



U.S. Ambassador to the Marshall Islands, Thomas Armbruster, visited Enniburr with U.S. Army Garrison Kwajalein Atoll Commander Col. Michael Larsen and Command Sergeant Major Angela Rawlings, April 29, and was greeted by the island's residents and leaders.

## AMBASSADOR, USAG-KA VISIT EBEYE, ENNIBURR

#### NIKKI MAXWELL, USAG-KA PUBLIC AFFAIRS

He's greeted by Marshallese leaders like an old friend, and waved to by dozens of smiling people on the streets of Ebeye. He doesn't live there but they know him, and they seem to know that he cares about their community and nation.

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Armbruster traveled from his Embassy homebase in Majuro to the Kwajalein Atoll last week for a series of meetings with Marshallese government officials on the islands of Ebeye and Enniburr (known as Third Island). Joined by Col. Michael Larsen, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Kwajalein Atoll, Command Sgt. Major Angela Rawlings and Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Liaison Lanny Kabua, Armbruster met with Ebeye Mayor Hirata Kabua and KALGOV City Manager Scott Paul to discuss current projects on Ebeye and future possibilities. A key topic was the effects of the drought in the RMI and America's role in helping to offset the impact on the population.

"President Obama is preparing to sign a disaster declaration for the RMI very soon," Armbruster told Mayor Kabua. "This will provide food aid and other emergency relief resources during this difficult time."

SEE "AMBASSADOR," PAGE 9



Pastor Antonio Konishke discusses local issues and future projects with Ambassador Armbruster and Col. Larsen during a walking tour around Enniburr.

#### 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.

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Email:

usarmy.bucholz.311-sig-cmd.mbx.hourglass@mail.mil

Garrison Commander.....Col. Michael Larsen
Garrison CSM.......Command Sgt. Maj.
Angela Rawlings
Public Affairs Officer.....Nikki Maxwell
Managing Editor......Jordan Vinson
Associate Editor.......Cari Dellinger
Media Services Intern......Colleen Furgeson

# DROUGHT ASSISTANCE ON WAY TO MARSHALLS

#### BY JORDAN VINSON

The U.S. Agency for International Development committed more than \$2.5 million in drought response support for the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The May 5 announcement came on the heels of the White House formally declaring last week a state of disaster in the RMI under the Compact of Free Association with the atoll nation.

Limping through one of the most powerful El Niño systems in recorded history, the Marshall Islands will soon receive serious cash infusions to prop up urban residents' and outer atoll villagers' access to fresh water, food and hygienic products to stave off infections and disease.

In terms of fresh water, 40 reverse osmosis units will join about 20 units already deployed by USAID throughout the atolls, said Daniel Dickhaus, regional advisor for the USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance in Majuro, during a phone call with the Kwajalein Hourglass this week. A crucial large capacity saltwater reverse osmosis unit is also now slated for deployment in Majuro. It will be a boon for the urban capital whose residents have had to ration water for weeks.

Since early February, USAID's solarpowered machines already deployed on atolls like Namu, Maloelap and Wotje have whirred busily, sucking up to 300 gallons of brackish water from islands' depleted freshwater lens wells each day and cleaning it for consumption. But months into an increasingly severe drought—and with no lasting reprieve in sight for much of the Marshalls—a formal disaster declaration was inevitable.

"At the end of March, we performed a 10-day preliminary damage assessment," Dieckhaus said. "And that resulted in the [U.S.] president's decision."

From March 18-27 a joint US-RMI damage assessment team visited 16 atolls and one island, reaching about 32 villages, to assess drought-related impacts on food security, agriculture and islanders' health. Those observations, combined with RMI President Hilda Heine's requests for an official disaster declaration via the Compact, gave the White House the data it needed to pull the trigger on the \$2.5 million disaster package this week.

In terms of logistics, doling out the relief will take time. In the meantime, the RMI government will take advantage of a State Department decision to allow a \$750,000 withdrawal from a U.S.-RMI Disaster Assistance Emergency Fund that had been set aside for immediate relief efforts.

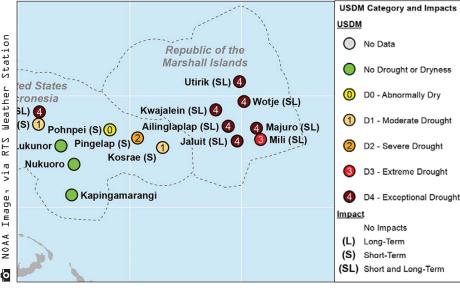
Governmental monetary and material assistance will likely be the only form of

comfort for Marshall Islanders in the near future. Months into "extreme" and "exceptional" stages of the ongoing El Niñodriven drought, the RMI will see no solace from the skies for some time, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration officials have reported. A series of moderate showers observed at Majuro and Kwajalein Atoll were a welcome sight this week, but the precipitation isn't predicted to stick around.

"The northern atolls, including Woje, Aur, Utirik, Kwajalein and Ebeye, Bikini and Enewetak will receive only isolated Trade Wind showers in the coming months," NOAA officials stated in an April 28 report. "The drought will worsen with only spotty rainfall continuing through the next few months."

Besides Utirik, all aforementioned atolls received less than 0.25 percent normal rainfall levels for the month of April. Water supplies in brackish lens wells throughout the archipelago are at great risk, NOAA has affirmed, and conservation measures are essential to avoid depletion.

The last severe dry spell, which swept through the region in 2013, also triggered waves of international assistance, with the U.S. government kicking in \$5.5 million to help Marshallese families cope with chronic water scarcity.





o U.S. Army photo by Jordan Vinson

LEFT: NOAA data reveals the extent of the drought in the Marshalls. The dry spell has reached an "exceptional" level throughout much of the island nation. RIGHT: Without much rain in the past five months, vegetation on Kwajalein is bone dry.

## RESIDENTS REACH EAGLE SCOUT RANK

HOLIRCI ASS REPORT

Kwajalein Troop 314 conducted an Eagle Scout Court of Honor Ceremony April 29 to recognize Kwajalein Boy Scouts Humberto Jones, Jr. and David Sholar on reaching the rank of Eagle Scout. Members of the Kwaj community, Troop 314, and Cub Scouts Pack 135 gathered at the Island Memorial Chapel to witness Jones and Scholar transition from Boy Scout to Eagle Scout.

Scouts Quincy Breen, Sean Hepler and Jacob Larsen began the ceremony, lighting the 12 candles that represent Scout laws. Sholar and Jones, Jr. then received the coveted Eagle Badge, with their families receiving Parent Pins. Guest speakers later took to the podium to congratulate the young men on their accomplishments. Speakers included U.S. Ambassador to the RMI Thomas Armbruster, USAG-KA Commander Col. Michael Larsen, KRS President Brian Coombe, and Justin Stambaugh, of the MIT Lincoln Lab.

Sholar started as a Tiger Scout in first grade and later became a Boy Scout in fifth grade. His Eagle Scout service project involved designing the new Coral Sands fire pit, ordering the necessary supplies and constructing the pit with the help of his Scout troop and many community members.

The path to becoming an Eagle Scout will serve him down the road, Sholar said.

"The skills I have learned throughout scouting will be invaluable in helping me become a leader in the future," he said. "All the work I did as part of my project has given me experience in the realm of architectural design and civil engineering, two fields I might be interested in as a major in college. In addition, conducting this project has taught me a lot about how such projects are done in the real world."



Master of Ceremonies Angel Alejandro (center), stands proudly with Eagle Scouts David Sholar (left) and Humberto Jones, Jr.

Humberto Jones, Jr. became a boy scout three years ago. His service consisted of a Christmas party on Ebeye that involved procuring gifts from the States and delivering them to families on Ebeye. Jones' takeaway from becoming an Eagle Scout was the knowledge that people will look up to him when help is needed.

His advice for future Eagle Scouts: "It is never impossible to get the rank of an Eagle Scout. You just have to be dedicated and put in a lot of time into it."

## HERO OF THE WEEK

BY CARI DELLINGER

SAG-KA's Hero of the Week is Allison Villarreal, a KRS Human Resources supervisor residing in Huntsville, Alabama. Originally from Pensacola, Florida, Allison is no stranger to Kwaj, having lived on the rock from 2004-2012. She's been with KRS since 2007 and recently returned to Kwaj from Huntsville on TDY to support HR projects locally. Allison oversees a team of five HR professionals, and she plays a major part in recruitment and deployment of all KRS contract and U.S.-based employees. Allison exudes a happy and helpful disposition, and it's no surprise she loves the customer service aspect of her job and helping employees with their professional development goals. Not having enough time in the day is her biggest challenge, along with limited support personnel to process a high volume of job requisitions each week. In her free time, Allison enjoys power walking, running, scuba diving and swimming, and she recently competed in the 2016 Rustman. Allison and her husband Pete will celebrate their 34th wedding anniversary in July. They have two sons, Cody, 25, who also works for KRS as a supply chain specialist, and Jake, 22, who attends University of Alabama-Huntsville.



U.S. Army photo by Cari Dellinger

**DON'T FORGET:** WE ARE IN A DROUGHT. WATER YOUR PLANTS OR YARD FOR ONLY 30 MINUTES EVERY OTHER DAY



A five minute,
20 second timed
fuse burns out
and detonates
22 pounds of
explosives during
an Explosive
Ordnance Disposal
operation late
last month. It was
the third planned
operation by the
EOD team since the
start of the year.

Courtesy of the Kwajalein EOD team

## EOD TEAM EXPLAINS ITS EXPLOSIVE HISTORY, RESPECT FOR SAFE PRACTICES

#### COMMUNITY CONNECTION BY: MATT HESS

The Kwajalein Range Services Explosive Ordnance Disposal team conducted its third routine disposal operation for 2016 in late April, destroying hazardous 72-year-old explosives uncovered at the Space Fence construction site on Kwajalein. Here's a little about the team's history, its adherence to working safely and the work that goes into destroying unexploded WWII armaments without a hitch.

In the past, EOD would coordinate one-two large-scale demolition operations on Illeginni Island per year. The events usually involved the detonation of 100-200 pounds of explosives. Last summer the team made an effort to reduce risks to personnel and infrastructure and cut operation costs, all the while increasing the team's efficiency. With the assistance of U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll staffers, the team managed to secure a routine location site near the "Shark Pit" area on Kwajalein. They've been blowing stuff up there ever since.



USAG-KA Commander Col. Michael Larsen (right) and Command Sgt. Maj. Angela Rawlings (left) help EOD technician Bryan Harrington secure C4 explosives to a 5-inch Navy projectile to be destroyed April 22.

The biggest concern with the new location was its proximity to Telemetry Hill, an important Reagan Test Site asset. In order to mitigate the hazards of blast and fragmentation from detonations, the disposal team employs multiple controls. The first protective measure centers on burying unexploded ordnance and demolition material 1-3 feet underground. The second measure, which requires support from the Kwajalein Fire Department, is to fill a 1.5-cubic yard composite container with more than 200 gallons of water. Combined, these two measures dramatically reduce the angle and velocity of shrapnel blown away from the site. Specifically speaking, the combination of earth and water barriers cuts the maximum frag distance from more than 2,100 feet to just over 300 feet, keeping Telemetry Hill and its mission critical equipment and personnel at a safe distance from shrapnel.

In order to ensure the safety of the community, the EOD team informs the public two weeks ahead of operations. On the day of an operation, Security & Access Control and Department of the Army Police officers provide security on land, while the Harbor Control and Flight Operations groups ensure there is no incoming traffic by sea and air. Meanwhile, the KRS Environmental, Safety and Hazards group helps prevent protected wildlife from getting in harm's way. Each operation is undoubtedly a doubt a group effort, and without the support of many departments these operations could not happen.

With more than 60 years of combined experience, the four Army combat veterans comprising the EOD team make up the final link in the chain binding safety with the explosive operations. Safety always being the highest priority, individual strengths and a solid team dynamic ensure that every operation is successful. Always exploring new ways to further reduce potential hazards, the team has streamlined the process and is able to work within a limited block of time to avoid interrupting the constant operational tempo of Kwajalein.

With WWII ordnance still turning up across the garrison, there is no shortage of work for the EOD guys. Any new project on the island is the potential for more unexploded ordnance to be discovered. This is to be expected when you live and work on a 72-year-old battlefield in which American forces fired more than 100 tons of ordnance on it during Operation Flintlock. Talk about job security.

There are few parallels to life on the outer atolls that typical U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll residents can identify in their own lives and communities. Even more so for former residents and friends and families living in the United States. Far removed from the stressors of a life bounded by strict work schedules and commutes, unbridled consumerism and unbearably cliché and tired social benchmarks like "keeping up with the Joneses," outer islanders, whether by choice or force, stand on the far periphery of the type of life that Kwaj and Roi folks (and certainly, many Ebeye and Majuro residents) are accustomed with.

Like the soft glow of a city's light spilling miles over the countryside, plenty of elements embedded in more urban or "developed" communities are, of course, found in these peripheral villages. We certainly are not talking about a precontact traditional society. Outer island men in Texas Longhorns T-shirts and blue jeans watch 1980s buddy cop action flicks while eating Spam, too. The difference is that "Lethal Weapon" DVD might be only one of a couple of dozen DVDs on

the island, and that can of Spam might be one of only a few consumer food items a villager gets each month, or year. The next Air Marshall Islands flight may be delayed a few weeks, and finding a mechanic and the tools needed to repair a damaged outboard boat motor will be a lost cause. There are certainly no avocados there.

Life in the Marshall Islands has seldom been easy. Little land, far less arable soil and few land-based commercial resources combine with a remoteness rivaled by only a few other nations on the planet (The RMI is still ranked between the top five and top 10 least visited nations in the world, according to a variety of differing sources.) For a couple of thousand years, Marshallese lived-and died-at the mercy of the Micronesian environment on their tiny flyspecks of coral in the middle of the Pacific. Now, in urbanized areas like Ebeye, this Army garrison, Majuro and so on, a lifestyle like that is, of course, a thing of the past.

But for those outer islanders, they're far closer to living on the edge than any of us, as outside visitors to the communities are keen to observe. More interesting, though, the slow pace of life and lack of regular access to creature comforts suits many of them just fine, visitors report. Kwajalein resident Patrick Ward is one such observer. Having sailed to Wotje last year and just recently to Wotho, he's had a rare look into a way of life in which happiness and self-worth are measured not by thick wallets, job promotions and expensive electronics, but by simpler, uncompetitive ideals and the ever-present drive to work together and share alike.

The people of Wotho Atoll are a good example. Peeking out of deep waters about 180 miles northwest of Kwajalein Island, the small atoll features Wotho Island, an islet similar in shape but smaller than Roi-Namur. With their sailing yacht, Geneva, pointed at the small village on

"There was one fella' who said, 'I ran out of rice a week ago. So you came along just as God wanted and gave me some rice.'"





Wohto Island, Ward, Genever co-owner and Kwaj resident Tom Lester set sail a few weeks ago to meet the people of Wotho. They brought along Roi resident Tom Hutchinson and Ebeye and Enniburr residents Junior Joseph, Kimcilla Hutchinson and Barnabus Langbata.

For some, like Kimcilla and Langbata, the trip was a chance to catch up with relatives and friends living on the island. For others, it was a chance to learn first-hand about life on an outer atoll and on Wotho in particular.

While little pigs named after holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas—the days of the year in which the pigs would be prepared for dinner—noodled around his feet, Ward strolled about the village and immediately began taking in his surroundings, he said. He could talk for hours about the experience, but he gave me a brief rundown last week.

"Everybody has their own house," he said. "There were probably 12 houses, 12 families and 50 people. Lots of little kids. There are two one-room schools, one for elementary and one for high-school age."

"There's probably 10 brackish wells throughout there for washing and bathing," he continued. "And then they have a solar-driven reverse osmosis system that produces 50-60 gallons a day. And every-body has a light outside their house with a little solar panel. [Each family] pays five bucks a month to the Marshallese government for it. And then they had one workable boat and no workable engines." All the engines had been shipped off to Majuro for repair; it's hard saying when they'd be returned.

The major thrust of the Geneva crew's trip was the delivery of a windfall of supplies that should make a big difference in the lives of the community's 50 residents for some time.

"They were all excited," Ward said. "We brought a bunch of rice, clothes, toys and a bunch of fishing equipment, which sent them over the moon. ... There was one fella' who said, 'I ran out of rice a week ago. So you came along just as God wanted and gave me some rice.' So we had a bag of rice for every family and several larger bags. We bought a whole big [supply] of food over on Ebeye. Chicken and ham and all sorts of stuff."

But fortunes can change quickly on the outer islands. What was once a village with several boats and canoes used for fishing on the ocean and in the lagoon eventually became a village with only one, sole powerless vessel. And then none at all, Ward said.

"One of the guys borrowed the lone boat that night to fish," he explained. "They paddle out with a piece of plywood nailed to a two-by-four. [He] caught some fish and came back in and didn't tie it up to their little mooring out there. He tied it up to a tree, and the waves took the boat and smashed it on the coral that night." The villagers "weren't sad or mad or anything," Ward added. "They just said, 'Oh well. That happens. Can you take us to the end of the atoll?""

Loading up 13 or 14 men onto Geneva, Ward, Lester and the others decided to sail the villagers to the southern tip of the atoll where there lay an untapped treasure trove of coconut crabs, lobsters and fish to hunt. Because of their lack of boats and motors, the men typically wait for a low tide and cross the reef on foot to a couple of nearby islands to forage for fauna. But because the southern atoll islands are too far away to walk to, getting the chance to hunt on them was a big opportunity. "Losing their boat the night before, this was a huge chance to have a feast," Ward said. All told, less than a day of foraging on the island netted the group of villagers more

SEE "WOTHO," PAGE 8



LEFT: A Wotho villager presents a large coconut crab he and his neighbors caught on Wotho Atoll's southern island. RIGHT: Wotho Island men great the Kwajalein Atoll visitors.

than 200 coconut crabs, 20 large spiny lobsters, scores of hermit crabs for fish bait and some fish. Little makeshift palm nets and large gunny sacks were filled to the brim with the catch.

After returning to Wotho the next morning, the villagers offered the entire catch to the Geneva crew, Ward said. "Of course, we said, 'we can't eat all that. We can't keep it," he explained. "So we took a crab and a lobster, and they took the rest and it was gone in seconds."

Before the Geneva crew set out on their journey back to Kwajalein Atoll, the Wotho villagers invited them back to shore for some fresh bread outer atoll style. "It was very interesting," Ward said. "They heat up all these coconut husks, and all the flames go off until there's a pile of charcoal. Then they shovel it into a ... metal icebox. And at the top of icebox they cook the bread. It was perfect. Delicious."

Meanwhile, the community members busied themselves cooking the crab, lobster and fish the men brought back from their foraging trip. A feast was in the works. "We left at about four in the afternoon, and they were banging on a cut-off acetylene welding tank," Ward said. "Bong bong bong bong. I said, 'What's that all about?' Oh, it's to tell everybody to bring their rice to the church. ... They're going to have a big feast. And they were on the beach waving as we sailed out."

On the way back to Kwajalein, the Geneva crew battled heavy squalls, 15-feet seas, one freak 30-feet wave and driving rain—leaving little space and time to contemplate the trip. But now, a few weeks after getting back, Ward says he's still impacted.

"It was a look into a simpler lifestyle. ... And they're so happy," he said. "When we went to Wotje last year, we came back very affected. This year [we're] affected in a more profound way and a little bit different. For instance, I haven't looked at the news since I got back."

With no working boats and scarce supplies at times, one might question the villagers' reasons for choosing to still live on such a remote island. Looking at the question from a different perspective is helpful. "If you don't have a job and you don't have any money, that's a very cheap place to live," Ward said. "And the government subsidizes a small part of it. So you can live there. And several of them spoke fluent English and had lived in the States for their growing-up years or joined the Job Corps. And they said, 'It's so expensive, and we actually live better here. We have a better standard of living than [we]





TOP: Kwajalein resident, Patrick Ward (right), sails Geneva, and Ebeye resident, Barnabus Langbata, relaxes on deck.

LEFT: A piglet named Thanksgiving — the holiday on which the little guy will be eaten by the villagers noodles around the visitors' feet.

would in the States or in Ebeye."

In cases of emergency, the Wotho villagers, like other outer atoll dwellers, are not alone. In addition to a one-room medical clinic staffed by a Marshallese doctor, the villagers have a satellite phone that they use to communicate with others elsewhere in the Marshalls in cases of emergency. While they cannot call out, they can have two-way conversations with those that call Wotho every day. If needed, they can even request a plane come for medical evacuations.

There's also no traffic, no backed up sewage in streets, no overcrowding in schools, no bureaucrats telling them how to do this and how to do that—not to say that there aren't plenty of familial and societal norms and obligations that govern them. But living so far away from any form of hustle and bustle and so close to

the natural environment that dictated the Marshallese way of life for millennia must both feel liberating and provide a certain degree of pride.

Materially speaking, it's not the easiest way of life, of course. Given the chance, would Ward choose it?

"I think they have just enough to survive, and therefore they don't do much besides surviving," Ward said. "But they're all really happy, generous, kind. They treat their children really well. ... I envied parts of their life. [But] I don't know if I would want to live that close to the edge."



Armbruster and the group discussed salvage trips, solid waste projects, resources for infrastructure assistance, new recreation programs between RMI and American teens on Kwajalein, the Rikatak students program, and the possibility of Peace Corps returning to the RMI (they were here about 30 years ago). The ambassador also mentioned that the Center for Disease Control is interested in providing health screenings for the RMI population.

"Thank you Mr. Ambassador for the support of activities here (Ebeye), and with our USAG-KA neighbors," Mayor Kabua said. "And thank you for your interest and support throughout the years of your service in Majuro."

After the meeting, Armbruster reflected on his four years in office so far, and his various trips to Ebeye during that time."

"This is the first time I've been able to meet with the mayor of Ebeye, and I am very impressed with Mr. Kabua's positive attitude, energy and drive to make a difference," Armbruster said. "It's exciting and encouraging to see what we can accomplish together." Mayor Kabua was elected into office in January 2016.

Armbruster, Larsen, Rawlings and Lanny Kabua then met with Deputy Chief Secretary for Ebeye, Abacca Anjain-Maddison, and Romeo Alfred, manager for Kwajalein Atoll Joint Utilities Resources, to receive an update regarding the utilities on Ebeye and discuss the drought impact further.

"Our formal training is limited, so we engage with utility experts on the military base and use their knowledge," Alfred said. "We also appreciate their support and logistical assistance to bring equipment to Ebeye and offload it."

They discussed the water distribution process, water tower projects and plans for improvements.

The following day, the group flew from Kwajalein to Roi-Namur, to visit nearby Enniburr. The singing voices from the boat dock could be heard even before their faces could be seen. In traditional Marshallese fashion, Armbruster, Larsen and Rawlings received a warm and musical welcome as flower leis were placed around their necks. Then they participated in a spontaneous dance and demonstration of international friendship. The remote island has a population of about 1,000 people and 105 of them work on Roi-Namur.

Pastor Antonio Konishke, a religious leader on Third Island, provided a walking tour of Enniburr for the group. Raymond De-Brum, the school principal, discussed the school's development



Nikki

by

photo

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USAG-KA CSM Angela Rawlings gives a stuffed animal to a baby on Enniburr during her visit there with Ambassador Armbruster and Col. Larsen, April 29. She gave dozens of toys and snacks to the children on the remote island.

and related construction projects.

During the walking tour, CSM Rawlings handed out dozens of toys and snacks to the children on Enniburr, and also commented on the impact of the Seabee projects in the middle of the ocean.

"They (Seabees) are changing and saving lives out here," Rawlings said. "This little island has no electricity or running water. They rely on our help to survive. Improvements to the water tower and other projects will have a profound impact here for generations."

The ambassador had similar feelings on the subject.

"I am very happy to come here and see the people on Enniburr," Armbruster said. It's been a while since I've been here and I know they appreciate the work that the U.S. Navy Seabees are doing out here to improve their water supply and lives."

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## **USAG-KA CELEBRATES RMI CONSTITUTION DAY**

#### HOURGLASS REPORT

The 2016 Republic of the Marshall Islands Constitution Day was celebrated on Ebeye, Kwajalein Atoll, Monday, May 2. U.S. Ambassador Thomas Armbruster, along with USAG-KA Commander Col. Michael Larsen, Jeanna Larsen and Command Sgt. Maj. Angela Rawlings, attended the 37th anniversary commemoration. Local RMI dignitaries in attendance included Iroij and Senator Mike Kabua, KALGOV Mayor Hirata Kabua, RMI Liaison to USAG-KA Lanny Kabua and the Deputy Chief Secretary Abacca Anjain-Maddison, who gave the keynote address to a gathering of hundreds of residents who attended the event.



USAG-KA Command Sgt. Maj. Angela Rawlings, Commander. Col. Michael Larsen and U.S. Ambassador to the RMI Tom Armbruster join Ebeye youth, May 2, in a celebration of the Marshall Islands' Constitution Day on Ebeye.

Courtesy of Jeanna Larsen

# KWAJALEIN ABOUT BIRDS HISTORY I FIX AT KWAJALEIN

BY MARY BROWNING

Mary Browning was a frequent Hourglass contributor in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Her pieces covered an array of issues pertaining to Marshallese culture and history, archeology in Micronesia and marine biology. In this article, which appeared December 15, 1980, she discusses various bird species and their documentation on Kwajalein in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Kwajalein was found by ornithologists in the 1960's to have 30 species of birds, six of them not recorded in any other locality of the Marshalls-Gilberts area.

A Binion Amerson, Jr., lists these species in Atoll Research Bulletin No. 137, "Ornithology of the Marshall and Gilbert Islands," classifying them as having the status of resident breeders, accidentals, common visitors and migrants.

Two varieties of boobies had been reported, both of which may have been resident breeders, perhaps nesting on isolated islands of the atoll. The redfooted booby was observed near Roi-Namur, and the brown booby had been seen with frigate birds and sitting on buoys inside the lagoon.

The great frigate bird may also be a resident breeder. Several sighting had been made, and it was thought to roost somewhere on the atoll.

Reef herons had been seen on many of the islands and were believed to also be resident breeders.

Mallards, whose visits were thought to be accidental, were seen in the winter of 1959-60. They arrived in September and remained until February. The same year, common or green-winged teals were also seen, one flock of about 75 birds made an accidental

visit during the same period of time.

Pintails are common visitors to the puddles at the edge of Kwajalein's runway. Shovelers, on the other hand, had been seen infrequently enough, also around the runway puddles, to make their visits "accidental." Falling in the same category was the tufted duck, an accidental visitor in 1964.

Golden plovers were frequently seen. Although migrants, not breeding in the area, they made the atoll a common stop along their flyway. They had been reported along the airstrip, golf course and shorelines.

A cousin, the black-bellied plover, however, was thought to be an accidental visitor, although also reported in 1964 from Eniwetok.

Whimbrels were around the runways and surrounding open areas of Kwaj and Roi in October and November 1964. They were migrants. Observed during the same months and year were migrant bristle-thighed curlews, related to the whimbrels and seen in the same places. Only two individual bar-tailed godwits had been recorded, one in 1956 on the southwest end of Kwaj, and one in 1966 near the runway at Roi. They were migrants and not common visitors.

The wardering tattler, although a migrant, is reasonably common, but the one sighting of the very similar Polynesian tattler was a first, and perhaps a mistake.

The migrant ruddy turnstones are often seen. In January 1966, one was caught which had been banded the previous August in Alaska.

A "specimen record for all Micronesia" was set in 1964, when a Lathem's snipe was collected near the runway and taxiway at Kwaj. At nearly the same time, another unusual sighting was made of a sanderling, seen at both Kwaj and Roi.

About 25 sharp-tailed sandpipers had been seen, but only on Kwaj, and in one flock. They were migrants.

The black-naped tern, graybacked tern, sooty tern and crested tern may all be resident breeders, nesting on the smaller islands of the atoll. They are seen frequently and in large numbers. Brown noddys have been seen gathering nest materials on Lojjaiong and Lojjairok (North Loi and South Loi), and are assumed to be resident breeders. They are frequently seen feeding outside of the atoll and returning to land just after sunset. Black Noddys, too, are seen in large numbers, fishing and roosting. White terns are common, plentiful, and do breed on the islands, probably at least on North Loi and Enebuoj.

A few house sparrows were living around the fuel depot and fueling dock in 1964. The species is known from Wake, and is thought to have established itself at Kwaj.

The last species named by Mr. Amerson was the Indian mynah, seen between 1950 and 1960, with several pair established and "very much at home". None were seen in 1966, however, and the status given was "resident breeder now absent."









Illustrations from Thomas Bewick's History of British Birds, 1826. Pictured clockwise from top: The Shoveler, the golden plover, the mallard, and the whimbrel.





Lizardfish are generally solitary but can sometimes be found in small groups or pairs. They live among sand and sand-rubble regions of lagoon and ocean reefs at depths of up to 20 meters.

nostrils exposed. It's a helpful adaption that has made it a successful predator of shrimps and

small fish.

Smile! This little critter, Synodus dermatogenys, is commonly known as a sand, clearfin, or variegated lizardfish and is seen here perching on some low coral near North Point.

Heather Miller Photography

#### KWAJALEIN JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL FOR THIRD QUARTER ENDING MARCH 26, 2016 HIGH HONOR ROLL HONOR ROLL MFRIT ROLL GRADE 3.6667 AND HIGHER 3.5000 - 3.6666 3.0000 - 3.4900Addison Cossey Danielle Rivera \* Mesko Alfred 12 Allison Hibberts David Sholar Dayna Hepler John Tippetts Allison Tomas Wyatt Jones

Wayland Sanborn DeVante Abner-Floor \* Leah Lokeijak Chelsea Engelhard Diamond Calep Christine Abragan Matthew Nash Colleen Furgeson Claire Stepchew 111 Erin Waite Grant Day III Caleigh Yurovchak Thomas Greene Aidan Alejandro Cameron Jones Janalynn Reimers Abigail Bishop \* Truman Kohler Dash Alfred Jensyn Cole Jacob Larsen 10 Ian Galbraith \* Auguston Lelet Ramsey Gomez Megan Sok Allison Homuth \* Reilly Teigen Graeson Cossey \* Christian Kirk \* Rickiana Andrew **Humberto Jones** Garrett Day ' Tyler Waite Rochelle May Arsola Travis Ropella Meghan Day Samantha Chavez Kaya Sylvester Mackenzie Cooperrider William Beguhn \* Charlotte Jack Kayla Hepler Ryan Marie Larsen Makena Moseley Mackenzie Gowans Aiden Mitchell Harley McMahan David Kabua **Daniel Ranis** Alexander Hromiak Madeline Teigen Jacilynn Nam Marina Lojkar **Amber Tippetts** Zachariah Jones Maegan Aljure Kathleen O'Rourke Hunter Gray Iolani Anjolok Kenneth Green Jr. Alyssa England \* Julia Sholar Yuto Kaneko Ayele Corder Amanda Lescalleet 7 Bronwyn Galbraith Minnie Snoddy OJ deBrum Hilai Reimers Ashley Homuth Abbie Warren Hannah Finley Alexander Waite Kathryn Montgomery \*

\* = 4.000

## COMMERCIAL SECTOR PAIRS WITH STRATCOM'S JFCC SPACE IN EXERCISE

#### EXTERNAL REPORT

By Capt. Nicholas Mercurio, JFCC Space Public Affairs

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, California, May 3, 2016 — Joint Functional Component Command for Space, U.S. Strategic Command's space component, concluded Exercise Global Lightning 16, April 28.

The command and control exercise, which began April 23, is conducted annually to train Department of Defense forces, assess joint operational readiness and validate the command's ability to identify and mitigate attacks across all of USSTRATCOM's mission areas.

The notional scenario for Global Lightning 2016 drove integrated planning and training for a number of strategic threats to the nation, and was coordinated for more than a year. The exercise, and those previously conducted, ensure the resilience, redundancy and survivability of U.S. strategic deterrent forces, stressing the USSTRATCOM capabilities

provided to geographic combatant commanders during a crisis or contingency.

"The security environment is increasingly complex and dynamic," said U.S. Navy Adm. Cecil D. Haney, USSTRATCOM commander. "Exercises such as Global Lightning hone USSTRATCOM's ability to anticipate change and confront uncertainty with agility and innovation. The scope and magnitude of the exercise, and the training it provides, will ensure that we are prepared to meet future threats whether they be nuclear, cyber or spacerelated."

In particular, Global Lightning 16's immersive scenario provided opportunities for JFCC Space to exercise its ability to deliver synchronized space effects through a contested, degraded and operationally limited environment.

"Consistent with our National Space Policy, we stand ready to deter interference or attack, protect and defend our space systems and contribute to the defense of allied systems, and, if necessary, defeat efforts to deny, disrupt or degrade our access to the vital space capabilities upon which the entire world relies," said Lt. Gen. David Buck, JFCC Space commander.

A highlight of JFCC Space's exercise participation was the increased role of the Commercial Integration Cell. Operating under six Cooperative Research and Development Agreements under the oversight of the Air Force Research Laboratory, the CIC is a method of pursuing greater cooperation and synergy in the space environment by integrating liaison personnel from the commercial space operator sector within the Joint Space Operations Center.

"As a fully embedded mission partner the CIC can facilitate rapid identification, diagnosis and resolution of on-orbit anomalies while also increasing the overall resilience of USG satellite operations," said Timothy Turk, Intelsat General Corporation CIC liaison.

During Global Lightning 16 the CIC provided invaluable industry perspective and access to capabilities which increased the overall efficacy and resiliency of JFCC Space operations.

As the exercise concluded April 28, Buck was pleased with the progress made in critical mission areas and looked to build on those achievements moving forward.

"I am extremely proud of the effort put forth by the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, DoD civilians and contractors who comprise this command every day to ensure that our armed forces, our nation and the world never have to know a day without space," Buck said.

JFCC Space is a component of USSTRAT-COM and is responsible for executing continuous, integrated space operations to deliver theater and global effects in support of national and combatant commander objectives. JFCC Space coordinates space operational-level planning, integration, and coordination to ensure unity of effort in support of military and national security operations, and support to civil authorities.



Airmen of the Joint Space Operations Center (JSpOC) monitor computer systems designed to detect, track, and identify all artificial objects in Earth's orbit at Vandenberg AFB, Calif, Sept. 27, 2014. Its mission is to provide a focal point for the operational employment of worldwide joint space forces and enable the commander of Joint Functional Component Command for Space to integrate space power into global military operations.

## COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS

#### **HELP WANTED**

Visit USAJOBS.GOV to search and apply for USAG-KA vacancies and other federal positions.

KRS and Chugach listings for on-Island jobs are posted at: Kwajalein, Roi-Namur and Ebeye Dock Security Checkpoint locations; outside the United Travel Office; in the Roi Terminal/Post Office; at Human Resources in Bldg 700 and on the "Kwaj-web" site under Contractor Information>KRS>Human Resources>Job Opportunities.

Job listings for off-island contract positions are available at www.krsjv.com.

Executive Administrative Assistant/ Program Management/HR Reg.#K051759 Provides administrative support for KRS President and Deputy Program Managers, senior management and other staff through research, analysis, and coordination with other departments. Adheres to company Policies, Procedures, Values, Covenants, and Business Ethics. Minimum of 5 years of progressively responsible administrative experience with a minimum of two years in a multi-specialty work environment. For more information co tact the KRS Human Resources Office, Bldg #700 at 54916.

KRS is seeking a grade 7-12 science teacher. Please direct any potential candidates to www.krsjv.com

#### LOST

Black, braided flip flops. Women's size 8. Rainbow brand. Last seen on Emon beach near the dive shack. Call 52054.

#### **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

Community Bank Notice. Due to current construction to the exterior of Building 704, the Community Bank has adjusted work hours from April 13-June 8: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Tuesday; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesday-Friday; and 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday.

Emon Beach Construction. May 5-7

and 10-11. The north end of Emon Beach will be closed while heavy equipment relocates sand. Please stay clear of the area while work is in progress. Questions? Call 53331.

Avoid eating fish caught near Emon Beach. The sand disturbance activity could increase the potential for Ciguatera poisoning. Questions? Call 51134.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration. 8 p.m., Saturday, May 7, at the Ocean View Club. Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with drink specials, music, and fiesta fun! Must be 21 years or older. Questions? Call 53331.

American Legion Post # 44 presents "MOM" Golian BBQ in honor of Mothers Day. 5-8 p.m., Sunday, May 8, at the Vets Hall. Tickets are \$40.00 and are available at the Vets Hall or from Post # 44 Members. Smells Like Fish will perform starting at 8:30pm. Proceeds will benefit Veterans Charities. Questions? Contact Mike Woundy or lan Abrams.

2016 Rusty-Family "Mini" Triathlon. 4:30 p.m., Monday, May 9. Entry forms for the 500-yard swim, 10-mile bike, and 2-mile run event are available on the Mini-Mall Bulletin Board or at Qtrs. 473-A. Forms are due by Thursday, May 5. Questions or to volunteer, call Bob and Jane Sholar at 51815.

2016 Spring Photo Exhibit and Craft Fair. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday, May 16, at the KHS Multi-Purpose Room.

Interested in getting your B-boat license? Register at the Small Boat Marina. Once registration reaches 20 participants, the class will be scheduled. Questions? Call Kim Yarnes at 53331.

Due to increased congestion and equipment traffic, overnight bicycle parking is not allowed in the area between Building 718 and Marine Rd. Supply and Transportation employees working out of Building 718 will be allowed to park bicycles in the

rack next to the building during work hours only.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Religious Education Library.

Safely Speaking: Take a moment and remember bicycle safety. Ride on the

right, use hand signals and look left and right before entering or crossing a street.

E-talk: Signs posted! No fishing allowed near the Kwajalein landfill or in Kwajalein, Meck, Roi-Namur, and Illeginni Harbors. Questions? Call Environmental at 5-1134.

#### Notice of Availability USAG-KA Draft Removal Action Memorandum for Facility Number 900 Site

The US Army Garrison, Kwajalein Atoll (USAG-KA) is proposing to remove Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) contaminated soil and concrete from a transformer room in FN900 on Kwajalein. The U.S. Army Kwaialein Atoll Environmental Standards (UES) require proposed removal activities to be described in a Removal Action Memorandum (RAM). The UES also provide regulatory agencies and the public opportunities to review and comment on the Draft RAM. The Draft RAM for the Kwajalein Facility Number (FN) 900 Site, dated February 2016, provides a summary of information related to the proposed cleanup actions at this site. The actions are the next step in USAG-KA's Compliance Cleanup Program to clean up soil and concrete contamination from a transformer fluid spill that contained PCBs in one room at FN 900. The public is invited to review and comment on this Draft RAM document. Copies of the Draft RAM and the UES are available for review at the RMI EPA Offices on Majuro and Ebeve. the Grace Sherwood Library on Kwajalein, and the Roi-Namur Library. Computer users with internet access can view this information at the USAG-KA IRP website, www.usagkacleanup. info. Questions regarding the Draft RAM document can be directed to: Nikki Maxwell USAG-KA public affairs office (PAO) at 805-355-4848. Written comments can be placed in comment boxes located at the RMI EPA Office in Majuro/Ebeve, the Grace Sherwood Library, or the Roi-Namur Library; through the www. usagkacleanup.info comment portal for the Draft FN 900 RAM; e-mailed to comments@usagkacleanup.info or mailed to Nikki Maxwell; Attn: Removal Action Memorandum for FN 900 Comments: USAG-KA PAO, PSC 701, Bldg. 730, APO AP 96555. A period of at least 30 days is provided for public comment. Comments should be mailed for receipt no later than 05 June 2016.

		eptain Louis S.	Zamberini T	Dinina Facility	*MENU CUI	RRENT AS OF MAY 4
LUNCH Sunday Corn & Crab Chowder Scallops w/ Pasta Ala Orange	Monday Spare Ribs Blackened Chicken Lyonnaise Potatoes	<i>Tuesday</i> Fried Chicken Braised Steak & Peppers Baked Beans	Wednesday Baked Meatloaf Garlic Roast Chicken Mashed Potatoes	Thursday Jerk Chicken Red Beans & Rice Roasted Potatoes	<b>Friday</b> Sloppy Joes Citrus Roast Chicken	April 30 Pepperoni Pizza Veggie Pizza Pasta Carbonara
DINNER Sunday Caprese Chicken Fettuccini Beef Stew	Monday Sliced Roast Beef Three Cheese Tortellini Mashed Potatoes	<i>Tuesday</i> Pork Adobo Chicken Stir-fry Parslied Potatoes	Wednesday Flank Steak BBQ Chicken Scalloped Potatoes	<i>Thursday</i> Meat Lasagna Spinach Lasagna Garlic Bread	Friday Salisbury Steak Fish Du Jour Mashed Potatoes	April 30 Chicken Nuggets Corn Bread Egg Noodles



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

For command information questions, please contact USAG-KA Public Affairs at 54848 or via Facebook at web address below.

www.facebook.com/usarmykwajaleinatoll

### **COMMANDER'S HOTLINE**

HAVE SOMETHING THE USAG-KA COMMANDER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

CALL THE COMMANDER'S HOTLINE AT 51098 TODAY!

### SUN-MOON-TIDES

	DNIA.		1— I IDLi	
	SUNRISE SUNSET	MOONRISE MOONSET	LOW TIDE	HIGH TIDE
SUNDAY	6:31 a.m. 7 p.m.	7:39 a.m. 8:29 p.m.	11:23 a.m1.0′ 11:23 p.m0.8′	
MONDAY	6:31 a.m. 7 p.m.	8:37 a.m. 9:30 p.m.	12:05 a.m0.8'	
TUESDAY	6:31 a.m. 7 p.m.	9:36 a.m. 10:28 p.m.	12:01 a.m0.4' 12:48 p.m0.4'	
WEDNESDAY	' 6:31 a.m. 7 p.m.	10:33 a.m. 11:23 p.m.	12:39 a.m. 0.0' 1:34 p.m. 0.0'	7:03 a.m. 4.2′ 7:33 p.m. 3.0′
THURSDAY	6:30 a.m. 7:01 p.m.	11:28 a.m.	1:20 a.m. 0.4' 2:27 p.m. 0.4'	7:48 a.m. 3.7' 8:28 p.m. 2.6'
FRIDAY	6:30 a.m. 7:01 p.m.	12:21p.m. 12:13 a.m.	2:11 a.m. 0.9' 3:38 p.m. 0.8'	8:44 a.m. 3.2′ 9:51 p.m. 2.3′
MAY 14	6:30 a.m. 7:01 p.m.	1:11 p.m. 1:01 a.m.	3:30 a.m. 1.3′ 5:11 p.m. 0.9′	10:06 a.m. 2.8′ 11:42 p.m. 2.4′

Passport Renewals and other U.S Citizen services will be provided by the U.S. Embassy Consular Officer from Majuro on the following dates/times:

Tuesday, May 10, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. - Ebeye, KALGOV Conference Room Wednesday, May 11, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, May 12, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Location: USAG-KA Headquarters, Bldg 730, Room 135

Please Note: Consular Services are available to anyone who has garrison access. Consulate representative hours in Ebeye are for people who do not have garrison access. She can accept applications for passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, and social security numbers, and answer questions about immigration and U.S. citizenship for anyone. She can also perform some notarial services for people who do not have access to the free services at the USAG-KA legal office. She can only accept cash or cashier's checks at both locations, no personal checks, and she cannot make change.







Sexual Harassment/ Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Contact Information Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sharnta' Adams

Work: 805 355 2139 Home: 805 355 3565

**SHARP Victim Advocate** 

USAG-KA SHARP Pager: 805 355 3243/3242/3241/0100 USAG-KA SHARP VA Local Help Line: 805 355 2758

DOD SAFE Helpline: 877 995 5247

*MENU CURRENT AS OF MAY 5						
<b>LUNCH</b> <i>Sunday</i> Sliced Roast Beef	<i>Monday</i> Breaded Pork Chop	<i>Tuesday</i> Pizza	Wednesday Meatball Sub	<i>Thursday</i> Fish Sandwich	<i>Friday</i> Beef Tacos	<i>May</i> 7 Philly Cheese Steak Wrap
Eggs Benedict Sauteed Fish <b>DINNER</b>	Chicken Supreme Breakfast Frittata	Baked Ziti Cheesy Garlic Bread	Bombay Chicken Brown Rice Pilaf	Cottage Pie Onion Rings	Chick. Enchilada Casserole Pinto Beans	Roasted Pork Loin Mac and Cheese
Sunday Chicken Florentine Beef Pot Pie Garlic Bread	Monday Roasted Turkey Short Rib Jardmiere Stuffing	Tuesday Thai Beef w/ Veggies Chicken in Peanut Sauce Tofu Stir-Fry	Wednesday Top Sirloin Steak Chicken Fajitas Baked Potatoes	Thursday Fried Chicken Swedish Meatballs Noodles	Friday Sweet and Sour Chicken Chow Mein House Fried Rice	May 7 Sausage and Peppers Chicken Alfredo Pasta Provencel

## **BEACH ADVISORY**

Be sure to use caution around the exposed coral shelf at Emon Beach!





#### **TIPS FOR SAFER CYCLING**

- Wear your helmet. Follow this simple rule, and you reduce your risk of serious injury by as much as 85 percent.
- •Keep your head up and look ahead, not at the ground. You need to see what is coming up so you have time to react and maneuver.
- $\bullet$  One person per bike. Riding with unsecured passengers puts you at risk for injury to yourself and others.
- •Ride in single file with space between bikes.
- •Maintain the bikes in your household. Keep chains clean and lubricated and periodically inspect brake pads.
- •Do not wear headphones while riding.

#### HAZARDS ON THE ROAD

- •Uneven, rough surfaces can cause falls. Plan your route ahead
- $\bullet$  An object in the road can cause a flat tire, loss of balance or unsafe maneuver. Avoid riding across unknown objects.
- •Slippery surfaces create a loss of traction which may cause you to lose control of your bike. Slow down, or walk your bike across slippery surfaces.

#### **MAKE SAFE CHOICES**

- •Keep both hands on the handlebars, except when signaling.
- $\bullet \text{Keep both feet on pedals.}$
- •Use the correct hand signals.
- •Before entering a roadway. Stop. Look left. Look right. Look left.
- •Keep your arms strong and slightly bent, keeping control of the handlebars
- •Keep your head up, looking in the direction of travel
- •When approaching a turn, brake before you hit the turn, and then let your momentum carry you through. This allows you to focus on your technique through the turn and exit the turn with speed.
- $\bullet \mbox{Feather}$  the brake, slowing the bike without coming to an abrupt stop.

## **USAG-KA SPORTS**



#### **RESULTS LAST WEEK**

Α			

Spartan White def. Spartans Blue	11-10
Kekambas def. 993-Cartel	17-3
Trouble Makers def. Mud Slingers	<b>FORFEIT</b>
Tropic Blunder def. Jab Lale	11-8

#### April 27

Spartan Women def. Spartans White	14-4
OFL def. Bat Hit Crazy	9-4
Old, Fat, & Ugly def. Kwajalein	18-8

#### April 28

Spartan Men def. Concrete	17-6
Trouble Makers def. 993-Cartel	11-5
Lollygaggers def. Spartans Coed	16-13

#### April 29

Spartans Blue def. Scrubs	12-11
Yokwe def. Criminals	10-6
Old, Fat & Ugly def. Bat Hit Crazy	7-4

#### **RECORDS**

<u>A League</u>	Win	Loss
OFL	7	2
Kwajalein	7	2
Old, Fat and Ugly	7	3
Yokwe	4	5
Criminals	2	7
Bat Hit Crazy	1	9

<u>B League</u>	<u>Win</u>	Loss
Kekambas	9	1
Trouble Makers	8	2
Spartans Men	7	3
993-Cartel	3	7
Concrete	4	6

<u>Coed League</u>	Win	Loss
Lollygaggers	7	0
Spartans Coed	4	2
Tropic Blunder	4	2
Jab Lale	1	6
RF Hazards	0	6

<u>Women's League</u>	Win	Los
Scrubs	7	2
Spartan Women	7	2
Spartans Blue	3	6
Spartans White	1	8