

Crossroads



Vol. 12, No. 33 • Aug. 31, 2007

Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal | Lajes In the Fight!

Force Protection



Current FPCON: Alpha
Threat Level: Low

Mishap Stats



Last Reportable
Mishap: June 21

FY '07 Total: 4

DUI/DWI Stats

Last DUI/DWI: May 6
FY '07 Total: 3



Need a ride?
Call 964-955-992
Saves in FY' 07: 32

Weather Forecast

Saturday

Cloudy

High 79
Low 68



Courtesy of the
65th OSS Weather Flight



Senior NCO Induction

Senior Master Sgt. Ken Jack, 65th Mission Support Squadron, lights a candle during the Senior NCO Induction Ceremony in the Top of the Rock Club here Aug. 24 as Chief Master Sgt. Laten Williams, 65th Air Base Wing command chief master sergeant, left, and Master Sgt. Michael Burns, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, look on. Twenty-one Lajes Airmen were inducted at this event sponsored by the Top 3 Association. (Photo by Senior Airman Taylor Marr)

USAFE/CC: Maintain focus on safety

By Senior Master Sgt. Stefan Alford
U.S. Air Forces in Europe Public Affairs

RAMSTEIN AB, Germany — As the traditional summer period of increased injuries and fatalities across the Air Force winds down this weekend, U.S. Air Forces in Europe leaders, from General William T. Hobbins, commander, down to first-level supervisors, are stressing the importance of staying focused and not letting complacency result in a possible mishap.

The period between Memorial Day and Labor Day is designated as the "101 Critical Days of Summer" due to the historically sharp rise in accidents, both on and off duty, and those involving motor vehicles are the leading cause of death for USAFE Airmen.

For the past two summers, all of USAFE's fatalities were vehicle-related – two this year, and three in 2006.

"Driving a car or motorcycle can be one of the most dangerous things that anybody can do in Europe," said General Hobbins. "Motorists need to be careful and realize that one wrong choice can end a life in the blink of an eye."

In addition to vehicle safety, the other two primary focus areas are on-duty accidents and sports and recreation.

Although USAFE does not have any on-duty or sports and recreation-related fatalities this summer, there have been numerous injuries – 18 and 21, respectively.

"Accidents affect more than just the people involved," said General Hobbins. "They affect friends, family and coworkers. We need to remember that our safety focus does not end after Labor Day. We must continue to remain vigilant to ensure the safety of everyone and cannot afford to get complacent. There is too much at stake, both personally and professionally."



CC Line addresses APO system

Question

I am writing the commander's action line in hopes that my issue (and the issue of many others here I am sure) can be addressed with the proper agency which resides outside of Lajes.

I recently "lost" three different items in the mail between leaving the sender in the states and arriving here at Lajes. In each instance, the sender was able to successfully track the package making its way to the APO facility in NY/NJ where it somehow disappears. I have been at Lajes for a long time and am well aware of how the APO system works. But the plain and simple fact is, it isn't working at all right now. Time and again, our mail makes it to the APO facility and then sits for an extended period of time before it gets put on an aircraft bound for Lajes.

If this was the norm, then I would understand and would just have to continue being patient. However, this same matter was addressed last year and the system got considerably better for a while. It is not unreasonable to assume that you could order something from the east coast of the United States and have it arrive here at Lajes the following week. It used to happen all the time.

My issue is that now I am out a very considerable amount of money due to these items being "lost" in the system. It is difficult to convince a vendor to refund the cost of an item if they can track it as being received by the military at the APO facility. In short, the inefficiencies of this system cost all of us money ... money lost that often times we'll never see again. I'd like to ask that Lajes' new leadership look into this issue in an

effort to save everyone at Lajes a lot of anxiety and hard-earned money.

Response

In regards to your query about the postal operations here, let me first say that I am sorry for the mailing delays and financial losses you have suffered. I too have waited what seems to be an undue length of time to receive things that I have ordered.

Mail comes to Lajes twice a week on AMC flights. In the event there is more mail than can fit on the plane, it will be delayed at least a week because both flights arrive on the weekend. This is especially relevant for heavier packages. Additionally, if the mail gets misrouted, it can be delayed weeks or even months as there are limited flights to both deliver and pick-up mail at each APO location. Unfortunately, the U.S. Postal Service does not scan accountable mail (insured and certified) at their CONUS gateways. Therefore, customers or APO personnel cannot track or trace inbound mail to Lajes, or any other APO/FPO overseas.

I suggest that if an item is expensive or of high personal value, you consider insuring it. If you do have any loss of insured mail, you can file a complaint at the post office. Filing the complaint may help you get a refund from the company and will also give us concrete evidence when addressing concerns to the 2nd Air Postal Squadron.

Again, I do apologize for the inefficiencies of receiving mail here, but I assure you the postal staff does their best to get mail to you as soon as possible.

535-4240

actionline@lajes.af.mil

The Commander's Line is your link to me for suggestions, kudos and as a way to work

problems or issues within the 65th Air Base Wing for which you can't find another solution.

Your chain of command should always be your first option for praise or problems — but when that's not the answer, call or e-mail the Commander's Line at 535-4240 or actionline@lajes.af.mil.



Col. JL Briggs

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Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



The 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content in the Crossroads.

Submissions can be e-mailed to news@lajes.af.mil and are due a week prior to the publication date.

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized weekly publication for members of the U.S. military services overseas.

Contents of the Crossroads are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force.

All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

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Water safety: Vital, especially in summer

By Airman 1st Class LaToya Stewart
65th Communications Squadron

As the summer comes to an end, it's important to stress the importance of water safety.

According to the U.S. Lifesaving Association, drowning is the third leading cause of unintentional death in the United States, and the second leading cause of death for people ages 5 to 44.

For children ages 1 to 2, drowning is the leading cause of injury death.

On the island, we have a swimming flag system which is much like the traffic light system.

Green means go ahead the water is fine; yellow means slow down the water isn't too great; and red means stop right where you are and don't go a step further toward the water.

Never ever drink alcoholic beverages and swim. Drinking only increases your chances

of drowning, so just like drinking and driving — no drinking and diving.

Don't swim alone, know the depth of the water before you dive, always have supervision for children, and never swim if you feel overheated, chilled, or right after eating.

Now I know there are people reading this saying to themselves, "I do more than just swim, I do extreme water sporting." I have just the safety tips for you; you should:

☐ Ensure you have the proper personal protective equipment and personal flotation devices before you get into the water.

☐ Have a working knowledge about whichever sport you are doing that day.

☐ Find out about the area you are water sporting in, i.e., water depth, and creatures that live in the water around the area.

After following these few tips, you are good to go enjoy all the freedoms of extreme water sporting. Keep the tips provided in this article "in your back pocket" and you'll be super safe and cool all summer long.

Lajes American School 2007-2008 Calendar



2007

Monday, Labor Day holiday;
Tuesday, first day of school for kindergarteners; Monday through Sept. 7, Sure Start home visits; 3:30 p.m. Thursday, open house for grades 6-12; Sept. 10, first day of school for Sure Start students; Sept. 21, staff development training (students dismissed at 11:15 a.m.); Oct. 8, Columbus Day holiday; Oct. 19, staff training day (no school for students); Nov. 1, first quarter ends; Nov. 2, teacher workday (no school for students); Nov. 5, second quarter begins; Nov. 8, parent-teacher conferences (K-5 only), Nov. 9, parent-teacher conferences (K-12); Nov. 12, Veterans' Day holiday; Nov. 22, Thanksgiving Day holiday; Nov. 23, Thanksgiving Recess Day (no school for students); Dec. 21, staff development training (students dismissed at 11:15 a.m.); Dec. 24 to Jan. 4, winter recess (no school)

2008

Jan. 7, instruction resumes; Jan. 18, staff development training (students dismissed at 11:15 a.m.); Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday; Jan. 24, second quarter/first semester ends; Jan. 25, teacher workday (no school for students); Jan. 28, third quarter begins; Feb. 1, parent-teacher conferences (K-5 only/regular school day for grades 6-12); Feb. 4, staff training day (no school for students); Feb. 18, Presidents' Day holiday; parent-teacher conferences (grades 6-12 only/regular school day for grades K-5); March 10-13, Terra Nova testing (grades 3-11); March 14, staff training day (no school for students); April 3, third quarter ends; April 4, teacher workday (no school for students); April 7-11, spring recess (no school); April 14, instruction resumes/fourth quarter begins; April 18, parent-teacher conferences (K-5 only); May 16, staff development training (students dismissed at 11:15 a.m.); May 26, Memorial Day holiday; June 6, high school graduation; June 12, fourth quarter/second semester ends/last day of school

Good To Know

Wine Festival

This year's wine festival takes place Saturday in the town of Biscoitos. The festival kicks off at 2:30 p.m. with a parade between the wine museum located at Canada do Caldeiro in Biscoitos and the vineyards next to the sea front.

Following the picking of the grapes, participants will head back to the wine museum where they will be invited to crush the grapes with their bare feet inside a tank in the old traditional way.

Memorabilia, electronics available

The 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs office has U.S. Air Force 60th Anniversary memorabilia and various electronics (answering machine, dual deck system VCR, ZIP drive, etc.) available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Visit Room 240 of Bldg. T-100 to see what's currently available.

Lost and found property

Lajes residents are reminded to store property such as children's toys and bicycles inside their storage shed/garage or in their house.

The housing guards will pick up any and all property not located in the direct vicinity of a housing unit.

Property is held for a minimum of 45 days

and is then either destroyed or donated.

If you are missing any property and believe it may have been picked up by the housing guards and you can give a detailed description, call Security Forces Investigations at 535-1324/1116 or the Security Defense Coordination Center at 535-3222.

Bldg. T-112 renovation

Bldg T-112, MSG Consolidated Support Center, is undergoing an extensive renovation project to the roof and external structures of the building. The back alley and the upper parking area (facing T-100) will be closed for parking and pedestrian traffic.

In this first phase of the project, the Civilian Personnel Flight has relocated to Bldg T-400, the SVS Human Resources Flight has relocate to Bldg T-167 (Services Marketing building), and the MPF Customer Support Section has relocated within T-112.

The MPF Customer Service office and SFS Pass and Registration office will not relocate during this first phase of the project.

The main entrance into Bldg T-112 will be redirected to the northwest entrance (facing the Chapel).

In-processing and other functions within T-112 should be unaffected during this period.



CES bivouac

Members of the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron build their defensive fighting position while in MOPP 4 as part of a bivouac exercise earlier this month. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Sanford)



Movie Schedule

Today, 7 p.m. – Harry Potter And The Order Of The Phoenix (PG-13, 138 minutes); **10 p.m.** – DOA: Dead Or Alive (PG-13, 90 minutes)

Saturday, 7 p.m. – DOA: Dead Or Alive; 10 p.m. – Harry Potter And The Order Of The Phoenix

Sunday, 2 p.m. – Harry Potter And The Order Of The Phoenix; **7 p.m.** – DOA: Dead Or Alive

Thursday, 7 p.m. – DOA: Dead Or Alive
Synopsis: Visit www.aafes.com/ems

In The Community

Bullfights: 6 p.m. Saturday, Santa Barbara; 6 p.m. Sunday, Rua Diogo Meneses Avila, Lajes; 6 p.m. Sunday, Rua dos Moinhos, Aqualva; 6 p.m. Monday, Santa Luzia; 6 p.m. Wednesday, Santa Luzia; 6 p.m. Wednesday, Altares; 6 p.m. Thursday, Santa Luzia; and 6 p.m. Thursday, Altares.

Around Lajes

Cheerleaders Visit: The Kansas City Chiefs Cheerleaders are scheduled to perform for Team Lajes at 8 p.m. Saturday the Top of the Rock Club's Warrior Park. This Armed Forces Entertainment event is free.

Doggy Pool Party: 6 p.m. Monday at the base swimming pool.

POC: Ronalee Moses, 535-3855

Spiritual Fitness

Can food drive during Mass, 10:30 a.m. Sunday; and **Catholic Youth of the Chapel meeting,** 6 p.m. Sept. 7.

POC: Lajes Chapel, 535-4211

Lajes Facilities/Offices

Retiree Affairs Office: The Lajes Retiree Affairs Office is located at Room 218 of Bldg. T- 146 and is open from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and by appointment. Call retired Col. Art Nilsen at 535-1037 during these hours; in an emergency, call him at 96-367-0613.

New Legal hours: The 65th Air Base Wing Legal office is now open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each weekday except Wednesday. On Wednesdays, the office closes at 3 p.m. Walk-in hours for notary services and power of attorney remain the same (9 to 11 a.m. Monday through Friday).

POC: Legal office, 535-3546

New Pass and Registration hours: The 65th Security Forces Squadron Pass and Registration Section is now open from 1 to 5 p.m. weekdays.



Soccer champs

Brian Giorgi, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, keeps the ball away from AAFES defenders during the 2007 Soccer Championship at the Security Forces Field Aug. 22. The Civil Engineers beat AAFES 3-2 and finished the season without a loss. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Sanford)

Lajes American School

Lunch accounts: Parents need to re-activate their children's lunch account at the Main Exchange even if they have money in the account from the previous school year. All accounts need to be re-activated.

School bus transportation: Families who live off base should e-mail yolanda.castro@lajes.af.mil or call 535-1314 for a school bus registration form. Students riding the school bus need to obtain a bus pass and complete an application.

Bus monitors: Volunteer bus monitors are needed for school year 2007-2008.

POC: Yolanda Castro, 535-1314

Jobs/Volunteer

Certified teachers: Lajes American School is looking for certified teachers.

POC: Michelle Rodrigo, 535-4151

Commissary baggers: The Lajes Commissary is accepting baggers applications for the morning adult shift.

Services NAF positions: See available 65th Services Squadron jobs at <http://www.lajes-services.com/jobs/jobs2.doc>.

POC: Brenda New, 535-6124

Miscellaneous

Air Force Ball tickets: Tickets are now available for this year's Air Force Ball set for Sept. 15 in the Top of the Rock Club.

The social begins at 6 p.m.; dinner begins at 7 p.m. Dress is semi-formal/business attire. See the Weekly Bulletin for more details.

Car Seat Installation Class: 10 a.m. Sept. 7 in the Airman & Family Readiness Center. Call 535-4138 to sign up.

Classified Ads

E-mail classified ads to news@lajes.af.mil by 5 p.m. the Thursday prior to the week you need it published. Notify the Crossroads editor when items have been sold.

For sale: 1993 Saturn SL1 Manual. Color: Teal. Asking \$1,900. Call 96-716-3504.

For sale: White metal crib w/ mattress, \$50. Small chopper (110V), \$5. Iron (110V), \$10. Sandwich maker (110V), \$10. Microwave (110V), \$20. Blender (110V), \$10. RC car w/ extras, \$150. Call Dan or Amy at 295-516-199 or 963-127-706.

For sale: PS2, 6 games, 2 controllers, and 1 memory stick. Asking \$200. Nintendo GameCube, 1 game, 2 controllers, and 1 memory stick. Asking \$100. Contact Staff Sgt. Arthur Miller at 535/2291 or 913-785-710 or via e-mail.

Free TV available: Moving back to U.S. soon? Sony 60" Widescreen TV. Internal mirror/screen broken during move. Parts unavailable on island. Will work when parts are replaced. You take away. Call 295-549-228.

For Sale: RCA 13" Color TV with remote. Works well. \$25 Sealife Reefmaster Land and Sea Camera Kit Works underwater to a depth of 164 Ft / 50 Meters- Bought New - Never Used- \$50. The Singing Machine Karaoke Machine W/ 5" built in TV CD/Cassette. \$40. Intercoller Fan for Xbox 360. Works (Used) - \$10. Step 2 Floor level folding rocking chair (used) - \$25. Call 295-549-228.

For sale: 1987 Volkswagen Golf and 1992 Hyundai Excel. Great island cars. Spearfishing equipment, \$250. Includes wet suit, mask, gun, weights and buoy. Call Chris or Joane at 295-549-753 or 963-180-743.

Medela Pump In Style Advanced Breastpump Backpack in good condition with accessories. Asking \$80. Violin with carrying case and song book. Asking \$50. Call Brenda Clark at 295-549-664.