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# **2015: A YEAR OF MANY FIRSTS**

EDITORIAL BY JORDAN VINSON

hen asked what made 2015 unique. several events and developments come to mind. One of the most monumental events literally just happened. It was, of course, SpaceX's successful landing of the company's reusable Falcon 9 first stage at Cape Canaveral, Florida. This achievement will undoubtedly be looked upon

as significant milestone in the company's mission to kick open a cheap path to low Earth orbit and, of course, return humans to the moon and push them onward to Mars. And here's a fun fact for those that are new on the garrison: SpaceX used the Reagan Test Site as a testing ground for the Falcon 1, Falcon 9's predecessor. It was in July 2009 that the company achieved its very first successful commercial launch, putting a Malaysian satellite into orbit from a remote, temporary launch side at Omelek Island near Meck. In other words, there's a piece of RTS involved in SpaceX's success and the slam dunk Falcon 9 landing the company achieved Dec. 21, 2015. That's something special to be proud of.

Other major global and U.S. developments in 2015, of course, included the dramatic rise and territorial gains by Daesh (ISIL) in Iraq and Syria and the refugee crisis in Southern Europe created by ongoing waring there. A string of highly publicized police shootings against unarmed African Americans last year opened a new chapter in the nation's narrative on race relations. For many, a highpoint of 2015 was the success of the COP 21 climate summit in Paris, which, for the first time, committed all nations on the planet to reduce carbon emissions; \$100 billion will be allocated each year by 2020 to developing countries to help finance their carbon cutting commitments—a welcome sign for nations like the Marshall Islands. Paris' unprecedented terrorist attacks were low points, recalibrating the vast majority of the world's opposition to Islamic extremism. But on the upswing, NASA discovered liquid water on Mars, a major boon for humanity's coalescing plans to make a presence on the red planet. And, hey, just for fun, I'll mention the rise of Donald Trump as a potential nominee for the GOP ticket in 2016. (I'm not calling that a highpoint, though.)

Locally, there were also plenty of memorable events here on Kwajalein Atoll to reflect on, and a lot of them are captured in this issue. One development that made 2015 stand out was the intense El Niño system that mucked up the weather in this part of the world for a good chunk of last year, spawning a flurry of strong, defined storms in the equatorial Pacific, some ven-

The opinions expressed in this column are the author's and are not necessarily those of USAG-KA, the Army or the U.S. government. Questions? Email the Hourglass at usarmy.bucholz.311-sig-cmd.mbx.hourglass@mail.mil

turing north, where they ripped into Southeast Asia. In late March Tropical Storm Bavi gave us sustained wind speeds of 39 mph—a first since 1944—and 10.65 inches of rain and became the first tropical storm to come within 300 nautical miles of Kwajalein Atoll in 10 years. A violent burst of west winds coming from Indonesia birthed Tropical Storm Nangka in early July, bringing the system within a distance of only 100 nautical miles from Roi-Namur. And a vicious pack of west wind in late September and early October came in and wrecked the place, tearing up the piers at Kwajalein's harbor, damaging or destroying personal yachts anchored in the lagoon and, for one night, stranding 845 R.M.I. C-badge workers on Kwajalein-a historic first for the garrison. In all, the El Niño system helped dump more than 130 inches of rain on Kwajalein Atoll—more than 40 inches over the annual average here in the heart of the Ralik Chain.

In other news, at a solemn ceremony on Jan. 31, 2015, the USAG-KA community joined the daughters of Frank Pokrop to put the late Marine to rest on Namur. A veteran of the U.S. assault on Namur in 1944, Pokrop had asked his daughters to see to it that his ashes be spread on the same patch of sandy soil at the northern tip of the island where he was shot and nearly lost his life more than 70 years prior. In similar news, in August, volunteers with Kwajalein's M.I.A. Project discovered the location of the tail piece of the Gunga Din, a PB2Y-3 Coronado that crashed and split in half in the lagoon in Sept. 1944. The revamped search and recovery organization is on the hunt for a total of 10 lost American military planes and 14 men taken down with the aircraft in 1942-1945.

On the space and missile side of 2015, Lockheed Martin and the company's team on Kwajalein broke ground on the \$900 million Air Force Space Fence radar. The radar is poised to dramatically ramp up the Air Force's ability to track space debris cluttering up the planet's orbit—an issue that will only become more important as more private enterprises like SpaceX cheaply shoot payloads into orbit. The Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile mission celebrated 50 years of service Aug. 19 with a U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command and Space Command launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California to the Reagan Test Site. Throughout October and November, the Missile Defense Agency partnered with the RTS and other DOD groups on and around Wake Island, where they put the Terminal High Altitude Aerial Defense weapon system to the test, along with the U.S.S. John Paul Jones, equipped with the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense system. The Flight Test Operation-02 Event 2a tested the weapons systems' ability to acquire, track and destroy multiple independent ballistic missile threats at the same time, an important milestone in the military's ability to layer distinct anti-ballistic systems over one another to provide greater defense against ballistic threats.

In local R.M.I. news, the 2015 Republic of the Marshall Islands

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	THE KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS	5
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	U.S. Government, Department of Defense, De- partment of the Army or USAG-KA. It is published Saturdays in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1 and using a network printer by Kwajalein Range Services editorial staff. Phone: Defense Switching Network 254-2114; Local phone: 52114	Garrison CommanderCol. Michael Larsen Garrison CSMCommand Sgt. Maj. Angela Rawlings Public Affairs OfficerNikki Maxwell Managing EditorJordan Vinson
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usarmy.bucholz.311-sig-cmd.mbx.hourglass@mail.mil

essarily official views of, or endorsed by, the

# JEPTAS SHINE ON EBEYE

#### HOURGLASS REPORT

hose Kwajalein residents and visitors who made it over to Ebeye Dec. 25 for the island's annual Christmas jepta performances were treated to a colorful representation of the Marshall Islanders' take on the holiday.

Consisting of dozens of people—in some cases well more than

100—each jepta took to the stage at their respective churches and expressed their Christmas spirit through highly choreographed dancing and singing. The result of months of practice, each jepta's performance at all Ebeye churches took a unique approach to honoring and celebrating the holiday—by far the biggest day on the Christian calendar in the Marshall Islands.



Jordan Vinson

# **HERO OF THE WEEK**

#### HOURGLASS REPORT

SAG-KA'S Hero of the Week for this week is Kwaj resident Rick Fegurur. A quality control manager for AMEC-Foster Wheeler at the Space Fence construction project, Rick has lived and worked on Kwajalein for nine

months now. He says he's happy to be part of a team tasked with building such an important project from the ground up. Making sure all sub-contractors are on the same page is a tough aspect of his job, and it keeps him busy.

"Ensuring that sub-contractors are following issuedfor-construction drawings and specification parameters for materials and equipment being installed" can be challenging, he says.

In his down time, Rick is in the water. An avid swimmer, you can often find him at the Adult Pool doing laps or in the lagoon snorkeling. Rick has a wife, Donna, in Houston and three adult children: Cherryl, Lisa and Kevin.



dance as part of a large jepta Dec. 25 at the United Church of Christ on Ebeye. 2) Dozens of children stand by for candy and quarters to be thrown out from the stage by traditional leaders at Assembly of God Church. 3) A member of one jepta calls out the names of Assembly of God members to approach the stage to collect gifts. 4) Children smile for the camera during a long, colorful jepta performance at the United Church of Christ on Ebeve.

Clockwise, from top left. 1) Children



USAG-KA Command Sgt. Maj. Angela Rawlings, right, has an impromptu dance-off with an Enniburr school child Dec. 23 during a holiday gift drop with other USAG-KA command staff. The garrison donated bags of sporting and school supplies for the children at the island's elementary school.

# HOLIDAY SPIRIT FROM USAG-KA TO ENNIBURR

HOURGLASS REPORT

SAG-KA Command staff paid the children of Enniburr a visit Dec. 23 to wish them and their families happy holidays and deliver some Christmas cheer.

Joining in on the outreach trip were US-AG-KA Commander Col. Michael Larsen, Command Sgt. Maj. Angela Rawlings, R.M.I. Foreign Ministry Liaison to USAG-KA Lanny Kabua and other command staff.

The group travelled to the small island community to deliver bags of soccer balls, books, footballs and loads of school supplies. They were met by the island's leaders and scores of young children happy to see the gifts.

The sporting goods and school supplies, Larsen told the children, were gifts given on behalf of the USAG-KA community. Raymond De Brum, the island's public elementary school principal, accepted the donations on behalf of the Enniburr community.



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# **DEARMONS WIN ROI DOOR DECORATION CONTEST**

#### HOURGLASS REPORT

Garrison

Sandra

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o Dearmon and his wife Sharon took first place in the 2015 Roi-Namur Door Decorating Contest. Their Christmas treethemed door, featuring pieces of drift wood, baby coconuts and tiny presents, packed the holiday punch the couple needed to secure first place this year.

Coming in second place was Chad McGlinn, and in third place it was Chris Bennis, with help from Gabby Barlow.

The Door Decoration Contest was but one of the many holiday festivities Roi Community Activities staff organized for the tiny island community. Other crowd favorites were the ornament workshop, the coffee and cookie exchange and the Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Clockwise, from left. Bo Dearmon, right, and his wife Sharon, with their first prize door. Sandra Garrison and Gene Littlefield compete in the contest but are unable to secure a win this year. Chad McGlinn and his second place door.



#### 2015, FROM P. 2 -

local and national elections shook up the Nitijela in November. Come next week, 14 of the body's 33 seats will be occupied by fresh senators, many of which are young, first-timers at the nation's political helm. Kwajalein Sen. and Foreign Minister Tony deBrum-one of the international community's leading players in global climate change negotiations and activismwas, surprisingly, one of those incumbents voted out of office. Following his work at the COP 21 talks in Paris, not to mention years of effort toward highprofile carbon cutting activism, deBrum now must take a bow and exit the foreign ministry, taking with him former Kwajalein Sen. Jeban Riklon. Taking their places are Alvin Jacklick, a previous senator for the Ailinglaplap and Kwajalein districts, and David Paul, the general manager of the Marshalls Energy Co. and one of the younger upstart senators who are promising strong reform of R.M.I. national governance.

It was a month before those elections, that the people of the Marshall Islands bid farewell to Majuro Iroijlaplap and former R.M.I. President Jurelang Zedkaia, who passed away at the age of 65 from to a suspected heart attack. And in March, the people of Ebeye bid another heartbreaking farewell to Kwajalein Atoll Mayor Johnny Lemari, who also passed away due to heart complications.

Ending on a bright note, early last month the garrison community dedicated one of its ferryboat vessels to the memory of late Army Staff Sgt. Solomon Sam. The brain child of USAG-KA's new commander, Col. Michael Larsen, the dedication ceremony brought Sam's family, R.M.I. citizens and dignitaries, U.S. State Department officials and the USAG-KA community together on the windswept Echo Pier to remember and honor the fallen Soldier and reinforce the special relationship joining the U.S. and the R.M.I. Happy New Year.

# XYLITOL'S DANGER TO DOGS

#### TO ALL DOG OWNERS ON KWAJALEIN,

**PLEASE BE AWARE** that xylitol (sugar substitute) is toxic and potentially fatal to dogs. While this sugar alcohol is commonly found in sugar-free gum, it can also be found in dental products (toothpaste or mouthwash), candy, OTC pharmaceuticals (children's vitamins), baked goods, and many other items, including some peanut butters.

While Xylitol consumption is considered safe in people, even small amounts (one-two pieces of gum) can cause hypoglycemia (low blood sugar), seizures, liver failure, or even death in dogs. There is no antidote available to reverse xylitol's effects on the body and treatment is based on clinical presentation and blood work evaluation.

If you have sugar-free gum or other products containing xylitol in your household, ensure that they are kept securely out of the reach of pets (backpacks, purses, bags, countertops, etc... may not be secure-enough for some animals). Please take a moment and read product labels.

So, what should you do if your dog ingests xylitol containing gum or other products?

1. Call Veterinary Services at 52017 or the Kwajalein Hospital if after hours at 52223 or 52224.

2. Have the product available and be able to answer the following questions:

a. What type of product was ingested?

- b. When was it ingested?
- c. How much was ingested?
- d. What is the animal doing now?

3. Induce vomiting only under the direction of medical personal (vet or hospital staff). Owners should administer hydrogen peroxide only as directed.

The following web address has some additional and good information regarding xylitol, but is not a substitute for professional treatment or advice at the time of an ingestion.

http://www.petmd.com/dog/conditions/endocrine/c\_dg\_xylitol\_toxicity#



Atoll Cup — NFL cheerleaders — Seabees Ebeye construction — Coach Tom Newell — Kaleidoscope of Music — Melon head whales — A day with the tree trimming crew — QOL's new billiards tables

1) The Roi team poses for a photo after the Atoll Cup on Sunday. As they do every year, some Kwaj golfers joined the Roi team to expand the playing field. Both teams tied last year. 2) NFL cheerleaders are a breath of fresh air for Kwaj and Roi residents during their trip to the garrison last January. 3) Kwajalein Atoll Local Government leaders, RMI representatives, CCAD-Marshall Islands leadership and U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll Command staff commemorate the completion of the Seabees' construction at the Ebeye Island Community Center with a ribbon cutting ceremony Jan. 9. 4) Late Ebeye Mayor Johnny Lemari thanks members of Navy Seabees Construction Civic Action Detail-Marshall Islands for their work at the community center. Lemari would unfortunately pass away March 1. 5) Former NBA coach Tom Newell speaks to children during a training clinic on Kwajalein. 6) Cynthia Pavia, middle right with arm raised, joins Cindy Yost, right, and Paula Peters and Dale Finley, left, during a performance at the annual Kaleidoscope of Music at the Kwajalein Jr. /Sr. High School Multi-purpose Room. 7) A pod of at least 80 melon-headed whales cruise through the cobalt blue waters off Kwajalein Jan. 12. 8) Ebil Loeak, a veteran tree trimmer with the Buildings and Grounds department on Kwajalein, clears a tall coconut palm of ripe coconuts and palm fronts near the Religious Education Building in early January. 9) Kwaj residents and Quality of Life volunteers Tommy Ryon, left, and Nick Dahl christen one of the new billiards tables purchased by QOL at the Kwaj ARC Jan. 24.





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# JAN. APRIL APRIL APRIL APRIL DEC. DEC.

Burial of Frank Pokrop — Operation Flintlock veterans — Space Fence ground breaking — Kwajalein Atoll Memorial Day — Chairman of the Joint chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey — The story of Don Fida — Talent show at KHS — Pinewood Derby

1) Former Kwaj Rev. Kevin Wilson addresses the crowd at the funeral for late Marine and Flintlock veteran Frank Pokrop on the island of Namur, where Pokrop wanted his remains to be scattered after death. USAG-KA Command personnel, background, participated in the funeral service along with American Legion Post #44 volunteers. 2) Operation Flintlock veterans Glenn Toms, left, Don Fida, middle, and Billie Armstrong-once strangers, but now friendspause for a photo together during their stay on USAG-KA in early February. While Toms and Armstrong served in the Navy as petty officers, Fida was a scout with the Army's 7th Infantry and participated in the ground battle on Kwajalein. The trip to USAG-KA last week was the first time either of them had visited Kwajalein Atoll since WWII. 3) Lockheed Martin and the company's team on Kwajalein break ground on the Air Force's Space Fence sensor, designed to locate and track space debris cluttering orbit around Earth. 4) Republic of the Marshall Islands police officers begin the 71st Kwajalein Atoll Memorial Day celebration with a short procession on Ebeye. 5) 18th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey fields questions at a town hall meeting during a visit to Kwajalein Feb. 21. 6) Dayna Hepler performs during a talent show at the KHS Multi-purpose Room. 7) Kwaj resident Jon Mitchell hands out a trophy to Archer Anderson during the annual Pinewood Derby, hosted by Cub Scout Pack 135. 8) Operation Flintlock veteran Don Fida, who served as a scout with the Army's 7th Infantry during the U.S. invasion of Kwajalein Island, holds a photo of 1st Sgt. Earl Watson, the non-commissioned officer who was killed by Fida's side by enemy sniper fire during battle.







## SMDC Commander — Career day at Ebeye — Coconut crabs — Water polo champs — Basketball champs — Underwater Army promotion — TS Bavi — Japanese Maj. Gen. Hiroaki Uchikura — Pianist Roman Rudnytsky

1) Lt. Gen. David Mann, commander of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, talks with Kwajalein folks at a town hall meeting at the Corlett Recreation Center. 2) Local Marshallese students listen to a presentation on safety from Mary Milne during Career Day at the Ebeye Community Center. 3) A big coconut crab, photographed by Roi resident Art Bennis, scales a fence on Roi. 4) The Turbo Turtles claim the coconut trophy for the 2015 Inner-Tube Water Polo Championships. Pictured top are Greg Moore and Shawn Mirowitz. Bottom, left to right are Tommy Ryon, Bruce Premo, Brian Coombe, Brittney Nichols, Jane Premo, Bill Williamson, Tim Roberge and Jeff O'Neal. 5) Hoopless team members celebrate their victory in the 2015 Kwajalein A League Basketball Championship March 13. 6) Chief Warrant Officer 3 Shawn Carpenter is promoted to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4 by former USAG-KA Commander Col. Nestor Sadler. The underwater ceremony was the first of its kind known on the garrison. 7) Tropical Storm Bavi sweeps into the Marshalls in March, making it the first tropical cyclone to come within 300 nautical miles of Kwajalein in more than 10 years. It dropped 10.65 inches of rain on the garrison in a short amount of time. 8) Japanese Maj. Gen. Hiroaki Uchikura of the Japan Air Self-Defense Force lays down an offering of flowers at the Japanese memorial on Kwajalein March 9. 9) Visiting pianist Roman Rudnytsky talks with Kwajalein residents about playing techniques and practicing the piano as part of a short tour of performances on Kwaj and Roi.



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Army Sec. John McHugh — Spring Break Music Fest — KFD — Kwajalein remembers Michael Kraesig — Roi rat's hole-in-one — RustMan — Earth Day — Kwajalein incinerator overhauls — Lives saved off Gagan



1) U.S. Secretary of the Army John McHugh talks with U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll Command staff, Department of the Army civilians and civilian contractors at a special luncheon on Kwajalein in April. 2) Kayla Hepler and friends perform a dance routine during the 15th annual Spring Break Music Fest at Emon Beach. 3) All Kwajalein Fire Department staff (minus one or two) gather for a rare photo in April at the fire house. 4) Michael Kraesig's friends on Kwajalein gather for a pre-game memorial for the late short stop and captain of the Criminals softball team who passed away in April. 5) Roi golfer Jim Thomson scores a hole-in-one at the Roi-Namur Golf Course March 15 on the number 10 hole. 6) Kwaj resident and athlete Ron Sylvester finishes the swimming portion of the 2015 RustMan Triathlon and runs to the bicycle staging area to begin the biking portion. 7) Kwaj resident Karen Simas lugs a big bag of trash to a golf cart as part of the island's Earth Day cleanup event. 8) Solid Waste employee Rodderick Capella hoists a load of trash with a newly-overhauled grappler crane at the Kwajalein landfill April 3. Part of a 10-month, multi-department repair project, the cranes and refurbished incinerators went into full use, eating away at trash that had been piling up on the Solid Waste grounds for months. 9) Metal Shop employees Bolton Nenam, left, and Tony Jones, pose for a photo after helping save the lives of three fishermen whose boat foundered off Gagan. 10) Local music group Pure Polynesia perform during the Spring Break Music Fest.

# JAN. DEC. BEC.

2015 KHS commencement — Memorial Day — Scuba diving — Baccalaureate — Joint Labor Review Board — 2015 Softball champs — Asian American-Pacific Islander Heritage Month — 2015 Rusty Family



1) Graduate Mamolyn Anni is enveloped, waist to face, with leis made from candy, chips, money and more after the KHS 2015 class' commencement. Her family and friends gathered around to congratulate her. 2) U.S. Ambassador to the R.M.I. Thomas Armbruster, the special guest speaker for USAG-KA's 2015 Memorial Day ceremony, addresses a packed crowd at the Island Memorial Chapel and discusses at length the heroism of those who have fallen in the defense of the United States. 3) Navy Seabees of CCAD-Marshall Islands prepare for a three-volley salute to honor America's 1.2 million war dead during the 2015 Memorial Day Ceremony on USAG-KA. 4) Roi resident Bridget Rankin and honorary Roi rat Henry McElreath pause for a quick photo during a dive off Roi. 5) 2015 KHS graduate Molly Premo dances down the aisle of the Island Memorial Chapel during her class' baccalaureate. 6) Delegates to the U.S.-R.M.I. Joint Labor Relations Board meet May 22 at USAG-KA Command Headquarters to discuss bilateral labor issues relating to the Compact of Free Association. 7) Team Old Fat and Ugly celebrate their 2015 Kwaj Softball Championship win against Ebeye's first-seed team Yokwe. 8) Steven Baptista and Kwaj and Ebeye friends jam out a wide selection of traditional tunes from island nations throughout the Pacific region in celebration of Asian-Pacific Islander Heritage Month at the Rich Theater. 9) Billy Kilgore and son Mason compete in the annual Rusty Family Mini Triathlon, rushing by the airport during one of their laps around the southern end of the island.

## JAN. FEB. FEB. Nov. DEC.

## 240th Army birthday — Navy divers — A Roi-Namur wedding — KRS scholarships for Ebeye students — Safety fairs — 2015 Coral Open Golf Tournament — Seabees apprentices — Morgan Dethlefsen — Igor and the Red Elivises

1) USAG-KA celebrates the Army's 240th birthday. Former garrison staff Capt. James Peralta and retired Lt. Col. Ray Drefus join Staff Sgt. Charlotte Christian in cutting the Command's cake. 2) The Navy's Underwater Construction Team 2's Construction Dive Detachment Bravo prepare for a series of training dives June 9 near Roi-Namur. 3) Roi rats DJ and JoDanna Castle celebrate their wedding during a party at the Surf Shack on Roi. They admired the stunning three-level wedding cake prepared by former Kwaj resident Glen McClellan. 4) Local R.M.I. graduating seniors and KRS scholarship winners Christina Andaya, Rina Bollong, Leilani Hino, George Luther, Elieo Shamory and Isaac Tolwi tour the Marshallese Cultural Center with their families and KRS leaders June 13. 5) Chugach Project Safety Lead Curtis Watada talks with Kwaj residents about safety practices during a safety fair held on the garrison. 6) Deb Crawford chips onto the Hole 6 green, the last leg of the 46th annual Coral Open Golf Tournament at Holmberg Fairways. 7) R.M.I. citizens who successfully completed the Navy Seabees CCAD-Marshall Islands Apprenticeship Program are honored by USAG-KA Command, CCAD-Marshall Islands and local construction leaders during a ceremony at Command Headquarters in late June. 8) Former Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Gooden, left, and former USAG-KA Commander Col. Nestor Sadler, right, honor Kwaj student Morgan Dethlefsen for a commendable speech he gave at a town hall meeting in June. 9) "Siberan surf rock" band Igor & the Red Elvises play a two-hour set for about 250 USAGKA residents at the Vet's Hall.





Return of the Worthy — Emina Kanej and her 45-year career — Col. Sadler's last town halls — Kailua Bay Buddies — Tony Medeiros' huge trevally — Independence Day celebrations — Fish and Wildlife Office's underwater survey of Eniwetak — A chat with the Kwaj commercial divers



1) Marine Department Engineer Nate Jones, one of 15 crew who powered the Worthy back to USAG-KA last July, stands at Echo Pier, ready to hook up the ship's electrical cables. 2) KRS employee Emina Kanej, right, is congratulated July 11 by KRS Deputy Project Manager for Community Services Kevin Chalmers for completing a 45-year career at the Zamperini Dining Facility. 3) Roi resident Warren Williams addresses an issue during Col. Sadler's final Roi-Namur town hall. 4) The Kailua Bay Buddies perform for a large crowd at Emon Beach during Kwajalein's July Fourth celebration. 5) A Hawaii-based pyrotechnics company, sponsored by Quality of Life, detonates scores of fireworks July 4 on Kwajalein. 6) Kwaj resident Cynthia Pavia talks to Col. Sadler during his final town hall on the installation July 17. 7) A Kwaj resident lands a huge trevally while fishing on the ocean side of Kwajalein near the Ocean View Club. 8) Current and former Kwaj kids and college students get in the Independence Day spirit during the garrison's 2015 July Fourth celebration at Emon Beach. 9) Marine biologist Tony Montgomery, with the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office in Honolulu, scans the marine environment around the Eniwetak Conservation Area as part of a scientific study. 10) Commercial divers working for the Marine Department on USAG-KA sit down for an interview with the Kwajalein Hourglass in late July.

## JAN. FEB. Nov. DEC.

Change of Command Ceremony — IMCOM-Pacific Region Director's visit to USAG-KA — KRS' 10-year employees — Minuteman III — MIT Lincoln Lab internship — Gunga Din discovery — USAG-KA tour of Majuro — 2015 Roi-Namur Coconut Cup Race — Roi softball champs

1) Former USAG-KA Commander Col. Nestor Sadler, IMCOM-Pacific Region Director Dr. Christine Altendorf, and current USAG-KA Commander Col. Michael Larsen take to the stage to transfer command of the garrison from Sadler to Larsen Aug. 5. 2) Kwajalein Range Services employees who reached an impressive 10year employment record on the garrison are honored by community leaders. 3) An unarmed LGM-30G Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile launches Aug. 19, 2015 at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. The missile's trajectory took it to Kwajalein Atoll as part of the Air Force's effort to demonstrate continued effectivity of the country's ability to deliver nuclear payloads via land-based missiles. The Minuteman mission celebrated 50 years of service last August. 4) IMCOM-Pacific Region Director Dr. Christine Altendorf gets a tour of the Ebeye Hospital during a visit to the neighboring islet while on duty on USAG-KA to perform the garrison's transfer of command ceremony. 5) Kwajalein's MIA Project team members discover the location of the tail piece of the Gunga Din, a PB2Y-3 Coronado that crashed and split in half in the lagoon in Sept. 1944. 6) USAG-KA Command and Reagan Test Site staff meet with staff from U.S. Embassy Majuro and the R.M.I. Sea Patrol during a visit to Majuro in July, following Col. Larsen's assumption of responsibilities at USAG-KA. 7) Roi C-badge employees Akna Kobeney, Jenna Milne and Selma Jetnil celebrate their first-place finish in the modified class of the 2015 Roi-Namur Coconut Cup Race Aug. 9. 8) Col. Larsen and staff from the R.M.I. Foreign Ministry join MIT Lincoln Laboratory staff in congratulating three R.M.I. youth for completing MIT Lincoln Lab's challenging 10-week internship on Kwajalein last August. 9) Team Seawall poses for a group photo after taking the 2015 Roi-Namur Softball Championship.















The Kwajalein Hourglass

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## 2015



Assumption of responsibilities for Command Sgt. Maj. Rawlings — Back to school — Senior Street Painting — Spartan Expresso — Ultimate frisbee — Manit Day — Labor Day — 2015 All Micronesia Fishing Tournament



1) USAG-KA's Command Sgt. Maj. Angela Rawlings accepts her command duties during an assumption of responsibilities ceremony at the Island Memorial Chapel in mid-September. 2) Xavier Bellu puts the finishing touches on his painting as part of the 2015 Senior Street Painting event on Lagoon Road. 3) Spartan Expresso volunteers Angela Mitchell, left, and Colleen Furgeson help kick off the 2015-2016 KHS school year with a Spartan Expresso event at the KHS Multi-purpose Room. 4) Former Kwaj resident Sean Ryan, right, fends off a competitor during a game of ultimate Frisbee on Kwajalein in September. 5) Kwaj residents man the grill during a back to school church picnic at Emon Beach. From left to right: Jon Sok, Melissa Engelhard, Sam Engelhard and Jim Talich. 6) A Marshallese weaver from Ebeye helps the Kwajalein community celebrate Marshallese culture during the George Seitz Elementary School's Manit Day celebration in late September. 7) Roi rats celebrate Labor Day at the Roi Outrigger. 8) Enniburr and Roi residents Paul Solomon, Stanley Lomae and Danny Nabu pose with a 224-pound marlin the group caught during the Roi Ohana team's trip to Majuro for the 23rd Annual All Micronesia Fishing Tournament.

# JAN. DEC.

# Savage west winds — 10,000-hour mark for the Metros — USAG-KA Commander Col. Michael Larsen's first town halls — Commander of U.S. Strategic Command, Navy Adm. Cecil D. Haney's visit to USAG-KA — 2015 soccer champs — Halloween — Patrick Sieben Trio — Marshallese Trade Fair

1) Kwajalein resident Ed Zehr helps Heavy Equipment crewmen secure his damaged yacht Casa Chica for transport after being hoisted from the water Oct. 8. Casa Chica, along with several other personal vessels, were damaged by savage El Niño-induced west winds in early October. 2) During a phase inspection, Berry Aviation mechanic Matt Martine works on the control wheel of one of the Fairchild Metroliners that the company operates on U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll. The garrison's small fleet of Metros reached the 10,000 flight hours mark in October. 3) USAG-KA Commander Col. Michael Larsen addresses questions during his first round of town hall talks since assuming command of the garrison in August. 4) USAG-KA welcomes Navy Adm. Cecil D. Haney, commander of U.S. Strategic Command, Oct. 14. Haney reviewed construction plans for the Air Force's Space Fence sensor on Kwajalein, toured Reagan Test Site's Kiernan Reentry Measurement Site assets and more. 5) The Spartans I ladies celebrate their 2015 Kwajalein Women's Soccer Championship win against KAT in late October. 6) Kwaj residents don their finest Halloween costumes for the garrison's array of Halloween festivities. Pictured from left to right: Tim Roberge, Derek Glasscock, Jordan Vinson, Jeff Scharmann, former Kwaj resident Lee Kingsley and Ray Brito. 7) The Patrick Sieben Trio jam during a series of shows on Roi-Namur and Kwajalein. 8) Kwaj resident Heather Ardrey purchases bananas and limes from and R.M.I. vendor during the 12th annual Marshallese Trade Fair in late October. R.M.I. vendors earned tens of thousands of dollars during the two-day event this year.



The Kwajalein Hourglass

## 2015

#### JAN. FEB. MARCH MAY MAY MAY MAY MAY OCT.

### Endless SUP race — FTO-02 Event 2a — Hanapa'a tournament — RTS Director Col. Christopher Brown — 2015 R.M.I. local and national elections — Holiday Art and Craft Fair — Kwaj Open Golf Tournament — Veterans Day — M.I.A. Project Fundraiser

1) Participants in November's Endless SUP Race pause for a group photo at Emon Beach. Organized by Kwaj resident Ron Sylvester, the event brought out a dozen or so competitors for the race—the first of its kind on the garrison in recent years. 2) A Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptor is launched from a THAAD battery located on Wake Island during Flight Test Operational (FTO)-02 Event 2a. During the test, the THAAD system successfully intercepted two air-launched ballistic missile targets. Reagan Test Site staff were heavily involved in the groundbreaking mission. 3) Rihna Hampson and Selentina Beniamina update the score charts during the Kwaj Open Golf Tournament in early November. While Hampson earned the women's flight low gross award, Beniamina ended the tournament in first place in the women's flight. 4) Team Going For Broke wins the smallest fish prize during the Hanapa'a Fun Fishing Tournament on Kwajalein in mid-November with their 1.14-pound rainbow runner. 5) Reagan Test Site staff and family host a luncheon for Reagan Test Site Director Col. Christopher Brown during his visit to the island installation. 6) A Marshallese voter casts his ballot for the 2015 R.M.I. local and national elections at the Island Community Center on Ebeye Nov. 16. The results of the voting revealed a decided swing among the electorate toward a generation



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#### JAN. FEB. ADG. NOV. SEPT. SEPT. SEPT. SEPT. JUNE APRIL A

Ro and Kwaj Tree Lighting Ceremonies — Ray Stigler — SSG Solomon Sam dedication — Holiday festivities — Nannie heroes — Light Up the Night — Coral Sands project — Josh Logan & Co. — College mixer



1) Roi Community Activities Supervisor Laura Pasquarella-Swain entertains Roi folks with holiday eggnog, stories and treats before the island's tree lighting ceremony at Café Roi in early December. 2) Raymond Stigler takes Hourglass staff on a tour of the Roi Power Plant, where he's built an array of custom-made solutions to improve plant operators' efficiency, safety and job satisfaction. 3) Kwaj Community Activities Recreation Manager Midori Hobbs emcees the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on Kwajalein Dec. 5. 4) Kwaj resident David Shassetz talks with the Hourglass about his prior work on Kwajalein Atoll, where he manned several of the installation's radars in the late 1980s. He's returned to work with San Juan Construction as a site safety and health officer for the Space Fence build and the Building 602 construction project. 5) The family of Staff Sgt. Solomon Sam join Col. Larsen and Command Sgt. Maj. Angela Rawlings in unveiling a bronze plaque Friday, Dec. 4 during a special ceremony organized to name a USAG-KA ferryboat in Sam's honor. 6) Nine of Kwajalein's nannies gather for a group photo at Emon Beach with the children they care for during the weekdays. 7) Mark and Tarah Yurovchak and friends participate in an epic nativity scene during the Kwajalein Light Up the Night event Dec. 12. 8) Josh Logan, Olivia Henken, Nate Comp, Paul Costley, Keith Lewis and Simon Adamsson jam for the Roi crowd at the Outrigger Dec. 4. The group played three shows on the installation in early December. 9) A group of 17 returning and visiting college students, on island to visit their parents during the holidays, attend a college mixer at Jeanna Larsen's residence. 10) Col. Michael Larsen joins Boy Scout Troop 314 in christening the new fire pit at Coral Sands, a project spearheaded by Scout David Sholar.

# **COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS**

#### HELP WANTED

KRS and Chugach listings for on-Island jobs are posted at: Kwajalein, Roi-Namur and Ebeve Dock Security Checkpoint locations; outside the United Travel Office; in the Roi Terminal/Post Office; at Human Resources in Building 700 and on the USAG-KA webpage under Contractor Information>KRS>Human Resources>Job Opportunities. Job listings for off-island contract positions are available at www.krsjv.com.

#### COMMUNITY NOTICES

2016 Kwajalein Inner Tube Water Polo Season registration is open Jan. 5-16. Call Cliff Pryor at 52848 to register. Cost is \$100, and the season runs Jan. 26-March 12.

Both the Family Pool and the Adult Pool will be closed Jan. 7-9 for their annual intake pipe cleaning. Questions? Call Cliff Pryor at 52848.

EOD disposal operation. 1-2:30 p.m., Jan. 8, at the UXO Disposal Site "Shark Pit." Access to the area will be restricted to unauthorized personnel until operation completion.

Karaoke at the Vets Hall. 8 p.m., Jan. 10. Come try out your singing skills.

Kwajalein B-boat Class. 6:30 p.m., Jan. 12, 13 and 14 at CRC Room 1. Sign up for the class at the Small Boat Marina. Class cost is \$40.

The next phase of the Macys Structural Rehabilitation Project is starting. Subcontractor AIC International will be working on the columns on the ground level on the North Side. Access to the entrances of the ATM, bank and food court will remain open to the public. Work zones will be clearly marked.

Please do not move the beach chairs at Camp Hamilton onto the sand. The chairs, although heavy, will float away if the tide reaches them. Questions? Call Cliff Pryor at 52848 or the CA Office at 53331.

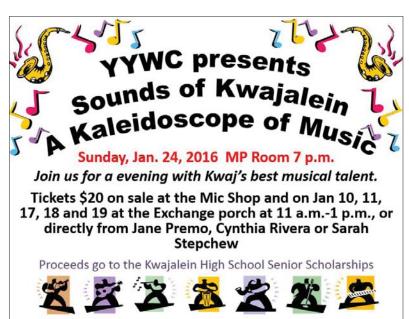
Due to the corrosion control and repainting project on the Potable Water Tank, which is located in between the PX-TRA and the Bakery, the surrounding laneways will be affected. Two laneways will be fenced off to one-way traffic only Dec. 10-March 12. Drivers are asked to be cautious, as there will be heavy vehicle and pedestrian traffic in the area.

Weight loss and bariatric surgery class, taught by Dr. Paulette Galbraith and EAP Specialist Marion Ruffing. 4:45-5:30 p.m., on the first and third Tuesday of every month, in the Kwajalein Hospital conference room. Begins Jan. 5. Questions? Call EAP at 55362. Recent sightings of small Portuguese Man-of-War (dime size) have been identified at Emon Beach, take extra precautions when you are in the water.

E-Talk: All residents, clubs, contractors, and subcontractors planning to dig more than 6 inches must apply for a dig permit; even for an excavation as small as a posthole. The Dig Permit ensures the excavation does not impact known utilities, archaeological sites, and unexploded ordnances. A signed dig permit must be on site for all excavations on USAG-KA, including all islands and your backyard. The permit holder is responsible for ensuring that all stipulations of the permit have been carried out such

as marking known lines or having an inspector on site. For more information on dig permits contact KRS Environmental at 5-9502.

Safely Speaking: The mushroom shaped plastic caps covering the sharp ends of rebar are adequate for protection from scratches, scrapes or abrasion only. They do not protect against impalement. The square shaped rebar caps are OSHA approved and have steel reinforcement in them designed to protect employees from impalement. For everyone's protection, OSHA approved rebar caps is a good way to protect from injury. But of course, the most effective of all rebar protectors are the work themselves.



	Cal	rtain Louis S	. Zamberini '	Dinina Facilis	*MENU CURR	ENT AS OF DEC. 31
LUNCH	- ,		<i>U</i> .		•	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Jan. 2
Roasted garlic chick.	Sauteed boneless chick.	Asian chick. sandwich	Sub sandwich	Beef stroganoff	Clam chowder	Spaghetti
Lemon garlic fish	Spinach quiche	Oriental pork steak	Crispy garlic chicken	Chicken caeser wrap	Coconut breaded chick.	Chicken picatta
Southern benedict	Spaghetti casserole	Beef broccoli stir-fry	Corn bread	Parslied noodles	Fish du jour	Garlic bread
DINNER						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Jan. 2
Fried chicken	Taco bar	BBQ chicken	Carved steamship	Grilled tuna sandwich	Sweet and sour pork	Roasted cornish hens
Hawaiian ham steak	Chimichangas	Three bean chili	Ravioli	Huli huli chicken	Chicken chopsuey	Shepherd's pie
Mashed potatoes	Refried beans	Onion rings	Vegetarian pasta	Augratin potatoes	Ginger fish	Three cheese mac.

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# **FLIES AT ZDF**

hank you for your concerns regarding the ongoing fly problem at Zamperini Dining Facility. We are trying our best to effectively address this issue inside of the temporary dining facility. Ultimately the new facility to be located at the old Yukwe Yuk building will be an improved facility to house ZDF and better maintain a fly free dining facility. Until then, a new industrial fan has been purchased and is positioned at the back door as a deterrent. The fans combined with the air curtains should help with the problem. Also, while it is polite to hold open the entrance door for incoming patrons, this allows the flies easy access to our dining facility. Please help us control this issue by not holding the doors open for others.

—Kathryn Jones, manager of Dining Services



*Thumbs Up* to Kwajalein Hospital staff for their professionalism and bedside manner for making what could have been a really hard Christmas Eve trip to the ER with two kids go so smoothly. *— Heather Ardrey* 





#### **CLASH OF THE ART SHOWS!**

TUESDAY, January 12 Kindergarten-3<sup>rd</sup> grades

THURSDAY, January 14 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grades

Both shows are 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the Elementary Art Room

The Art theme this year is...

**MYTHOLOGY** 

Mythological costumes are welcome! We hope to see you there! <sup>(1)</sup>

	SUNRISE SUNSET	MOONRISE MOONSET	HIGH TIDE	LOW TIDE
Sunday	7:04 a.m.	1:03 a.m.	10:41 a.m. 2.6'	3:58 a.m. 0.9'
	6:42 p.m.	1:17 p.m.	10:45 p.m. 2.4'	4:50 p.m. 1.4'
Monday	7:05 a.m. 6:43 p.m.	1:49 a.m. 1:58 p.m.	12:16 p.m. 2.7'	5:22 a.m. 1.0' 6:42 p.m. 1.3'
Tuesday	7:05 a.m.	2:35 a.m.	12:29 a.m. 2.4′	6:41 a.m. 0.8'
	6:43 p.m.	2:41 p.m.	1:24 p.m. 3.1′	7:52 p.m. 0.9'
Wednesday	7:05 a.m.	3:23 a.m.	1:41 a.m. 2.6'	7:40 a.m. 0.6'
	6:44 p.m.	3:26 p.m.	2:12 p.m. 3.5'	8:39 p.m. 0.5'
Thursday	7:06 a.m.	4:12 a.m.	2:31 a.m. 2.9′	8:25 a.m. 0.3'
	6:44 p.m.	4:14 p.m.	2:51 p.m. 3.9′	9:17 p.m. 0.0'
Friday	7:06 a.m.	5:04 a.m.	3:12 a.m. 3.2'	9:05 a.m. 0.0'
	6:45 p.m.	5:05 p.m.	3:28 p.m. 4.3'	9:53 p.m0.3'
Jan. 9	7:06 a.m.	5:57 a.m.	3:50 a.m. 3.4′	9:42 a.m0.3′
	6:45 p.m.	5:59 p.m.	4:03 p.m. 4.6′	10:27 p.m0.6′



Check out daily news and community updates on the official U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/usarmykwajaleinatoll

For command information questions, please contact Public Affairs at 54848.

Swedish meatballs

Noodles

			– Café Roi		*MENU C	*MENU CURRENT AS OF DEC. 31		
LUNCH								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Jan. 2		
Roast beef	Breaded pork chop	Beef tacos	Meatball sub	Ham and cheese sand.	Pizza	Philly cheese steak sand.		
Chicken piccata	Sauteed fish	Chicken enchilada cass.	Bombay chicken	Cottage pie	Ziti	Roasted pork loin		
Ham and egg sand.	Mashed potatoes	Pinto beans	Stir-fry vegetables	Onion rings	Cheesy garlic bread	Mac and cheese		
DINNER								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Jan. 2		
Chicken florentine	Roasted chicken	Thai beef w/ vegetables	Top sirloin steak	Fried chicken	Greek Night	Sausage and peppers		

The Kwajalein Hourglass

Beef pot pie

Garlic bread

Short rib jardmiere

Stuffing

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Chicken fajitas

Baked potatoes

Chicken in peanut sauce

Fried rice

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Chicken alfredo

Pasta ala vodka

Pastitsio

Lentils

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY, USAKA Draft Document of Environmental Protection Minuteman III Modification and Fuze Modernization Flight Tests

The U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll (USAKA) Environmental Standards require that the operating parameters of US Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll (USAG-KA) activities with the potential to affect the public health and environment must be defined in a Document of Environmental Protection (DEP). The USAKA Environmental Standards further provide that regulatory agencies and the public be allowed to review and comment on a Draft DEP.

The Draft DEP for Minuteman III Modification and Fuze Modernization Flight Tests, December 2015, provides the proposed requirements and limitations for flight tests at USAG-KA by the U.S. Air Force for Minuteman III Modification and Fuze Modernization Flight Tests.

The public is invited to review and comment on this Draft DEP. The Draft DEP is available for review at the Grace Sherwood Library, the Roi-Namur Library, the RMI Environmental Protection Authority (RMIEPA) offices on Ebeye and Majuro, and at www.tbe.com/ Minuteman\_III\_Documents\_for\_ Public\_Review. Questions regarding the Draft DEP can be directed to: Mr. Thomas M. Craven, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command (USASMDC/ARSTRAT).

Written comments can be directed to:

Mr. Thomas M. Craven USASMDC/ARSTRAT ATTN: SMDC-ENV P.O. Box 1500 Huntsville, AL 35807-3801

A period of 30 days will be provided for public comment. Comments should be postmarked no later than February 8, 2016. KOJJELA BWE EBOJAK NAN ETALE PEPA AK RIPOOT AN USAKA IKIJIEN KEJEBAROK PELAAK KO Ejelet jerbal in kokemmalmele oktak ko ilo Minuteman III ekoba jerbal ko ikijien Fuze Modernization

Jonak ko loori an U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll (USAKA) ikijien pelaak ko pelaakid rej kemlet bwe jerbal im makitkit ko an US Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll (USAG-KA), kain makitkit ko im remaron jelet ejmour im pelaak ko, rej aikuij in kemleleiki makitkit kein ilo juon ripoot ak pepa naetan Document of Environmental Protection (DEP), ak pepa ikijien Kejebarok Pelaak ko. Jonak ko loori an USAKA ikijien kejebarok pelaak ko rej bar kemlet bwe ra im jikin ko rej kiene makitkit ko, ekoba aolep armij, rej aikuij in kotiok aer ien etale im kwalok aer lemnak kin elmakwot in DEP in kenono kake.

Elmakwot in DEP in ikijien kokemmalmel ko rejelet oktak ko an Minuteman III kab Fuze Modernization eo, komman ilo December 2015, ej kemiet bwe jibarbar im kotokbar ko rejelet jerbal in kokemmalmel eo enaaj komman ilo USAG-KA jen U.S. Air Force eo nan kommalmele Minuteman III im Fuze Modernization eo edredrelok nan etale.

Aolep armij rej ruwainene nan etale im kwalok aer lemnak ikijien elmakwot in DEP in, Elmakwot in DEP in kwoj maron loe juon leikan ilo Grace Sherwood Library eo, Roi-Namur Library eo, Office ko an RMI Environmental Protection Autority ion Ebeye im Majuro, ak ilo www.tbe.com/Minuteman\_III\_ Documents\_for\_Public\_Review im ej walok ilo internet. Kajjitok ko ikijien elmakwot in DEP in remaron in etal nan: Mr. Thomas M. Craven, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/ forces Stategic Command Army (USASMDC/ARSTRAT).

Leta ko remaron in jeje nan:

Mr. Thomas M. Craven USASMDC/ARSTRAT ATTN: SMDC-ENV P.O. Box 1500 Huntsville, AL 35807-3801

Enaaj bellok iumin 30 raan ko nan an aolep armij kwalok aer lemnak. Melele ko remaron in jeje ak ren jab rumwij lok jen <u>Føbruary 8, 2016</u>.



### HOURGLASS REPORTS

## SCAFFOLDING SAFETY

**Scaffolding is a common tool in construction** and, like every other tool, it must be in good condition or it can be a hazard. The result of an improperly built scaffold is usually a fall. This Simply Safety lists some important measures that need to be part of your safety habits.

KRS has a Scaffold Tagging Program to let you know the status of a scaffold, whether it can be used, or how it can be used.

- GREEN TAG: The scaffold has been built to Occupa tional Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards and is safe to use.
- YELLOW TAG: The scaffold has not been built to DSHA standards, meaning that a proper guardrail system could not be installed. You must wear and use a harness on these scaffolds.
- RED TAG: This scaffold is not complete; it is either being built or dismantled. Do not use it for any reason!
- NO TAG: DO NOT USE until the party that built the scaffolding inspects and re-tags it.
- Do not use a scaffold until you have received training to do so from KRS ES&H Dept. Call 5-3532 to arrange training.
- Do not alter a scaffold. Ask the party that built it to make any changes you need. Do not remove guardrails, planks or any other parts. The next person to use that scaffold may not know you have made changes, and you may have changed it from "safe to use" status to "harness-required" status.
- If you need a platform to work from, do not just throw a couple of planks down and use them as a work surface. Planks that run from a beam to beam without having guardrails and being secured to the beam are unacceptable. Have a platform properly built under the supervision of a trained individual even if you need it for only five minutes. Remember: It takes only two seconds to fall 60 feet.
- All scaffolds are required to have a ladder. Climbing the framework is prohibited unless the framework is designed with a built-in ladder.
- Remember that when you are working on a scaffold, you are probably working over someone else. Tie your tools off if necessary. When cutting, burning or welding, use a fire blanket. Above all else, alert the people below that what you are doing may be a hazard to them.