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‘Resilient Relationship’ tested

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

A couple from Lajes put the new program “Resilient Relationships” to the test when Tech. Sgt. Andrew Williams deployed to Kosovo for four months with his fellow 65th Security Forces Squadron defenders.

One of the features of this program involves spouses watching videos online and talking about what they saw and how it might apply in their lives.

“After watching the videos we made sure we stayed in touch as much as possible,” said Debbie Williams, 65th Air Base Wing administration assistant. “I learned communication with your spouse is key to keeping a good relationship.”

Trying to read a spouse after a deployment, whether you are the one that deployed or the one the deployed member is coming home too, can be really difficult as time spent away can change one or both of the parties.

“I think the videos helped me the most,” Williams said. “It reminded me to remember what my spouse might say, but might actually mean.”

The videos range from serious to comical, but they are designed to get the family members talking and give them something to relate to. “Well, not only was it funny but some points stated were somewhat true in my family,” Williams said. “The one comment I especially remember is ‘When a woman says she’ll be ready in 5 minutes, she actually means 30.’ In my house it’s actually 45.”

Communication is essential and can help grow relationships, which is one reason why this program focuses on it.

“Sometimes a person can be under a bit of stress,” Williams said. “Keeping it to yourself is never a good thing. Whether it’s about what’s going on with your job, family or just daily life in general, talking it out with your spouse helps you out. That other person can provide a different point of view you may not have thought of.” In addition to communication, spending time together is equally as important. This is another way relationships grow, even if it is spending time through technology as family members may be separated by a move or deployment.

“One event that stuck out was when we were able to spend Christmas together using Skype,” Williams said. “We have 2 children and this was the first time that a deployment really impacted my 6 year old son. The entire week after my husband left, my son mentioned how much he missed his dad. So having both kids be able to see him at Christmas was a great morale booster.”

With the increase of technology staying connected through a deployment is much easier than before and helps foster an environment where relationships can continue to grow.

“I really think this will help with spouses by keeping an open communication going between one another,” Williams said. “A lot of problems in marriages stem from the lack of communication. When communication breaks down, the marriage breaks down and can end in divorce. I think this would be helpful to be presented as a family program through the Airman Family and Readiness Center.”

First Air Force theater security package deploys to Europe

By: USAFE-AFAFRICA Public Affairs

The U.S. Air Force deployed 12 A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft and approximately 300 Airmen as part of a theater security package to the 52nd Fighter Wing, Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve this week.

The aircraft and Airmen, from the 355th Fighter Wing, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., and are set to be in place and fulfilling the TSP mission by the end of the month.

The TSPs will augment U.S. Air Forces in Europe’s existing efforts as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve by conducting flying training deployments and off-station training with NATO allies to further enhance interoperability.

Operation Atlantic Resolve is a demonstration of U.S. European Command and United States Air Forces in Europe’s continued commitment to the collective security of the North Atlantic Treaty



Members of the 65th Operations Support Squadron Transient Alert assist the A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot disembark his aircraft at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal, Feb. 11, 2015. The A-10s are deploying as part of a Theater Security Package heading to Europe. These European deployments underscore U.S. commitment to NATO allies, regional partners and U.S. security obligations. The A-10s and Airmen are deploying from the 355th Fighter Wing, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf)

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Photo Perspective



Master Sgt. Daniel Phillips from the 65th Inspector General Office took this photo and was the winner of the photo contest for the basic digital single lens reflex class taught at the education center. Those interested in the basic DSLR class can find more information on the Airmen Ethos website and can sign up for the next class that will be held Feb. 20 and 27.



An A-10 Thunderbolt II taxis to the parking area at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal, Feb. 11, 2015. The A-10s are deploying as part of a Theater Security Package heading to Europe. The Air Force has been rotating Total Force Airmen to Europe as a part of Operation Atlantic Resolve for the past year. These deployments demonstrate the continued U.S. commitment to fulfill our security responsibilities throughout the area. The A-10s and Airmen are deploying from the 355th Fighter Wing, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf)

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Organization and dedication to the enduring peace and stability in the region.

"The Air Force has been rotating forces as a part of OAR for the past year," said Lt. Gen. Tom Jones, vice commander, United States Air Forces in Europe - Air Forces Africa. "The TSP is another way the Air Force is increasing rotational presence in Europe to reassure our allies and partner nations that our commitment to European security is a priority."

While in Germany, the unit will conduct training alongside NATO

allies with the goal of strengthening interoperability and enhancing regional security. The unit will later forward deploy to locations in Eastern European NATO nations.

"The U.S. Air Force's forward presence in Europe area provides the support infrastructure needed to increase our current force and build new and deeper partnerships across the continent," said Jones.

The A-10s are the first of several TSP deployments to Europe. Rotations will generally last six months, depending on mission and U.S. European Command requirements. Although a first in Europe, the Air Force has been conducting similar TSP rotations in the Pacific region since 2004.

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

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

Community Events

Presidents Day February 16
Portuguese Holiday February 17
Lajes E/H School Events:
- February 16: President's Day, no school for students and teachers.
- February 20: Elementary Lock-in for Grades K-5, 1530-1900.
- February 21: Prom Grades 5-11, 1900-2300.
- February 26: Grades K-6. Study trip to the Cultural Center.

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

Island Events

Local Volleyball Games
Angra Theater (Located at Angra Cultural Center)
- 19-23 Feb. p.m. - The Imitation Game, rated PG-13
- 26 Feb- 2 March, 9 p.m. - Foxcatcher, rated R
Praia Theater
- 20-21 Feb., 9 p.m. -- American Sniper, rated R
- 27 Feb, 9 p.m. and 1 March, 6 p.m. -- The Theory of Everything, rated PG-13
Musical Performance February 7

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

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