

50 Years of Excellence in Space and Missile Defense

The Compact of Free Association and the USAKA Environmental Standards – a unique relationship

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The Compact of Free Association defines the relationship between the sovereign nation of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the United States of America. It was negotiated in 1982, approved by the citizens of RMI in 1983 and adopted by the U.S. Congress in 1986. It was signed into law on Nov. 3, 1986, and established the framework for administering governmental, economic, security and defense relations between RMI and the United States.

Prior to the Compact, the RMI was one of four island nations that made up the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands created after the end of World War II. The "Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands" Trust Territory was a United Nations trusteeship administered by the United States Navy from 1947 to 1951 and by the United States Department of the Interior from 1951 to 1994.

Under the Compact relationship, the United States provides financial assistance in exchange for certain defense rights. The United States also treats the RMI uniquely by giving it access to many U.S. domestic programs, including disaster response and recovery and hazard mitigation programs under the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance of the Department of State and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

While the Compact of Free Association does not expire, the economic assistance provided in the original Compact was for a period of 15 years. In 2004, the Compact was amended to provide direct economic assistance for an additional 20 years and a long term extension on the United States use of 11 defense sites on Kwajalein. The new Compact provided \$3.5 billion in funding for the RMI, and an additional \$30 million to American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii and the Northern Mariana Islands in "Compact Impact" funding. This funding helps the governments of these localities cope with the expense of providing services to immigrants from the RMI and other former Pacific Island Trust



Territories. The amended Compact also changed certain immigration rules, for example, travel between the two nations now requires a passport.

The Compact also obligated the U.S. Government to develop environmental standards and procedures and apply them to its activities in the RMI. The USAKA Environmental Standards were developed jointly by the RMI, the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command Environmental Office and the Environmental Protection Agency (Region IX). Several other U.S. agencies were part of the team which developed the standards including the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — Pacific Ocean Division, and the U.S. Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine. The standards are substantially similar to the statutes followed in the United States but are tailored to the unique RMI environment and are the cornerstone of the installation's environmental management program. The affected environments covered by the standards are:

- Air Quality
- Water Quality and Reef Protection
- Drinking Water Quality
- Endangered Species and Wildlife Resources
- Ocean Disposal
- Material and Waste Management
- Historic and Archaeological Resources

The Compact also provides that the RMI and the U.S. Government may agree to modify or supersede any environmental standard or procedure developed and applied under the authority of the Compact. The standards have been reviewed

and revised as appropriate, annually since their adoption. The USAKA Environmental Standards have brought U.S. Army activities at Kwajalein under a set of tailored, enforceable, and judicially reviewable standards that are beneficial to both the Army and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Kuwajleen: 'The people who harvest the flowers'

Long before the first European traders came to what would later be known as Kwajalein, the main island was known for its abundant flowering utilomar trees located on its western end. The people who lived on this crescent shaped island were known as rû-ruk-jân-leen or "the people who harvest the flowers." People from all over would come to this island to gather the "fruits" of the flower trees, from which it was believed that great blessings flowed. The name of the people was eventually corrupted into a place name — "Kuwajleen". Generations later European visitors changed it again to the name that the Americans now use.



Photo by Mark Hubbs

"Many people from other islands come to work on Kuwajleen to make a living. They are in a sense, picking the flowers from the flower tree ... they are reaping the economic benefits that are available on Kuwajleen. I do not know why our ancestors named this atoll Kuwajleen, but it seems to me that they were looking into the future ..." — Daisy Lojkar, 1997

TMD

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War, the need for missile early warning capabilities was unquestioned. To meet these required capabilities the USASSDC fielded the Joint Tactical Ground Station, or JTAGS, in a relatively short period of time. The JTAGS supports all aspects of TMD data collection and early warning: passive defense, attack operations, active defense and command, control, communications, computers and intelligence (C4I) and is flexible enough to be placed in any theater of operations. The JTAGS is an example of the Army's versatility; it is a multi-service system and draws on multi-service research and development, acquisition, training and unit operations.

JTAGS is now deployed with SMDC/ARSTRAT's 1st Space Battalion and has detachments in Colorado, Germany, Korea and Southwest Asia.

Intercept testing of TMD assets requires realistic target missiles. Storm was the first target missile developed by the program in 1988. Storm has a range of 400km and is capable of carrying maneuverable target test vehicles as its payload. Hera is a longer range target that was initially designed to support THAAD testing. Hera can deliver a variety of payloads including simulated chemical weapons. USASSDC consolidated its target efforts under a new Theater Target Program in 1993 as part of the USASSDC Test and Evaluation Directorate (later the Target, Test and Evaluation Director-

ate). The target missiles developed were used in tests of the THAAD, Patriot, PAC-3, Corps SAM and Ground Based Radars. In order to simulate a target with a mobile launch capability, the Theater Targets Program de-veloped the Short Range Air Launched Target (SRALT). The SRALT is dropped from a C-130 cargo plane and descends by parachute before igniting its motors at the appropriate altitude. With a range of up to 600km, the SRALT was developed for the Navy Area Defense and the THAAD test programs. The theater target mission remained with the command until 1998 when it was absorbed by a new joint ballistic missile target project office that consolidated and centralized, for all branches of the

military, target missile development and management.

Before DoD directed the Army to begin developing new TMD systems in the mid 80s, USASSDC was already hard at work on theater missile defense. By the end of the 80s, USASSDC planners and engineers had conceived and designed three products that are now the backbone of American and allied theater missile defense strategy. The PAC-3 system has been fielded and participated in the opening stages of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. Nine Iraqi short-range missiles were intercepted over Iraq and Kuwait proving the systems ability to combat incoming ballistic missiles. SMDC/ARSTRAT can take pride in its many contributions to theater missile defense.