arena and seize the bull after it has just been fought by the cavaleiro (horseman). The leading forcado, wearing a green or brown cap on his head, starts walking towards the bull and tries to grab the bull by the horns and neck with the help of the other members of the group.

When the bull is let in the arena to face the horsemen and subsequently the forcados, his sharp horns are covered with a protection made of leather so the horse and the forcados are not injured, but unfortunately injuries do happen sometimes despite the precaution measures.

The name forcados comes from the word "pitchfork" in Portuguese, a tool which the forcados used to carry in their hands when appearing in the bullrings.

Terceira Island has two groups of forcados, one from Praia and the other from Angra, who usually perform during the arena bullfights that take place throughout the summer months.

There will be an arena bullfight in the Angra bullring tonight, starting at 9:30 p.m., where two groups of forcados, one from Angra and the other from Cascais, mainland Portugal, will put their bullfighting skills to the test.