

THE ROCK

Lajes Field Newsletter



December 19, 2014

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COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

Team Lajes,

The holiday season is a time to spend with family and friends while cherishing all that we have. During this holiday season Beth and I would like to extend warm wishes to our Airmen, families, and Portuguese neighbors.

2014 was a challenging and rewarding year for team Lajes. We have accomplished a great deal during a prolonged period of transition and uncertainty. We have supported close to forty Coronet missions sending iron to the fight all year long while efficiently refueling and taking care of aircraft, pilots and aircrews better than any other place in the world. We directly supported a US European Command deterrence exercise to assure our allies and communicate our strength during the Ukraine crisis. Additionally, we have deployed 65 ABW

members to support of operations in Colombia, the Balkans and to assist in Operation United Assistance. We have been able to find innovative ways of doing business that has allowed the Air Force to spend money on important contingency operations. Finally, we have exercised with our Portuguese Air Force allies and developed our airmen to meet the highest standards of readiness. I could not be more proud of all of your hard work.

As you celebrate the holidays, take time to focus on two very important areas. First, take care of yourselves. Secondly, take care of your friends and family. I understand that some of you will spend the holidays away from family and I want to thank you for your service.

Thank you for what you do every day in service to our Air Force and the United States of America.

Col Martin Rothrock

SecAF talks priorities, challenges with Airmen in town hall meeting

By **Gabriel Myers**

Air Force Public Affairs Agency,
Operating Location

Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James reflected on her first year as the service's secretary answering questions directly from Airmen all over the world in an online town hall-style forum here Dec 16.

The secretary announced the Air Force will not conduct involuntary force management programs in fiscal year 2015, saying fiscal year 2014 force shaping measures were successful, but "enough is enough."

James opened the town hall thanking Airmen for their service and led into her top three priorities: taking care of people, balancing the readiness needs of today with the modernization needs of tomorrow and making every dollar count.

"I have two takeaways from my first year;

the first is we are the best Air Force on the planet," James said. "We are the best because of our Airmen. My second takeaway is the

The secretary fielded questions from Airmen live in the studio, via Skype and submitted on social media. The rebalance to the Pacific, the Air Force nuclear enterprise, enlisted performance reports, budget and force management reductions were on the minds of those Airmen participating in the discussion.

James, in response to a question, stated although we have become a smaller overall force, there are a few areas she sees as growing in the future.

"We are growing in a number of areas, for instance we are growing in ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance)," she said. The secretary also expects growth in cyber-related fields and stressed the importance of

the National Guard and Reserve. Investment



Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James

Air Force is feeling some strain due to our size and ops tempo, as we have fewer people in our Air Force than ever in our history."

For more on "SecAF" see page 2

Photo Perspective



Loadmasters with the 512th Airlift Wing prepare to load a forklift onto a C-5M Galaxy. The Airmen were taking part in cargo load training with the help of Airmen from the 729th Air Mobility Squadron Dec. 14, 2014 at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal.



Staff Sgt. Adam Culver (left), 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, was presented with a STEP promotion to Technical Sergeant by Col. Martin Rothrock (right), 65th Air Base Wing commander, Dec. 17, 2014, at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal. Culver was one of four selected for a STEP promotion throughout United States Air Forces in Europe by Gen. Frank Gorenc, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa commander.

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in the nuclear enterprise and the top three modernization programs will also continue. In line with her priority of taking care of people James answered a question about combatting sexual assault and the recent Defense Department report.

She said stamping out sexual assault, is a priority for the DOD. She added the Air Force, through heightened awareness and training, has "turned the corner" to reduce incidents as well as increase victims' confidence in the reporting system.

But the effort is far from over, James main-

tained.

"Are we done yet? No. Is it good enough? Absolutely not. Do we have to keep on it? You better believe it," she said, noting the need for persistent leadership and focus to end sexual assault.

When asked about the new enlisted performance system, James explained the focus on performance and ensuring continuous, effective and fair feedback between a supervisor and an Airman.

The new system is designed to discourage inflated reports. "If everybody gets the same grade, and it's a top grade in every respect, then really what do those grades mean?"

James asked.

The secretary ended her town hall saying the Air Force's success is due to the hard work of its people.

"Thanks to all of our Airmen around the country and around the world for the enormous work that you have been doing," James said. "I have seen it in action and it is magnificent. Thanks also to your family members, who I know are the backbone of all that you do."

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Base Announcements

Eagle Eyes

Drinking Water Leak Detection Study

GTC Payment Options

Holiday Mailing Season

Expanded Influenza Vaccine Available

New housing website

All members PCS'ing from Lajes Field with Privately Owned

Vehicle (POV)

TMO Information

Civilian Personnel Newsletter

Non-command sponsored dependents memorandum

BAH Revalidation Required for All Airmen

FSS MPS Holiday Hours

65th Medical Group Closed for Training 2nd Tuesday of Each Month

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Community Events

[Click to see a list of Community Events](#)

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Island Events

Concerts

Movie Schedule (Praia & Angra)

New Year's Eve at Praia Marina

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Commander's Action Line

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