

THE ROCK

Lajes Field Newsletter



November 21, 2014

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COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

Team Lajes,

As we approach the Thanksgiving Day holiday Beth and I would like to thank all of you for what you do every day. Thank you to all of the Airmen and civilians here at Lajes for working hard to make the mission happen. Without your hard work we would not be able to accomplish all the great things we do. Your bold and innovative ideas are moving us forward through uncertain times and challenges.

We would also like to thank all of our dependents, those who are here or back in the states. While we face a new dynamic within our community your support is always and will always be our foundation. Without your love and support we would not be able to meet

the demands of our mission partners.

Lastly, a big thank you goes out to our Portuguese partners and neighbors. You have all been extremely supportive of our service-members and families. You continue day after day to open your hearts and homes to us. The generosity of the Portuguese people is second to none and that is what makes serving at Lajes so wonderful.

Not only is it a day to celebrate with family and friends but it is a time to look back at what each of you are thankful for. Thank you again for what you do every day in service to the Team Lajes Family and the United States Air Force.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Col Martin Rothrock

“Honor” lives at Lajes

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

Crisp movements match the uniforms of the ceremonial guardsmen entering the room. Two guardsmen carrying rifles flank the United States flag and the U.S. Air Force flag as the team marches onto the stage. The detail leader orders the team to halt. The next order is, “present arms,” and the guardsmen comply flawlessly lowering the Air Force flag, honoring the U.S. flag during the national anthem.

The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard was formed in 1948 when it was activated by Headquarters Command, U.S. Air Force, within the 1100th Air Police Battalion at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington D.C. Now most bases have their own “base honor guard” that supports base events.

Even though Lajes Field is small, it does have a base honor guard. Staff Sgt. Montecelio Perry, 65th Air Base Wing Base Honor Guard noncommissioned officer in charge, has the honor of leading the guardsmen at Lajes.

For Perry, leading this team of ceremonial

guardsmen does come with its challenges, which he says he is ready for. “The greatest way to overcome (the challenges of bringing everyone together) is to be stern, be patient, be bold and be motivational,” Perry said. According to the USAF Honor Guard website, a “ceremonial guardsman is an individual of good reputation, having integrity, ethical conduct and exhibiting standards which merit respect; responsible for protecting and overseeing the maintenance of standards on and off duty. It is truly an occupation which requires outstanding devotion and commitment to duty. By maintaining our history and exceptionally high standards,



Members of the 65th Air Base Wing Honor Guard practice rifle drills at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal, Nov. 13, 2014. A ceremonial guardsman is an individual of good reputation, having integrity, ethical conduct and exhibiting standards which merit respect; responsible for protecting and overseeing the maintenance of standards on and off duty.
(U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Zachary Wolf)

For more on “Honor Guard” see page 2

Photo Perspective



A basket of grapes passes between workers picking them at a vineyard. The Top of the Rock Club is hosting a wine tasting event Friday, Nov. 21.



Col. Martin Rothrock and Command Chief Master Sgt. David Klink, 65th Air Base wing commander and command chief, pose for a photo with Senior Master Sgt. Botnia Ques who found out she had been selected as a chief master sergeant.

"Honor Guard" from page 1

honor guards will continue to remain an icon of excellence."

Once an Airman shows interest in being a ceremonial guardsman, Perry sends them an application that has to be filled out and routed through the chain of command. Once the commander signs off, that Airman reports to Perry to see if they have what it takes to become a guardsman. This includes basic drill commands during a tryout session. After the guardsman is trained, they can be seen honoring promotees and retirees or posting the colors for other ceremonies. Whenever the wing calls upon them, they will be there in their ceremonial dress ready

to represent the legacy of the Air Force Honor Guard.

"I had a mentor who told me a while back to always make your boss' priorities your priority and if the honor guard is a priority of the wing and the priority of the Air Force, then it's my priority and it should be our priority to maintain it."

Being a part of the honor guard is not just about giving to the Air Force and honoring the history and legacy of it, but it also helps the guardsman.

"The main entitlement would be that you become part of an elite team," Perry said.

"You stand as elite among your peers and the base. Only a handful of people can say they

served on the Lajes Honor Guard."

Other benefits include being eligible for an Air Force achievement medal, an honor guard coin and a chance at winning Honor Guardsmen of the Quarter or Year.

"I want the sharpest Airmen," Perry said. "I am looking for that person who accepts an opportunity, a challenge and those Airmen who accept a greater responsibility other than themselves.

The honor guardsmen practice every Thursday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and interested Airmen should contact Perry at 535-5727.

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Base Announcements

Eagle Eyes

Drinking Water Leak Detection Study

GTC Payment Options

Public Health Thanksgiving Food Safety Tips

Holiday Mailing Season

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

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

Community Events

Wing Promotion Ceremony November 26

Wing Thanksgiving Meal November 27

Tops in Blue November 30

Tree Lighting Ceremony December 5

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Island Events

Angra

Praia's Auditório do Ramo Grande, Praia Theater

Forte de Santa Catarina Open House

Praia Theater

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Commander's Action Line

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