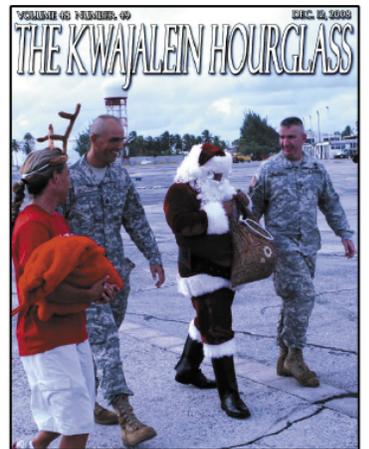
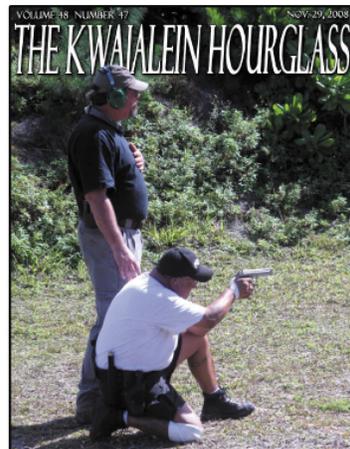
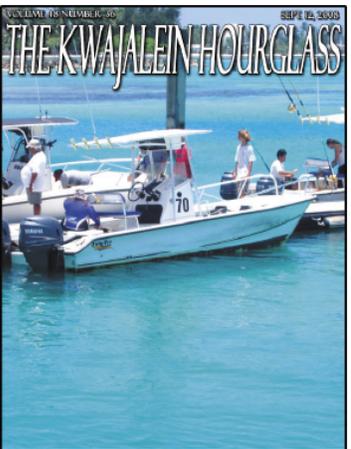
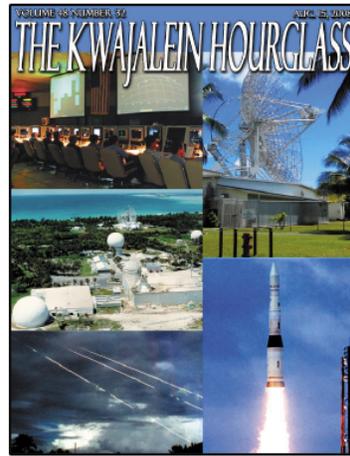
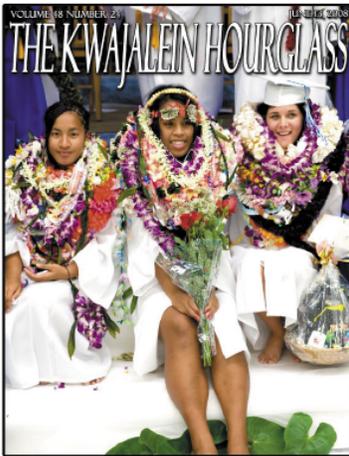
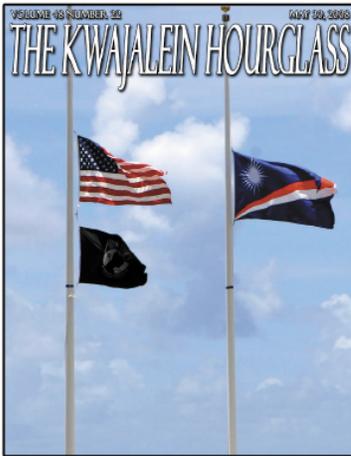
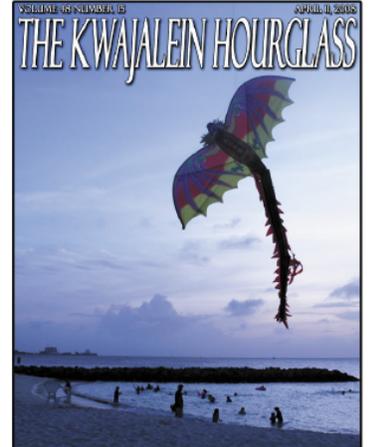
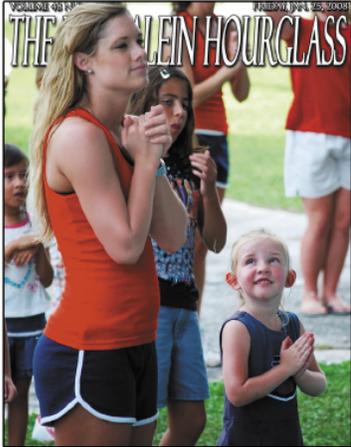


THE KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS



2008: Year in Review

Media manager gets thank you from resident

Dan Adler enthusiastically writes about and photographs many special events that are dear to the hearts of Kwaj residents, even though these occasions often take place outside of usual working hours. Dan can regularly be seen on weekends and during

evenings at events around the community capturing the big moments that make life on Kwajalein special for all of us. In addition to reporting and photographing events, Dan's responsibilities include almost every aspect of the work involved in getting the newspa-

per out every Friday. Thanks, Dan, for the many hours you work to bring the *Hourglass* to us each week filled with news that is both interesting and informative to our community.

— Judy Kirchner

Six servicemembers die in Global War on Terror

Three Soldiers died Dec. 24 in Southern Iraq of injuries sustained during a vehicle roll-over. The Soldiers were assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo. Killed were: **Staff Sgt. Christopher G. Smith**, 28, of Grand Rapids, Mich.; **Spc. Stephen M. Okray**, 21, of St. Clair Shores, Mich. and **Spc. Stephen G. Zapasnik**, 19, of Broken Arrow, Okla.

Cpl. Charles P. Gaffney Jr., 42, of Phoenix, Ariz., died Dec. 24 in Paktika, Afghanistan when his combat outpost received enemy rocket fire. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

Maj. John P. Pryor, 42, of Moorestown, N.J. died Dec. 25 in Mosul of wounds suffered when a mortar round impacted near his living quarters. He was assigned to the 1st Medical Detachment, Forward Surgical Team, Fort Totten, N.Y.

Master-at-Arms Seaman Apprentice **Joshua D. Seitz**, 19, of Sinking Springs, Pa., died Dec. 25 in Manama, Bahrain. He was assigned to Naval Security Force, Naval Support Activity Bahrain.

Spc. Tony J. Gonzales, 20, of Newman, Calif., died Dec. 28 in Sadr City, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany.

Correction

In the Dec. 27 issue, Vietnam POW and Medal of Honor recipient James Stockdale was misidentified as William Stockdale. The *Hourglass* regrets the error.



THUMBS UP



To the group of individuals who were gracious enough to recognize the Café Pacific staff for their hard work by giving them a Christmas card and a gift of \$10 each. Thank you.

— Dave Nobis

To Pastor Rick Funk and several families from church who kindly shared their Christmas dinner with a patient's family on Christmas Day.

To the guy who turned in my wallet and keys Monday morning. I thought I had locked them in my BQ room and was waiting for an officer to let me into my room. When the officer came, he had my wallet and keys and said a man on the second floor of Sand BQ had found them and had just turned them in. I asked the officer his name, but I forgot it.

Whoever you are, thank you.

— Tom Anderson

THE KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS

The *Kwajalein Hourglass* is named for the insignia of the U.S. Army 7th Infantry Division, which liberated the island from the forces of Imperial Japan on Feb. 4, 1944.

The *Kwajalein Hourglass* is an authorized publication for military personnel, federal employees, contractor workers and their families assigned to U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll. Contents of *The Hourglass* are not necessarily

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2008: Year in Review

JANUARY

Private clubs/boat house owners get electric bills

It was announced that private clubs and boat house owners would be responsible for paying for electric usage. Kwajalein Range Services was tasked by U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll to develop processes to recoup cost of electricity used by private boat lots and clubs.

Boathouse billing was to be done bi-annually through KRS Finance, with monthly fees for basic service, \$3; small refrigerators, \$5; refrigerator/freezers, \$8; freezers, \$10.50; and window air conditioning units, \$32.50. Fees are the same for Kwajalein and Roi-Namur.

At the time of the announcement, there were 112 lots on Kwajalein and 13 on Roi-Namur. All lots on Kwajalein had been surveyed and 82 have electrical service. The lots on Roi-Namur had not been surveyed yet. Rates for private clubs had not yet been determined. The clubs were being metered at that time.

Swim coach visits Kwajalein

Brendan Keogh, Australia's Paralympics National coach, visited Kwajalein to instruct local swimmers and coaches.

His visit was part of Fédération Internationale de Natation, or FINA, an international association that supports swimmers. His trip to Kwajalein was paid for by a grant through the Marshall Islands Swim Federation.



Brendan Keogh, Australia's Paralympics National coach, visited Kwajalein to instruct local swimmers and coaches.

Keogh's clinics on Kwajalein included sessions for young people and adults as well as sessions for the rescue swimmers with the Kwajalein Fire Department.

Cheerleaders visit Kwaj

Sixteen representatives from the Denver Broncos cheerleading squad visited Kwajalein.

The cheerleaders and support team were touring U.S. military installations as a part of the Armed Forces Entertainment and United Servicemen's Organization program. The cheerleaders held a clinic for young people and performed a show combining singing, dancing, skits and cheer routines at Richardson Theater.

Approximately 150 young people attended the clinic learning about the basics of cheerleading. The grounds of the Richardson Theater were packed with young people and adults watching the evening performance. Members of the community were invited on stage to participate in parts of the show.



Cheerleaders Emily Harper, left, and Sarah Culter teach cheer routines to girls at the cheerleading clinic.

**YEAR IN REVIEW
CONTINUES ON PAGE 4**

2008: Year in Review

FEBRUARY

Recompression chamber hours reduced

Budget cuts required reduction of on-call hours for the recompression chamber. Kwajalein Range Services maintains and operates a recompression chamber as required by the Performance Work Statement to support U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site mission requirements. The chamber is available to recreational divers during non-mission times for the primary treatment of decompression sickness and scheduled hyperbaric oxygen wound treatment for hospital patients.

As part of the fiscal year 08 initiatives to reduce costs and meet budget constraints, KRS decreased on-call hours for operators of the chamber. The KRS Marine Department set the new on-call hours to cover the times when there would be the highest number of active recreational divers. Operators for the chamber were on call during Small Boat Marina hours on Sundays and Mondays.

Library volunteer staffing begins

Budget cuts required volunteer staffing to start at Grace Sherwood Library. Twenty-nine people attended the first volunteer meeting on Jan. 24.

Amy Hansen, Community Activities Recreation manager for Kwajalein Range Services, chaired the meeting. From the number of people that showed up at the meeting, she said, it was "A big confirmation that the library is a vital part of life on Kwaj and people are willing to volunteer to make sure it stays open."

Kwajalein Atoll Memorial Day observed

Kwajalein Atoll Memorial Day was held Feb. 9 to commemorate the liberation of Kwajalein from the Japanese.

"Indeed there is a dire need for the government to carry out its mandated role to improve the daily life and well-being of the citizens here on Ebeye as soon as possible. The people must come first," said H.E. Litokwa Tomeing, newly elected president of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, drawing a strong round of applause.

Addressing an audience of more than 1,000 people on sunny Ebeye, including several groups of school-age children, Tomeing was the keynote speaker for the 64th Annual Kwajalein Atoll Memorial Day commemoration ceremony Saturday.

Also attending were Iroj Kotak Loeak, who did the welcome remarks, the Honorable Clyde Bishop, U.S. ambassador to the RMI, Col. Stevenson Reed, Commander, U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site, the Honorable Johnny D. Lemari, mayor of Ebeye, and other VIPs.



The flags of the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands are raised at the Kwajalein Atoll Memorial Day ceremony.

"I reaffirm my pledge that the government will do everything in its power to improve the welfare of all Marshallese," Tomeing said, adding, "I ask the leadership and people of Kwajalein and the people of these governments to explore and undertake needed measures to solve these crucial issues."

In support of the opening ceremony and official raising of the RMI and the U.S. flags, members of the Kwajalein Junior and Senior High School marching band provided appropriate musical selections.

Anglers compete in Wahoo-Mahi Round Up

A total of 15 teams comprised of Kwajalein's and Roi-Namur's finest anglers participated in the Wahoo-Mahi Round Up Fishing Derby.

Capt. Ron Tsubamoto and crew captured first place for the wahoo category with a 24.5-pound Wahoo.

2008: Year in Review

Capt. Joe Coleman and crew took second place with their 19.5-pound Wahoo.

Capt. Eric Everts and crew and Capt. Chris Hines and crew each landed a 16.5-pound mahi mahi tying for first place in the mahi category.

Chris Hines and crew also brought in the second largest mahi weighing in at 15.5 pounds.

The Derby also hosted the marlin jackpot awarding \$1,700 to the team landing the largest marlin weighing over 200 pounds.

The jackpot was awarded to Team Cuda Stanks, consisting of Captain Joe Coleman and crew members Matt Garrity and Danny Nabu for their marlin weighing in at a whopping 282.4 pounds. This beauty was one of two marlins landed by Team Cuda Stanks during the derby. Their first marlin caught weighed in at 138 pounds.



Spectators Laan Nathan, Antonio Rubon and Joe Rubon watch as Lee Taidrik filets one of two marlins landed by Team Cuda Stanks.

Coast Guard helps rescue Marshallese fishermen

Seven U.S. Coast Guard crewmembers involved in a search and rescue mission Feb. 20 were the first to spot three fishermen from Ebeye who were lost at sea for three days. The Coast Guard crew, flying in a C-130 Hercules, spotted the fishermen about 70 nautical miles southwest of Kwajalein. The lost fishermen later told officials their 16-foot boat had mechanical problems and broke down.

Members of the Coast Guard crew were able to rendezvous over the area where the fishermen were stranded to drop a survival package and mark the area with flares so that a law enforcement crew of the *RMIS Lomor* could pick up the fishermen.

Members of the U.S. Coast Guard crew included Lt. Scott Caesar, co-pilot, AET2 Richard Dormido, radio operator, AET1 Robert Osborne, navigator, AMT2 Michael Harman, and AST2 Roger Wilson. Wilson is the drop master who works from the open rear of the airplane and launched a tracking buoy and flares which helped the *RMIS Lomor* locate the fishermen.

The USCG provides search and rescue support to the Republic of the Marshall Islands as part of the United State's obligations under the Compact of Free Association.



The *RMIS Lomor* approaches three Marshallese fisherman in a disabled boat during a joint rescue effort with the U.S. Coast Guard Feb. 20. The fisherman were spotted by the crew of a Coast Guard C-130 search aircraft. (Photos captured from Coast Guard video)

YEAR IN REVIEW CONTINUES ON PAGE 6

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MARCH

AAFES team visits Kwajalein

There was an AAFES transition team visiting Kwajalein Feb. 7 to finalize plans for opening the AAFES operations. The AAFES team included Pacific Region vice president Woody Younginer, and area manager Glenn Schubert, along with representatives from AAFES information technology, retail operations, food operations and engineering. Their quest was to pave the way for a smooth project by reviewing existing facilities, equipment and services and to survey where new construction will be built.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service will spend more than \$3 million over the next eight months to open a Post Exchange, PXtra, Shoppette, Burger King, Subway, Anthony's Pizza, Baskin-Robbins, American Eatery, and Roi Namur Retail Store by renovating Three Palms, Macy's, Macy's West, Ten-Ten, DSC and Gimbels.

Also among the team was new AAFES General Manager Kris Kovas, who will be permanently on site beginning the first week in April to oversee the arrival of equipment and supplies necessary to accomplish this AAFES upgrade.

The project is slated to begin in early May with the construction of the new food court.



Walkway (white box) along Marine Road from 6th Street to 8th Street.

New industrial area safety zone

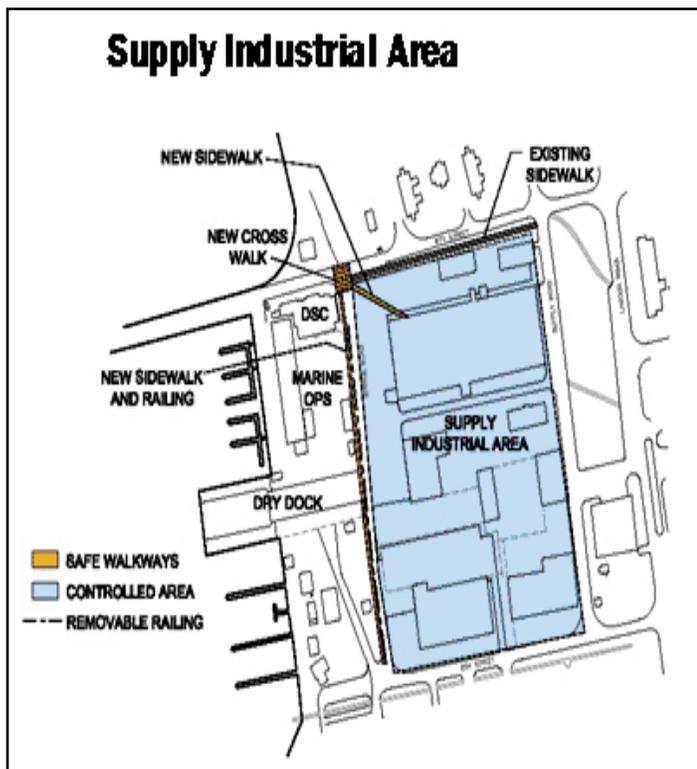
A new supply industrial area was established. The area, where there is large container movement, forklift and delivery truck traffic, was designated to increase safety of personnel on island. Several sidewalks and crosswalk areas have been created and painted yellow and black, along the Marine Road and on 6th Street to minimize transit-traffic impact.

Vehicle traffic will no longer be allowed for dropping off or picking up personnel in front of DSC. Personnel are to be picked up or dropped off at the designated bus stop on 6th Street. KPD will direct pedestrian traffic from the DSC and monitor compliance over the next couple of months.

During vessel operation days, a slightly larger area will be blocked off using posted signs and yellow caution tape and signs. The painted sidewalks and crosswalks will be the only way to transit through the area during those days.

Billing changes at Kwajalein Hospital

Some administrative changes at Kwajalein Hospital took place March 18. The clinic charges are now flat fees, based on only three levels of regular clinic care by a nurse, physician assistant, or physician. The flat fee will cover not only these professional services, but also on-island lab testing and most injections, for example, antibiotic injections.



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Routine preventive physicals and well-child visits will also be charged a flat fee based upon age. The fee will include routine screening tests recommended by the physician, such as on-island lab tests and EKGs. Immunizations will be charged separately.

The second administrative change that began March 18 involves how insurance billing will be completed. In the past, Kwajalein hospital directly billed the insurance companies for reimbursement of most services for island residents who have insurance coverage. In some cases, however, insurance companies would not pay the hospital directly; therefore the patient paid for the services and received a reimbursement from the insurance company. After the insurance claims were processed, patients were expected to pay any balance not paid by the insurance company.

After March 18 that changed. The hospital will now only file insurance claims for inpatient care. Patients are now responsible for filing their own insurance claims for their outpatient care. They are asked to pay the flat fees for outpatient clinic services and their prescription medications at the time of service. Other services may be billed to the patient.

Certain services have been available at no charge to patients, and will remain so. These include things such as blood pressure and weight checks, First Stop, public health, grandfathered Marshallese, Diabetic Clinic, Smoking Cessation Program, and Employee Assistance Program services.

The charging/billing practices will be the same on Roi-Namur as on Kwajalein.

The administrative changes were a couple of ways of cutting back on costs without reducing the level of medical care.

Col. Stevenson Reed gives transition plan

Col. Stevenson Reed, commander U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll, conducted town hall meetings on Kwajalein and Roi-Namur. The colonel briefed the community on transition within USAKA, and said he will continue to communicate as information is available.



Col. Stevenson Reed, U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll Commander, addresses the audience at the Roi town hall meeting.

The meetings were designed to help both the contract and Marshallese community members understand the process of transition.

Reed began both meetings by saying that transition is a reality, based on budget constraints and needs of the Army. He reiterated the importance of the Reagan Test Site and how it fits into the mission of the U.S. military.

“What we did ten years ago, with the funds we had ten years ago, will not be the same in 2010, 11, 12 and beyond,” Reed said while explaining the transformation. “The funds are driving the train for what we have to do for the customers and what the customers want. So I will not be personal, I will be very professional and I will move forward. This is not debatable. There’s only one commander, and that’s me. And my charge comes from a three-star named General Campbell. That’s who I work for directly. All of my chain of command has been thoroughly briefed on the process.”

He said the briefing was to provide information to the community concerning impacts of the transformation activities of the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll.

The decreased logistical costs created a problem identified by Reed as having excess employees required to support the decline of material and budgeted work.

For more, see the March 14 issue of the Hourglass.

YEAR IN REVIEW CONTINUES ON PAGE 8

2008: Year in Review

MARCH (cont.)

Kaleidoscope of Music raises scholarship funds

More than 40 performers strutted their stuff at the Kaleidoscope of Music held in the Davye Davis Multi-Purpose Room. The annual event, now in its eighth year, raises money for scholarships for local students; but it also gives island talent the opportunity to dazzle community members with song and dance routines. Tickets were sold for admittance at \$15 each.



Local artists donated product for an auction this year. Auctioned off were pottery, paintings, stained glass, a pen, an embroidered picture and a baby quilt. The auction brought in \$830.

Corie Dowell belts out a Santana favorite, *Sideways*, at this year's Kaleidoscope of Music.

AAFES to give Kwajalein a facelift

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service said it would spend more than \$3 million over the next eight months to open a Post Exchange, PXtra, Shoppette, Burger King, Subway, Anthony's Pizza, Baskin-Robbins, American Eatery, and Roi Namur Retail Store by renovating Three Palms, Macy's, Macy's West, Ten-Ten, DSC and Gimbels.

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Also among the team was new AAFES General Manager Kris Kovas, who will be permanently on site beginning the first week in April to oversee the arrival of equipment and supplies necessary to accomplish this AAFES upgrade.

The project is slated to begin in early May with the construction of the new food court.

Underwater Easter Egg Hunt



Why do we have Easter egg hunts? Someone said it was because the Easter bunny keeps hiding Easter eggs. On Kwajalein the Easter egg hunt is a tradition held annually on the grounds near Richardson Theater and this year, underwater in the lagoon off Emon Beach.

Children and adults enjoy the Kwajalein Scuba Club's underwater Easter Egg Hunt.

2008: Year in Review

APRIL

Spring Break Music Festival held

Music set the ambiance and food hit the spot at the Spring Music Festival.

People enjoyed the jousting ring; eating cotton candy; flying kites, sailing Sunfish boats; and Baggo contests. Others spent the afternoon tasting chili and home brew, then voting for their favorites.

Donations were collected at the chili cook-off, the barbecue station, and the beer garden. The \$900 will be used for outer-island education.

Jimmie Willman, Dan Morgan, Henry McElreath, Jay McMaster, Steve Banducci prepared food at the barbecue station. They raised \$364.

As the sun set, The Jenny Boyle Band, from Armed Forces Entertainment, took the stage. "I'm here to entertain you and spend time with all of you," said Boyle. During the performance, Boyle invited several young girls on stage to dance. Boyle enjoyed tasting locally prepared food. "Kwaj is one of the most beautiful places I've ever been to and I've traveled all over the world."

Kwajalein Post Office earns high marks

The Kwajalein post office received high marks on its recent inspection.

From March 31 to April 11, postal workers received training in addition to their required annual



Les Czinege and Dan Eggers entertain festival goers.

inspection.

Felix Mendiola, the United States Army Pacific Region Program Manager, and Arthur James, the Assistant Program Manager in charge of Custodian of Postal Effects (COPE), are the inspectors for military post offices in the pacific region.

A postal inspection assesses all aspects of postal work. The inspectors make sure the post office is in compliance with United States Postal Service regulations; Department of Defense regulations; building security requirements and customer service requirements. Also, overall knowledge of counter service, maintenance of post office boxes, processing, operations, etc. is assessed.

The inspectors look for discrepancies and inconsistencies, then provide training and education where needed. "A person can work postal for 50 years and still not know everything," exclaimed Karla Long, postal manager. "It is a continuous process of learning. There are so many rules and regulations that it is impossible for anyone to know everything. Even the inspectors learn things when questions are posed and the search begins to find the answer," continued Long.



Kim Wolowicz: left, Glena Sosnowski: right. Mail arrives twice a week on military flights. When the packages come in, they write the P.O. Box number, last names and the arrival.

**YEAR IN REVIEW
CONTINUES ON PAGE 10**

2008: Year in Review

MAY

29th Annual Rustman sets records

The 29th Annual RustMan consisted of 16 individual contestants and 13 teams.

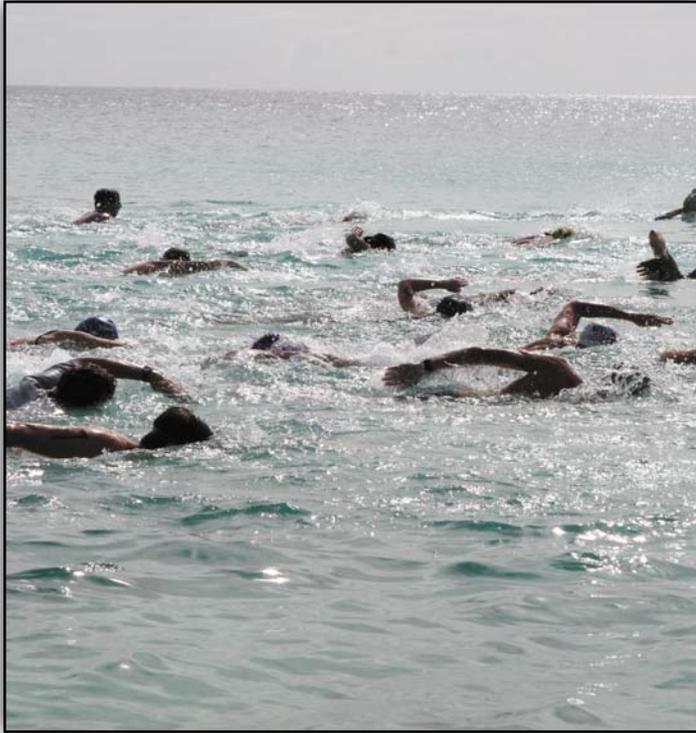
The RustMan distances were a one-kilometer swim, a 42-kilometer bike ride and a 10-kilometer run. A kilometer equals about five-eighths of a mile.

Thomas Cardillo became the seventh person to break under 2:15:00, after 29 annual RustMan competitions. The age group division record fell when Cardillo, age 40, finished first in 2:14:16.

Cardillo has participated in six individual RustMan events and this is his third Men's Division win, with a personal best by over three minutes. The combination of Cardillos' age and time, established a new Men's Masters Division record, beating the 2:15:45 by Nick Perry in 2004.

Jon Jahnke, second time RustMan participant, also reached the Men's Masters Division and cut over four minutes off of his 2007 winning time, finishing second in 2:16:32.

Stephanie Los took first for the ladies division. This was her second time participating in the RustMan. She finished in 2:34:56, which is almost a 23 minute improvement over her 2007 time.



Swimmers race to Emon Beach at the Rustman.

Marshallese canoe sets sail

A slender 26-foot Marshallese sailing canoe was carried on the shoulders of approximately 20-30 men. With their bare hands, they effortlessly placed the canoe in the lagoon waters off of Loi, to begin her many journeys.

With sails out and under the masterful guidance of a Marshallese crew, the yet to be named sailing canoe sliced through the lagoon waters with ease at untamed speeds that would on occasions allow the outrigger to go airborne. This was a sight to see!

The Directorate of Host Nation Activities represented the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll Reagan Test Site in a ceremonial launching of a traditional Marshallese sailing canoe on South Loi, Kwajalein. The USAKA/RTS representatives were given the honor of test riding the sailing canoe first. And what a treat it was!

The launching ceremony began with welcoming remarks by Iroj Senator Mike Kabua, followed by an invocation and blessing of the canoe by Pastor Hone Patrick.

Next, Amy Kabua christened the canoe,



A traditional Marshallese sailing canoe.

2008: Year in Review

using the traditional Marshallese christening fluid, coconut juice from the waini.

Marshallese people are known for their great traditional navigational skills. With this launch comes an increased appreciation for the many traditional skills and the need to preserve them for posterity.

The canoe is an integral part of Marshallese life. In some parts of the Marshall Islands, it remains the only means of transportation for fishing or for traveling within or between atolls.

After a period of testing and working out the kinks, this Marshallese sailing canoe is to be loaded up onto a Republic of the Marshall Islands landing craft for transport to Ailinglaplap Atoll where it is expected to compete in the annual traditional sailing canoe races later this month. Once the races are complete, Iroj Senator Kabua stated that the crew would sail the canoe from Alinglaplap back to Kwajalein.

Families get rusty at the Rusty Family

Rusty Family Triathlon contestants included 20 soloists and 27 teams, mostly same family groupings, but also some mixes.



Julianne Kirchner rides in to tag up with partner Tyler DeCoster during the Rusty Family.

Gilson Hogan was just 14, but was the run-away winner in 55 minutes and 41 seconds, despite having spent the prior night camping with the Boy Scouts in a tent on Carlos Island.

First for the girls was Ariana Johnson, 12, in 1:19:20. Ariana is visiting Kwajalein with her mother Pam who also completed the course solo in 1:10:38.

The eighth Graders were dominant, with Jake Jahnke coming in second overall in 1:03:25, besting his 2007 time by several minutes.

Duncan McMaster, nine, turned in a 1:19:55 performance.

The youngest solo contestants were Noble McMaster and Lila Burnley, both 7, in 1:49:30 and 2:02:36 respectively.

In the team section, a group of Junior/Senior High School boys cracked the 50-minute barrier in 49:53. Justin DeCoster swam, Jarem Erekson biked and Dane Bishop ran.

Ron Sylvester cajoled and aided his two youngsters Kaya and Myles around the entire course, forming a family team. Sylvester got some big smiles from the crowd with his 'three car' bike/Burley/stroller train used in the biking segment.

Memorial Day honors America's heroes

A Vietnam veteran, lightly touching a name on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., said, "A man is never really dead unless he is forgotten."

The standing room only audience in the Island Memorial Chapel was there to remember and honor all of those who have fallen in America's wars and to ensure they would never be forgotten.

The ceremony began with the sounding of *Reveille* as the flags of the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands were carried down the center aisle of the chapel.

The national anthems of the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands were played by the Kwajalein Junior/Senior High School band.

LTC Josh C. Sauls was the guest speaker. He spoke to the audience of the history of Memorial Day. It first began as a way to honor Union Soldiers who had died in the Civil War, but has expanded over the years to include all who have fallen in America's wars.

Sauls thanked the audience for "giving up a little bit of your precious time to remember and honor people you didn't know when they were alive."

He asked the audience to pray for the families of those who have perished in America's wars and that they might gain some comfort knowing that the sacrifice their loved ones made is honored and appreciated.

YEAR IN REVIEW CONTINUES ON PAGE 12

2008: Year in Review

JUNE



The class of 2008 walks to the Baccalaureate ceremony in the chapel.

Baccalaureate honors class of 2008

The Kwajalein High School senior class of 2008 was honored at a Baccalaureate ceremony.

Guest speakers included LTC Jeff Klein, Rev. Lawson Matauoto of Ebeye United Church of Christ and Coach Ellis Farris.

Farris was chosen by the class to be the keynote speaker at the ceremony.

Special music was provided by Julius Paul, Michiko Capelle and Raney Bolkeim, Jr.

The Ebeye United Church of Christ choir also performed.

Class of 2008 graduates

The darkened multi-purpose room was brightened only by the glow of candles carried by the Kwajalein High School Senior Class of 2008. The seniors made the traditional barefoot entrance at their graduation ceremony as *Pomp and Circumstance* played. The standing room only audience of family and friends stood amidst camera flashes.

After the students took their seats on the stage, Michiko Capelle and April Engvall walked to the podium. Capelle welcomed the audience in English and Engvall gave the

welcome in Marshallese.

Rachael Stepchew was the valedictorian and she began her speech by remarking that her mother had stood on the very same stage twenty-nine years ago for her graduation.

"The torch has been passed down through the years and tonight, it's finally our turn," she said. "With the help of teachers, family and friends, we've made it through six years of riding our bikes to school in the rain, late nights studying, dances, putting on fundraisers, Bigej trips, and of course, all of our schoolwork."

She continued, "But now it's time for us to start a new phase of our lives."

Stepchew concluded, "Congratulations, we made it. Tonight is our night, our moment of glory. It's time for us to grab hold of the torch and venture onwards to see what lies waiting for us beyond the horizon. Go out and make your mark. Congratulations Class of 2008. We made it!"

Scholarships were then awarded by Monica Peters of the Student Government Association, Carl Overman and Rick Funk of the American Legion, Fumiko Kemem of the Jinetiptip Club, Samantha Inok and Monica Reimers of Jiron Drik Drik, Lisa Tracy of the Kwajalein Art Guild, JB Scott of the Kwajalein Scuba Club, Faye Beuby and Jennifer Aakre of the Yokwe Yuk Women's Club, Richard

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The 2008 senior class is introduced at the graduation ceremony Friday evening in the Multi-Purpose Room.

Zurawski of AirScan Pacific, Cliff Mattos of Matson Navigation, Gregory Hogan of MIT/ Lincoln Laboratory and Dave Norwood of Kwajalein Range Services.

A class history was presented by Wardell Harless and Paulianna Kato detailing the funny, sad, and sometimes 'scary' moments during their school years.

The class then left the stage and joined the audience to watch an 'Album of Memories' slideshow.

Photos of the graduates as infants, toddlers and in their school years drew the appropriate oohs and aahs and laughter.

After the slideshow, Justin DeCoster and Kaylee West called teachers Barbara Bicanich, Dick Shields, Ellis Farris and James Bowers to the stage and thanked them for their help and inspiration during the student's school years. They also thanked Loretta Childers and Denise DeCoster for their help.

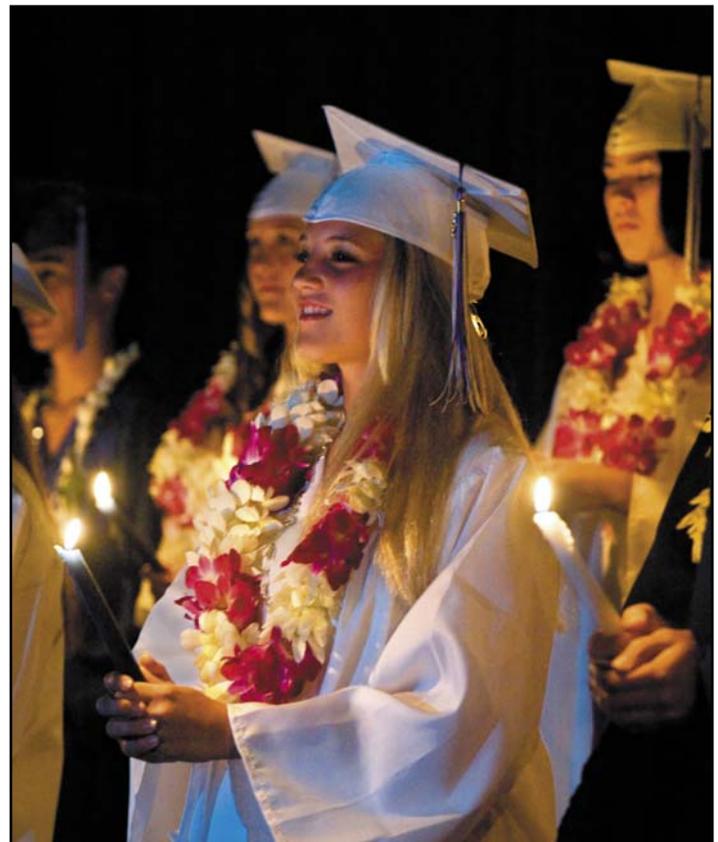
Then the moment came that everyone was waiting for. It was time to award the diplomas.

Col. Stevenson Reed, U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll Commander, did the honors, giving each student a commander's coin along with their diplomas.

When the awarding of diplomas was completed, Daisey Airam walked to the podium and led the class in the 'turning of the tassels' to signify that the seniors were high school students no more.

Then it was time for the recessional and the Kwajalein High School Senior Class of 2008 walked out of the Multi-Purpose Room and into their new lives.

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The glow of candles light the Multi-Purpose Room as the graduates make their entrance.

2008: Year in Review

JUNE (cont.)

Pirates rule Grace Sherwood summer reading

The summer reading program at Grace Sherwood Library ran through Aug. 18. The theme for the summer program was 'Pirates of the Kwaja-Lean.'

"I found some pirate cups the hospital had donated to the library," said Amy Hansen, Grace Sherwood Library librarian. "That was the inspiration to go with a pirate theme and Simone Smead and I brainstormed to come up with Pirates of Kwaja-Lean."

There was no cost for the program and all ages were welcome. Even if children were too young to read, they could participate by having books read to them.



Librarian Amy Hansen reads a pirate story book to children.

Contract awarded for Kwajalein cable system

A contract awarded June 11 to establish a secure fiber optic cable system will allow the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll to be connected to the continental United States through facilities on Guam.

The Kwajalein cable system is a positive move by U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site to continue supporting national defense missions.

The Kwajalein Cable System is scheduled for final operational capability in March 2010.

TKC Technology Solutions, LLC, of Fairfax, Va., was awarded a 10-year, \$101 million contract. The U.S. Army is funding KCS through a Defense Information Systems Agency Procurement Directorate contract.

The goal of the Kwajalein cable system is to provide the capability for meeting the Nation's evolving space and missile defense Research, Development, Test and Evaluation requirements by transitioning to affordable, remote test range operations.

The remoting concept is that range operations will be conducted in real time at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Headquarters on Redstone Arsenal, Ala.,

SMDC/ARSTRAT is committed to maintaining USAKA/RTS as a critical test range capability for the DoD while reducing the operating costs of this remote location.

Child and Youth Services observes Army birthday

A party in honor of the U.S. Army's 233rd birthday was held in the Coconut Room at the elementary school for children in Child and Youth Services and School-Age Services.

The party capped a week of learning about the U.S. Army by CYS children. The week's events included visiting Kwajalein World War II bunkers and the Japanese Cemetery. The Army's birthday celebration is observed by all CYS children on Army installations worldwide.

The party was highlighted by 1st. Sgt. Kenneth Mackey reading a book entitled *Happy Birthday Army* to the children.

The book explores the history of the Army, including the Buffalo Soldiers and the Navaho Codetalkers. It speaks of how a child is affected by having a parent in the Army. It also points out the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic makeup of the Army.

Mackey asked the children how many of them had read the book and up went 11 hands. Mackey then let each of them read a page aloud to the rest of the children. After the book reading was completed, a red, white and blue birthday cake with the American flag and the number 233 was cut and everyone enjoyed a sweet ending to the week-long observance of the Army's birthday.



U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll 1st. Sgt. Kenneth Mackey reads *Happy Birthday Army* to CYS and School-Age Services children in honor of the Army's 233rd birthday.

2008: Year in Review

JULY

USAKA gets its first Sergeant Major

Sgt. Maj. Patrick A. Kutac made history at the Assumption of Responsibility Ceremony held July 3, in Island Memorial Chapel. He became the first Sergeant Major at U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll.

Kutac has been in the Army since 1989 and attended basic training at Ft. Sill, Ok. and advanced training at Ft. Bliss, Tx.

His previous assignments have been in Germany and Alexandria, Va. His deployments include Desert Storm and three operational deployments to South-west Asia.

Kutac's military education includes the Primary Leadership Course, the Advanced Non-commissioned Officer's Course, the Army Recruiter School, the First Sergeant's Course and the Sgt. Maj. Academy.

He holds a bachelor's degree in business management from National-Lewis University and a master's degree in human resource development from Webster University.

Kutac is married to the former Karen Vanicek and has an 11-year-old daughter, Ashley.

Col. Stevenson Reed, USAKA commander, spoke at the ceremony saying that USAKA had needed a Sgt. Maj. for some time and credited Space and Missile Defense Command Sgt. Maj. Ralph C. Borja, who also spoke at the ceremony, with being instrumental in making it happen.

A reception in the Religious Education Building followed immediately after the ceremony.

Anti-terrorism exercise takes place

The U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll conducted an anti-terrorist force protection exercise with the intent of jointly exercising the installation's emergency response elements.

It took the combined efforts of the police and fire departments, hospital personnel, the Emergency Operations Center, Unexploded Ordnance Department, and volunteer students from the junior/senior high school, as well as installation safety personnel to achieve the positive outcome desired.

USAKA has a requirement to test and exercise the installation's ability to respond to terrorist events and other force protection emergencies such as aircraft accidents, hazardous material spills and impending tsunamis, as well as the requirement to conduct mass casualty drills.

One of the challenges of the exercise was to mix reality with practical learning. Coordinators didn't want

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Sgt. Maj. Patrick Kutac cuts cake for daughter Ashley.



Left to right, Emergency medical technicians Ronny DeBrum, Toni Rock and Ryan Vahle attend to injured 'victims' of a bomb blast, Carrie West, Melissa Rager, Chris Horner, Alexis Stafford and Tyler Stepchew.

2008: Year in Review

JULY (cont.)

to reveal the exercise scenario or location any more than necessary in order to realistically evaluate USAKA emergency personnel's ability to respond.

NASA astronaut visits Kwajalein

Capt. Kathryn P. (Kay) Hire, U.S. Navy Reserve, is a civilian astronaut for NASA and was on Kwajalein working her Navy job for the Office of Naval Research and the Operationally Responsive Space office.

Hire arrived on Kwajalein June 27 and left July 1. While on island, she received briefings on Kwajalein and Roi-Namur.

Hire was on Kwajalein in her Navy function because a payload for ORS will be launched by the SpaceX Falcon rocket.

"We're just looking at new ideas now," Hire said. "Do we need to put big new satellites up or just a series of smaller ones that might last just a few weeks but would fill in gaps?"

She expects U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site will be an important partner in these efforts, either in actual launches or in tracking of satellites.

Hire began working at Kennedy Space Flight Center as an engineer for Lockheed Space Operations Company.

She was selected by NASA for astronaut training in December of 1994. After a year of training, she worked

in mission control as a spacecraft communicator and then flew as a Mission Specialist 2 on STS-90.

While on Kwajalein, Hire gave a slide presentation on NASA to community members on July 1 in Corlett Recreation Center Room 6.

Hire described how a shuttle gets into Earth orbit a mere 8½ minutes after launch and orbits the Earth every 90 minutes. She told the audience how the astronauts eat, sleep, exercise and drink while in orbit.

Hire explained how astronauts are continually training, prepping, helping to design new space vehicles and techniques, handling public relations, evaluating crews and supporting crew training.

"The ultimate goal is Mars," said Hire. "We have to take the steps to get there which include going to the moon to test our technology before we would attempt a Mars landing."

After her presentation, Hire answered questions from children in the audience. One wanted to know why she wanted to be an astronaut.

Hire answered that when she was a young girl, she saw space launches on TV and thought how great it would be to go into space. She decided that's what she wanted to do.

She said that when she was young, she thought by this time everyone would have their own personal spaceship and she was disappointed it hadn't happened yet.

Hire told the children in the audience that NASA is always looking for bright people with good ideas.

"Study hard, get some good ideas and come join us," she said. "Remember, the people who will someday walk on Mars are students now."

To learn more about NASA, visit their Web site Spaceflight.NASA.Gov.

Independence Day Beach Party

Mother nature woke up cranky on Independence Day morning with rain, thunder and lightning. For most of the morning and into the early afternoon, it looked like the Fourth of July festivities might be a wash out.

Although the rain did cancel the morning volleyball tournament, it didn't keep Community Activities from preparing Emon Beach for the party in the afternoon.

Almost on cue, as the first chil-



NASA astronaut, Kathryn P. Hire shows a slide of her Space Shuttle crew and explains she was the 'short one' during a presentation to the community in Corlett Recreation Center.

2008: Year in Review

JULY



The Independence Day Patriotic Bike Parade heads toward the finish line at the stage on Emon Beach.

dren started arriving for the bike parade at 1:30 p.m., the clouds parted and the sun peeked through. The rest of the day saw a sunny sky that was perfect for a beach party.

Simone Smead, Community Activities Manager, welcomed residents to the festivities. She said that even though the day's events would not include fireworks, that didn't take away from the meaning of the day any less. She thanked the Community Activities staff for working through the morning's inclement weather to get everything ready for the day's events.

The National Anthem was sung by Armed Forces Entertainment singer Donovan Kealoha, who also entertained the crowd later in the evening.

Smead then introduced Deputy Mission Commander, Hugh Denny to the audience.

Denny reminded residents that the men and women of the Armed Forces were away from their families and friends so that we could celebrate the day in freedom and safety. He asked the audience to remember those men and women and the many sacrifices they are making in many dangerous places. He reminded residents to be careful and safe while they enjoyed the day.

Then it was time for the games and fun in the sun to begin.

Kwajalein Range Services Food Services provided food, private vendors sold their wares and shaved ice was available.

The day's activities included a water slide for children, carnival games, a bounce house, banana rides and a jousting tournament.

'Family frenzy' fun included Buddy Walkers, an egg toss and a sack race.

It was another wonderful Kwajalein Independence Day celebration under a beautiful sunny sky on our island paradise.

Saturday, Jan. 3, 2009

Behavior team checks out safety

A worker is asking for trouble by thinking about other things when his or her mind should be on the job at hand.

Daydreaming and being careless can cause injuries ranging from minor to fatal.

When employees become complacent and don't subscribe to a 'culture of safety,' accidents are inevitable.

The first line of defense against complacency and accidents is educating employees to guard against behaviors that cause accidents.

That's where the Kwajalein Range Services Community Services' Behavior Observation Team comes in.

The BOT is a Bechtel initiative which is part of a people-based safety program.

The objective of the BOT is to observe employee behavior on the job and when an employee exhibits carelessness or unsafe actions, the BOT advises the employee of the actions that were unsafe and educates he or she to have more safety awareness on the job. That is done by positive reinforcement and feedback to avoid at-risk behavior. The goal of the program is to make safety a habit for employees.

The BOT uses specific checklists to identify unsafe actions and make recommendations to employees on how to do their jobs safely and thus avoid accidents and injuries.

The BOT encourages employees to look out for co-workers and to ensure safe job performance among themselves.



Behavior Observation Team members John Pyle, right and Cathreen Tabu, center, watch Community Activities employees Sotin Maie and Asmond Arelong erect a dining tent on Emon Beach for the Independence Day celebration.

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JULY (cont.)

AAFES Food Court opens

An excited, happy and hungry crowd waited with anticipation for the AAFES Food Court to open at 11 a.m., July 3.

Residents had started gathering more than an hour before the scheduled opening time in order to be among the first customers of the new AAFES establishment. The line stretched from the food court doors all the way to the former Macy's store.

Kris Kovis, AAFES Kwajalein general manager, welcomed the crowd and introduced the AAFES Pacific Region Vice-President Woody Younginer.

With that, Kris Kovis, CWO Phyllis Mitchell, Alexis Martin, Sgt. Jesus Rodriguez, Logan Stafford, Michelle Stafford and Col. Stevenson Reed cut the ribbon to officially open the Kwajalein AAFES Food Court.



Subway is a popular choice for customers.

Community Bank rates first in Japan/Pacific Region

The Kwajalein Community Bank team was awarded first place for marketing in the Japan/Pacific region for the first and second quarters of 2008. The bank was in second place globally out of 86 overseas military community banks.

"We know that without the customer, we are nothing," said manager Nan-Joo Kim. "We try to make banking as easy and convenient as possible because when someone is overseas, it can be hard to deal with financial matters."

The awards were for the first and second quarters of the year. We're waiting to hear about the third quarter results right now," said Kim.

In recognition of the achievement, Col. Stevenson Reed, U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll Commander and Sgt. Maj. Patrick Kutac visited the bank Saturday to award commander's coins to employees Barb MacDaid, Camellia Bobo, Leah Angle, Ernest Harry, Maricel Lauben and Ana Homuth and to offer their congratulations.

The bank received \$475 along with the award with which they had a barbecue on the beach for the employees and a customer appreciation day in February.

As far as the secret to the bank's accomplishments, Kim said "Our standard is to wow the customer. Treat the customers like we want to be treated. That is the global standard of Community Bank."



Col. Stevenson Reed, USAKA Commander, congratulates employees, left to right, Ernest Harry, Barb MacDaid and Maricel Lauben as Sgt. Maj. Patric Kutac and Bank Manager Nan-joo Kim look on.

Macy's West becomes history

Macy's West ceased operation at 1 p.m., July 20, and another Kwajalein landmark and tradition followed the Yokwe Yuk Club, Ten-Ten Store and Macy's into Kwajalein history.

"I'm sad," said Bess Buchanan. "Macy's West was a fixture for so long. The employees were always pleasant and nice to deal with. But we have to look to the future and see what AAFES brings."

LeAnn Parker, a Kwaj resident for 2½ years, said, "I have mixed feelings. It's sad, but it's also exciting to

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see something else coming. I'm not as nostalgic as some of the people who have been here a long time."

Beau Wong, a resident of three years, shrugged when asked how he felt about Macy's West closing.

"Changes are made," he said. "I'm looking forward to AAFES."

Three-year Kwaj resident Bill Craft said he's just waiting to see what happens when AAFES takes over.

Gus Garcia has been on Kwajalein for 10 months.

"It's exciting to get new inventory," he said. "I hope the employees get to keep their jobs though."



A customer shops on the last day of operation for Macy's West July 20.

Marshallese firefighter completes off-island training

Chugach employee Kadede Loran returned to Kwajalein July 22 after completing a rigorous three-month course required to become a certified firefighter.

Kadede, a KRS/Chugach employee, working in the Kwajalein Fire Department as a Fire Inspector/Extinguisher Technician since February 2004 was selected in April by Chugach to participate in the RMI training initiative designed to provide education and training to employees exhibiting the skills, attitude and drive to fill critical positions on Kwajalein.

Kadede spent a total of 100 days in San Angelo, Tx. at Goodfellow Air Force Base attending the DoD Fire Protection Course offered by the U.S. Air Force.

Kadede excelled in the training, exhibiting his dedication and hard work ethic shown in his earlier position.

He completed the course and maintained an average of 92.7 percent throughout the training. It should also be noted that more than 50 percent of those in his class either washed out or were sent back to a lower level of training. Kadede's successful completion of this training is a noteworthy accomplishment that he should be very proud of and sets the example for all RMI employees who desire to advance their careers on Kwajalein.



Kadede Loran, left, and Fire Chief Steve Scruton

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AUGUST



From left, Col. Stevenson L. Reed, outgoing USAKA Commander, Sgt. Maj. Patrick Kutac, Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell, commanding general of SMDC/ARSTRAT and Col. Frederick S. Clarke prepare for the transfer of the USAKA flag to signify change of command.



Neal Hitchfield, left, and Lance Capelle were the two chosen for the MIT internship.

Col. Frederick Clarke takes command

Col. Stevenson L. Reed ended his two-year tenure as commander of USAKA as Col. Frederick S. Clarke took command July 31.

The ceremony began with the entrance of Col. Stevenson L. Reed, Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell and Col. Frederick S. Clarke to the sounds of *Ruffles and Flourishes*.

The national anthem of the Republic of the Marshall Islands was played and the national anthem of the United States was sung by Amber Banducci. Rev. Rick Funk gave the invocation.

Col. Frederick S. Clarke spoke to the audience.

“It is truly an honor for my family and I to be here on this beautiful paradise atoll,” he said. “And it is a privilege to serve the community.”

Clarke said he was humbled by the presence of the Marshall Islands leadership and that he was looking forward to a continuing relationship with the people of the Marshall Islands.

“USAKA will remain committed to the development of the operational and core competencies of the mission,” he said. “The command will continue to transform in order to have a viable future.”

He said that through challenging times, he would not forget the commitment to the workforce. He said he would strive to provide a quality of life for their service.

“I know we share a common interest with our host nation. Future challenges will require cooperative solutions,” Clarke said. “My wife Veronique and my daughter Savannah look forward to learning the rich culture of the Marshallese.”

He added that his family looked forward to meeting the rest of the community.

The benediction was given by Rev. Rick Funk. A reception followed immediately after the ceremony.

MIT and USAKA offer computer internships

An idea that was discussed more than a year ago by Dr. Clyde Bishop, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Gregg Hogan, MIT Lincoln Laboratory site manager, came to fruition.

The idea was an internship for Marshallese students or graduates who showed an aptitude for computer

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networking and maintenance.

Applications were taken on Ebeye for the interships. More than 60 Marshallese, of which more than half were female, applied for the positions.

In the end, two of the applicants were selected for the 10-week program. They are Neal Hitchfield, 29 and Lance Capelle, 21.

According to Hogan, U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll is providing housing in Bachelor Quarter rooms for the interns. In addition, they each received a meal card.

"MIT is providing a \$75 per week stipend for each of the interns and an additional \$100 per week for each one is put in an escrow account for their further education," said Hogan.

The equipment used by the interns is supplied by Lincoln Laboratories with some assistance from Kwajalein Range Services.

The students were learning computer and network cables, switches and routers, hardware, video cards, hard drives and troubleshooting.

"MIT, USAKA and KRS are all involved in the program," according to Hogan.

USAKA has what it takes to support missions

When it comes to some local missions, it takes an island — or more accurately — three islands. The recent SpaceX mission on Aug. 3 took Omelek, Roi-Namur and Kwajalein and involved many support personnel.

"The reasons customers come here are that we have the facilities they need, the instrumentation to get the data they require, and most importantly, we have the safety assets in place for a launch of a rocket into space," said Mike Savage, Kwajalein Range Services Plans and Operations lead.

"Requirements for missions are wide and varied depending upon the customer and the mission involved," said Dennis Heath, Project Officer for Space Launch Operations. "For most missions, the range can satisfy virtually all of the customer's requirements."

Planning for missions can vary from a year or more to a scant three to four months as was the case with the recent SpaceX mission. Planning for other missions such as the Air Force Glory Trips might begin a year in advance.



A SpaceX Falcon 1 rocket sits on the launch pad at Omelek.

SpaceX is a commercial company that is developing a family of launch vehicles intended to reduce the cost and increase the reliability of both manned and unmanned space transportation. SpaceX provides launch services to various Department of Defense agencies and the uniformed services, as well as non-governmental customers.

"USAKA/RTS and SpaceX are breaking new ground in shortening the planning process," said Heath. "We're going from a year or more down to three or four months."

USAKA provides emergency generators to Ebeye

On Aug. 6, only days after he took command of USAKA, Col. Frederick S. Clarke visited Ebeye. He met with various dignitaries and then inspected the generators in the Ebeye Power Plant.

Because of a damaged unit, Ebeye was running on only one generator and that generator had problems with its alternator.

Power was being rationed in six-hour intervals on Ebeye.

With the potential for total power failure, the Honorable Minister, Tony deBrum, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Republic of the Marshall Islands, requested assistance from USAKA through the U.S. Embassy on Majuro.

USAKA was able to provide four generators to operate the sewage system and some surrounding neighborhoods plus the school.

Those four generators were in addition to three already operating on Ebeye for the hospital. The generators were being maintained by KRS employees and fuel was being supplied by the RMI.

Command team visits Roi-Namur and Enniburr

Col. Frederick S. Clarke, Sgt. Maj. Patrick Kutac, Hugh Denny and Mike Sakaio toured facilities on Roi-Namur Aug. 15 and also visited Enniburr.

The tour was part of the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll Command Team's initial assessment of facilities on both islands.

Facilities were toured by the team and the orderliness and cleanliness of all the facilities were apparent to everyone.

At the end of the day Floyd Corder, Roi Operations Manager, stressed to the team that on Roi everyone must work well together and are involved in cross-training of jobs whenever possible.

Corder said, "The sensors require support 24/7. Our goal is to maintain support operations avoiding unscheduled outages so there are redundant saltwater lines, generators, etc., to keep sensors operational around the clock. We have a lot of talented people working here to ensure systems are maintained and operational."

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2008: Year in Review

SEPTEMBER



Photos courtesy of the Kirchner family

The flag of the Republic of the Marshall Islands is carried into the opening ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics at the Bird's Nest stadium.

Kwajalein resident Julianne Kirchner one of five athletes to represent RMI in country's first Olympic Games.

Kwajalein resident, 16-year-old Julianne Kirchner, was one of five athletes to compete in the Olympics for the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Julianne competed in 50-meter swimming and finished 75th in her heat shaving almost two full seconds off her personal best. She is a member of the Kwajalein Swim Team and a gifted, dedicated athlete who competes in marathons and biking as well as swimming.

The other athletes were swimmer Jared Heine, runners Haley Nemra and Roman Cress, and Anju Jason, who competed in Tae Kwon Do.

Julianne plans to compete in the World Championships in Rome and other international meets and then go on to the next Olympic Games for the RMI. *For more on Julianne's Olympic experience, see the Sept. 5 issue of the Hourglass.*

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SEPTEMBER

Christine Woodburn attends medical seminar

Christine Woodburn has wanted to be a doctor from an early age. She carries a cumulative 3.9 grade point average at Kwajalein high school and she got high PSAT scores when she took the test. She filled out a section on the test saying she wanted to be a doctor as a career choice. She registered online at the College Board web site (which gives the PSAT) so she could see her PSAT scores. A short while later, she received a letter in the mail telling her that she had been nominated by the website to attend one of the National Youth Leadership Forums on Medicine. She chose to attend a forum held at the University of California at Los Angeles, July 20-29.

According to its mission statement, the National Youth Forum's goal is to 'bring various positions to life, empowering young people with the confidence to make well-informed career choices.'

Being accepted to the program was just the beginning for Woodburn. There was the little matter of money.

In order to fund her attendance at the forum, Woodburn wrote a 10-page proposal and sent it to various clubs on Kwajalein such as the Art Guild, the Yokwe Yuk Women's Club and the PTA, requesting scholarship money to attend the program.

The Art Guild and the PTA gave Woodburn money for her trip and when Pastor Rick Funk put a notice in the church bulletin, several individuals contributed funds for her to attend the forum.

She received additional funding from the Catholic Church. The Catholic priest, Father Daly, asked Steve Beuby, Kwajalein Range Services Deputy Program Manager for Community Services, to approach the Quality of Life Committee for funding. The committee agreed to pay for Woodburn's round-trip plane ticket to Los Angeles if she would give a presentation when she returned to Kwajalein. She did so on Sept. 11 in Corlett Recreation Center Room 1.



Christine Woodburn gives a presentation on the medical forum she attended in July.

Labor Day Fishing Tournament held

The 11th Annual Kwajalein Hanapa'a Labor Day Fun Fishing Tournament was held Aug. 31-Sept. 1, starting at the Small Boat Marina. Hanapa'a is Hawaiian for 'got fish.' In the other tuna category, Captain Johnny Ysaguirre and crew took the prize for the largest fish with a 45.3-pound dogtooth tuna.



Captain Dalbert Delacruz and crew took the prize for the smallest fish with a 9-pound aku. In the reef runner category, Captain Bill Jones and crew took the prizes for the largest and smallest fish with an 18.6-pound grouper and a 2.2-pound barracuda. Captain Les Saulibio and crew took the aggregate prize with a total of 59.2 pounds of fish comprised of an 8.8 pound barracuda, a 19.4-pound aku, and a 31-pound dogtooth tuna.

The grand prize winner was then randomly drawn from the list of category winners.



Left to right, Johnny Ysaguirre, Monica McGatha, Stephanie Helms and Roy Howard show off their 45.3-pound dogfish tuna, which was the largest fish caught in the tournament.

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OCTOBER



Col. Frederick S. Clarke, USAKA Commander, addresses the audience at the Kwajalein town hall meeting.

Col. Clarke holds town hall meetings

Col. Frederick Clarke held three town hall meetings during the last week of September. He met with Marshallese employees, workers on Roi-Namur and the Kwajalein community.

The commander elaborated on his command philosophy and answered questions from the audiences. If he did not know the answer to a question, he promised to get an answer for it and to let the community know via the *Hourglass* at a late date.

He discussed housing, layoffs, AAFES, transportation and school issues.

He asked the community not to hoard items so there would be enough for everyone. He told the community that he had been a garrison commander in Hawaii and so was familiar with community issues.

He promised the community that he would always listen to their concerns and do his utmost to address them.

For the full town hall coverage, see the Oct. 3 issue of the Hourglass.

Kwajalein celebrates Mani Day

Marshallese culture and traditions are thought to be approximately 4,000 years old.

The Marshallese people are believed to have sailed across the vast Pacific Ocean at a time when most people of the world still thought the earth was flat.

The Marshallese are thought to have been a migratory people who came from Southeast Asia and that some of those people landed and remained on these islands.

Mani Day is a day set aside by the Marshallese to celebrate culture and tradition. It began being celebrated on Ebeye in 1986 when the Republic of the Marshall Islands gained independent status.

While the influx of foreign influences have caused the erosion of some of the traditional ways on Majuro and to some extent on Ebeye, many Marshallese on the outer islands still live the traditional ways and have retained the skills of navigation, fishing, weaving, rope making and fire starting that have been handed down from generation to generation for thousands of years.

Kwajalein residents get to see a glimpse of that tradition and culture when Mani Day is shared by our Ebeye neighbors each year.

The Mani Day celebration on Kwajalein started when the Marshallese Cultural Center opened in 1998.

This year, Mani Day was observed on Kwajalein Oct. 5.



Ato Landrik demonstrates how to make rope from coconut husks.

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OCTOBER

NASA and Orbital pleased with RTS support of IBEX



The Orbital L-1011 aircraft with the Pegasus rocket bearing the IBEX payload sits at the 'Hot Spot.'

After the successful IBEX mission, when asked if NASA would continue to use RTS for future launches, Chuck Dovale, Launch Director for NASA's Launch Service Program (unmanned), said, "Absolutely. An example is 2000. This is our return. If we had a major problem or didn't think this site really fit our needs, we wouldn't have come back after 2000. We are completely behind RTS and the capabilities they have."

Bryan Baldwin, Pegasus Program Manager for Orbital, agreed, "Kwajalein is certainly a unique place to launch from. It's especially well-suited for low inclination missions because it's located close to the equator," he said. "And we have some of our customers who are looking for equatorial-type missions. That makes Kwajalein a good spot for those kinds of customer needs. Kwajalein has all the assets that Orbital requires."

For more, see the Oct. 24 issue of the Hourglass.

Fifth Marshallese Trade Fair held

The fifth Annual Marshallese Trade Fair was six months in the making according to Anne Greene, Host Nation secretary.

"We started six months ago deciding on the date," she said. "We thought it would be better to have it closer to Christmas so people could shop for gifts in time to ship them home."

It took the efforts of the RMI Ministry of Resource and Development, the USAKA Host Nation office and Kwajalein Range Services' Shipping and Receiving, Supply, Community Activities, the Electric Shop, the Marine Department and Kwajalein Police Department for the fair to take place. More than 75 vendors were signed up for this year's fair. The vendors came from Majuro, Ebeye, Wotje, Wotho and Rongelap.



Plants from Majuro were new at the fair this year.

Commander holds Teen Town Hall

Col. Frederick Clarke, USAKA Commander, accompanied by Sgt. Maj. Patrick Kutac, held a town hall meeting with Kwajalein High School teens.

The colonel and Kutac answered questions about the new curfew, AAFES, ROTC, driver's education, housing, military enlistment and more.

He told the teens that Kwajalein was above all else a military installation and security was his main concern. That was one of the reasons for the curfew. He also told the students he believes that during the school year, their main concern should be getting an education.

He also cautioned them against 'inappropriate' use of the Internet for their own safety.

He promised to always listen to their concerns, but always wanted them to do what's right, just as they want him to do what's right.

For full coverage of the teen town hall, see the Oct. 31 issue of the Hourglass.

Annual Shaving Cream Social and Costume Carnival kick off Halloween

The annual Shaving Cream Social and Costume Carnival got Halloween off to a good start. For more, see the Oct. 31 issue of the Hourglass.



Children get harder to identify as more and more shaving cream is applied.



Vampiress Aubrey Sanborn mingles in the crowd.

YEAR IN REVIEW CONTINUES ON PAGE 26

2008: Year in Review

NOVEMBER

Former Kwaj Kid Brian Greene brings movie to island

Former Kwaj Kid and marine biologist Brian Greene came to Kwajalein to show a BBC production entitled *Pacific Abyss*. The film was made by the same people who made *Blue Planet* and *Planet Earth*.

The movie detailed the science and ocean research done by Greene and his partners, plus other scientists around the world.

Greene started diving on Kwajalein when he was 12. He discovered a new species of fish and it is named after him.

For complete coverage of Greene and the movie, see the Nov. 7 issue of the *Hourglass*.

High School students hold mock election

Kwajalein Junior/Senior high school students joined students in the United States and around the world in a mock presidential election between Barack Obama and John McCain.

Student Adam Struppeck played McCain while Troy Walter portrayed Obama. Danielle Gilmore played Michelle Obama and Cassie Griswold played Cindy McCain.

The candidates each gave speeches to assembled students as to why they should be the next president of the United States.

After the rally ended, students voted for their favorite candidate. In both the high school and elementary school voting, Obama was the clear winner. A video production was made of the election and is now available on YouTube. For more on the election, see the Nov. 7 issue of the *Hourglass*.



Monica Peters introduces the candidates at the high school mock election.

Seniors paint the town

The Class of 2009 engaged in the time-honored tradition of painting the street by the high school with designs of their choosing in recognition of their senior year. In spite of wet weather, the work started in the late afternoon and proceeded well into the evening hours with the help of parents and siblings.



The Class of 2009 enjoys Senior Street Painting Night.

KGA holds annual Craft Fair

The Kwajalein Art Guild held its annual Craft Fair in CRC Gym. More than 30 vendors and artists displayed their wares during the fair and shoppers took advantage to do some early Christmas shopping for folks back home.



Jayne Cavender shows Kris Brown some stained glass at the Craft Fair.

2008: Year in Review

Veterans Days honors those who served

A brief ceremony was held Tuesday morning at the flagpoles in observance of Veterans Day. The national anthems of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the United States of America were played by the Kwajalein Junior/Senior High School Band under the direction of Dick Shields.

It is observed on Nov. 11 of each year as the end of World War I came at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918.

Lt. Col Harold Buhl, RTS Range Commander, then spoke and reminded the audience of the horrors veterans of the 'War to End All Wars' endured.

"We acknowledge sacrifices like daily life in knee-deep mud, trench foot where skin came off with boots, when thousands of tons of artillery shaking your skull for days on end, machine gun fire, mustard gas, dysentery, cholera, hunger, gangrene and other medieval conditions,"

he said.

Buhl continued that all American veterans from 1775 to 2008 can be proud of the results of their blood and sweat.

"Our veterans have defended our nation — a greater nation than the world has ever known — and it's up to us to make use of this success and not simply lazily bask in it," he said.

Buhl told the audience that no one is more against war than a veteran. Yet they volunteer to fight because they know it would be worse than war to allow totalitarianism, fascism, communism and the suffering that comes with such concepts to rule the world. Buhl quoted English philosopher John Stewart Mill who said, "A man who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing he cares more about than his personal safety, is a miserable creature who has no chance of being free, unless made so by the exertions of better men than himself."

A wreath laying was performed by Vietnam veteran Mike Herrington, Brownie Savannah Clarke and Junior Girl Scout Reagan Buhl. The ceremony included the traditional 21-gun salute by the American Legion Post 44 Rifle Squad. *Taps* was played by Ryan DeCoster.

Roi Chili Cook-off and Discover Roi Day

The Annual Roi-Namur Chili-cookoff was joined by a new feature this year — Discover Roi Day. Discovering Roi included a guided tour of the Roi battlefield given by Leslie Mead and a tour of the Roi radars by various radar technicians.

Of course, the highlight of the day was the chili cook-off and the ever popular pie-in-the-face.

The event raised some \$7,000 which will be used for Enniburr schools and the Children's Christmas Party.



Above: Kwajalein residents gather for the veterans day ceremony at the flagpoles. Lower left, Master Sgt. Daniel Perdue, Protestant Chaplain Rick Funk, Catholic Chaplain Fr. Daly and Lt. Col. Harold Buhl salute during the national anthem. Lower right, Vietnam veteran Mike Herrington, Junior Girl Scout Reagan Buhl, left, and Brownie Savannah Clarke lay a wreath to honor veterans.

Patrons enjoy good chili at the Roi Chili Cook-off.

YEAR IN REVIEW CONTINUES ON PAGE 28

2008: Year in Review

NOVEMBER (cont.)

Silent basket auction raises \$8,845 for outer islands

The Yokwe Yuk Women's Club fourth Annual Basket Auction was a success, thanks to the generous efforts of many Kwajalein residents. This event was held on Nov. 16 at the High School Multi-Purpose Room.

An assortment of dazzlingly-decorated baskets were displayed on the tables for the silent auction. Participants carefully reviewed their basket auction description list, and then browsed the displays to make their bids.

Attendees were hoping not to be outbid, but kept in mind that if they were outbid, not to "take it personally" as stated by Kathleen Denny.

The goal of the Basket Auction is to raise money to bring Christmas to 300 children on the islands of Ebadon and Majetto, which are located in the northwest corner of Kwajalein Atoll. Each child will receive a backpack with basic clothing and necessities. Each island community will receive two community bins furnished with school supplies, medical supplies, rice, and fishing nets.



Photo by Peter Dolan

Residents attend the Yokwe Yuk Women's Club Silent Basket Auction. The event raised a total of \$8,845 for the Outer Island Christmas Drops.

High school holds Turkey Bowl

Other schools may have Homecoming Day, but if having fun and laughing till you cry are two of your favorite things, you should have been at the Kwajalein High School Turkey Bowl.

Laughter, raucous music, skits, a 'symphony,' hula dancing and even a visit by Gov. Sarah 'You Betcha' Palin, (aka teacher Christi Davis) rocked the multi-purpose room.

The annual event is held to mark the Thanksgiving break from school.

Points are awarded to the classes for the best Turkey Bowl poster, the best class cheer, the best skit, pie-eating contest and best sand castle. Whichever class has the most points at the end of the day wins the Turkey Bowl.

Michael Hillman and Troy Walter acted as Masters of Ceremonies and got things rolling.

The festivities included students impersonating their favorite teachers such as Dick Shields, Doug Hepler, John Janke and principal Al Robinson to the delight of the audience.

Also, teachers Paige Singleton, Paula Fluhrer and John



Students do their version of High School Musical at the Turkey Bowl.

Jahnke did a hilarious hillbilly/bluegrass song and dance act that got the audience clapping and foot-stomping.

After lunch, the Turkey Bowl resumed at Coral Sands Beach with snacks, drinks, volleyball, kickball, sand castle building, a tug-of-war and just a relaxing day at the beach.

2008: Year in Review

DECEMBER

December was a very busy month. Kwajalein Police Department held a Bike Rodeo, a Fish and Wildlife team did a wildlife inventory and resource management assessment, the Marshallese Cultural Society sponsored a sewing demonstration by ladies from Ebeye, Santa Claus arrived, concerts were given by school students and adults, the annual tree-lighting was held, there was a nativity open house, children visited with Santa at Grace Sherwood Library, the Roi Christmas Party was held for 600 people, the Pauper's

Marathon was run, Christmas in the Marshall Islands was held at the CRC, an Army Family Action Plan team came to Kwajalein, the Yokwe Yuk Women's Club held its annual Holiday Dinner and Gift Exchange with ladies from Ebeye, high school students went to Carlos to bring the joy of the season to Carlos children, the Yokwe Yuk Women's Club held its annual outer island Christmas Drop to Majetto and Ebadon, the Parade of Lights sailed along, Scuba Santa arrived, and if that wasn't enough for the busy month, Roi got flooded by high waves.



Santa and Col. Frederick Clarke light the tree.



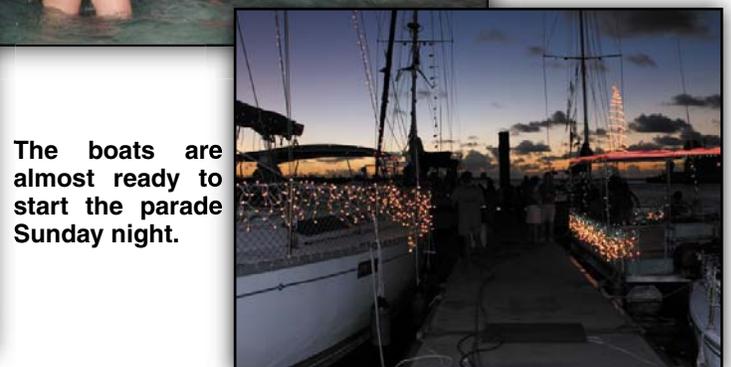
The Kwajalein elementary school second grade class dances to *We're Really Cookin* at the elementary concert Dec. 4, in the multi-purpose room. Choreography was by Karen Brady under the direction of Cheryl Shields.



Scuba Santa and his helpers arrive at Emon Beach Sunday night.



Waves break on Roi-Namur reef.



The boats are almost ready to start the parade Sunday night.

HELP WANTED

KRS and CMSI Job Listings for On-Island Positions will be available at the Kwajalein, Roi-Namur and Ebeye Dock Security Check Point bulletin boards, the bulletin board by the Continental Travel Office, the Roi-Namur Terminal/Post Office bulletin board and at Human Resources in Building 700. Job Listings for Contract Positions will be available at www.krsjv.com, on the bulletin board by the Continental Travel Office and on the Roi-Namur/Post Office bulletin board. Full job descriptions and requirements for Contract openings are located online at www.krsjv.com.

NEED EXTRA MONEY? KRS employment applications are continually accepted for Casual Positions in the Community Services Departments, Medical Department and the HR Temp Pool. Some of the Casual positions are: Recreation Aides, Medical Office, Media Services Specialist, Substitute Teacher, and HR Temp Pool Office Support. Questions? Call 54916.

Religious Services

Catholic

Saturday Mass, 5:30 p.m., in the small chapel.
 Sunday Mass, 9:15 a.m., in the main chapel.
 Mass on Roi is only on the first Sunday of the month at 12:15 p.m., in Roi Chapel.

Protestant

Sunday
 8 and 10:45 a.m., on Kwaj and Roi-Namur service at 4 p.m.

Baptist

9:40 a.m., Sunday, in elementary school music room.

Latter-day Saints

10 a.m., Sunday, in
 Corlett Recreation Center, Room 3.

Jewish services

Last Friday of the month in the Religious Education Building. Times will vary. Contact the Chaplain's office, 53505, for more information.

U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll

OFFICE AUTOMATION ASSISTANTS, GS-0326-6. Temporary position not to exceed two years. The employee provides clerical support to ensure efficient office operations. The employee accomplishes various duties to provide essential office automation support and production. The employee performs a variety of assignments using the advanced functions of various database software packages. The employee prepares varied documents with complex formats using the advanced functions of word processing, desktop publishing, and other software types. The employee performs systems maintenance functions for electronic mail systems. The employee performs a variety of assignments using the advanced functions of one or more spreadsheet software packages. The employee performs a variety of secretarial and other clerical and administrative functions, using judgment to answer recurring questions and resolve problems. Apply at <https://cpolwap.p.belvoir.army.mil>.

SPACEX

LAUNCH SITE TECHNICIAN. Must have general mechanical experience and at least three years of air-conditioning experience. Call Sharon, 54775.

COMMUNITY BANK

TELLER. Part time 20 hours. Submit resumé to <http://careers.dodcommunitybank.com> <<http://careers.dodcommunitybank.com/>>

WANTED

HOUSE-SITTING for parents in February. Call Mark or Amy, 51472.

MAKEUP ARTIST and balloon artist for birthday party. Call 54396.

CHURCH ON GUGEEGUE needs a 27-inch or larger TV, DVD player, VCR player, rolling TV cart and children's DVDs, (especially Bible stories). If you have or are willing to buy any of these items, call Avis, 58899 and leave a message.

FOUND

WATCH, at Ivey Gym. Call 53372.

RINGS, on the golf course. Call 58558.



IS YOUR NEW YEAR'S resolution to spend more time on the beautiful waters of the largest atoll in the world? If it is and you aren't licensed, then you're in luck. The Small Boat Marina is offering their boater's orientation class, 6-8:30 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, in CRC, Room 1. Cost for the class is \$30 payable in advance at the Small Boat Marina. Questions? Call 53643.

PATIO SALES

SUNDAY, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Quarters 458-C (in back). Children's clothes, shoes, bikes, kitchen items and adult clothing.

MONDAY, 8-10 a.m., Quarters 479-A (in back). Clothes and household items.

FOR SALE

FISHER PRICE Smart Cycle in "Like New" condition. Includes 2 smartridges (Dora and The Bus), all cables and instruction booklet. \$65 and four Harbour Breeze ceiling fans with remotes(color white), all have light kits, \$25 each. Call 52597.

BULK SCUBA GEAR, four regulators, two BCs, dive computer, multiple fins, mask, dive flag and lights, \$500 or best offer. Call 53008.

LEAP FROG musical learning table, new, never opened, \$45. Call 53119.

DEHUMIDIFIER \$40; indoor/outdoor ceiling fan, white new in box, \$20; womans roller skates, size 10, new in box, \$40. Call 54125, after 5 p.m.

Café Pacific

Lunch

<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Jan 9</i>
Pot roast	Salisbury steak	Breaded pork cutlet	Herb-baked chicken	Spaghetti	Meatloaf	Fried chicken
Barbecued chicken	Vegetarian pasta	Chicken peapod stir-fry	Sesame tofu	Chicken corn saute	Breaded chicken strips	Three-meat pizza
Beans in broth	Quiche Lorraine	Strawberry crepes	Beef tips in Burgundy	Fish and chips	Veggie stir-fry	Veggie pizza
Grill: Chili dog	Grill: Brunch station open	Grill: Brunch station open	Grill: Reuben	Grill: N/A	Grill: Grilled cheese	Grill: N/A

Dinner

<i>Tonight</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
Build-your-own pizza	Korean beef ribs	Swedish meatballs	Mini-taco bar	Swiss steak	Top sirloin	Breaded pork chops
Chicken cacciatore	Thai shrimp pasta	Garlic ono	Oxtail stew	Baked Tuscan chicken	Noodles Romanoff	Chicken stew
Chef's choice	Thai fried rice	Corn bread	Chef's choice	Rice/barley casserole	Lemon herb chicken	Chef's choice

Energy conservation required compliance

Energy Conservation: Island living requires everyone's help to conserve resources where and when practical. Please do your part to help conserve energy and natural resources. Compliance with the following conservation methods are required and/or requested of all residence as stated herein.

Required Compliance

- Do not leave outside lights on during daylight hours.
- Turn off all exterior lighting decoration and other miscellaneous electrical appliances at midnight or after use if past midnight. Solar-powered yard, porch and U.S. flag lighting is exempt.
- No exterior Christmas and New Years holiday electrical consuming decorations will be operated after Jan 10 of each year. All other exterior holiday electrical consuming decorations may be operated within seven days before and after the date of the holiday.
- All exterior holiday electrical consuming fixtures must be turned off at midnight each night during the allowed dates of operation.

WOMEN'S SIZE 9 K2 roller blades with knee, elbow and wrist guards. in excellent condition, perfect for Christmas or that New Year's resolution, \$100 for everything. Call 51597.

30-HORSEPOWER TOHATSU short-shaft outboard has less than 10 hours use, both pull and/or electric start, hydraulic or manual tilt, comes with service manual and all documentation, oil filters, spark plugs, fuel filters, spare impeller, one fuel can and a sealed battery as well as original equipment mini-tool kit, set up with anti-cavitation fins, \$3,500. Call Alex, 51561, home, or 54746, work.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

ROCK N BOWL is set for 6-8:30 p.m., Saturday.

PASSPORT PHOTOS will be taken 3-4 p.m., Wednesday, in Building 901, Room 219. Cost is \$10. For more information, call Anne Greene, 55033.

IS YOUR NEW YEAR'S resolution to spend more time on the beautiful waters of the largest atoll in the world? If it is and you aren't licensed, then you're in luck. The Small Boat Marina is offering their boater's orientation class, 6-8:30 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, in CRC, Room 1. Cost for the class is \$30 payable in advance at the Small Boat Marina. Questions? Call 53643.

EOD / LAUNCH ORDNANCE will conduct explosive disposal operations 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday, on Illeginni. In the event of a schedule change, the alternate explosive disposal days will be Friday. A horizontal and vertical safety exclusion area of 4,000 feet (surface to air) is off limits to all unauthorized personnel throughout the operation. Questions? Call 51433.

START SMART SOCCER registration for ages 3-5 in Wednesday through Jan. 21. For registration information, call 52158. Start Smart Soccer teaches the basic motor skills to play soccer working one-on-one with parents.

CYS HOLIDAY BOWL GAMES will be Jan. 10 on Brandon Field. Girl's game at 5 p.m. Boys' game at 6 p.m. Bring a chair and cheer on the participants in flag football games. Call Jason, 53796, for signup / event questions.

KWAJALEIN SWIM TEAM members will be using the adult pool for training now through Jan. 11. Practice hours are posted at the adult pool. Questions? Call Amy, 53331.

THE KWAJALEIN ART GUILD is sponsoring a Shell Candlemaking Class, 6-8 p.m., Jan 13 and 15, at the Art Annex (Fac 828). The instructor will be Sandy Herrington and the cost of the class is \$50, which includes supplies needed to make a beautiful shell candle. For more information or to register, contact Sandy Herrington at 58990, work, or 54152, home. Class limited to four participants.

THE COMMUNITY is invited to participate in the Cub Scout Celebrity Open Pinewood Derby. Car kits are \$25 per kit and you can race more than one car if desired. To purchase a kit and get derby rules, call 52885 or e-mail cgwiley1@yahoo.com. Trophy (and bragging rights) goes to winner of Celebrity Division for one year (until next year's race). Pinewood Derby Trial Run and Registration is 4-6 p.m., Jan. 25, in the multi-purpose room. The Pinewood Derby is 1 p.m., Jan. 26, in the multi-purpose room. Car kits are limited so get yours soon!

EMON BEACH is undergoing repairs for the next several weeks. Your patience is appreciated. Questions? Call 53331.

INFORMATION SERVICES Customer Service is pleased to announce that computer application classes are resuming for all island employees. For more information go to wss//it/training or contact Cindy Brooks at 50787.

THE OPTOMETRIST will be on island to see patients Jan. 25-Feb.5. Patients are responsible for filing their own insurance claims. Please be ready to pay at time of service. Call 52223.



The commander of Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll request the honor of your presence at the RTS Winter Formal, Jan. 25, at the Country Club. Happy hour is at 5:30 p.m. Receiving line at 6:30 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m.

R.S.V.P by Jan. 20 to Protocol, 54932, or Public Affairs Officer, 51404.

Military: Dress or Mess Blues with medals
Civilian: Formal
\$40 per person/cash bar



U.S. military personnel in Israel uninjured

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

About 100 U.S. European Command soldiers, airmen and Marines deployed to Israel to help set up an early warning radar system reported no close encounters with air strikes or retaliatory attacks along the Gaza Strip, a Eucom spokesman said.

The Palestinian militant group Hamas refused to renew a cease-fire agreement with Israel when it expired Dec. 19, and began stepping up rocket attacks on civilian targets in Israel. Israel, in turn, began launching airstrikes against Gaza Strip targets Dec. 27 in an effort to eliminate Hamas' ability to fire rockets into Israeli territory.

Air Force Lt. Col. John Dorrian confirmed Stars and Stripes' report that the Eucom team is operating on an Israeli air base nowhere near the targeted areas.

The Eucom troops deployed to Israel to help set up an Army/Navy Transportable Radar Surveillance system, Dorrian confirmed. The Israeli government requested the system to help defend against a

potential missile attack from Iran.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates signed off on the deployment order in mid-September, Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell confirmed during a Sept. 30 news conference.

Once fully operational, the system will be capable of tracking and identifying small objects at long distance and at very high altitude, including space, according to U.S. Missile Defense Agency officials. It also will integrate Israel's missile defenses with the U.S. global missile detection network.

"This will enable the Israelis to track medium- and long-range ballistic missiles multiple times better than their current radar allows them to," Morrell said. "It will ... more than double the range of Israel's missile defense radars and increase its available engagement time."

This, he said, will greatly enhance Israel's defensive capabilities.

"There is a growing ballistic missile threat in the region, particularly from Iran," Morrell said. "And no one in the region should feel more nervous about that threat than the Israelis. And they clearly do, and they have asked

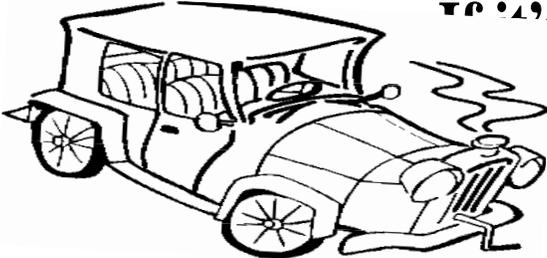
for our assistance. And we have now provided it in the form of this ... X-band radar equipment."

About 120 U.S. servicemembers were initially deployed to Israel to set up the system, a number Dorrian said is now down to about 100.

Morrell estimated that the system will take about half that many U.S. personnel to operate once it is up and running. "This is and will remain a U.S. radar system," he said. "This is not something we are giving or selling to the Israelis."

The system, he said, is another sign of U.S. commitment to Israel. "We are committed to the Israelis, to Israel's defense," Morrell said. Meanwhile, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice expressed concern about escalating violence in Gaza.

"We strongly condemn the repeated rocket and mortar attacks against Israel and hold Hamas responsible for breaking the cease-fire and for the renewal of violence there," Rice said in a statement. "The cease-fire must be restored immediately and fully respected. The United States calls on all concerned to protect innocent lives and to address the needs of Gaza."



'not movin', it shouldn't be runnin'

Vehicle engines left idling waste fuel and money and could create a safety hazard. If vehicles are not being driven, engines should be shut off.

Weather courtesy of RTS Weather

Saturday: Partly sunny, 20 percent showers. **Winds:** ENE-E at 10-15 knots.
Sunday: Mostly sunny, 10 percent showers. **Winds:** ENE at 8-13 knots.
Monday: Sunny, 10 percent showers. **Winds:** ENE at 13-18 knots.
Tuesday: Partly sunny, 20 percent showers. **Winds:** NE-ENE at 13-18 knots.
Wednesday: Mostly sunny, 10 percent showers. **Winds:** ENE-E at 10-15 knots.
Thursday: Mostly sunny, 10 percent showers. **Winds:** ENE-E at 12-17 knots.
Jan. 9: Mostly sunny, 10 percent showers. **Winds:** ENE-E at 12-17 knots.

Annual total: 0.04 inches
 Annual deviation: -0.13 inches

Call 54700 for updated forecasts or visit www.rts-wx.com.

Sun • Moon • Tides

	Sunrise/set	Moonrise/set	High Tide	Low Tide
Saturday	6:57a.m./6:34 p.m.	12:12 p.m./	7:53 a.m., 3.2' 8:04 p.m., 3.5'	1:51 a.m., 0.1' 1:52 p.m., 0.6'
Sunday	6:57 a.m./6:34 p.m.	12:54 p.m./12:45 a.m.	8:51a.m., 3.1' 8:55 p.m., 3.1'	2:32 a.m., 0.3' 2:51 p.m., 0.9'
Monday	6:57a.m./6:34 p.m.	1:41 p.m./1:37 a.m.	10:02 a.m., 3.0' 10:13 p.m., 2.6'	3:24 a.m., 0.6' 4:19 p.m., 1.1'
Tuesday	6:57 a.m./6:34 p.m.	2:34 p.m./2:33 a.m.	11:35 a.m., 3.2' 6:17 p.m., 1.0'	4:39 a.m., 0.7'
Wednesday	6:57 a.m./6:34 p.m.	3:33 p.m./3:35 a.m.	12:06 a.m., 2.4' 1:03 p.m., 3.5'	6:11 a.m., 0.7' 7:50 p.m., 0.6'
Thursday	6:57a.m./6:34 p.m.	4:38 p.m./4:41 a.m.	1:42 a.m., 2.6' 2:10 p.m., 4.0'	7:32 a.m., 0.5' 8:52 p.m., 0.0'
Jan. 9	6:57 a.m./6:34 p.m.	5:46 p.m./5:47 a.m.	2:48 a.m., 2.9' 3:04 p.m., 4.5'	8:34 a.m., 0.1' 9:41 p.m., 0.5'