



April 24, 2015

DOD Air Force USAFE Lajes Field US Embassy, Portugal Youtube Facebook

Lajes pays tribute to lost teammate

Commentary by: 1st Lt. Korey Fratini

On Sunday April 19, 2015, tragedy struck the Lajes community. Pedro Arruda a member of the Air Force and Team Lajes passed away. Pedro was a dedicated member of the Top of the Rock Club staff.

This news came as a complete shock to the entire Team Lajes community. However, in true Air Force fashion the base community came together to support each other and those directly affected including Pedro's family.

During his funeral, which took place on April 21, 2015, individuals from the 65th Air Base Wing paid their respects and showed their support to Pedro and his family. So many people showed up to his funeral, many had to stand outside as the small church in Quatro Ribeiras was completely full.

Later in the week the base held its own tribute to Pedro. During the weekly "Boss and Buddy" night held at the Top of the Rock Club the Team Lajes community came together to honor



Pedro. The room was packed full and many had to stand. It was amazing to see just how many people's lives Pedro touched in some way or fashion. Col. Martin Rothrock, 65th Air Base Wing commander, began the tribute by acknowledging how tough the news was to so many. He remarked on the dedication and teamwork Pedro brought to the base. Ending his comments, Col. Rothrock noted just how much Pedro's friendship and smile would be missed by the Team Lajes community.

What is most evident in our Air Force family is our ability to stand with each other during challenging times. While Pedro was a Portuguese Local National he was still an Airman. He was a member of Team Lajes and our Air Force. When tragic events, like Pedro's passing effect so many, our Air Force family has the ability to stand together and support one another.

Pedro will be missed but his memory will live on with those who have served at Lajes Field forever.

We're Doing Better...But We Must Do Better

April 2015 Roll Call: CMSAF James A. Cody

Roll Call! In the Air Force and our military at large, we rely on our brothers and sisters who serve by our side. We stand confident, knowing we'll each do our part to bring our powerful weapons and capabilities to bear around the world; we know we'll offer a helping hand of support in times of need; and we rely on our combined innovative expertise to carry our team forward. Together, we stand ready to Win the Fight, Strengthen the Team and Shape the Future.

Even with our various specialties, we know

our strength comes from our ability to stand as one. It's the strength that has delivered the world's most powerful airpower, and the strength we need to eliminate an unfortunate but all too real enemy: sexual assault. Last year at this time we released a Roll Call encouraging you to display the confidence and courage we need to eradicate this crime from our Air Force. It's clear you're doing that, and more.

The prevalence rate of unwanted sexual contact has decreased for both women and men. Reporting has increased over the last three years, a positive indication of confidence by

the force. The decrease in prevalence and increase in reporting is an encouraging sign, but the crime still exists.

We're doing better, but we must do better. We are strongest when every member of our Air Force family stands as one. Together, we must stand ready to protect our teammates and prevent this crime. We must know our part, and do our part.

As you gather with your team this month, consider how you can prevent sexual assault. What is your part? This isn't a problem one

For more on "Doing Better" see page 2

Photo Perspective



The U.S. Air Forces in Europe Band's music group, Touch n' Go, performs at the Angra Do Heroismo High School, Azores, Portugal, on April 23, 2015. Touch n' Go is performing at numerous locations on Terceira island including Praia Main Square on April 24th at 9:30 p.m. and the Top of the Rock Club on April 25th at 8:00 p.m. (U.S. Air Force photo by Sr. Guido Melo)



Senior Airman Earl Harris and Staff Sgt. Chris Zamora, both 65th Operations Support Squadron transient alert maintenance technicians, take oil samples from an A-10 Thunderbolt II with the 190th Fighter Squadron, Idaho Air National Guard, at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal, April 17, 2015. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Bradley C. Church)

"Doing Better" from page 1

office can solve. We all must embrace our role to foster a culture of dignity and respect, an environment where it becomes impossible to commit this crime. Also, consider how you can act. What can you do? We all must sound off against this crime with commitment and courage. We'll soon release our future sexual assault prevention strategy that lays the framework we need to realize an Air Force free from sexual assault. I encourage you to take a look...read it, understand it, and embrace it.



It's tough to admit this problem, a horrific crime, exists in our Air Force. It's not what we want to believe...but we have to acknowledge facts. Sexual assault exists in our force. It rips us apart, and tears at the trust we need to fight and win our nation's wars. We're doing more to prevent this crime, but there is more we can do. We must do better, because we're better; our brothers and sisters who serve by our side are better. We are all part of our Air Force family.

Base Announcements

Lajes Field Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate (DAVA) Services
2015 Total Force Climate Survey 13 March - 4 May 15
The Air Force Credentialing Opportunities Online (AF COOL) Program:
Base Honor Guard
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
MSP Career Development/Customer Service Closed Every Wednesday
TMO walk-in customer service hours: 0800-1400 M-Th, 0900-1400 F

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

Community Events

USAFE Rock Band Touch n' Go at the TORC April 25
Walk A Mile in My Shoes: Ruck March April 29
Wing Promotion Ceremony April 30

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

Island Events

XXV Meia Marathona dos Bravos (Terceira Half-Marathon) May 1
Movies: Angra Theater (Located at Angra Cultural Center) Praia Theater

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