

CROSSROADS

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Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal

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

FY 2013



1110
SORTIES

10,903
LODGED



6,33 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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LRS fuels the fight

Laazelino Dias, 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron refueling unit operator, and Corporal Francois Lagassé, a maintenance crew NCOIC from the 436th Squadron / 8th Wing Trenton Group, pull a servicing hose to a Canadian Air Force C-130J at Lajes Field, March 8. LRS fuels personnel fuel U.S., Portuguese and third nation aircraft at Lajes Field. Their support is vital to the PoAF's search and rescue mission at Lajes Field. (Photo by Lucas Silva)

USAF support key to Portuguese Air Force search and rescue ops

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

The Azores, islands located in the mid-Atlantic Ocean, are a strategic operating location for the U.S. and Portuguese Air Forces. Portuguese Air Base 4, commonly known as Lajes Field, is home to the U.S. Air Force's second largest fuel store, employed by the 65th Air Base Wing. Thanks to strong, bilateral relations, and the base's massive fuel store and roughly-halfway location between America and Europe, Lajes plays a vital, supporting role to trans-Atlantic aircraft operations.

But for commercial shipping or fishing vessels traversing the Atlantic, the base's role as a hub for Portuguese Air Force search and rescue missions is an equally important function; especially when it comes to saving lives.

From Terceira, one of nine Azorean islands, Portuguese search and rescue Airmen are called to assist in a variety of dangerous situations, including rescuing crew from disabled vessels. Health problems – such as heart attacks or pregnant women going into labor – are severely compounded at sea due to the unavailability of emergent or specialized health care.

Therefore, the Azores Air Detachment and the Portuguese Air Force's 502nd and 751st Squadrons operate in the archipelago, where they're uniquely positioned to respond to these underway Atlantic emergencies. The Portuguese Air Force search and rescue arsenal consists of two EH-101 Merlin helicopters and one Casa C-295M, which remain on 24-hour alert at the base. SAR crews in the Merlin typically consist of a pilot, co-pilot, systems operator, rescue swimmer and nurse.

Other Portuguese search and rescue assets include the P-3 Orion and C-130 Hercules.

Since the beginning of 2012, Portuguese aircraft operating from Lajes Field have combined for 232 search and rescue missions, coming to the aid of 252 people.

When executing search and rescue missions, these aircraft count on American fuel pumped by the 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Management Flight.

"Within the past year alone, the Fuels Management Flight supported Portuguese SAR missions with a grand total of 220,400 gallons of fuel, servicing the C-295 and EH-101 aircraft," said Staff Sgt. Lucas Thompson, 65th LRS Fuels Service Center NCOIC. The 65th LRS receives



To read more on "Rescue Ops" see page 4

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



Many Airmen, many reasons for committing to service

By Col. Richard K. Smith
65th Medical Support Squadron

During a recent wing stand-up Chaplain Granger shared his thoughts on the word "diligence." The discussion that followed caused me think about words and definitions. Consider the word "commitment." A dictionary definition of commitment includes phrases like the act of committing, or the state of being committed. Words like guarantee, pledge, promise, and responsibility are used to characterize commitment in all professions. In the military, we take an oath (pledge) to support and defend the Constitution, and we are very detailed in specifying roles and responsibilities. The nature of our work requires us to be prepared to execute our mission in any condition, location or time. Commitment to the organization is essential, but do we know commitment when we see it?

A 2006 Congressional Budget Office study on military recruiting and retention reported that the DoD recruits around 170,000 enlisted members each year. Career point retention goals vary by service, but consistently only 10 percent of these recruits will retire after 20 years of military service and each has his or her own reason(s) for making an initial or career commitment to the military.

As I pursued ideas on the subject I came across a study on organizational and professional commitment conducted by Rahman and Hanafiah, two Malaysian social scientists steeped in the art and science of organizational theory. Buried in the usual collection of variables, coefficients and statistical smoothing formulas that are always found in real scientific studies, was their suggestion that organizational commitment comes in three forms: Affective Commitment, or employees who attach to the organization because they choose to do so... we'll call this person the teammate; Continuance Commitment, or those whose commitment

is tied to an awareness of the real costs associated with leaving the organization...we'll call this person the pragmatist; and Normative Commitment, those who commit out of a sense of obligation...we'll call this person the patriot.

Science serves no real purpose until it's used in the field, so while conducting PCS exit interviews recently I decided to put the Rahman and Hanafiah 'three commitment suggestion' to the test. My small test group included two males and one female, two white and one black all from similar economic backgrounds, one airman, one NCO, one CGO; time in service ranged from 2 to 10 years. Going in I only knew that all three were high performing Airmen, committed to the technical and leadership responsibilities that come with serving. I

asked each why they committed to the Air Force: the airman enjoys being part of a team and doing something important (the teammate); the NCO serves because it is a means to an end (the pragmatist); and the CGO serves out of a sense of patriotism (the patriot). No kidding, these were the actual results and while this small unscientific survey doesn't meet the rigors for statistical significance, they correlate nicely to Rahman and Hanafiah's research. I guessed the patriot, but expected that 2 of 3 were team-mates. The pragmatist surprised me, which is the point to this article; my preconceived idea of what commitment looks like was broken. I was enlightened...science in action!

The truth is that we are surrounded by teammates, pragmatists and patriots who serve with distinction every day and those who commit to military service, serve equally, whether patriot or pragmatist. Our leadership challenge, and that's leaders at all levels, is to avoid falling victim to our own preconceptions and biases and cultivate all who serve as high-performing Airmen whether for a single tour, or part of the 10 percent who will make the Air Force a career.



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.



Col. Chris Bargery

Col. Chris Bargery
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



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

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Editorial Staff

- Col. Chris Bargery
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing
- Capt. Mark Graff
Editor-in-Chief
- Mr. Eduardo Lima
Community Relations Advisor
- Staff Sgt. Angelique Smythe
Editor
- Mr. Manuel Martins
Layout Designer



Praia Fest is back: key to enjoying local culture is safety, planning



Dancers from the Lajes Field African American Heritage Committee perform in the 2012 Praia Fest Opening Parade. Attending Praia Fest is a great way for Lajes Airmen to enjoy local culture. Lajes Field leadership urges all Airmen to enjoy Praia Fest, but to do so safely, remembering to use resources at your disposal, such as LADD, a first sergeant, or a wingman. (U.S. Air Force photo/Guido Melo/Released)

Have questions about shopping at Lajes' Commissary, Exchange?



Bernadette Ornelas, Lajes Defense Commissary Agency stocker, unloads groceries from delivery trucks into the Commissary warehouse, July 17, 2013, Lajes Field. Commissary and Exchange operations at Lajes Field are often impacted by weather or other factors, sometimes delaying shipment to the remote island. For more information and a full story on Commissary and Exchange operations, go to Lajes Link and click on this news story. (Photo by Guido Melo/released)



"Rescue Ops" from page 1

as many as four calls a day to assist the Portuguese SAR team.

When the SAR unit contacts the 65th LRS' control center, a fuels operator arrives on scene within minutes to provide up to 1,000 gallons of fuel. Speed is key, said Master Sgt. Frank Berrones, 65th LRS Fuels Management Flight superintendent.

Although the Air Force once used a 30-minute standard for which operators must respond to aircraft fueling requests, no true standard exists, said Berrones.

"When we have requests for fuel, there is no real standard on when we have to get... to the aircraft," he said.

When lives are at stake, as is often the case with search and rescue mission, the standard is, 'as fast as you can,' Berrones said.

"Here at Lajes, we get there in as little as three minutes. For rescue missions, we drop everything we're doing to get out to that helicopter, so our average response time from the moment we get the call is three to seven minutes," the master sergeant said.

The LRS' fuels service center is the nerve center for all Lajes Field refueling operations. Fuels service center controllers respond to the Portuguese calls, kicking off a frenzy of U.S. support to the Portuguese missions.

"Every time they call us, we go out as fast as we can, and we've never had any delays," said Portuguese civilian Francisco Dinis, 65th LRS Fuels controller. "Every time they have a rescue mission, we make sure we're on time and do the best we can. There are lives to be saved, and we're always ready for that."

Like many units at Lajes Field, the 65th LRS relies heavily upon Portuguese civilians employees teamed with American Airmen, all working together to ensure mission accomplishment. On Lajes' flightline, all fuel servicing is performed by Portuguese employees, said Berrones.

Upon taking the call to support a search and rescue mission, Dinis records the amount of fuel required and sends a refueling truck to meet the aircraft. Dinis provides the refueling truck's operator with a clipboard, radio and checklist, also known as their 'Bible.' The operator's checklist must be followed step-by-step to ensure the rush to assist does not compromise safety.

"We never skip safety first," said Clara Avila, Portuguese civilian supervisor for the 65th LRS Fuels Management Flight. "Safety procedures include walking around the vehicle to check for any leaks, damage or obstruction, as well as wearing personal protective equipment around the aircraft. The operators are so used to this that... (safety is automatic.)"

Following the operator to the flightline is an expeditor armed with a tool kit, a spill kit and technical orders. If needed, the expeditor assists to the operator, though the expeditor is not typically involved in the actual aircraft fueling.

Fueling calls vary from training to actual responses to a crisis situation, said Dinis. Considering the Azores are an expansive archipelago, each search and rescue mission requires a tailored response.

"The amount of fuel we give them depends on the distance of the islands that they will go to," said Avila. For example, Santa Maria is far away, so it takes a lot more gas than an aircraft going to Sao Jorge, which is closer.



The inside of an EH-101 Merlin helicopter, readied for emergency and medical responses, at Lajes Field. The Portuguese Air Force search and rescue arsenal consists of two EH-101 Merlin helicopters which remain on 24-hour alert at the base. SAR crews in the Merlin typically consist of a pilot, co-pilot, systems operator, rescue swimmer and nurse. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory/released)

Some islands, like Sao Jorge, don't have a hospital."

"Sometimes the calls come in at two, three, four o'clock in the morning," Avila added, noting that emergencies have a knack for inconvenient timing.

Portuguese SAR operations also deter criminal and piracy activities on the ocean, Berrones said, loosely comparing mission to that of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Several 65th ABW elements support Portuguese search and rescue efforts. In the event a large fuel spill should occur, the base's spill response team, including the fire department and environmental team, is ready.

Each operator's response to an aircraft in need of fuel is supported by many LRS role players.

The preventative maintenance element inspects and ensures R-11 and R-12 refueling vehicle readiness. A laboratory analyzes fuel, making sure it is appropriate for distribution, directly enabling the fuel distribution element – which consists of more than 30 personnel – who refuel the aircraft with JP-8.

The fuels process comes full circle, when refueling trucks are serviced by the hydrants element to restock their tanks with up to 6,000 gallons of fuel.

"Then they park (the refueling vehicles), and we're done," said Berrones.

Thankfully for all navigating the mid-Atlantic near the Azores, this partnership between the U.S. and Portuguese Air Forces ensures that Portuguese search and rescue crews and aircraft are always at the ready.

Headquarters Azores Air Zone Public Affairs contributed to this story. Rescue mission southwest of Flores island. <http://www.emfa.pt/www/album-021.007-videos>



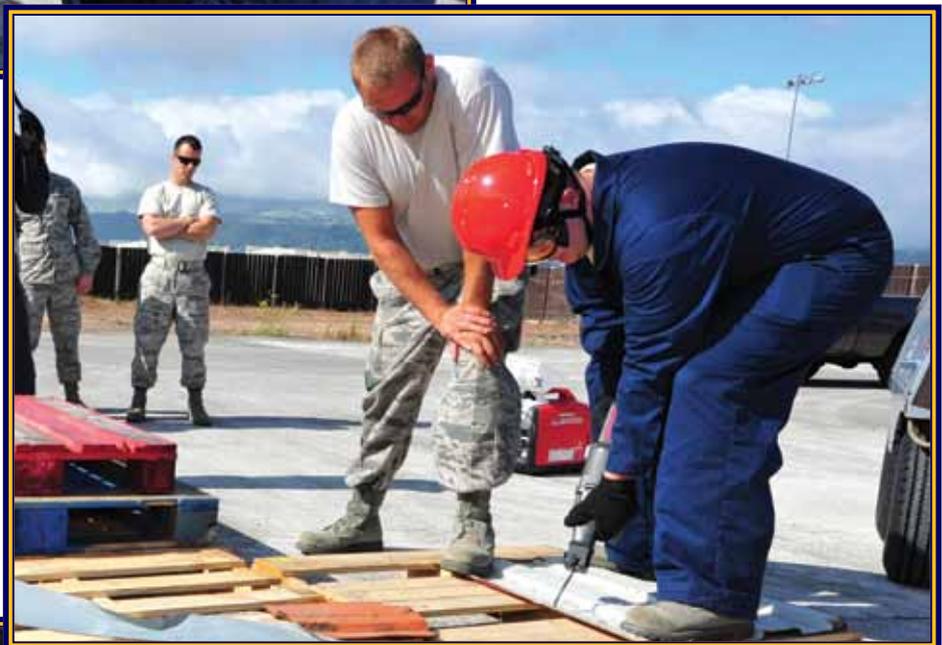
A Casa C-295M Twin-Turboprop Transport aircraft in a hangar at Lajes Field. Since the beginning of 2012, Portuguese aircraft operating from Lajes Field have combined for 232 search and rescue missions, coming to the aid of 252 people. When executing search and rescue missions, these aircraft count on American fuel pumped by the 65th Logistics Readiness Squadron Fuels Management Flight. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory/released)



Transient alert, firefighters train together to keep sharp



Tech. Sgt. Darl Parvin, 65th Operations Support Squadron Transient Alert line chief, assembles an electric saw prior to Crash, Damaged, Disabled Aircraft Recovery training, July 16, 2013. The 65th OSS TA crew, or CDAR team, conducts quarterly training to keep their skills sharpened for possible aircraft recovery incidents. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory/released)



(l-r) Staff Sgt.'s Kyle Porter and Quincy Westbrook, 65th Operations Support Squadron Transient Alert technicians, practice using an electric saw during their Crash, Damaged, Disabled Aircraft Recovery training, July 16, 2013. The 65th OSS TA crew conducts quarterly training to keep their skills sharpened for possible aircraft recovery incidents. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory/released)



Airmen from the 65th Operations Support Squadron Transient Alert team, practice using an electric saw during their Crash, Damaged, Disabled Aircraft Recovery training, July 16, 2013. In the event of a possible aircraft incident, the 65th OSS TA crew will respond and recover the aircraft. The CDAR team uses the saws and other equipment to remove aircraft parts used for safety investigations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Chenzira Mallory/released)

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!

- Praia Fest (local festival), August 2 - 8 @ various locations
- Portuguese Holiday, Praia da Vitoria Day, August 11
- 65th Air Base Wing Training Day, August 13, Some facilities (Medical Group) closed ALL DAY
- Portuguese Holiday, Assumption Day, August 15
- 65th Air Base Wing Exercise, August 23, Basewide
- USAFE Family Day, August 23
- US Holiday, Labor Day, September 2
- 65th Air Base Wing Unit Effectiveness Inspection, September 3 -9, Basewide



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.



Saturday, August 3: 6:30 p.m. Areeiro, Fontinhas
Saturday, August 3: 6:30 p.m. São Bartolomeu
Monday, August 5: 6:30 p.m. Arena bullfight
Tuesday, August 6: 6:00 p.m. Juncal
Wednesday, August 7: 6:00 p.m. Juncal
Thursday, August 8: 6:00 p.m. Quatro Ribeiras
Friday, August 9: 6:00 p.m. Street across from Modelo supermarket in Praia

ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima, Community Relations Advisor



Praia Fest 2013



Praia Fest kicked off Aug. 2 and will come to a close this Sunday. Unlike Sanjoaninas Festival in Angra, Praia Fest doesn't have a long tradition. It began in 1978 and with the exception of few years, Praia has held its fest since then. Below are some highlighted events for Aug. 9-11. The military port area in Praia will

be open for parking until 1 a.m. during Praia Fest, for U.S. personnel and 65ABW local national employees.

Aug. 9

- Noon- Opening of Food Fair (next to the marina)
- 6 p.m. – Street bullfight in the street next to Continente/Modelo supermarket
- 7 p.m. – Opening of Arts & Crafts Fair (across from main beach)
- 9:30 p.m. – Parade "A look at Praia Fest" featuring local classic cars (main street)
- 11 p.m. – Concert by two concert bands (main square)
- 11 p.m. – Concert by Portuguese hip-hop band "Mundo Secreto" (music resort)
- Midnight – Concert by local jazz band "Bossa Quintet" (marina

stage)

12:30 a.m. – Dj music with Oliver T and Miss Sheila (music resort)

Aug. 10

- 10:30 a.m. – Walk with dogs (meeting point at roundabout next to La Barca restaurant)
- Noon- Opening of Food Fair (next to the marina)
- 5 p.m. – Hip hop class (waterfront)
- 9 p.m. – Parade and performance of ballroom dancers (main street)
- 11 p.m. – Concert by renowned Portuguese rock/blues singer "Rui Veloso" (music resort)
- Midnight – Concert by local Latin beat band "Contratempo" (marina stage)
- 12:30 – Dj music (music resort)

Aug. 11

- 11:30 a.m. – Ceremony commemorating the Aug. 11, 1829 battle in Praia Bay (parking lot)
- Noon – Opening of Food Fair (next to the marina)
- 6 p.m. – Bullfight at Praia beach
- 9:30 p.m. – Closing of Praia Fest with children's parade featuring the theme "Ratatui" (main street)