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Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force visits Lajes

By Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf
65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody and his wife, retired Chief Master Sgt. Athena Cody, stopped at Lajes during a tour of remote locations across the U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Jan. 26, 2015.

This was the second stop on Cody's tour after visiting Morón Air Base, Spain.

During his stop at Lajes, he recognized outstanding performers and received a 65th Air Base Wing mission brief from Lajes' Fabulous Five.

Cody then held an Airman's Call to hear from Airmen and address their concerns. A great deal of the discussion related to the upcoming changes to the enlisted evaluation and promotion system. He highlighted a few of the changes and addressed a question on the new process for promotion to master sergeant. Technical Sergeant who are eligible for promoting to master sergeant will meet a board this Spring.

"The board will do just what they do with seniors and chiefs," Cody said. "They will look at your record and give you a board score." Additionally, Cody said the new Enlisted Performance Report will

remove the current numbered rating system and use word pictures to document job performance and promotion recommendations. While he recognized that these changes will be a challenge, he believes that over time it will move the enlisted force in the right direction.

During the Airman's Call, Cody also offered advice for young Airmen serving today. He said many Airmen may be uncertain if they want the Air Force to be a career. He acknowledged that was their choice, and gave some advice that he was given when he was a young Airman.

"Work hard every day, work like you are going to stay in the Air Force for 20 years and then along the way if you decide to get out you will be in a place to make the right decision," Cody said.

Cody ended his Airmen call by acknowledging a smaller military presence at Lajes Field, but emphasizing the importance of the relationship between the U.S. and Portugal.

"We have been talking about getting smaller at Lajes. However, we have had a tremendous relationship with the Portuguese for decades, since before our Air Force was an Air Force and that relationship will continue into the future. The relationship we have here is not going away. We have to find the right balance to project combat power with our partners in the future."

Air Force risks becoming too small to succeed under sequestration

By: Natalie Stanley
Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Command Information

During testimony on Capitol Hill Jan. 28, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III stressed the negative impact sequestration will have on future Air Force capabilities, emphasizing further budget cuts will lead to low morale and declined readiness in the Air Force.

"Pilots sitting in a squadron looking out at their airplanes parked on a ramp certainly feels like a hollow force, whether we define it that way or not," Welsh said. "People are not joining this business to sit around."

The common tone of the testimony by all the service chiefs was maintaining the faith and trust each military member has in their respective service by ensuring they have the training, tools and equipment needed to win any fight, now or in the future.

"We can't continue to cut force structure to pay the cost of readiness and modernization or we risk being too small to succeed," Welsh said.

Welsh stated 24 years of combat operations has taken a toll on the

For more on "Air Force risks" see page 2



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III testifies before the Senate Armed Services Committee Jan. 28, 2015, in Washington, D.C., as Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., looks on. Other service leaders present during the hearing were Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond Odierno and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert. (U.S. Air Force photo/Scott M. Ash)

Photo Perspective



Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force James A. Cody visits Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal, on Jan. 26, 2015. Cody is currently on a tour of bases within the United States Air Forces in Europe command expressing his gratitude to Airmen, listen to their concerns and answer their questions. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf/Released).

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Air Force and the need for modernization is no longer a debatable issue.

"We currently have 12 fleets of aircraft that qualify for antique license plates in the state of Virginia," he said. "Air Forces that fall behind technology fail and joint forces without the full breadth of the air, space and cyber capabilities that comprise modern airpower will lose."

Welsh credited improved combat squadron readiness over the past year to the Balanced Budget Act, which targeted individual and unit readiness, but stated future sequestration would immediately reverse this trend.

"Squadrons would be grounded, readiness rates would plummet,

Red and Green Flag exercises would have to be cancelled, Weapons School classes would be limited, and our aircrew members' frustration will rise, again," Welsh said.

He explained sequestration has led to intentional underfunding of infrastructures that produce combat capability over time including training ranges, test ranges, space launch facilities, simulation infrastructure, and nuclear infrastructure.

Welsh appealed to the members of the Senate Armed Services Committee to join with the military to ensure current and future combat capability.

"We do need your help to be ready for today's fight and still able to win in 2025 and beyond," he said. "Our Airmen deserve it, our joint team needs it, and I believe our nation still expects it."

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
Holocaust Remembrance Day Project Officer Wanted

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Community Events

No School: January 30
Parent Forum 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
Movie Schedule (Praia & Angra)

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

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