

# CROSSROADS

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Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

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

FY 2013



1123  
SORTIES

11,903  
LODGED



6,42 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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## Medics: more than just vitals



(l-r) Senior Airmen Jacob Thompson, Jacqueline Kennebrew and Gabriel Pech, are ambulance service technicians assigned to the 65th Medical Operations Squadron, Lajes Field, Azores. In the event of a medical emergency, first responders such as the fire department or security forces often call for ambulance support. Lajes Field does not have a standard 24-hour emergency room, so the ambulances serve as the base's medical control center. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory)

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

*The following article is part of a series detailing the aerospace medical technician career field, the various medical disciplines medical technicians work in and how 'medics' contribute to the 65th Air Base Wing mission. Medical disciplines or work centers covered in this series include: ambulance services, allergy and immunizations clinic, women's health, flight medicine and family practice.*

We've all been there before. You're in the waiting room at the medical treatment facility filling out the medical history and then the Airman calls you back to check your vitals, and so begins another physical health assessment.

It may seem that checking your vitals and asking a few standard questions prior to saying, "the doctor will see you in a minute," is all that the medical Airman is responsible for.

While some may think of 'medics' only as emergency medical technicians or the young Airman that takes vitals at the clinic, there's more than meets the eye when it comes to the Air Force medics who comprise the 4N career field.

Like many career fields, theirs is a broad collection of

professionals with a wide variety of specialties.

From the allergy and immunizations clinic to ambulance services – which are more closely connected than one may think – to women's health, flight medicine and family practice, Lajes Field medics contribute to the mission in a variety of already-celebrated and lesser-known ways.

These are the stories of how Lajes medical professionals – more importantly, Lajes Airmen – do so much more for the base mission and community than just take vitals.

### Part I: Ambulance Services

To say that an emergency could occur at any moment is an understatement. But, when emergencies do occur, there's no room for error, and there's no time to waste.

"If this radio goes off right now, it'll be 'Sorry, see ya'," explained Senior Airman Jacob Thompson as he detailed the mad dash that his two-man ambulance crew would begin if his land mobile radio started barking information about an emergency on Lajes Field. "We shoot for a three to four minute response time."

Thompson, in general, is a medic – part of the vast 4N career field – but is currently working as one of Lajes Field's emergency medical technicians.

*To read more on "Medics" see page 4*



# Lajes logisticians rise to occasion when POTUS mission calls

By Capt. Francine Kwarteng and Capt. Cami Mercado  
65th Logistics Readiness Squadron

This summer we had the honor of providing logistical ground support for Air Force One during two of President Obama's trips, the G8 summit in Belfast, Northern Ireland and a presidential visit to Senegal, Africa.

As logisticians, we can be thrown into an array of duties from running air terminals to training foreign militaries on supply functions. This diversity of skills was needed for our portion of a large-scale operation that brought a multitude of agencies together to support the Commander in Chief.

While nothing can really prepare you for this type of short-notice mission, training and always honing your technical skills provide the second nature reflexes required to meet the demanding requirements. As Airmen, we are continuously training and preparing for the next challenge. Preparation is the result of cultural awareness, professional development and primary functional skills.

■ Cultural Awareness: Communication barriers and cultural differences are usually the biggest challenges to overcome in a foreign country. While communication barriers are always found, cultural awareness has a bigger impact on mission success. Nevertheless, we both found that the local civilians, police and military bent over backwards to ensure we had everything we needed, ensuring top-notch security for the President. Their extraordinary efforts to assist, it seemed, were due in part to our cultural awareness.

■ Professional Development: The experience of interacting with several agencies is not a natural skill set; it is learned and one such avenue is through our professional development. Getting out and interacting with fellow Airmen in different career fields allows us to see how our individual missions are part of a larger operation.

Not only did we each have teams of various

AFSCs, but we also were working hand-in-hand with Air Force One staff, US Embassy staff, local military and local airport staff. Additionally, we had to coordinate and work hand-in-hand with the Marines, Army, Navy and the local police. Talk about having to be aware of your team when trying to accomplish a mission! Each agency had their own priorities, but ultimately, we were all there to ensure the safety of the president.



■ Primary Duties: The wing's focus recently has been on getting back to basics. We have been at war for years and for many of us, we were asked to perform duties outside of our normal Air Force skill set; in fact, that's the new expectation. While the operations tempo has not come to a screeching halt, we do have more time at home station to hone our technical skills. This becomes very important when you do get the call to support short-notice missions.

Many of our team members only had days, if not hours notice, that they would be supporting these missions. Not only did they have to be prepared to go TDY for two weeks, but they also had to be subject matter experts on their primary duties. Whether they were a senior airman or master sergeant, all had to perform primary 5-level and 7-level duties. This means if they were a senior airman, they had to be proficient in the tasks, and also that the master sergeant needed to remain proficient in 5-level tasks. There is no time to say, "this task is below me," because in most cases, each AFSC was only one or two Airmen deep, and they were there to make it happen.

Can you perform the basic skills necessary to perform your mission? Do you have the training required to put yourself in unfamiliar situations or support our nation's leaders? No matter your rank or AFSC, take the time to continuously grow professionally and within your functional area. As Airmen, we are called to perform outside our comfort zones and when the mission dictates, we must rise to every task.

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.



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 [abw.cc@us.af.mil](mailto:abw.cc@us.af.mil).

Col. Chris Bargery  
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



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Captains Francine Kwarteng and Cami Mercado, logistics readiness officers, recently went TDY to provide logistical support to President Obama during his travels to Northern Ireland and Senegal.



# Gorenc assumes command of USAFE, AFAFRICA, Allied Air Command

By Tech. Sgt. Benjamin Wilson

U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa Public Affairs

Three consecutive generations of U.S. Air Forces in Europe commanders and the U.S. Africa Command deputy commander took to the stage as Gen. Frank Gorenc assumed command of USAFE, U.S. Air Forces Africa and Allied Air Command during a ceremony here Aug. 2.

The Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, voiced his confidence in the new commander, lauding his previous accomplishments.

"He earned the privilege of attending the Air Force Academy and was recognized at every stop as the very best at what he did," said Welsh. "He is made of 100 percent pure leadership, and there is no one better for this job."

Welsh and Gorenc worked together here a little more than a year ago when Welsh was the USAFE commander and Gorenc commanded 3rd Air Force.

In closing, Gorenc gave Gorenc one task regarding his new Airmen.

"Frank, I only have one tasker for you," said Welsh. "Take a look around this hangar at the Airmen of USAFE and AFAFRICA ... your Airmen. I need you to lead them. I need you to inspire them. I need you to take care of them."

Gorenc's immediate predecessor, Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, commander of U.S. European Command and Supreme Allied Commander Europe, echoed Welsh's confidence in Gorenc.

"Frank, you are an exceptionally talented leader who will be an outstanding commander of USAFE, of Allied Air Command and of AFAFRICA," Breedlove said.

Breedlove closed his remarks by emphasizing the need to maintain and improve partnerships with our allies and improve crisis response capability around the world with smaller, more capable, quick reaction forces.

"This command -- your command, Frank -- stands shoulder to shoulder with our allied and partner nations across Europe, ensuring our collective freedom," he said.

However, the responsibility of the new USAFE-AFAFRICA commander does not stop at the borders of Europe.

"The men and women of U.S. Air Forces Africa are an integral part of the Africa Command strategy and their contributions are a major factor in our success," said Marine Lt. Gen. Steven A. Hummer, U.S. Africa Command deputy to the commander for military operations.

"Our Africa partners' air forces are better today because of the training and mentoring provided by the men and women of Air Forces



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III gives Gen. Frank Gorenc the command of U.S. Air Forces in Europe during an assumption of command ceremony at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, Aug. 2, 2013. The command provides full-spectrum Air Force warfighting capabilities throughout an area of responsibility that spans three continents and encompasses 104 countries. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Holly Mansfield)

Africa," he said.

About half way through the ceremony, Gorenc accepted the flags for USAFE, AFAFRICA and the Allied Air Command, symbolically assuming command.

As the new commander of USAFE-AFAFRICA, Gorenc is responsible for a full-spectrum of Air Force war-fighting capabilities in a theater spanning three continents, containing 104 independent states possessing more than one-fifth of the world's population and more than a quarter of the world's gross domestic product.

Looking out over more than 700 service members and allied partners, Gorenc addressed the crowd for the first time as the USAFE-AFAFRICA commander.

"To the men and women of Air Forces in Europe, Africa and NATO, I want you to know this is a huge moment for me," said Gorenc. "From humble beginnings to four-star command, I am grateful to a country that gave me every opportunity to succeed."

As Gorenc took command of USAFE, AFAFRICA and Allied Air Command, he said, "To command is an honor and a privilege, but to command here is simply a dream come true."

## New command chief selected for USAFE-AFAFRICA

By Tech. Sgt. Oneika Banks

U.S. Air Forces in Europe - Air Forces Africa Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. James E. Davis was selected as the new U. S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa command chief master sergeant.

As the command chief, Davis is the senior enlisted advisor to the commander on all matters affecting operations, training and readiness, health, morale and welfare, discipline and effective use of more than 36,000 total force personnel assigned to 10 wings and 114 geographically separated units spread across 15 countries.

"I feel honored and privileged about being selected," Davis said. "I look forward to working with the outstanding men and women of U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa."

Currently, Davis is the Command Chief Master Sergeant, Ninth Air Force, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

Davis entered the Air Force in January 1986. He has served in leadership roles at the squadron, numbered Air Force and major command levels. Prior to his current position, he served as the Command Senior Enlisted Advisor, Combined Joint Task Force, Horn of Africa.

Davis assumes his new duties Aug. 18, 2013. He succeeds Chief Master Sgt. Craig Adams who was chosen to be the Senior Enlisted Leader at U.S. European Command, Stuttgart, Germany.



Chief Master Sgt. James E. Davis (Courtesy Photo)



## "Medics" continued from page 1

When medical emergencies occur at Lajes Field, first responders such as the fire department or security forces often request ambulance support. Those ambulances are manned by 65th Medical Group EMTs who respond to the incident. Lajes' two ambulances are positioned either at the 65th MDG medical treatment facility or at the fire department.

After receiving the emergency call and completing their mad dash to the ambulances positioned outside the 65th MDG, one EMT is firing up the ambulance while their fellow Airman is confirming the location of the emergency over the radio with other first responders.

Once at the scene of the emergency, Thompson said, the safety and care of the patient is most important. But assessing the scene of the incident and whether it's safe for EMTs to lend care is essential to a successful response.

After all, first responders cannot afford to compound the situation by adding to the total of people requiring medical care.

"When we arrive, we assess scene safety. Is there an active fire? Are there chemicals (spilled)? Is it an active shooter (situation)," said Thompson, a Honolulu, Hawaii native. "With any motor vehicle accident, or any traumatic fall, for example, priority is going to be patient safety, and our safety. Once we've assessed the scene and we ensure it's safe, we can start to lend patient care."

"After that, it's making sure you have our gloves on, your mask on and making sure we're protected," added Thompson.

As is common across the military, medics use an acronym to help them ensure that their assessment and preparation for each situation is uniform. Using the acronym, BSI, which stands for 'body, substance, isolation', ensures that medics properly evaluate the patient they're caring for and the situation in which care is lent.

On scene, teamwork is paramount. Lajes firefighters and 65th Security Forces Squadron members, alongside their Portuguese Air Force counterparts, are often the very first responders, with EMTs quickly behind them. In a traffic accident, for instance, security forces Airmen may re-direct traffic, while firefighters work to extract injured patients from the vehicle.

"We like to use (the fire department) a lot. They have the muscle and the equipment to literally take apart cars," said Thompson. EMTs from the 65th MDG team with Lajes firefighters—also certified EMTs—to conduct training on a regular basis, as well.

Once the EMTs are actually caring for the patient, they use a variety of equipment and techniques that are obviously situation dependent.

"We check the oxygen level of your blood, heart rate, blood pressure," said Thompson. "I've realized... that oxygen is one of the only things you can give to every patient. Every time you're on scene, you're probably going to give the person oxygen, because they're either hyperventilating because they're scared, or they're getting oxygen depletion because they're not breathing correctly."

After stabilizing the patient's injury or condition, and if the situation dictates, the EMTs transport the individual to the hospital in Angra do Heroismo. The Angra Hospital is on the other side of Terceira, so expediting the situation is very important, said Tech. Sgt. Jovan Thomas, NCOIC of ambulance services.

"At a big facility, you have a standard ER where you bring patients in and out. But here... we go to the scene, assess the patient, call the doctors to get

their guidance and follow their guidance and our checklists and we're gone; we're calling en route," said Thomas. "That cuts down our lag time... during that 30-minute drive to Angra."

Because Lajes Field does not have a 24-hour clinic or emergency room, the base's ambulances technically serve as the Lajes' medical control center. The medical control center is the hub of the military hospital, said Thomas.

"We are a mobile, medical unit. We have everything in that rig so that we don't need to be (in the clinic)," said Thomas, noting this unique, additional responsibility placed on the young EMTs.

But, it's not all about immediate, emergency responses for the ambulance crew EMTs. They also transport patients to and from Angra Hospital, especially if aeromedical evacuation of a patient from Lajes' flightline is required.

Sometimes, Thompson noted, patients with a more acute, but not life-threatening, illness may be transported to Angra via ambulance so that EMTs can monitor the patient during the journey.

More commonly, though, patients simply do not know how to get to the Angra Hospital. In that case, Lajes' ambulances may be used for transport. In all, 65th MDG ambulance crew average about 10 patient transports to Angra monthly, Thomas said.

For Thompson and his fellow EMTs, when they're not responding to an emergency in the ambulance—which is most of the time—they're doing what it takes to stay sharp.

Technical school for 4Ns lasts approximately six months, but on-the-job training is still important, he said.

"We have monthly training where we do readiness skill verifications, training on the ambulances to stay current, a lot of CBTs," said Thompson.

CBTs are often more specific and detailed than typical Air Force SABC computer courses, however. EMT-specific CBTs include how to drive on the flightline and properly transport patients requiring aeromedical evacuation, as one example.

In addition, in August, 65th MDG EMTs and other medical professionals train with their Portuguese Air Force counterparts, said Thomas. Understanding the Portuguese Air Force's medical capabilities at Lajes Field is important, especially in the event that a mass casualty situation occurs, the technical sergeant added.

But, true to the 4N career field, EMTs sometimes find themselves assisting their fellow medics during the course of their ambulance shift.

"Since we're so versatile, some (medics) cover ambulance services that are actually assigned to the family clinic," said Thompson. "So even though we might be on-call as part of the ambulance crew, we might still be checking your vital signs if you come into the family health clinic."

Interoperability within the career field is an important asset to running a small clinic like Lajes', said Thomas. Developing depth and breadth in the young Airmen is equally important to the Air Force.

In the end though, and across the various medical disciplines to which 4Ns are so vital, the focus is always on patient care, no matter if the environment is the scene of an accident, in the ambulance or during a routine medical checkup.

"We're all about providing patient care the best and most efficiently that we can," said Thompson, whose father worked in the medical profession. "I grew up seeing what he did and it's just a really good feeling... to help someone out when the need it, and to make them feel better."



Senior Airman Jacqueline Kennebrew, 65th Medical Operations Squadron ambulance service technician, performs operation checks on a spine board which is part of her emergency response equipment, at the beginning of her shift, July 31, 2013, Lajes Field, Azores. (Photo by Guido Melo/released)



## Around Lajes: FSS' Civilian Personnel Section



*(l-r) Mianna Arrington, 65th Force Support Squadron chief of staffing and classification, and Isidro Nunes, civilian personnel section, assist Paulette Burnard with personnel paperwork, July 18, 2013, Lajes Field. Arrington and Nunes are part of the civilian personnel section which provides support to civilian employees including classifications, employment management relations and housing allowances at Lajes Field. Supervisors should coordinate regularly with CPS to effectively supervise their civilian employees. (Photo by Guido Melo/ released)*



*(l-r) Carla Leal, 65th Force Support Squadron acting chief of employee management relations, assists Nelia Faria with civilian appraisals, July 18, 2013, Lajes Field. Leal is part of the civilian personnel section which provides assistance to current and prospective civilian employees at Lajes Field. The CPS is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., but closed from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Call CPS at 535-5137 or go to [www.lajesfss.com](http://www.lajesfss.com) for assistance. (Photo by Guido Melo/ released)*



*(l-r) Mianna Arrington, 65th Force Support Squadron chief of staffing and classification, reviews recruiting folders with Peggy Cleveland, civilian personnel officer, July 18, 2013, Lajes Field. Cleveland and Arrington are part of the civilian personnel section which provides support to civilian employees including classifications, employee management relations and housing allowances at Lajes Field. CPS assists supervisors and local national and DoD civilians with administrative issues to include performance reports and position descriptions. (Photo by Guido Melo/ released)*

# LAJES ON THE WEB



## Lajes Field

6-5...  
in the FIGHT!

"Lajes Link" - [www.lajes.af.mil](http://www.lajes.af.mil)

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

- Praia Fest (local festival), August 2 - 10 @ various locations
- Portuguese Holiday, Praia da Vitoria Day, August 11
- 65th Air Base Wing Training Day, August 13, some facilities (MDG) closed ALL DAY
- Portuguese Holiday, Assumption Day, August 15
- 65th Air Base Wing Exercise, August 23, Basewide
- USAFE Family Day, August 30
- US Holiday, Labor Day, September 2
- 65th Air Base Wing Unit Effectiveness Inspection, September 5 - 9, Basewide



### Lajes Field, Azores

[www.facebook.com/65abw.lajes](http://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, August 9: 6:00 p.m. Street across from Modelo supermarket in Praia
- Saturday, August 10: 6:30 p.m. Cambalim, São Bento
- Sunday, August 11: 6:00 p.m. Praia beach
- Wednesday, August 14: 6:00 p.m. Street across from Modelo supermarket in Praia
- Thursday, August 15: 6:30 p.m. Road behind CE compound
- Friday, August 16: 6:00 p.m. Agualva

## ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima, Community Relations Advisor



### Island of Santa Maria

The island of Santa Maria was the first one to be sighted by the Portuguese navigators and is the most southern and eastern of the islands and the first one to be settled.

Its history revolves around small farming communities whose main concern was to defend themselves against pirates that attacked the island from time to time. In fact, Christopher Columbus and his men were suspected of being pirates in 1493 when they sought refuge from a storm in the Bay of Anjos. They were held prisoner for a few days until the islanders were sure they didn't pose a threat.

The biggest and most important change for the island occurred in 1944 with the arrival of the U.S. Armed Forces and construction of a large runway and infrastructures. The Americans and the airport brought new life to the island and introduced a more progressive lifestyle than the island had previously known.

Following World War II, the Americans departed for the island of Terceira, turning the airport over to the Portuguese government. Until the construction of airports on the other islands, Santa Maria was for many years the gateway to the Azores.

Like the other Azorean islands, Santa Maria has many tourist attractions. Vila do Porto, the island's main town and first to be erected in the Azores, features the Fort of São Brás (an

old Portuguese fortress), a museum and several churches. The island's highest point is Pico Alto, from where visitors may enjoy an excellent view of the whole island. Other points of interest are Praia Formosa, a beautiful sandy beach, São Lourenço Bay with hillsides covered with vineyards providing a great panoramic view.

Anjos is a charming little village with a small chapel where supposedly Christopher Columbus' men prayed during their port call while returning from their maiden voyage to the Americas.

Santa Maria attracts tourists mainly because of its peaceful and bucolic nature and landscape. It has a calm and slow paced environment, particularly suited for those who need a break from agitated life.

The island's drier climate is different from the other islands and summer is more temperate. Ocean lovers will find the island's blue waters a true paradise for water-skiing, sailing, windsurfing, fishing and snorkeling. The island's main occupations are farming and fishing. People wishing to visit the island can either fly or take the ferryboat during the summer months.

*Note: This week's "Ask Ed" article is the first of a series of articles on all nine Azorean islands.*

