

THE ROCK

Lajes Field Newsletter



January 16, 2015

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COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

Team Lajes,

I would like to first thank Maj. John Dickens, 1Lt. Amanda Zenner and the LRS for organizing this week's events. We have had great Portuguese appreciation events in all of our squadrons and across the base.

The purpose Portuguese Appreciation Week is for us to say thank you, Muito Obrigato, for the dedicated service that our Portuguese employees give the 65 ABW and the US for 70 years. We offer this thanks with the utmost sincerity. I don't think that my words of thanks can be taken as sincere unless I at least acknowledge that many of you, your co-workers, and families are extremely unhappy about last week's European Infrastructure Consolidation announcements concerning Lajes. As I said last week, I don't have any useful information to offer in to make you better informed about what the future holds for us. There isn't much that I can say, because I don't know exactly what will happen since we are still involved in a political process far above the 65 ABW. The best I can offer you is that your military leaders will continue to listen and seek to thoroughly understand your concerns and frustrations. We Airmen and Portuguese have been a team for decades and we will continue to be team mates. I don't know what the future holds, but the roots of our relationship are deep and I am certain that we will get through this and carry on together as a team.

So I hope you will accept our thanks in the spirit with which it is intended from the Airmen of Lajes, with sincerity. First of all, we say thanks for your competence and expertise. Many Airmen I have talked to about this share my view that Lajes has the most competent and dedicated group of employees that you can find anywhere. You not only get the job done, you do it in a spectacular fashion. You constantly seek improvement and innovation and you teach our Airmen what you know so that they can be better.

Secondly, we thank you for sharing the beauty and the rich culture of Terceira with us. It would take me a long time to cover all the things listed on the Lajes memory boards but Ben Burgess sums it up with his quote, "what an amazing place to live." Our lives are richer because you have welcomed us bull fights, fishing, music and dancing, hiking, and sports. Additionally you have shared with us the great wine, Galaos, Meia Leite, and amazing food, including my favorite Al Catra.

Finally, we thank you most of all for the bonds of affection that have grown between us. If you read the memory boards, you will see a common theme, that the beauty of this island, as great as it is, is outshined by the hospitality of its people. You have befriended us, fed us and even married us. Americans and the people of Terceira are teammates, we are friends, we are family and we say Muito Obrigato.

Col Martin Rothrock

SecAF, CSAF discuss future of the Air Force

Senior leadership addressed the key issues, priorities, initiatives and challenges facing the Air Force during the State of the Air Force press briefing, Jan. 15 at the Pentagon.

Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III, focused on the Air Force's highest priorities and said they have been working hard to balance resources and preserve combat capability in a tough fiscal environment.

"Everyone wants more Air Force," James said. "We're meeting those demands with the smallest force in our



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III and Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James deliver their, "State of the Air Force," press conference Jan. 15, 2015, in Washington, D.C. In her comments, James said we are the greatest Air Force in the world because of our Airmen.

history. Couple a smaller force against the backdrop of austere budgets, and you have a total force that is under significant strain: active duty, Guard, Reserve, civilian, and their families." Welsh had the same concern.

"It's about some very tough decisions we have to make to recapitalize on the Air Force for the threat 10 years from now," Welsh said. "We don't have enough money last year or this coming year to fund all the things that we currently have in our force structure." While fiscal year 2015 still presents

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Photo Perspective



Chief Master Sgt. David Klink, 65th Air Base Wing command chief, performs a low crawl during the January Warrior Challenge. The 65th ABW Airmen participated in physical challenges as they ran around the base. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf)



Col. Martin Rothrock, 65th Air Base Wing commander, addresses Portuguese employees during the Portuguese Appreciation Week Luncheon at the Top of the Rock Club, Jan. 15, 2014. The week honored the Portuguese employees that serve side-by-side with U.S. military and civilian personnel. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf)

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some enormous budget challenges for the Air Force, James and Welsh strongly agree enough is enough when it comes to force shaping and stated Airmen will see no involuntary boards in 2015.

"We cannot go any lower," Welsh said. "We are getting too small to succeed as opposed to too big to fail."

James said challenges with the budget in no way minimize the responsibilities of the Air Force.

"As Air Force demands around the world continue to increase," she said. "We cannot afford to get smaller and sacrifice capability."

One of greatest demands James and Welsh addressed was intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance requirements.

"Not only do combatant commanders want more ISR, they want the globally-integrated, persistent ISR that Air Force capabilities pro-

vide," the secretary said.

James and Welsh acknowledged the significant stress the high operations tempo has placed on its experienced operators. To combat that, they have developed a plan to meet combatant commander warfighting requirements while relieving some of the unrelenting strain felt by operators.

The intentions of the ISR goals outlined by James and Welsh will provide near-term relief to stressed crews by implementing a number of options to immediately increase manning.

The future of the Air Force continues its focus on balancing today's readiness with tomorrow's modernization.

"The American people expect our Air Force to fly, fight and win against any adversary," James said. "It is important that we continue to afford our nation the Air Force capability it needs well into the future by appropriately investing in our people and in our platforms.

Base Announcements

Eagle Eyes

GTC Payment Options

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

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

[Click to read for more Base Announcements](#)

Community Events

4th Quarter Awards Breakfast January 23

Resilient Relationships Class January 23

Annual Awards Ceremony January 24

Wing Promotion Ceremony January 30

Black History Month Breakfast 4 February

Wing Training Day 10 February

[Click to read for more Community Events](#)

Island Events

Local Volleyball Games

Local Basketball Game

Movie Schedule (Praia & Angra)

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