

THE ROCK

Lajes Field Newsletter



December 5, 2014

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COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

It is understandable that enhancing force protection is a concern right now. However, it is really difficult for pedestrians to walk from Nascer to the base on weekends. Is there a way to man pedestrian gates in Nascer for some predictable period of time on Saturdays and Sundays on in order to allow walkers to come and go from the base without having to walk all the way to the youth center?

The 65th Mission Support Group worked with the housing security

contractor Securitas to determine times on the weekend that the walking gate along commanders rows in Nascer will be open. On both Saturdays and Sundays that walking gate will be open from 0800-0900 and again from 1500-1600. We hope that this will be more convenient for Nascer housing residents.

FSS Working For You!

Due to the demand for Play Station 4 use from the Library, FSS has purchased two additional Play Station 4s that are ready to be checked out today. They also purchased additional games to be played on the system.

Consumer Advisory Group

The Consumer Advisory Group meets quarterly to discuss issues or concerns that affect the base populace in regards to morale, welfare and recreation business, AAFES and DeCA. Group members consist of representatives from various private organizations and groups on base. Below is a brief summary of some of the issues discussed at the 3rd Quarter meeting.

Is it possible to get a more varied menu or daily special items at the Ocean View?

The Ocean View has had daily specials for the past 8 years (taco salad, shrimp basket, etc.). The menu offers all the proteins and is limited to the kitchen size. For example, a larger selection requires a larger grill and hood space. Ocean View is not large enough to accommodate too many options, i.e. 24 hour breakfast.

When can we expect the Fitness Center to go to a 24-hour schedule?

USAFE is unsure at this time. They are trying to allocate funding for this Fiscal Year.

How can we influence what is normally stocked at the Shoppette?

The shoppette stock assortment is based on our largest category available to all Exchange Express facilities. If there is a particular

item that you are looking for please see a manager or supervisor to check availability and place a customer order.

What is the process by which local national authorized customers can place special orders in accordance with the NEP?

Special Orders can be placed through our customer service department using the Shuttle Program. With the Shuttle Program we will see if the item is available at other Exchange locations.

Can DeCA evaluate shifting the opening hours to later in the day to accommodate the change in population (potentially opening later and closing later)?

The Commissary is open forty two and half hours a week - these hours were calculated years ago, based on the sales (high sales). Now that existing sales dropped down, more than 50%, the store doesn't qualify for more than 42.5 hrs. Currently we are working with the existing local nationals schedules to see if a change can be made. We are considering have a late day on Thursdays, where the store would be open later in the evening one night a week. This would give airmen an opportunity to shop after work.

Lajes Airmen experience unique deployment

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

Even though personnel at Lajes are ready to deploy at a moment's notice, it is not something that happens regularly. Currently, seven members of the 65th Security Forces Squadron are deployed to Kosovo tasked to protect an intelligence hub. According to Maj. Carlos Hernandez, 65th SFS commander, this is a unique opportunity

and mission for the defenders from Lajes. "With the many years of operating in Iraq and Afghanistan, Kosovo is a nice change of pace. The ability to safeguard such a critical infrastructure node in the Balkans, allows for uninterrupted support of operations in the U.S. European Command Area of Operation. It is special, because our Airmen were able to adapt to the mission seamlessly and stepped up to the challenge in short notice," said Hernandez. "It is not every day that

my personnel do this type of mission, not to say that it's out of their comfort zone, but it shows the versatility of our Security Forces and their dedication to the mission. We at the 65th SFS are proud for the accomplishments of our Defenders during this deployment and we look forward to the day we have them home safe and sound."

While deployments are nothing new to the

For more on "Lajes Airmen" see page 2

Photo Perspective



U.S. Air Force Col. Martin L. Rothrock, 65th Air Base Wing commander, passes the 65th Medical Group guidon to Col. Daniel Shoor December 3, 2014. The passing of the guidon symbolizes Shoor's assumption of command.



Members of Tops in Blue perform at the community activity center on Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal, Nov. 30, 2014. The TIB performance was part of a world tour celebrating 60 years of tradition.

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Air Force, it can be to the Airmen. Many of the Airmen in the 65th SFS are first term airmen who have not had experience deploying before. However, this unique deployment is giving some of those airmen the experience. Tech. Sgt. Andrew Williams, 65th Air Base Wing Inspector General wing self assessment program manager and team lead for this deployment, said that this is the first deployment for five of the seven members and they are handling it very well. Not only is it the first deployment for some, but it is also the first time away from family and friends

during the holidays.

"This is my first deployment, but not my first time away during the holidays," said Senior Airman Kaleigh Kennard, 65th SFS patrolman. "After spending the past two Christmas' away from my family, it is just another day at work. Most of us are used to working holidays since we're Security Forces; it really doesn't bother me anymore."

There are different ways service members cope during deployments, especially during the holiday season. Some play video games while others hang out with friends to help the time pass.

"The gym time is a big one," Williams said

about ways they cope with the deployment.

"All seven of us are having a great time; we have meshed together to become one big family. That helps because you have people that you are close to, people you can talk to and people you can relate to."

Working in security forces, the defense of the base or infrastructure never stops and that means someone will be working on the holidays. It doesn't matter whether it is in a deployed location or at a home station, security forces defenders are on the job 24/7.

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Base Announcements

Eagle Eyes
Drinking Water Leak Detection Study
GTC Payment Options
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

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Community Events

Tree Lighting Ceremony December 5

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Island Events

Arts and Crafts Festival (Angra)
Angra Pet Festival
Concerts
Movie Schedule (Praia & Angra)
New Year's Eve at Praia Marina

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