

# CROSSROADS

Rated #1 Best Web-Based Publication in the U.S. Air Force Europe

Vol. 18, No. 36 September 20, 2013

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal



**Final Edition: Next Week**

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

FY 2013



1222  
SORTIES

11,786  
LODGED



6,94 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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## Fighter season in full swing

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Luke Adams, 65th Operations Support Squadron F-16 crew chief and coronet liaison, performs operational checks in the cockpit of an F-16 Fighting Falcon as U.S. Air Force Capt. Dell Schledewitz, 175th Fighter Squadron F-16 pilot, records notes in his flight log Sept. 12, 2013, at Lajes Field, Azores. Schledewitz is a pilot from Joe Foss Field Air National Guard Station, Sioux Falls, S.D. Adams conducts post operational checks to ensure the aircraft remain operational. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Villanueva II/Released)

## Lajes kicks off CFC-O with Tuff Mudder obstacle course

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

Lajes kicked off the annual Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas with a Tuff Mudder 5K run and obstacle course Sept. 16, raising \$800 toward family and youth programs.

The event started the year's CFC-O efforts by joining members of the 65th Air Base Wing together for some challenging fun while bringing awareness to the campaign.

CFC is a voluntary, philanthropic program designed to provide all federal employees an opportunity to improve quality of life for all people through monetary donations.

The generosity of Department of Defense employees has made the CFC-O one of the most charitable workplace giving campaigns in the world. Continuing the long-lasting

tradition of selfless giving, the five overseas combatant commands raised more than \$13.6 million in 2012 to help fight cures for diseases, house and feed those displaced by disaster, rehabilitate wounded warriors and take care of the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Twenty-nine teams, or 154 Lajes personnel, participated in the CFC-O Tuff Mudder kickoff event, while approximately 40 watched and cheered. This included Airmen, civilians, spouses, children and Portuguese employees.

The Tuff Mudder consisted of a 5K run with an obstacle course that tested teamwork, endurance, strength and agility. Obstacles included the Mud Pit Low Crawl, Tire Flip, Stairs, Slip and Slide (76 feet long), Fireman's Carry,

For more on "CFC" see page 4





# Welsh champs communication, airpower in Air Force update

By Airman 1st Class Alexander W. Riedel  
Air Force News Service

The Air Force chief of staff discussed airpower and the service's warfighting capabilities across its core missions at the Air Force Association's 2013 Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition here today.

Gen. Mark A. Welsh III presented the Air Force update on the second day of the three-day, 55-session conference covering various topics pertaining to the total force.

Welsh described what the Air Force must do to remain dominant in air, space and cyberspace domains. He noted the service's 690,000 members performing air-related duties compared to the Navy's 70,000 personnel, the Marines' 39,000 and the Army's 34,000.

"There is one Air Force in America, and you're in it," Welsh said. "If the combatant commander wants airpower, there's only one number to call."

Welsh also addressed the issue of readiness, especially in light of current budget constraints. "We have to minimize the impact where we can -- it's not going to be good."

The general acknowledged other impacts to the force, including scale-backs to exercises and weapons schools but said he remains confident in Airmen.

"Our force is better educated than it has ever been, and we need to empower our Airmen -- they're remarkably capable."

Welsh encouraged the use of social media to facilitate two-way communication and buffer against communication pitfalls such as "stove-piped information."

"Chief (Master Sgt. of the Air Force James) Cody and I are on Facebook and Twitter,

which is terrifying," Welsh said over laughter. "Follow us."

Welsh said the newest "Global Vigilance, Global Reach and Global Power for America" document is internally focused and designed to help Airmen understand their role in the broader scheme of the Air Force. He also described Air Force 2023, an effort in progress to incorporate resources and strategy.

"Then we start turning the ship and heading to whatever that picture of 2023 looks like," Welsh said.

With budget woes casting a haze of uncertainty on the future, the general called the furlough "a breach of faith" that he hopes does not occur again. He acknowledged the challenges of Air Force civilians who've been without pay raises for three years.

Welsh also expressed concern about retaining the Air Force's best Airmen, specifically pilots, as training hours dwindle and units are grounded.

"Our rated force has options," Welsh said. "They served well and now they have choices to make ... If we're not letting them keep their edge, they'll walk."

The Air Force's recapitalization priorities include the KC-46 tanker, the F-35 Lightning II and the long range-strike bomber -- all critical in engaging with a determined, well-armed, well-trained opponent, the general explained.

Welsh said when people ask him if he worries about the Air Force's future, the response is simple.

"The answer is no ... I'll never worry," he said. "Not while (they) are on our side," Welsh said of several Airmen he asked to join him on stage. "This is our Air Force."



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III presents the annual Air Force Update keynote address at the Air Force Association's 2013 Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition Sept. 17, 2013, in Washington, D.C. Welsh presented the Air Force update on the second day of the three-day, 55-session conference covering various topics pertaining to the total force. (U.S. Air Force photo/Michael J. Pausic)

**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.*

**Col. Chris Bargery**  
Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



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

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

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*All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.*

### 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



## Lajes Field honors first responders, victims of Sept. 11

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

Airmen of the 65th Air Base Wing honored the victims of Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks through a ceremony and wing formation run in boots and utility uniforms on the 12th anniversary of one of the nation's darkest days.

A ceremonial bell ringing honored the lives of the 418 first responders who died placing service before self as they rushed into chaos, smoke and fire to save lives, risking their own.

"They climbed a hundred stories to save lives; they never made it home that night," said Chief Master Sgt. Alan Boling, 65th ABW command chief. "Since then, our first responders around the United States have honored their memory with marches, runs and climbs in full gear to remember those who died and to also remember what it means to wear and perform the duties of their position as first responders."

In light of Sept. 11, 2001, the U.S. military was tasked to bring the fight to the nation's enemy. Brave men and women of the U.S. and allied nations answered the call to serve willingly.

"We've protected standing in the gap and evil - 6,668 women have lost and Afghanistan mission,"

"Every single woke up one strapped on their their battle uniform and gave the ultimate country."



our family by between good American men and their lives in Iraq doing that Boling said. one of them morning, boots, donned for the last time sacrifice for their

Boling explained the purpose of Team Lajes' gathering was "to remember not only our first responders, but our own sacrifices as military men and women in the protection of our country."

Col. Chris Bargery, 65th ABW commander, thanked Lajes' Airmen for serving their country, highlighting those who joined after Sept. 11, 2001.

"Thank you to all of you who joined the U.S. military after 9/11 because you knew you were going to war," he said. "We've been in a state of conflict ever since, and we've made great headway. Thank you to our first responders who stand in the gap every day, every night, here on the base, across the Air Force and across the globe. Thank you for who you are and what you do."

During the ceremony, Team Lajes responders read the Firefighter's, Police Officer's and Emergency Medical Service's Prayer, then all took a moment of silence to reflect on the lives lost.

Three first responders wore their full gear in leading the wing's formation run - Staff Sgt. Andrew Kose, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, Staff Sgt. Zachery Vaught, 65th Security Forces Squadron flight chief, and Senior Airman Hannah Meza, 65th Medical Operations Squadron emergency medical technician.

As the wing ran its 5K in "boots and utes," all were re-educated by a loud speaker of the timeline in events which took place Sept. 11, 2001. Nearly 3,000 innocent people in New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania, including civilians from 91 nations were killed.

For the full set of 9/11 Memorial Ceremony and Formation Run photographs, go to Lajes Link, Lajes Field's official website at [www.lajes.af.mil](http://www.lajes.af.mil).



Photos Above (from top): U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Zackery Vaught, 65th Security Forces Squadron specialist, assembles a memorial during a 9/11 remembrance ceremony Sept. 11, 2013, at Lajes Field, Azores. U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Hannah Meza, 65th Medical Operations Squadron medical technician, Vaught and Staff Sgt. Andrew Kose, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, honor those killed on 9/11. U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Robert Payne, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, rings the bell during a 9/11 remembrance ceremony. The bell ringing symbolizes the start and end of shift, the start and end of an emergency, and honors fallen first responders. The 65th Air Base Wing honored those killed on 9/11 with a "boots and utes" memorial run that was led by Vaught, Meza and Kose, all Lajes Field first responders. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Villanueva II/Released)



"CFC" from page 1

Elevated Log Run, Rope Climb, Over and Under, Wall Climb and Floating Log Walk.

The 65th Operations Support Squadron won first place and 10 Commander's Cup points by completing the obstacle course in 32 minutes and 40 seconds.

The most junior (Thomas Hirak, 10, son of Tech. Sgt. Christopher Hirak, 65th Force Support Squadron Airman Leadership School commandant) and most senior (Gilda Cortez, 65th Medical Group Patient Safety manager) participants were provided Bowling Center breakfast certificates donated by the 65th Force Support Squadron.

"Whether you watched, volunteered, or ran the Tuff Mudder, it was an awesome opportunity to come together as Team Lajes and bring awareness to the Combined Federal Campaign," said Capt. Cody Hess, 65th Medical Support Squadron Resource Management Flight commander.

Hess led the event's team of committee members, along with Staff Sgt. Andrew Kose, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Department Emergency Communications Center operator.

"We put this together in just a little over two weeks," said Kose. "We had a number of outstanding performers and volunteers who put in really long work hours to include the weekend."

Nine committee members, 55 volunteers, eight outstanding performers, and an overall team effort from across the 65th ABW contributed to the success of the kickoff event.

"I think the Tuff Mudder went really well," said Kose. "It was a good experience. A lot of people were challenged and a lot of teams out there were laughing and having a good time."

Lajes' overall goal for 2013 is to raise \$85,000 with 30 percent participation of its members. In 2012, Lajes raised more than \$100,000 with 96 percent participation.

"The monetary value was scaled back due to the decreased number of active duty and U.S. civilian personnel on the installation," said Capt. Katherine Hass, 65th MDSS TRICARE Operations and Patient Administration Flight commander and CFC wing project officer. "U.S. Air Forces Europe CFC-O determines the wing's participation percentage."

CFC-O will run Sept. 16 through Nov. 15. Anyone wishing to participate may contact their unit representatives for a pledge card. Monthly allotments can be set up through MyPay on the Air Force Portal. Unit representatives can provide the campaign and unit number for electronic contributions.

"Charities range from local, US and international organizations with a wide variety of causes," said Hass. "No gift is too small and every gift matters; it can make a world of a difference."

# 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year shine at gala

By Staff Sgt. David Salanitri

Air Force Public Affairs Agency, Operating Location - Pentagon

The Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year earned praise at a dinner hosted by the Air Force Association as part of the 2013 Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition here Sept. 16.

The award recognizes 12 outstanding enlisted service members for superior leadership, job performance, community involvement and personal achievements.

"I don't have any hesitation that we have picked the right 12 people," Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody said. "They are an exceptional representation of the 690,000 Airmen serving in our Air Force around the world."

The chief master sergeant of the Air Force, a general officer and selected major command chiefs comprise the selection board, and the Air Force chief of staff reviews the selections.

Before a crowd of more than 600 people, the 12 Airmen stood arm-in-arm with family and friends as the emcee read the Airmen's accomplishments.

The 12 Outstanding Airmen earn the Outstanding Airman ribbon with the bronze service star device and wear the Outstanding Airman badge for one year. They also serve on the Air Force Enlisted Council for one year. Guidelines for submissions are outlined in Air Force instruction 36-2805, Special Trophies and Awards.

The honorees are:

Master Sgt. Tessa Fontaine, National Reconnaissance Office, Chantilly, Va.

Master Sgt. Andre Davis, 203rd RED HORSE Squadron, Camp Pendleton, Va.

Senior Master Sgt. Ernesto Rendon Jr., 62nd Aerial Port Squadron, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash

Senior Airman Casey Anderson, 59th Mental Health Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas

Senior Airman Joseph Senteno, 2nd Comptroller Squadron, Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

Senior Airman Steven Hedgepeth, Organization 772nd Enterprise Sourcing Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas

Staff Sgt. Joshua Hanna, Organization 36th Civil Engineer Squadron, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam

Tech. Sgt. Adam Gomez, 3rd Combat Camera Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas

Tech. Sgt. Celeste Okokon, 7th Bomb Wing, Dyess Air Force Base, Texas

Tech. Sgt. Jason Payne, 24th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Master Sgt. Shawn Jones, 514th Air Mobility Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

Staff Sgt. Lauren Everette, 48th Inpatient Squadron, Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England

For more information on these Airmen and this year's AFA Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition, visit <http://www.afa.org/InformationFor/military/NatAeroSpaceAwards/OutstandingAirmenoftheYear>

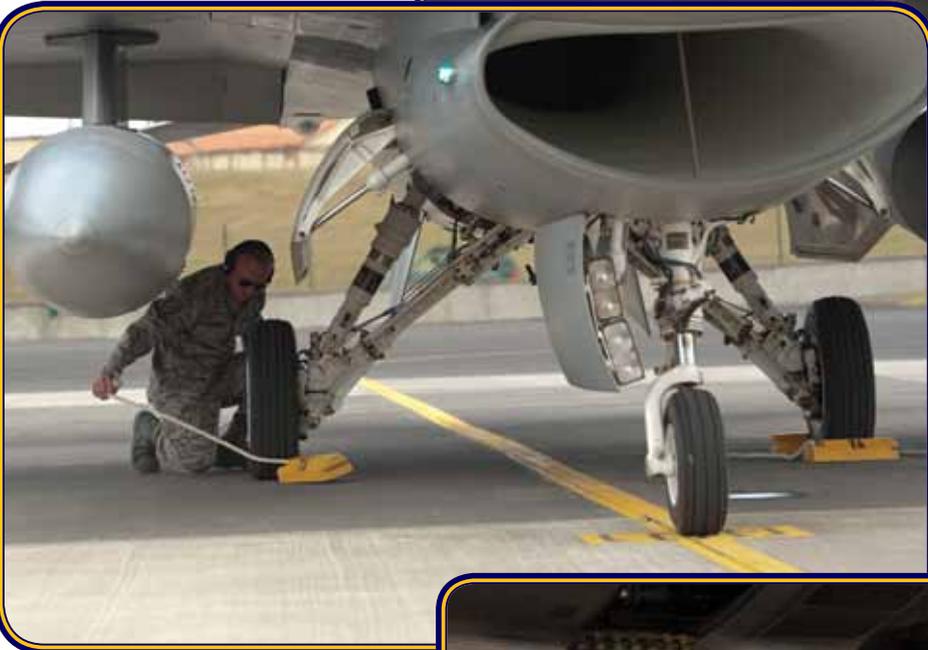


Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James Cody speaks at the Outstanding Airmen of the Year dinner during the Air Force Association's annual Air & Space Conference and Technology Exposition Sept. 16, 2013, in Washington, D.C. The award recognizes the top 12 outstanding enlisted Airmen for superior leadership, job performance, community involvement and personal achievements. (U.S. Air Force photo/Jim Varhegyi)



# OSS supports F-16 Fighting Falcons

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Luke Adams, 65th Operations Support Squadron F-16 crew chief and coronet liaison, marshals in a F-16 Fighting Falcon Sept. 12, 2013, at Lajes Field, Azores. The F-16 is piloted by U.S. Air Force Capt. Dell Schledewitz from the 175th Fighter Squadron, Joe Foss Field Air National Guard Station, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. As a coronet liaison, Adams is in charge of all fighter aircraft that fly in and out of Lajes and that all post operational checks are performed to ensure the aircraft remain operational. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Villanueva II/Released)



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Mike Hughes, 65th Operations Support Squadron F-16 crew chief, places chocks under a F-16 Fighting Falcon Sept. 12, 2013, at Lajes Field, Azores. The pilots of the F-16s are from the 175th Fighter Squadron, Joe Foss Field Air National Guard Station, Sioux Falls, S.D. Transient alert conducts post operational checks to ensure the aircraft remain operational. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Villanueva II/Released)



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Peter Soares, 65th Operations Support Squadron crew chief, takes an oil sample from an F-16 Fighting Falcon Sept. 12, 2013, at Lajes Field, Azores. Soares, an F-15 crew chief by trade, is part of the Lajes Field Transient Alert team and conducts the post operational checks to ensure the aircraft remain operational. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Villanueva II/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!

- Combined Federal Campaign - September 16 thru November 16
- 2013 Lajes Field Air Force Ball celebrating the US Air Force's 66th Birthday, September 21 @ Golf Club of Terceira; social hour begins at 6pm, dinner is served at 7pm
- First Sergeant Symposium, September 23-27 @ CAC Ballroom
- 65th ABW Monthly Promotion Ceremony, September 30, 3pm @ CAC Ballroom
- "Pink 5K Run" for Cancer Awareness, October 4, 7:30am @ Fitness Center
- Final Crossroads newsletter edition, September 27 (all news, info on Lajes Link in the future)



### 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

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/lajesfield/collections>

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, September 21: 5:30 p.m. Porto Martins  
Saturday, September 21: 5:30 p.m. Rua dos Boiões, Biscoitos  
Sunday, September 22: 4:30 p.m. Port of Biscoitos  
Thursday, September 26: 5:30 p.m. Feteira  
Friday, September 27: 5:30 p.m. Feteira

## ASK ED

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

By Eduardo Lima, Community Relations Advisor



### Island of Faial

Shaped like an irregular pentagon and a population of approximately 15,000 people, the Island of Faial is one of the most charming islands of the Azores and most visited by tourists, especially yachtsmen.

The island was discovered during the first half of the 15th century and settled around 1460. A few years later, a group of Flemish led by nobleman named Josse Van Huerter settled on island. Its main town, the City of Horta, is probably the Portuguese translation of this Flemish settler's name.

The Spanish also occupied the island in 1583 despite strong resistance by its inhabitants. Faial also took an active part in the internal struggles between the liberals and absolutists movements in the 19th century.

Until about 1860, Faial's position in the Atlantic and the existence of its sheltered port attracted cargo boats and American whalers, which stopped there for supplies. The city of Horta was an important center for underwater cable links between North America and Europe during the first half of the 20th century. The city also took part in the pioneer period of aviation, serving as one stop for the first transatlantic flight in 1919, as well as a landing site for Pan American zeppelins during World War II. Horta was a naval base during both world wars and one of the ports used by the Allied fleet at the time of invasion of Normandy in 1944.

Today, Faial is a developing island with an economy based on agriculture, dairy industry, fishing and trade. The construction of a marina inside the port of Horta, which is known and visited by

yachtsmen from all over the World, has contributed to the island's development as well.

The City of Horta is one of the centers of the Regional Government's administration and the seat of the Azorean Parliament.

Faial has a beautiful landscape. Caldeira, the volcanic cone that dominates the island, features a wide, deep crater and a small pond surrounded by blue hydrangeas and luxuriant vegetation. Cabeço Gordo, the island's highest point with an altitude of approximately 3,280 feet, offers a magnificent view of Faial and surrounding islands.

One of the most prominent tourist attractions on the island is Ponta dos Capelinhos, the site of a volcanic eruption, which occurred in 1957 and completely destroyed the nearby village leaving hundreds homeless. The lighthouse of Capelinhos still stands amidst the volcanic ashes that cover what used to be fields and homes.

Other villages that earn a visit are Praia do Almojarife, Ribeirinha, Salão, Cedros, Praia do Norte, Capelo, Varadouro, Castelo Branco and Feteira.

The largest tourist event of Faial is undoubtedly the "Sea Week Festival," which is held every year in the City of Horta during the first week of August. The festival originated from the Portsmouth, England - Horta regatta in 1975 and features sailing, fishing and swimming competitions, musical concerts, parades, etc.

Faial is also served by the regional airline SATA-Azores and the ferryboats during the summer months.

