



May 29, 2015

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## COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

### 65 MDG Ambulance Service Changes

Effective Friday, 29 May 2015, the operating hours for the 65 MDG ambulance service will be curtailed to duty days only (Monday – Friday), 0700 - 1900. All other times including weekends, US holidays and down days, on base ambulance service will be provided by the Portuguese Civil Protection service.

Regardless of the time of day, or day of the week, If you have a medical emergency follow these guidelines to dispatch an ambulance to your location:

-If you are on base (AB4, or the US housing areas of Nascer do Sol and Biera Mar), dial 911 from a DSN telephone, or 295-571-911 from a Portuguese landline or mobile phone.

-If you are off base (any/all other areas), dial "112" from a Portuguese landline or mobile phone.

These procedures apply to all personnel assigned to/employed by the 65 ABW: active duty military, family members, US or Portuguese civilian employees.

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
- 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

If you have questions please contact the 65 MDG at DSN 535-3261.

## Bullfight season underway on Terceira

By Eduardo Lima  
65th ABW Public Affairs

Traditionally, the street bullfight season starts every year on May 1st and continues through Oct. 15, which is the last official day for this event.

This characteristic type of bullfighting is a very old local tradition. Though its exact origin is unknown, some historians believe it began with the tournaments and jousts noblemen held during special occasions centuries ago.

Street bullfights have become a well-liked cultural event and an important part of the summer festivals around the island, which attracts hundreds, sometimes thousands of people to a single village.

The bulls, usually four, are transported in boxes from ranches in the center of the island where they are raised, to the village where the bullfights will be held. A motorcade of villagers who travel to the ranch to observe the selection of the bulls usually precedes the truck carrying the bulls.

When it's time for the bullfight to begin, usually at 6 or 6:30 p.m., a blast that sounds like fireworks lets everybody know that it's time for the first bull to be released and warns those who don't want to play bullfighter that they should look for a safe place behind wooden barriers, high walls or balconies along the streets where the bullfight is to be held.

After the bull is released, eight men dressed in white shirts and grey pants - known as "pastores" (rope handlers) - control the distance the bull can travel by holding on to a rope attached to his neck as he pursues those who dare to harass him or stand in his way.

After the men in the crowd tease the bull for about 30 minutes, the rope handlers pull the bull back into the box for a well-deserved rest - both for the bull and the men. Two blasts let everybody know it's safe to walk or drive down the street again, but only for about 10 minutes, which is how long it takes the pastores to tie the rope around the next

*For more on "Bullfight season" see page 2*

## Photo Perspective



U.S. military members, civilians and their family members are prohibited from actively participating in bullfights, such as the one here. The island's 2007 street bullfight season begins May 1 and continues through Oct. 15. (U.S. Air Force photo by Guido Melo)



Staff Sgt. Sarah Thomas, 65th Medical Operations Squadron medical technician, and Col. Martin Rothrock, 65th Air Base Wing commander judge team "Big and Buck" during the Lajes Chopped cooking competition. The event was hosted at the Top of the Rock Club by the 65th Force Support Squadron. (U.S. Air Force photo/Guido Melo)

### "Bullfight season" from page 1

bull's neck. This routine continues until all four bulls are released into the street and the bullfight ends.

The street bullfights also feature another old tradition related with the island's culture and local food, which are the food stands called "tas-cas." In these portable stands, people can find the local wines, beer, sodas, as well as seafood and pork sandwiches called "bifanas."

All Americans are encouraged to witness a street bullfight while they are stationed at Lajes Field, though it is also important to remember that U.S. military members, civilians and dependents are prohibited from actively participating in any type of bullfighting on the island. This includes people here on temporary duty status or just passing through.

Local bullfights are certainly a tradition worth seeing, but not without keeping safety in mind. Bullfights can be dangerous if spectators don't

take proper precautions. Always make sure to watch the bullfights from a safe place — a high place at least five or six feet from the ground offers the best protection.

Every year a few careless spectators and participants are gored or hit by the bulls, or burned by the rope and end up in the hospital with serious injuries. There have even been some fatalities in the past because people misjudged the bulls.

To better your chances of finding a safe place from which to view street bullfights it is good to arrive early. More importantly, be careful and use common sense while the bullfights are ongoing. If you are caught driving through a bullfight area, slow down and pay attention to the traffic. Also pay attention to the blasts that will let you know whether the bull is out in the street or inside the box again.

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## 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

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

## Community Events

Airmen's Lunch Every Wednesday

Wing Promotion Ceremony 29 May

OSS Change of Command 11 June

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## Island Events

Island Bullfights

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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