THE ROCK
Lajes Field Newsletter

February 20, 2015

COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

Recently one of the mid-week space available flights that normally permits passengers did not have any available seats on the aircraft. Is this going to become the norm or is it just a one-time issue?

We spoke with the 729th Air Mobility Squadron who controls the space available program at Lajes and they stated that space available passengers could not travel on the KC-10 last week due to its cargo load of K-9 explosives training equipment. Since the 65th Security Force Squadron does not have K-9s they no longer required the equipment. That equipment had been waiting to be transported off the base for approximately one year and required coordination to authorize its shipment. No exceptions could be authorized for this type of cargo movement to allow passenger travel. While we haven't had to ship this type of cargo in 10 years, we will attempt to mitigate passenger impact in the future by publicizing this information as early as possible.

Col Martin Rothrock

Command Chief hosts All Call

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

Chief Master Sgt. David Klink, 65th Air Base Wing command chief, hosted an enlisted all call at the base theater Feb. 11. Klink used this opportunity to brief the Lajes enlisted Airmen about three important topics; the future operations of the base, the Professional Military Education program and recent drug cases.

The majority of Klink's talk focused on the future of non-commissioned officer professional military education and what it will look like for everyone.

"NCO Academy is no longer going to be called NCO Academy," Klink said. "It's ILE, which is Intermediate Learning Experience. Our pool is managed at the USAFE level; all of USAFE goes to one school for this and to be able to go to this school you have to do the online distance learning."

Course 15 is that online distance learning. In the future, everyone who hits seven years of service will be enrolled into the course and it will be a requirement in order to attend the in-residence ILE. Also, starting in fiscal year 16, Course 15 will be required for technical sergeants to promote to master sergeant.

While it is required for promotion, it will also be required to stay in the Air Force.

"If you don't complete your distance learning course, you're going to be coded and every time we do a (Date of Separation) rollback or if you come up for reenlistment, you are going to be separated from the service for not completing it," Klink said.

Airmen may read that and start worrying about their career, but Klink has some good advice to ensure they are on the right path.

"Manage your life, manage your expectations, manage whatever you're doing to make sure you have set at least that 100 hours aside to get this work done during that year," Klink said.

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2015 NDAA changes carryover 'use or lose' leave, military members urged to double-check

By: Master Sgt. Jess D. Harvey
USAFE-AFAFRICA Public Affairs

A recent change in annual leave rules reducing the amount of leave military members are allowed to carry over could cause many to lose accrued leave on Oct. 1, 2015 if they're not deliberate about using excess leave.

"Leaders are working hard to inform military members at every level that the leave carryover amount has reverted back to the normally allowed 60 days under the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act, instead of the 75 days allowed in previous years," said George A. Coggins, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa financial operations division chief.

While the total leave amount on members' leave and earning statements and in leave web is accurate, the use or lose number is showing incorrectly.

He also pointed out that the leave and earnings statement system hasn't caught up with the change yet.

According to messages posted on MyPER, the military pay system still reflects a use or lose leave balance based on the previous, 75-day-carryover rule. Therefore, the use or lose number being reported on leave and earnings statements and in leave web are not correct.

For more on "NDAA changes" see page 2

Photo Perspective

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Keith O'Shea, 65th Security Forces Squadron patrolman and Portuguese Air Force Segundo Cabo Elisabete Teixeira pose for a photo on Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal, Feb. 20. U.S. Air Force members patrol Lajes with their Portuguese counterparts to ensure the base is secure. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf)

Members of the graduating Airman Leadership School class pose for a photo during their graduation at the Top of the Rock Club, Feb. 19, 2014. (U.S. Air Force photo/Guido Melo)

"NDAA changes" from page 1

"The system is being updated," said Coggins, "but military members still need to do the math for themselves to be sure their leave balances are down to 60 days by Sept. 30."

Basically, members need to look closely at their leave balance and plan accordingly to make sure their leave balances are below 60 days by Sept. 30 regardless of what their use or lose balance shows. If not, they will lose leave.

"Barring any additional changes to the law or policy on the subject, if your leave balance exceeds 60 days on 1 October 2015, the balance will be reduced, resulting in a new balance of 60 days," according to a message on the virtual finance site.

Although this change doesn't directly apply to special leave accrual, substantial changes were made to that process as well, according to the MyPers message. It directs Airmen to contact their Force Support Squadron or Military Personnel Section for more information.

click to open:

MyPER

Virtual Finance

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
JA Tax Center Opens
Dental Clinic Closed March 6
Protestant Service combined into one service at 1100

Click to read for more Base Announcements

Community Events

Lajes E/H School Events:
- 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.
Wing Promotion Ceremony February 27
Wing Training Day March 10
S/UM Dinner March 16
Women's History Month Luncheon March 19

Click to read for more Community Events

Island Events

Local Volleyball Games
Angra Theater (Located at Angra Cultural Center)
- 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

Click to read for more Island Events

Commander's Action Line

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