

THE ROCK

Lajes Field Newsletter



May 15 2015

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COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

Over time we have noticed that there have been long response times by ambulance services on base. Can you explain why this is and what the process is for responding to calls?

Two ambulance services presently operate on AB4 proper: the Portuguese Air Force, AB4 Medical Centre service; and our 65 MDG ambulance. Both of these services operate in the larger geographic area of responsibility of the local Civil Protection (CP) ambulance service. When our 65 MDG ambulance is dispatched by 65 CES Emergency Communication Center (Fire and Emergency Services Dispatch) and is the first to arrive on station, our EMTs assess the patient's condition and the decision to transport to Angra hospital is made by our on-call Medical Officer of the Day. If the medical condition urgently threatens life, limb, or eyesight, the 65 MDG immediately transports the Portuguese or US patient to Angra Hospital.

If the condition is assessed as non-urgent, appropriate treatment(s) are applied and the patient is given follow-up instructions. Certain non-urgent medical conditions are appropriate for ambulance transportation. In these cases, a Portuguese patient will be transported by the AB4 Medical Centre, or the CP ambulance, and a US patient will be transported by the 65 MDG.

Why the difference? The primary reason is the language barrier, but regardless of which ambulance transports the patient to the hospital, the first service to respond will remain on-station to support the patient until they are properly relieved by the transporting ambulance service. So, while the non-urgent patient may have to wait for ambulance transportation to

Angra Hospital, they should never be left without medical support.

As streamlining efforts go forward what is being done to ensure our airmen and local national employees receive proper care once the US ambulance service reduces its hours?

As streamlining efforts go forward, the 65 MDG ambulance service will reduce its operating hours from 24-7, to 12-hour coverage during normal duty days. Before 65 MDG coverage is curtailed and eventually terminated, dispatch procedures will be adjusted and coordinated with our Portuguese Air Force hosts. We are currently working through these steps to ensure uninterrupted ambulance response on AB4 proper, as well as Nascero do Sol and Biera Mar housing areas continues in the future. The timeline for this transition will be communicated when it is approved. In the meantime, if you have questions about the 65 MDG ambulance service please call 535-7008.

Outstanding Support to CODEL Visit

This past weekend the 65th Air Base Wing had the privilege of supporting a visit from members of the U.S. Congress. Included in this Congressional Delegation were Rep. Devin Nunes, Rep. Jim Costa, Rep. Illeana Ros-Lehtinen, Rep. Paul Cook, Rep. David Joyce, Rep. David Valadao, Rep. George Holding, and Rep. Robert Pittenger. We also hosted the U.S. Am-

bassador to Portugal, Robert Sherman, as well as 6 representatives from the 3rd Air Force staff and 3 others from the Defense Intelligence Agency. I know that supporting a visit like this is not easy but Team Lajes did an outstanding job. I would like to take this time to thank each of you for hard work and dedication in making the visit a success. I know a lot of work went on behind the scenes to provide important information to our congressional leaders and ensure the base looked its best. We showed them our mission capabilities and base infrastructure to provide them information they need to make decisions. The Congressional Delegation, Ambassador and Maj. Gen. Bence were extremely impressed by the professionalism and dedication you all displayed. They all left here with a great appreciation for what we do every day.

Thank you again for the outstanding support you provided this past weekend. I continue to be proud of all the work we accomplish together as a team.

-Col Rothrock

AAFES Changes

-Beginning 15 May the Beauty Shop will operate by appointments only on both Fridays and Saturdays. Walk-ins will no longer be accepted. If appointments are not made on a Friday or Saturday the stylist will not come into the salon. This does not apply to the Barber Shop. The Barber Shop will continue to operate Tuesday – Saturday 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

- Over the course of the next two weeks individuals will notice changes being made to the Main Exchange. AAFES is in the process of consolidating the Shoppette into the Main Exchange store. The Shoppette is projected to continue operating in its current location until 30 May. On 31 May is it projected that the Main Exchange will become a combined Exchange and Shoppette. At this time the Exchange will then operate under the hours that the Shoppette operated.

If you have specific questions regarding these changes contact AAFES.

Changes to 65th MDG Ambulance Service

Changes resulting from the 65th Air Base Wing streamlining will include significant differences in the availability of, and access to, medical services. One of the first obvious changes will occur in mid to late May, with the reduction in 65th Medical Group (MDG) Ambulance Services coverage to "duty hours only".

In an effort to encourage responsible and prudent use of these services, please consider the following before calling an ambulance (think threat to life, limb or eyesight):

- a. Drowsiness or unconsciousness where the person cannot be roused
- b. Choking
- c. Sudden or severe chest pain

For more on "Action line" see page 2

Photo Perspective



The 65th Civil Engineer Squadron won the 2015 Lajes intramural volleyball championship May 11, 2015. (Photo courtesy of Capt. Samuel Logan)



Col. Martin Rothrock, 65th Air Base Wing commander, gives remarks during the closing ceremony of the Lajes Elementary and High School on Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal, May 8, 2015. For over 50 years the school has provided education to military dependents stationed at Lajes. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf)

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- d. Sudden or severe abdominal pain that will not go away
 - e. Dislocated or broken bones
 - f. Deep cuts or wounds with profuse bleeding
 - g. Head injuries that are followed by drowsiness, vomiting, bleeding, or unusual behavior
 - h. Poisoning or drug overdose resulting in unconsciousness and respiratory distress
 - i. Severe allergic (anaphylactic) reaction
 - j. Seizures
- Emergency services are a precious resource to be used sparingly so that they are available to support true emergencies (reference above). Also,

ambulance services personnel are not trained or equipped to manage non-emergent problems; that's the job of your PCM. The great majority of ambulance runs at Lajes Field are for non-emergent conditions. The 65th MDG has supported those calls in the past because the resources were available. As we progress in streamlining, however, the ambulance mission will transfer to our host nation. Let's be responsible about how we use their resource and NOT unnecessarily burden them with non-emergent ambulance calls. Only YOU can prevent unnecessary ambulance calls.

If you have questions regarding changes in ambulance service contact the 65 MDG at 535-7008.

Base Announcements

Lajes Field Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate (DAVA) Services
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
Protestant Service combined into one service at 1100

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

Community Events

65 SFS Excellence in Competition (EIC) 18 May
65 FSS Assumption of Command 19 May
CCAF Graduation 19 May
Business Information Meeting (BIM) 20 May
Wing Promotion Ceremony 29 May

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

Island Events

Island Bullfights
Angra Chamber of Commerce Food Festival 24 April – 17 May
Movies:
Angra Theater (Located at Angra Cultural Center)
Praia Theater

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

Commander's Action Line
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