

VOLUME 57 NUMBER 35

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# THE KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS



## THIS WEEK

### DIVE TEAM SURVEYS

WWII AIRCRAFT WRECKS - P 6-7

### EXPLORE MEJATTO:

AN OUTER ISLAND GEM - P 8-11

### ROI-NAMUR DOLPHINS

TOAST CLUB'S 50-YEAR HISTORY - P 3

Kwaj residents Eric Nystrom, right, Mike Symanski, middle, and former Kwaj resident Paul McGrew ready a dinghy to transport clothing items donated by Kwaj residents to villagers on Mejatto earlier this month.

◉ Jordan Vinson



# COMMANDER'S CORNER

BY USAG-KA COMMANDER COL. MICHAEL LARSEN



**Yokwe** to all island residents and welcome back to our island school staff and students beginning the new school year! I hope you all had an enjoyable summer vacation and are ready for a great academic year. I look forward to meeting all of the new students, faculty and new residents soon.

It's been an exciting summer for the Kwajalein Atoll. The Olympics clearly had everyone's attention. One of our own Kwaj Kids, Colleen Ferguson, was there in Rio representing the RMI in the 50-meter freestyle. She won her heat and finished 58 out of 88 Olympic competitors and, in my opinion, is the reigning "Champion of the Central Pacific," having outperformed swimmers from Tonga, Palau and Micronesia.

We've had a steady stream of interesting visitors. Most recently, our community was treated to an exciting cultural performance by the crew of the Indonesian Naval Vessel, KRI Diponegoro, on their return from the RIMPAC exercise in Hawaii. Moreover, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship, the Okeanos Explorer, docked and opened the ship to our community. It is very unusual to have both the Okeanos and the *Worthy*, which are sister ships, berthed at the same pier. I think it is interesting to note

that one vessel focuses on space while the other explores the ocean; together they seem to cover it all. If you missed the tours NOAA offered earlier this week, you can see their amazing work and fascinating underwater discoveries on their site: <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov>.

Last week we hosted a team from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency from Hawaii. They conducted dive operations with our local volunteers in the Kwajalein MIA Project, searching for evidence to identify and eventually recover the remains of our fallen WWII heroes inside the lagoon. This was the first time DPAA has performed any underwater missions here. Hats off to Dan Farnham and his Kwajalein MIA Project teammates for being the catalyst for the DPAA visit. It is humbling to know that their efforts, in concert with DPAA, will one day reunite a fallen service member with his family. I truly believe there is no better way to instill confidence in our nation's fighting men and women than to demonstrate our country's willingness to bring everybody home.

The dates and times for our upcoming Town Halls will be published in next week's Hourglass and on our official Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/US-ArmyKwajaleinAtoll](http://www.facebook.com/US-ArmyKwajaleinAtoll). I look forward to them being well attended. I submit that communication is the key to improving

our community. Therefore, if there is an issue or concern you would like me to address before the Town Hall, please call the Commander's Hotline at 51098. Callers can remain anonymous if you prefer. However, feel free to convey your concerns on the day of the Town Halls, as well. I assure you that I will do my best to resolve the issue or effectively explain the rationale of why something is the way it is.

Summer vacation is over, but there is still much upcoming excitement for the installation. Don't miss the Kwaj Swap Meet Sept. 3 and the Labor Day celebration Sept. 5 at Emon Beach. The Beach Blast festivities begin at 4 p.m. for the Labor Day Celebration, which will include fireworks that evening. Stay tuned to the Roller and our Facebook page for more information about these events.

We also have many new residents on island, some temporary and some long-term. Please reach out and welcome the new Seabee detachment that will be with us the next six months. Ensign Edwards and Chief Simons are the new leadership from NMCB 11 and they are excited about their mission here. You may also notice many other new faces on the island. RTS, KRS, USAG-KA and other members of the island team have all received new people to their organizations in the past couple weeks. If you see someone you don't recognize, reach out and make them feel welcome ... and please continue to wave at Doug Hepler.

Thank you for all you do for our community. I'll see you around the island!

Kommol Tata!

—Col. Mike Larsen

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

BY CHAPLAIN STEVE MUNSON



**Conflict is a Part of Life.** Resolving conflict is easy to talk about, but very difficult to do well. Many people have told me they deal well with conflict and confrontation but have lives that reflect the opposite. What some call "resolving conflict," I call "tactless confrontation." They push to

be heard at all costs—and often pay for it in the loss of friends and a trail of broken relationships. Usually they do not see their own fault in those shattered relationships.

People of faith sometimes respond to conflict believing and saying, "If they would get right with God, they would see it my way." Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) wrote, "Anybody can become angry—that is easy; but to be angry with the right person, and to the right degree, and at the right time, and for the right purpose, and in the right way—that is not within everybody's power and is not easy."

We can't always avoid conflict. Conflict is part of life. But is there

SEE "CONFLICT," PAGE 17

## 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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# ROI-NAMUR DOLPHINS CELEBRATE CLUB'S 50TH YEAR

BY JESSICA DAMBRUCH

**A calm ocean and afternoon sun framed** a tent full of joyous Roi and Kwajalein residents at the Roi-Namur Dolphins Scuba Club Sunday, Aug. 20. The gathering was an opportunity for the Roi rats to commemorate the club's 50th year of service to the small island community's scuba diving aficionados.

Festivities opened with remarks and memories recounted by leaders within the local diving communities. Michael Hayes and Dan Gunter, respective presidents of the Kwajalein Scuba Club and Roi-Namur Dolphins Scuba Club, Secretary JoDanna Castle, and Treasurer Todd McGowen, laughed as Jason O'Brien, vice president of RDSC, shared stories of a friend sorely missed by all in attendance: Jim Bennet, who passed away in Jan. 2016. In sight of the pier, the crowd held aloft Ritz Crackers and shots of Dr. Pepper and toasted in Bennet's honor. Barbecue, music, and swimming ensued.

The Roi-Namur Scuba Club began in 1966. For the diverse and colorful community on Roi, the island is less like a place and more like a way of life. New divers and visitors will feel like they are joining a solicitous and close group of talented friends, passionate about life.

"There are well over 20 active members who regularly dive," said Gene Littlefield, former treasurer of RND, who moved to the community more a decade ago. Together, he and the Roi community have seen club membership condense over the years into a hardcore band of fun-loving scuba nuts—and a few folks who join the diehard divers on occasion. Everyone, no matter how frequently they hit the water, are all drawn to Roi for the amazing WWII airplane wrecks and clear, beautiful water.

"This is, hands down, some of the best diving in the world," Gunter said. He became president of the club after his arrival two years ago. Signups are casual, and the club is friendly, he said. "It's easy to join us."

"We love it here," said Sandra Garrison, a former club secretary. "There is nothing like this anywhere else."

Garrison who has stopped counting the number of her dives, was at first timid in the water. With the help of local Kwajalein diving instructor, Bill Cantrell, she overcame her initial trepidation of diving and came to appreciate the spectacular variety of sights below the waves. Since then she has not looked back.

"I wouldn't want to be anywhere else," she said.

As the party winded drew to a close, the sunset scattered a warm glow on the ocean. Gunter, on a dare, took a running leap and somersaulted over two hapless souls seated at the end of the pier. Fist pumped in victory, he cannonballed into the water.

"Welcome to Roi," grinned Rachel Shidler.

Good friends. Good music. Barbecue. Some of the best diving in the world. This is Roi.



**TOP:** Jason O'Brien and JoDanna Castle enjoy a party to celebrate the Roi-Namur Dolphins Scuba Club's 50 years of activity during a party Aug. 21 at the scuba shack. **MIDDLE:** From left, Darlene Brooks, Tom Hoog and Judy Hoagland share a photo during the party. **BOTTOM:** Folks enjoy the new dock located at the scuba shack.

U.S. Army photos by Jessica Dambruch





# UNDERSTANDING EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS ON KWAJ AND ROI

## HOURLASS REPORT

**Say a USAG-KA-wide emergency arises**, one that requires all persons on the installation to react quickly and evacuate to emergency shelters. Would you know what to do? Take a look at the following step-by-step guide to know how to best respond in the face of imminent man-made dangers or natural disasters.

### **1 An Emergency scenario (sever weather, such as typhoon, storm surges, etc.) is presented**

-Sirens sound a pending disaster: two short blasts repeated five times at 25-second intervals.

### **2 Residents' immediate response**

-Residents are to immediately tune to AFN Kwajalein TV roller channel 14-1 Kwaj, X Roi for instructions. Additional information may appear as a ticker at the bottom of television displays.  
-If power outage occurs, tune radio to FM 101.

### **3 Residents' to-do list after tuning into USAG-KA emergency information channels.**

-Leave emergency 911 phone lines open for emergencies.  
-Account for all persons in their households, especially children and pets.  
-Pick up relatively light, loose items outside, such as shovels, bikes and so on and move them inside. These can become deadly projectiles in high wind scenarios.  
-Tape and/or board up windows to protect against flying debris.  
-Unplug electrical items stored on ground floor and raise them off the floor in case of flooding.  
-Turn off circuit breakers—except for those controlling refrigeration/freezer devices.  
-If possible, crack open some windows in dwelling to allow for equalizing of pressure outside and inside of dwelling.  
-Fill containers, such as sinks, bathtubs, plastic containers and so on with potable water

### **4 USAG-KA may issue an evacuation order for Kwajalein and Roi-Namur.**

-Sirens will sound a three-minute warble, advising residents to immediately evacuate to their designated emergency shelters.  
-Residents refer to their telephone directories to find the list of emergency shelters organized by zone. Residents identify which shelters they are to evacuate to.  
-Residents evacuating from their residences are to tear "Occupants Evacuated" signs from telephone directories and tape to street-facing windows or BQ doors of their dwellings before departing.

### **5 Know where to evacuate to.**

#### **Kwaj shelter locations:**

**Residents in Zone 1** (north end of island, in dome housing and new housing neighborhoods) evacuate to:

-The second floor of the high school.

\*No residents are to remain in new housing homes, even if on second floor.

**-Residents in Zone 2** (ocean side family housing)

-Residents in single story housing evacuate to:

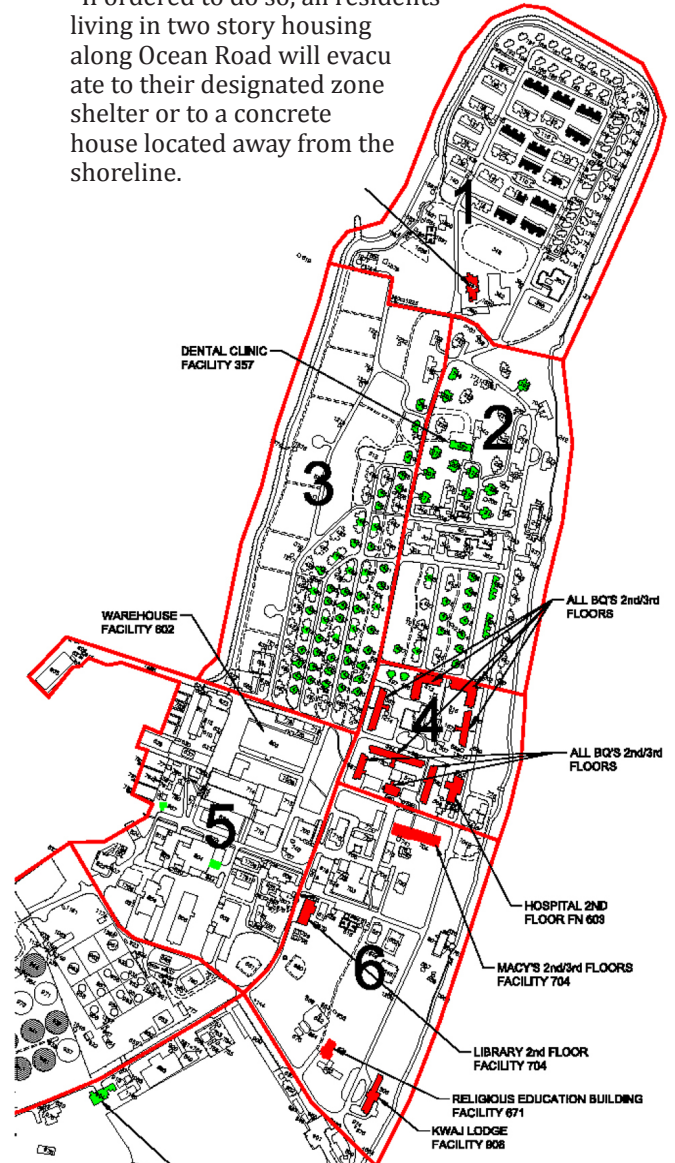
-The nearest two-story concrete home and remain on second floor.

-Or to the second floor of the Dental Clinic.

-Residents in two-story concrete homes are to accept into their homes anyone seeking shelter.

\*If ordered to do so, all residents

living in two story housing along Ocean Road will evacuate to their designated zone shelter or to a concrete house located away from the shoreline.





- Residents in Zone 3 (lagoon side family housing)
  - Residents in single story housing evacuate to:
    - The nearest two-story concrete home and remain on the second floor.
    - Or to the second floor of the Dental Clinic.
    - Or to the second or third floor of the Macy's building (Bldg. 704)
  - Residents in two-story concrete homes are to accept into their homes anyone seeking shelter.

- Residents in Zone 4 (BQ area)
  - BQ Residents proceed to second or third floor hallways of BQs.
  - Or to the second floor of the hospital.

- Residents in Zone 5
  - Evacuate to Public Works Administration (Bldg. 804)

- Residents in Zone 6 evacuate to:
  - The second floor of the library building (Bldg. 805)
  - Or to the second or third floor of the Macy's building (Bldg. 704)
  - Or to the second floor of the Religious Education Building (Bldg. 671).

- Residents in Zone 7
  - Evacuate to the Dehumidified Warehouse (Bldg. 993)

- Residents in Zone 8
  - Evacuate to the Fire Department (Bldg. 904)

- Residents in Zone 9
  - Evacuate to RTS Headquarters (Bldg. 1010)

- Residents in Zone 10
  - Not applicable

- Residents in Zone 11
  - Evacuate to the DCCB Building (Bldg. 1500)

-Here is a breakdown of Roi-Namur shelters by zone.

#### -Residents west of the runway

- Evacuate to the second or third floor hallways of any of the following BQs:
  - Ratak
  - Ralik
  - Nike
  - Spartan

#### -Residents east of the runway

- Evacuate to the Admin Building (Bldg. XX)

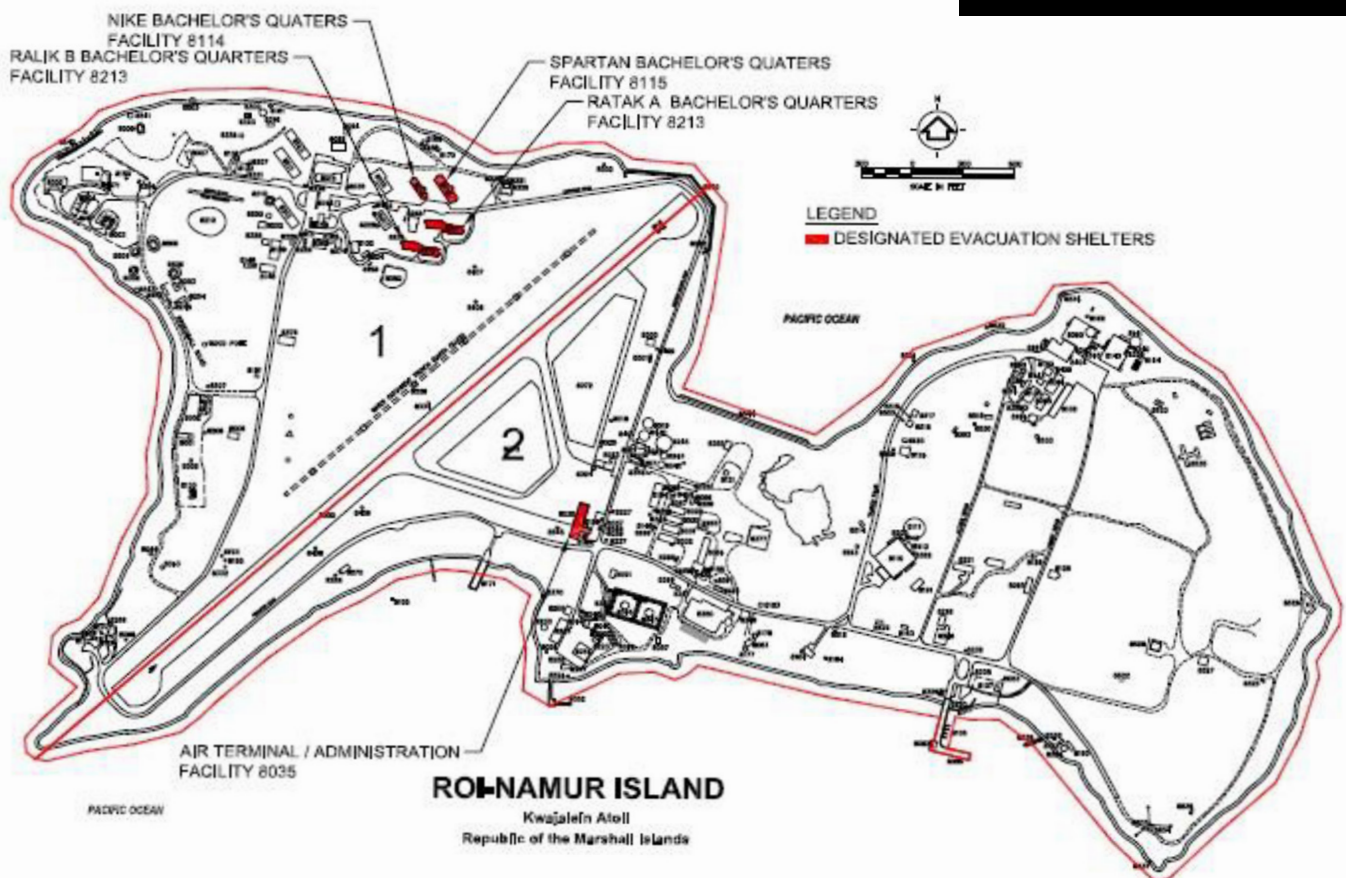
## 6 ALL CLEAR

-After it is safe to do so, USAG-KA issues an all-clear order, advising residents that the threat has passed and that they may exit their evacuation shelters

-Sirens will sound an all clear: One 20-second blast.

# OCCUPANTS EVACUATED

To: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_





# MIA SEARCH TEAM SURVEYS WWII AIRCRAFT WRECKS

BY JORDAN VINSON

A team of Army scuba divers and anthropologists concluded a 10-day mission to survey WWII aircraft wrecks in lagoon waters off Kwajalein this week.

Organized around the mission to locate, account for, retrieve and identify the remains of U.S. service members lost overseas in battle, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency sent an 11-person team to dive on and assess a total of four wrecks dotting the lagoon floor along the atoll's southern stretches, from Big Bustard to Bigej and locations along the west reef.

Speaking broadly, a DPAA mission on a particular site may follow two phases: a non-intrusive fact-finding investigative stage, followed by a recovery phase, explained DPAA Anthropologist Rich Wills, the team's scientific lead.

Being the organization's first look at the four aircraft wrecks, its work this month centered mostly around getting a lay of the land.

"This is a complete non-disturbance investigation," Wills said Aug. 22 during a barbeque thrown by American Legion Post 44 for the crew. In other words, no divers penetrated any wrecks or made attempts at retrieving service members' remains that might be present.

"We're assessing the sites," Wills explained. "These are all cases that we're looking at from an investigative aspect. ... We're basically assessing them now to see how to move forward with if and when we do a recovery operation on any of them."

Pulling details from DPAA team members regarding sites that are currently in either an investigative or recovery phase is difficult. The goal is to keep secret the identities of service members' remains until their next of kin are fully informed, the organization states.

Wills was able to come off with a few general details on the WWII naval aircraft the team studied, however.

"They're wartime loss incidents that all involve naval aircraft," he said. "Several of them are flying boats. One was a fighter plane. They all involve unaccounted-for individuals of various numbers. Some of them were on supply missions. Some of



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Marc Castaneda

***Divers from Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) perform regular maintenance checks on small boats to prepare for a dive mission to investigate one of the seaplane wreck sites in the waters of U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll.***

them were on combat missions."

To perform the mission, the DPAA sent out a team of five divers along with personnel tasked with running remote sensors like side scan sonar devices and a two-team civilian element consisting of Wills and DPAA Archeologist Wendy Coble.

The DPAA did not simply stumble upon the wrecks on its own; the group had been turned on to the possible underwater recovery of MIA cases at the atoll by members of the Kwajalein MIA Project, a nonprofit outfit situated around the goal of locating all U.S. and Japanese aircraft shot down from the skies over Kwajalein during WWII.

The MIA Project team's discovery of the back end of the Gunga Din, a PB2Y-3 Coronado, last year was but the latest of the group's finding since it came together initially as the Kingfisher Project in 2011. Renamed the Kwajalein MIA Project in 2015, the group has three other WWII aircraft wreck discoveries to its name.

Learning about the Kwajalein MIA

Project wreck finds via social media and email exchanges with group leaders and Kwaj history buffs Dan Farnham and Bill Remick, DPAA anthropologists knew it was only a matter of time before their team could justify the logistical and financial challenges of sending a full team to hit the water and fully survey the sites the Kwaj divers had located.

"They've obviously been busy out here for about five-six years doing great work," Wills said. "And we've been hoping to get out here for a while to link up with them. ... Some funds came available for us to do something, and we decided this is what we're going to do with it."

Coble, whom Farnham briefed a couple of years ago regarding the status of his research and his peers' findings in the water, had told Farnham to get the ball rolling. The discoveries of the back end of the Gunga Din and a couple of fighter planes were the ticket, Coble said.

"I really, really respected all the work that he wanted to do, but we had no idea what he was going to bring out," the ar-



cheologist explained Aug. 22. "I told him, 'If you find me something, I can get a team out here.' And doggone it, you did it. And it's been wonderful. This has been one of the best team's I've ever worked with."

Getting the opportunity to survey not one, but four individual MIA sites in one trip is a rarity, explained the DPAA Team Leader Capt. Troy Davidson. It was because of the hundreds of man hours put in by the 28-member Kwajalein MIA Project team that the DPAA crew was able to tackle four sites in four days. He and the rest of his team gave glowing reviews of the Kwaj divers' contributions to the mission.

"This is my first investigation mission, but [Assistant Team Leader] Sgt. 1st Class Chris Kratsas has been on several," Davidson told the crowd at the American Legion. "And he said he's never been on one that was this successful; it's based on the fact that all the sites were already identified. We were able to just drop down on every single site, and that's unprecedented. That's directly related to the Kwajalein MIA Project identifying those sites and allowing us to hit multiple sites on one mission."

Looking forward, Farnham told the crowd that with the four dive sites surveyed, the Kwajalein divers could again hit the water running, in search of the remaining seven aircraft not yet located on the lagoon floor—one being the elusive Kingfisher that kindled the whole aircraft location effort at Kwajalein in the first place.

"The cases that the DPAA team have taken care of this last week—we're done with those," Farnham said. "This has been a handoff of sorts. Now we can focus all our energy and attention to going and finding the rest of them. We're going to get these guys out here again."



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Marc Castaneda



U.S. Army photo by Jordan Vinson

**TOP:** Kwajalein MIA Project leader Dan Farnham briefs Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency divers on the locations of the dive sites the team prepared to hit during its 1.5-week stay on U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll. **BOTTOM:** The DPAA team joins members of the Kwajalein MIA Project, American Legion Post 44 volunteers and more during a barbecue hosted by the American Legion during the dive team's visit to Kwajalein.



**Ask  
&  
Answer**



Kwajalein Range Services wants your feedback on how the garrison's Community Services programs are going. Take part in ongoing surveys to voice your opinion on everything from the Kwajalein Hourglass and Mongolian Night at Café Roi, to the golf courses and the Self Help shops. Click on the "We Want Your Feedback" icon on the USAG-KA-Web Intranet home page and type away.



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

**[www.facebook.com/usarmykwajaleinatoll](http://www.facebook.com/usarmykwajaleinatoll)**

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



# PASSPORT TO MEJATTO

EDITORIAL BY JORDAN VINSON

**P**utting our way across a crystalline lagoon aboard an old, beat-up wooden dinghy earlier this month, my friend and fellow band mate Mike Symanski and I clutched a couple of acoustic guitars wrapped in trash bags to protect against the bathtub-warm water splashing over the small boat's gunwale.

We had left the sailing yacht Cherokee, our home for the previous five days, anchored in the distance a mile away from the island we were approaching. Cherokee captain Paul McGrew and Kwaj friend Eric Nystrom guided us through a labyrinth of coral heads lying between our vessel and the shore.

Our mission? To play a set of face-melting surf rock for the villagers of Mejatto.

## MAKING DO

A verdant island half the size of Namur, Mejatto juts out of a wide swathe of shallow reef flats at the northwest tip of Kwajalein Atoll. Located about 65 nautical miles from Kwajalein Island as the crow flies, it is home to around 300 people, many of them victims, or descendants of victims, of radioactive fallout created during the March 1, 1954 Castle Bravo hydrogen bomb test at Bikini Atoll. Evacuated by U.S. authorities from their islands in 1985, the Rongelapese scattered. Some resettled on Majuro Atoll; others relocated to the United States or Ebeye. Many remained on Mejatto.

Unlike their compatriots who live on Majuro, Ebeye, Enniburr, Kwajalein, Roi-Namur and other more urbanized areas in the Marshalls, the men, women and children who now call Mejatto home live the laidback island lifestyle akin to the that of the dozens of outer island communities peppered among the nation's 29 atolls. For the vast majority of these folks, there are no paved roads, no power plants, no Internet connections, no shopping centers or supermarkets and no bi-weekly container ship arrivals.

Of course, ocean-going commercial ships do visit all of the outer island communities in the RMI. How else would these communities survive? But opportunities to resupply foodstuffs, school supplies, electrical and mechanic components and so on via these ships occurs

at most only a few times per year at each community. Many outer islanders must simply make do with what they have.

That's why when a crew of four ribelles from Kwajalein shows up in the middle of their village, the people of Mejatto might very well ask, "Hey, let's make a deal."

## QUARTET OF STRANGERS

We had set out from Kwajalein Aug. 3 with a few goals in mind. Apart from relaxing on Cherokee, a capacious 47-foot

ocean-going sailing yacht, we wanted to sail, surf, fish, snorkel and scuba dive, visit Nell and take in the early stages of the Perseid meteor shower. Most importantly, we wanted to make our way to Mejatto, the absolute farthest island from Kwajalein one can get to via sailboat on Kwajalein Atoll. (Ebadon, a neighboring island community to the northwest of Majetto is not accessible via sailboat due to the extensive shallow reef flats surrounding its perimeter). Brought along on the voyage were bags of used



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** Mejatto elder Swinly Fretty shows off a collection of glass balls. Mejatto children and Fretty get a look at donated clothing items sent up to the island by garrison residents. A villager strums her ukulele.



clothing, hats, shoes, sports equipment and more, all of it donated by Kwajalein friends, and all of it to be given to Mejatto villagers on their behalf.

Having arrived the day prior, we nosed McGrew's cursed, old dinghy into the sand on the island's eastern, lagoon-facing shore. It was the day before our surf rock performance, and we greeted a throng of children gathered on the beach, who eyed us, smiled and waved as dogs ran about the water's edge. "Yok-we," we said and began looking for someone of authority to whom we could give the clothing items.

Walking inland, we saw a veritable village opening up to us. Modest, squat homes built from wood and corrugated metal adjoined solar panel stations, the only source of electricity besides possibly a generator here and there. Orderly courtyards covered in sand and gravel met chicken coops, outhouses, rainwater storage tanks and thickets of pandanus trees the size of small buildings.

A couple of men glanced up at us from their work, paying little attention to our presence. A young father named Jonjay offered us boiled pandanus—aka Marshallese dental floss, we were told—while the family of a 16-year-old Gugeegue girl visiting her aunt for the summer handed us charred breadfruit. It was all part of a dinner being prepared to celebrate the end of a volleyball tournament, they told us.

As we walked, a woman here and there busily raked her courtyard of leaves and vegetation. Pigs, piglets, chickens and ducks pecked around on the ground, keeping a wide berth from us, a quartet of strangers to the island they shared with their owners.



*The island of Mejatto, as seen in this Google Earth satellite image, is roughly half the size of Namur and home to about 300 people.*

"What are you doing here?" asked an older man, calling us away from a quarrel that had erupted suddenly between two island dogs.

"We've come from Kwajalein," McGrew told the man. "We have clothing we'd like to give to the people here, if that's appropriate."

"You do?" the man asked, approaching us with a smile. "Do you want to trade? I have glass balls."

Why, yes. Now that he mentioned it, yes we did.

#### **Swinly & Co.**

The name is Swinly Fretty, he told us, inviting us to his property in what could perhaps be called the village center or "downtown" area of the island. A village elder and employee of the U.S. Department of Energy, Fretty, 64, is involved with the Rongelap Resettlement Pro-

gram, an ongoing U.S.-funded island rehabilitation and construction project designed to create realistic opportunities for the Rongelapese to return to their islands. Clean freshwater supplies, electricity, paved runs, modern health clinics and laboratories, cozy bungalows—even a paved runway—are now part of the island, along with remediation efforts to neutralize the cesium-137, a byproduct of the 1954 explosion, still present in the sandy topsoil of the islands. Fretty's son, one of nine children the man had with his late wife, currently lives on Rongelap, working on the project, Fretty said.

Outside of his Department of Energy duties, Fretty, walks the reef and searches nearby islands for old Japanese glass balls—or fishing line buoys—brought to shore over the years by the trade winds and ocean currents. If he gathers enough balls, he sells or trades them when he



*LEFT: Mejatto women Chiniko Anitak, left, and Bertina Kon grill a few breadfruit over open flame to help prepare for a community dinner. Kwaj resident and Cherokee crewmember Eric Nystrom kicks his feet up among Mejatto children.*





*An outer island isn't a place where one would expect to see billiards matches. This portable table gets a lot of use by both children and adults. "They're always playing," Fretty said.*

gets a chance to travel to Ebeye or to the DOE office on Kwajalein. In turn, he gets cash or supplies needed by him and his family and friends.

"What we really need are shoes, shoes for going in the water and walking on the reef," he said before pointing to the weathered bucket hat covering his head. "And hats."

In addition to speaking near-fluent English and occupying a position of authority on the island, Fretty had also previously worked as a Security and Access Control officer on Kwajalein. He seemed to be the fella' we were looking for, and we decided we'd let him distribute the clothes. Hauling onto shore six or seven full-sized kitchen trash bags filled to the brim with clothing, we gave him all items contained within, along with other essentials like knives and batteries. In return, he pulled out a large burlap sack filled with a large glass ball and 12 or 13 smaller specimens. Nystrom, Symanski, McGrew and I smiled. It was an unexpected surprise. They were ours.



*The Ribelle Boys—Mike Symanski, middle, and Jordan Vinson, left—play a few surf rock songs for villagers on Mejatto.*

## **SURF ROCK-N-ROLL: A PRIMER**

Returning the following evening, with the guitars in our hands, we met Fretty on the beach. He had replaced his old, frayed camouflage cap with a like-new, beige-colored bucket hat included in the donation shipment. It read "Columbia" across its front.

He learned of our strange request to play some surf rock for anyone who might be interested, and he invited us back to his courtyard, where more than 60, maybe 70, people appeared in what could have been less than 10 minutes. Sitting down quietly on the perimeter of the courtyard, children looked at us quizzically. The adults seemed just as curious.

Tuning our instruments and gulping nervously, Symanski and I looked over at Nystrom and McGrew—both loving the hilarity of the scene developing before them. Their big smiles, even Fretty's, couldn't assuage our feeling of being absurdly out of place.

"Among everyone in the growing audience, who actually enjoys rock-n-roll," I wondered. "Who even knows what surf rock is?" Surely the Mejatto villagers don't tune in to "Little Steven's Underground Garage" on a regular basis, I thought. And we definitely didn't bring along a keyboardist, pumping out fast-paced "four-on-the-floor" dance music, as is the Marshallese custom. And the coup de grâce: we didn't have a singer!

"Whose idea was this again?" I asked myself, wiping sweat from my forehead and kicking away a gaggle of flies gnawing on my feet.

With Fretty introducing us to the crowd as the Ribelle Boys, we struck the first notes of what turned into a six-song performance. Over time some of the villagers left—it was dinnertime after all—and others took their places. Still others gathered on the periphery of the courtyard, keeping their distance from the weird display developing in front of them. 35 long minutes later, the strange music experiment was over, and we had finished what was likely the first ever performance by a foreign band—certainly the first surf rock show—on the island.

The villagers' applause and hoots and hollers were genuine, I think, and while Symanski and I were relieved it was over, we felt a sense of gratification for even getting the opportunity to be thrown into such an unusual situation.

"It was like magical realism, man," Symanski said later.

It's likely our Ribelle Boys performance won't go down as the concert of the century on Mejatto—no matter how infrequent off-island entertainment is for the community. But at the very least, the show had provided plenty of fodder for the ol' village gossip mill over the next few days. And that's reward enough.

## **ILLICIT TRADING AND NONIEP**

Following the show, we spent some time talking with Fretty, and he told us the donated clothing had been a hit among the villagers. Many new shirts were worn to church services that morning, he said.

"I saw a guy wearing one of my shirts," Nystrom told me as we sat among 25-30 villagers next to Fretty. "I'm glad someone's wearing it again."

As the sunset wore on, a lady approached us, asking if she could play the guitar I was using. While she strummed and sang a Marshallese version of "Hotel California"—this style of rock being much more palatable for the average Marshallese than instrumental surf rock—Fretty asked if we had anything else we could trade. McGrew had nothing. Nystrom and Symanski had nothing left either. I told Fretty I had already given my knife, batteries and other sundries and was empty. And then I looked at the lady, Gloria Inok. Playing the guitar, she sashayed gently back and forth on the gravel covering Fretty's courtyard





*Clena Balos, far left, and her family offer charred breadfruit to Cherokee captain Paul McGrew.*

and was now singing the “Happy Birthday” song—was it someone’s birthday?—while kids around her giggled.

“What about the guitar?” I asked.

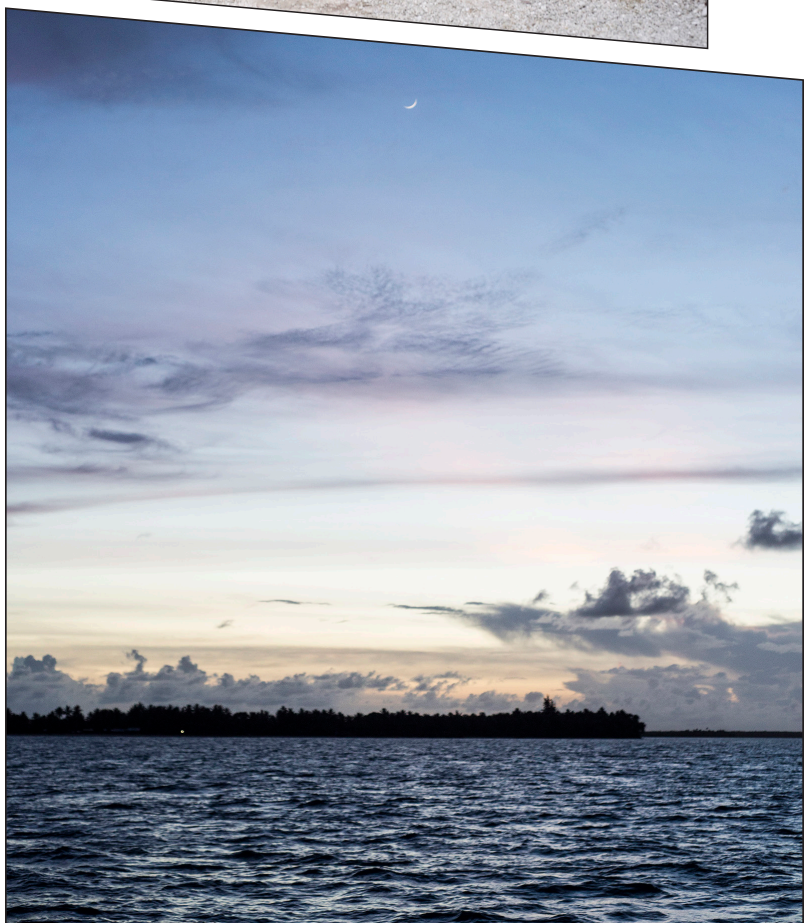
It turned out there were a few guitars among the community’s population of around 300, but they were in bad condition, Fretty said. This one, on the other hand, was in good shape. The tuning keys worked perfectly; there were no holes in the body; and it came with a valuable asset: a fresh set of guitar strings, a rarity on Mejatto. There was only one problem: The guitar wasn’t mine; it belonged to my friend and band mate Rick Broomell. He had lent it to me so I’d have something to play on our sailing trip. But seeing how much use the old guitar was already getting just an hour after I had put it down, it was obvious the instrument would go a long way on Mejatto.

20 minutes of indecision almost scuttled the deal. “It’s Rick’s only guitar, for crying out loud,” I told myself. But then a couple of villagers, relatives of Fretty I was told, brought out two large glass balls. Explaining that the balls would be given in exchange for the guitar, my conscience had cleared. And that’s the story of how I now owe my friend a new guitar.

That evening the clouds opened up and issued a heavy rain shower, sending us scrambling for shelter under the tin roofs hanging off the homes abutting the courtyard. Fretty told me stories of spirits—long-time favorites in traditional Marshallese mythology—like dwarf-like noniep, mischievous little sneaks who create problems for the Marshallese and whom no one could ever see with their eyes. He told me of how an inhumanly tall, dark, shadow of a figure called an enomok was spotted a couple of weeks prior by the preacher’s son-in-law late at night in the middle of the island near the church and elementary school. Stories like these I could listen to all night. But with the sun having set, it was time to head back to the boat, open a bottle of wine and prepare for departure the next morning.

With the rain coming to an end, we headed to the beach and made plans to meet with Fretty during a scheduled visit to the Department of Energy office on Kwajalein in the coming weeks. Clena Balos, our tour guide who showed us around the island the previous day, saw us off, and heaving McGrew’s old dinghy into the water, we waved goodbye.

“Bar loe yuk!”



*ABOVE: A Mejatto man fills containers with water from fresh-water catchment containers provided by Australian aid agencies. BELOW: The sun’s fading light recedes over the horizon behind Mejatto.*



# HOURLASS INTERVIEWS

Part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Okeanos Explorer ship's three-year expedition to explore and map deep water environments, **Survey Technician Charlie Wilkins** is one of the brains behind the crew's ability to chart and understand the topographical layout of the ocean floors. Sent to particular regions, such as the Marianas Trench, Hawaii's Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and American Samoa, folks like Wilkins use a suite of sensors aboard the ship to literally show scientists a lay of the land deep under the surface. His work can consist purely of mapping large swathes of the ocean floor, or it can center on locating possible dive targets, such as sea mounts, for the Okeanos Explorer ship's impressive Deep Discoverer and Seirios ROV robots. In port at Kwajalein earlier this week, Wilkins spoke to the Kwajalein Hourglass about his role on the Okeanos Explorer and aspects of life and work on the ship.

**Hourglass:** So, first, I've got to ask it. "The Life Aquatic." Do you guys watch it on the ship?

**Charlie Wilkins:** I've only been here for two months, but I think from what I've heard of enough lines being spoken about the movie that it's been viewed a lot. And I brought my personal DVD. So if anyone hasn't seen it, they will. They nailed it pretty well except for how they portrayed the antiquity of the boat and the pirates, and the jaguar shark, etc. Between "The Life Aquatic" and Star Trek, there's a great fusion of movie quotes and scenery where someone is like, hey, this reminds me of that scene in [so and so].

**HG:** Explain to us the "so what"—why chart the ocean floor?

**CW:** The beautiful thing about this ship, I think, and part of its allure to me, is it's the U.S. government's only ship primarily dedicated to ocean exploration and discovery. The NOAA fleet gathers as much data as they can for wherever that ship may be with whatever sensors they have onboard. If you basically divide up the fleet into hydro-

graphic vessels, fisheries vessels and general ocean exploration, this is at the forefront of that. And to be a part of that is completely fascinating. To see satellite-derived imagery that you might get on Google Earth where you get a very big concept of what might be on the ocean floor; to go over that with our sonars and produce high resolution images that turn a fuzzy blur

into an incredibly precise rendered sea mount that you can do a 3D flyover; and have point cloud data and then to be able to hand that off to the ROV team; and have them develop their dive site off the mapping we do; and then go down one or two days after that, after something that was almost completely unknown at that point, to just a few days later having our ROVs down there discovering new creatures and new sea floor types ... we onboard visiting scientists, marine biologists, marine geologists ... They're lit up, because they see a new creature they've never discovered before or see a sea mount they had no idea of in terms of the size, scope or features of it. The excitement they have is incredible."

**HG:** Correct me if I'm wrong, but the surveying you do helps reveal potential dive sites to scientists, providing opportunities to put the

ROVs into the water to search for new deep sea organisms and find out more about their environments.

**CW:** Yes, it's very much like that except for there are a lot of people in that discussion and they're very motivated, focused, incredibly intelligent and incredibly excited. So to be a part of the group mission and the group meetings, and when they come to an overall consensus about "this is the place we need to go because of this reason," as they have a feeling there is going to be these creatures or this type of sea floor, and to see their hypothesis correct very often ... just to be in that group dynamic and the overall altruism behind it as well is a beautiful feeling.

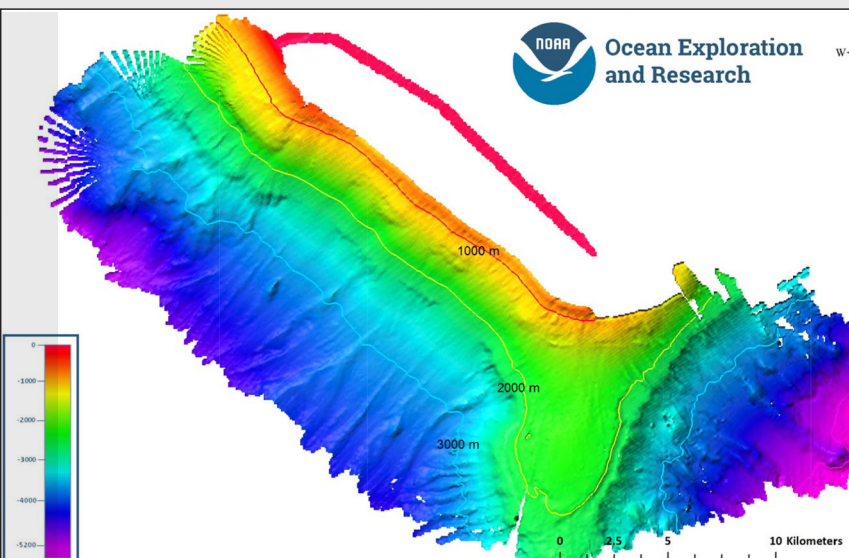
**HG:** How does your data-driven mapping approach contrast with the Okeanos Explorer media specialists' job of pumping out beautiful, instantly gratifying underwa-



U.S. Army photo by Jessica Dambruch

**NOAA Okeanos Explorer ship Tech Surveyor Charlie Wilkins, left, shows Kwaj residents around the ship and talks about his role in NOAA's mission to reveal new knowledge of deep water ecosystems.**





*Pictured is a topographical map created by the Okeanos Explorer crew. It illustrates the varying depths of the ocean-side waters surrounding the island of Kwajalein.*

ter video footage and photographs?

**CW:** While the mission is underway, specifically the ROV missions, they definitely get a lot more video presence because of their underwater filming. With the mapping missions, typically it's the product that looks great and where the people can reach out. When the data is still coming in, it takes a specific, trained eye to understand what's happening ... but to see a general flyover of the entrance to Kwajalein, that's where their eyes light up when it comes to the mapping aspect.

**HG:** After the data is all cleaned and processed, it's available to anyone, right?

**CW:** This is all of the public's information. There is almost nothing that is private. As far as the U.S. government is concerned, this is for everyone who is interested.

**HG:** You and your team have mapped the ocean floor during your approach to Kwajalein. Is there anything of note that you've seen in the neighborhood?

**CW:** Looking at the approach

to the lagoon, there are numerous pockets on the floor.

**HG:** Can you tell us about living on ship for long periods of time? Is it enjoyable? Does it get lonely?

**CW:** The crew here has great camaraderie. At any given time when the day settles out, you'll see people playing chess or having great conversations. On any reasonably nice day, there's always beautiful things to look at outside, great sunsets, some rare birds too. There are even times when we need to collect data outside; and it's dark and we'll hear an unfamiliar bird call; and we're nowhere near land and we're like there's a bird out here right now? Where is that thing even landing? As far as the crew, it really is a family dynamic. There are lots of places to go and relax after you do a hard day's work. There's a movie lounge and we'll even watch movies out on the fan tail with a projector and a screen, and it turns into a weekly underway event that you can look forward to. You can let yourself get lost in the daily routine but we have a great morale committee as well that looks into having evening events. It's hard to say that you're not stimulated."

## THIS WEEK IN KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS HISTORY



GIRL SCOUTS...GETTING TOGETHER ARE, FROM LEFT, SEATED; TRAINER AND ADVISER NAN COHAN, COORDINATOR PEGGY DAVIS, INTERESTED BACKER MAE HEALY. STANDING, FROM LEFT; JUNIOR LEADER MAJIN EDWARDS, CADET LEADER BETH WATERMAN, JUNIOR LEADER BETSY TEULING AND VISITING SCOUTS CYNTHIA SABLAN AND MARQUERITE CABAERA. THE FUTURE CUB SCOUT IN THE PICTURE IS LESLIE GUNTHER.

From Aug. 27, 1966

Page 2



## AROUND TOWN

**MARTIN ZACHARY** is conducting blasting operations on Omelek and Legan for an unspecified period. This is a seven (7) days affair. Pilots of all light aircraft are asked not to fly over these islands at any time. Blasting will not occur during arrival of scheduled aircraft. Divers are also reminded to refrain from operating in these areas. Reef blasting on Kwajalein will be announced on AFRS.

From Aug. 28, 1971

## HIGH ROLLERS

Last night seemed to be a good night for the ladies in the various bowling leagues.

In Leftover Mixed Bowling League play, Vivian Amante took high game and high series honors with a blazing score of 241/515, while Lucy Kaholokula was the second high game leader with a 177 and Carolyn Hagihara was the second high series lady with a 445.

In the Early Bird League Ginny Eastman had a high game of 204 followed by Palepa Smith with a 201. Palepa also was the high series lady with a 517 while Ginny was second high series lady with a close 514. Palepa converted a 6-7 split and Edna Hatchell picked up a 5-10.

Norman C. Sablas picked up a 3-9-10 split and Sam Frakes got the 6-7-10 in league play with the Wednesday Night Late Birds.

From Aug. 24, 1978



In the mid-1960s, E. H. Bryan, Jr.—then, manager of the Bishop Museum in Honolulu—and his staff at the museum's Pacific Scientific Information Center prepared an in-depth guide to the geography, biodiversity and history of the Marshall Islands and the cultural practices, lifestyles and histories of the Marshallese people. Written specially for Kwajalein Hourglass readers, the 24-part series appeared over the course of two years and was titled "The Marshalls and the Pacific."

Uncovered at the Grace Sherwood Library, it comprises a literal bounty of professionally-curated essays that take the reader on a profound tour of knowledge on everything from marine shell identification and the etymology of atoll names, to the traditional division of labor in the Marshallese household and explanations on how atolls are formed.

Included are excerpts from the timeless "Marshalls and the Pacific" series. Enjoy.

## BIRDS OF THE MARSHALLS

BY E.H. BRYAN, JR.

THIS IS THE SIXTH IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES CONCERNING LIFE IN THE MARSHALL ISLANDS AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN AS A WHOLE. THEY ARE BEING PUBLISHED EXCLUSIVELY BY THE HOURGLASS AND WRITTEN BY E.H. BRYAN, JR., WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE STAFF OF THE PACIFIC SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION CENTER AT THE BERNICE P. BISHOP MUSEUM OF WHICH HE IS THE MANAGER.

### BIRDS OF THE MARSHALLS

All of the birds likely to be seen in the Marshall Islands, with the exception of a few introduced by man, are either sea birds or migratory species. They belong to less than a dozen families: 1. Petrels and Shearwaters (Procellariidae); 2. Tropic birds (Phaethontidae); 3. Boobies or Gannets (Sulidae); 4. Man-O'-War Birds (Fregatidae); 5. Herons (Ardeidae); 6. Ducks and Geese (Anatidae); 7. Plover (Charadriidae); 8. Sandpipers and their relatives (Scolopacidae); 9. Phalaropes (Phalaropidae); 10. Gulls and Terns (Laridae); and 11. The Migratory Cuckoo (Cuculidae). A rail has been reported from Bikini, but it is not likely to be seen even there.

Shearwater and Petrels belong to the tube-nosed sea birds, like the Albatross, but smaller. An Albatross might happen to fly by, but the Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses are more likely to be seen in the Hawaiian and Bonin Islands, and the larger Albatrosses are far to the south. These birds have a bill which turns down at the tip, with nostrils in a tube above its base. They skim over the surface of a roughened sea in search of small fish, one wing seeming to shear the wave tops, the other pointing skyward (fig. 61). They may be

abundant at sea by day, but are rarely seen on land because they nest in holes and burrows in the sand. However, they can be heard at night, an activity which has earned them the name of "moaning" birds. Of several species widespread in the Pacific, two are especially abundant in Micronesia. Both are about a foot in length, with rather dark plumage.

The Short-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*) (fig. 61) is sooty brown above, a littler grayer below, with white on the throat; the tail is short and rounded; length 13-14 inches. Known as a Mutton Bird in Australia and New Zealand, it is famous for its long flights around the north Pacific from islands near Tasmania, where it breeds abundantly.

The Christmas Island Shearwater (*Puffinus nativitatus*) (fig. 62) is a little larger (14-15 inches long) and darker both above and below, blackish even to its bill and feet. The tail is wedge-shaped. It may nest on the ground under bushes.

Should you see a still larger Shearwater, lighter below and with flesh-colored feet, it might be the Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*), 16-18 inches long; or with slate gray feet, stubbier tail, whitish beneath the wing, 16-20 inches in length;

the Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*). The Bonin Island Petrel (*Pterodroma hypoleuca*) is 13 inches long, with a pale gray back and rump, which contrasts with the black on the wings and tail. Bulwer's Petrel (*Bulweria bulwerii*) is much smaller (10-11 inches), blackish all over with a long wedge-shaped tail. The Sooty Storm Petrel (*Oceanodroma markhami tristami*), 11 inches long, including its forked tail, is sooty brown, lighter brown across its wing coverts.

Tropic birds resemble large terns, but have slender, elongate central tail feathers and a straight wedge-shaped bill which is either yellow or reddish. The plumage is largely white, some of it with a pinkish cast, and with characteristic black markings. Three species have been recorded from the Marshalls, although these may actually represent only two distinct kinds.

The Red-tailed Tropic-bird, (*Phaethon rubricauda*) (fig. 63) is the whitest. When you get close enough you can see that the slender tail feathers are red and black. Adults are as much as 34 inches long, including the 16 inch tail feathers. They have red bills. The young birds, especially those still in the nest, which usually is hidden beneath a bush, have numerous feathers barred with black and the bill black.

The White-Tailed Tropic-bird (*Phaethon lepturus*) is a little smaller and slimmer. Adults have black at the tips and bases of the wings, and the two slender tail feathers are white. The bill varies from yellow to orange. The young have a yellow bill, lack the tail feathers and are barred with black above. On high islands they nest on cliffs; they may not nest on atolls.

The Red-billed Tropic-bird (*Phaethon aethereus*) differs from the last chiefly in having a black patch across each cheek and through the eye, a heavy red bill, and a finely barred back. The report that this species is in the Marshalls may be a misidentification of the White-Tailed Tropic-bird. It is found on the eastern coast of the Americas, in the Caribbean, Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

Boobies and Gannets are large sea birds described as "pointed at both ends." The

—SEE "BIRDS," PAGE 15

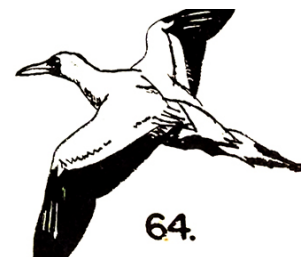
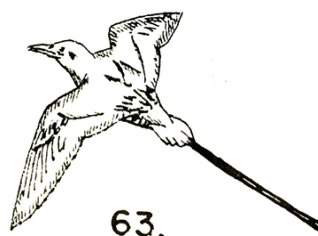
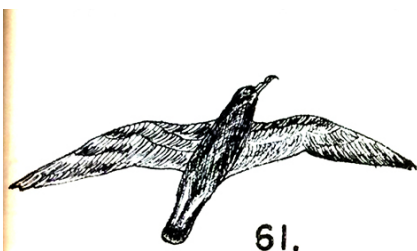






Photo courtesy of Heather Miller



*"Scientific Explorers" Heather Miller, left, and her daughter Ellie pose in front of NOAA's Okeanos Explorer ship during a tour given by crew members August 23.*

U.S. Army photos by Jessica Dambruch



*LEFT: Roi rats join visiting Kwajers during the Aug. 21 Roi-Namur Dolphins Scuba Club 50th anniversary party. RIGHT: Rich Dixon, left, and Todd Gowen share a photo during the party.*

#### "BIRDS," FROM PAGE 14

bill is large and conical, its size being increased by an area of bare skins at its base, beneath. These birds feed on fish and squids and are expert at diving swiftly into the sea to catch them. There are three species of boobies in the central Pacific area.

The Red-Footed Booby (*Sula Sula Rubripes*) in the adult has red feet, a pale blue bill, and is the whitest of the three, having no black on either head or tail, but only on

the outer and hind portions of the wings. It prefers to nest in trees or on bushes.

The Blue-faced Booby (*Sula Dactylatra*) is a little larger in size (32-36 inches long), has black markings on the sides of the tail and a dark area at the base of its yellow bill, and olive green feet (fig. 64). It nests on the ground.

It would be easy to tell these two apart were it not for the fact that immature birds

do not develop the black and white plumage for a season after leaving the nest, but fly around in gray-brown plumage. If you look sharply, you can distinguish the immature Blue-Faced Booby by a light patch on the upper back. The bill may be blue-gray, greenish-yellow, yellow or red; and the feet may be yellow, orange, greenish-blue, or slaty, adding confusion to their identification.



# WESTERN RANGE READY FOR LAUNCH FOLLOWING OPERATIONAL ACCEPTANCE

## EXTERNAL REPORT

By Michael Peterson, 30th Space Wing Public Affairs

**VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif.**—The Western Range is back in the launch business following an operational acceptance decision held by the Operations Acceptance Board at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Aug. 18, 2016.

"It is exciting," said Col. Jennifer Grant, 30th Operations Group commander and OAB chair. "The team has invested a lot of time, energy and copious amounts of planning, coordination, and vested interest in ensuring a successful outcome."

Much of the coordination and teamwork was required due to the large scale of the project that led to the range downtime, which included the relocation of key range systems to a different building. The relocation required over 1,100 critical components of the operational range systems to be disconnected and reconfigured, many of which were decades old and had not been powered down in years – adding a layer of complexity to the move.

"Given the age and fragility of the range equipment, we have been fortunate to not have any major breaks or failures," said Grant. "I attribute that to planning and risk reduction measures employed by the government and contractor. Many of us expected there to be more complications and challenges than we encountered. The range equipment relocation, and its associated downtime, have been the number one priority for us during this last year. This is clearly one of the most highly visible, complex and unique operations I have been involved in to date, and the key to this successful process entering and exiting the range downtime on schedule was, is, and will continue to be, accountability, transparency, and frequent communication amongst all of the stakeholders."

With the range systems relocated and reconfigured, rigorous testing was then required to validate range capability for its various launch missions.

"Each system to be relocated was functionally tested at the box and system level before being disconnected to capture their baseline performance," said Martin Diaz, 30th OG technical director. "Once the systems were relocated the functional testing was repeated in order to evaluate any affects the move may have induced. Ultimately integration tests consisting of MM III, Atlas V and MDA mission scenarios were performed exercising the relocated systems interfaces and interoperability with the entire range enterprise to ensure readiness to support our launch manifest."

Once testing was complete, the OAB – consisting of Grant, RGNext, Space & Missile Systems Center, 30th Communication Squadron, 2nd Range Operations Squadron, 30th Range Management Squadron, and 30th Space Wing safety – made the final call on range readiness.

With the greenlight on readiness and the passing of key at the operational acceptance ceremony, Vandenberg's Western Range is back in the launch business and its launch professionals are back to doing what they do best. As for Grant, whose signature now rests on the official acceptance document, completing this project has been a major accomplishment for all involved.

"I feel very thankful to have led and been a part of this historic activity, and grateful for the commitment and teamwork I witnessed as we moved through this last year – both in the time leading up to the range downtime period as well as the entire downtime itself," said Grant. "Now we are returning to our core mission of providing critical range and cyber capabilities for our Nation's launch, landing and test operations."

U.S. Air Force photo by Michael Peterson



*The Western Range is back in the launch business following an operational acceptance decision held by the Operations Acceptance Board at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Aug. 18, 2016. The OAB – consisting of Grant, RGNext, Space & Missile Systems Center, 30th Communication Squadron, 2nd Range Operations Squadron, 30th Range Management Squadron, and 30th Space Wing safety – made the final call on range readiness after a downtime due to range systems relocation.*





COMMUNITY CONNECTION BY: **Scott Johnson**

**Some of the shallow reefs** at Kwaj have suffered over the past few years. Featured at right are images of the top of S-buoy coral head, a mile or two out from North Loi Island. It is not the exact same scene: The shot of living coral was taken several years ago and shows the view from the top looking west at the edge of the reef; the shot showing little living coral shows a view from the western edge looking back over the top and taken last weekend. But the photos are representative of the changes.

Bouts of excessively warm water and coral bleaching in the fall of 2009, 2013 and 2014 killed off some corals and weakened some that survived. The coup de grâce, though, was delivered with the long spell of severe westerly swells that accompanied last year's El Niño. Surge from the swell coming over the west reef broke off dead and even some live coral heads, rolling them around and turning branch corals to rubble, which the surge then swept over the edges.

Although the worst of the swells ended some eight or nine months ago, there does not yet seem to be much settling of new corals. Much of the rock is covered with algae, which inhibits coral larvae attachment. Given enough time (and lots of parrotfish scraping away the algae) it could return to its former glory, although that may depend on how common warm water coral bleaching and how strong El Niño systems become with the changing climate.



*Taken several years ago, this photo of the local reef near the S-buoy coral head off North Loi Island depicts a healthy, vibrant environment.*



📷 Courtesy of Scott Johnson

*This photo of the same S-buoy coral head, taken a few days ago, illustrates the damage inflicted on the area by several probable factors: sustained incidents of excessively warm water and violent west wind surges, a product of last year's abnormally strong El Niño system.*

## "CONFLICT," FROM PAGE 2

any decent guidance from anywhere on how to deal with it?

As a chaplain, I tend to look for solutions with a faith perspective. This tends to force me to look from the inside out, rather than blaming others for the conflicts that invade in my life. I find the best guidance from an old source. The source provides great illustrations and practical guidance.

My source says I should value other people, not just for what they are, but for their potential. Speaking about conflict recently, a friend stated, "Perhaps the other person is doing the best they can?" Sometimes, we assume our opponent is in the same place we are, when often they are in a very different place. Why not value them for their potential rather than beating them up for their failure? In the Bible, we see Pharisees and money-hungry businessmen; however, Jesus saw people in need of correction

and relationship. He sought to correct error and at the same time to build relationships. He valued their potential and sought to direct them upward to improve their life.

As I read my source I discover I should never suppress anger and then later explode or implode. We see anger demonstrated by Jesus, but it is up front, out in the open. He didn't "implode" with depression or "explode" with rage. He maintained control. Part of living a disciplined life is not allowing emotions to take control. Research affirms that people who allow anger or rage to take over them, actually suffer a drop in IQ of 10-15 points. I don't know about you, but that is not something I can afford!

My source also reveals the need to take time and consider responses carefully—because there are always consequences!

Jesus always responded after careful thought. He took time to evaluate the issues. You could talk about that one time He took out a whip and chased money changers from the Temple. You're right! But He took the time to think about it as He made the whip. Then He carefully chose His words and accepted full responsibility for the consequences. He understood His actions would be misunderstood and perhaps misrepresented, but He chose His path and owned the consequences, unlike many of us, who fail to consider the second- and third-order effects of our words and actions.

Conflict will always be with us, but it does not have to define us. Resolving conflict may require the hard work of deep critical thinking. But in the end, when it is done well, we just might create a better relationship and a life-long friend.



# 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. Listings for off-island contract positions are available at [www.krsjv.com](http://www.krsjv.com).

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

CYSS Youth Basketball. Register now-Aug. 29. Season runs from Sept. 9-Oct. 20. Cost is \$40 per child for K-6 grade league and \$20 per child for Start Smart. Questions? Contact Michael Hillman or Jason Huwe at the Teen Center at 53796.

Kwajalein Running Club's 1st Monthly Fun Run for the 2016/17 season. 5:30pm, Monday, Aug. 29. Meet near the bowling alley entrance. The public, visitors, kids and walkers are welcome. Distance options are 1/2 mile, 2 miles and 4 miles. KRC is accepting nominations for Club Officers for the 2016/17 season. Questions? Call Bob and Jane at 51815 or Ben and Linn at 51990.

Water Safety Instructor Class. Saturdays and Mondays, Aug. 30-October 3. Registration: Aug. 16-27. Cost is \$200 (includes books and certification fees) and is due after the first class. Participants must be at least 16 years old. Contact Cliff Pryor at 52848.

September Learn To Swim Registration. Aug. 23-Sept. 3. Session runs Wednesdays and Fridays, Sept. 7-30

(8 sessions). Levels III, IV, & V 3:45-4:15 p.m.; Levels I & II 4:30-5 p.m. Cost: \$50 per participant. Participants must be at least 4 years old. Questions? Contact Cliff Pryor at 52848.

Kwajalein Yacht Club Monthly Meeting. 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 27, at the Yacht Club. Happy Hour begins at 5:30pm and dinner at 7pm. Questions? Contact Ursula LaBrie 51951. Guests Welcome!

Birthday Bash - 70's Disco Night. 8 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 27, at the Ocean View Club. Celebrate August birthdays in your best 70's attire! 70's music, drink specials, and disco lights! Sign up for complimentary beverages if your birthday is in August. Stop by the Community Activities Office to sign up. Please present K-badge. Must be 21 years or older.

The Army Veterinarian will be on island Aug 29th-Aug 31st. There will be no elective surgeries during this visit. Please contact Jenny at 52017 to schedule an appointment. Please note New Vet Clinic Hours. 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. by appointment, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Kwajalein Diabetes Clinic. 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 31, in the Kwajalein Hospital lobby. Questions? Contact Linda Reynolds at 52223.

Mandatory Island Orientation - Required Attendance. 12:30-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 31, in FN CRC Room 6. Please arrive 10 minutes early to sign in and be seated by 12:30 pm. This orientation is required for all new island arrivals, including dependents. Children under the age of 10 are welcome; however they are not required to attend. Parents are responsible for covering the information with dependents who do not attend. Questions? Contact ES&H at

51134.

Bingo. 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 1, at the Vet's Hall. Card sales begin at 5:30 p.m. Seating is limited; first come first served. No outside alcoholic beverages permitted. Must be 21 to enter and play; ID required.

Adult Soccer Open Play Clinic. 6 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 1, at Brandon Field. Come out and learn the Kwaj rules of the game and maybe even find a team to play on!

Vet's Hall Change of Hours. Starting Sept. 1, the Vets Hall will open every Thursday opposite Bingo for Happy Hour from 4:30-9 p.m. Starting Oct. 1, the Vet's Hall will be closed on Sunday evenings (due to lack of business). We will reconsider reopening full time on Sundays after the beginning of the new year. The Vet's Hall will still be available on Sundays for large parties, bands, and as always private parties. Questions? Contact Mike Woundy.

Merbabes Swim Class. 9 a.m.-9:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 3, at the Family Pool. Class is for children ages 6 mos.-3 yrs. Come enjoy an American Red Cross parent/child swim lesson and develop a comfort level in and around the water. Participants must be accompanied by an adult in the water. Swim diapers are required for children who are not potty-trained. Cost is FREE! Questions? Contact Cliff at 52848.

The Great Kwaj Swap Meet. 4:30-6:30pm, Saturday, Sept. 3. LOCATION CHANGE: behind the tennis courts. One complimentary table per household, additional table is \$10. Pick-up service provided, please ask for the pick-up when registering. No oversized items please. Call the CA office at 53331 to reserve your table.

The Family Pool will be CLOSED

## Labor Day Fireworks Safety Precautions

**Thursday, August 25:** Diving off of Emon will be off limits due to fireworks barge operations.

**Friday, September 2 until barge is removed** the area inside of November buoy will be closed for all boating and scuba diving for safety reasons related to the fireworks. Please maintain a minimum distance of 860 feet from the water barge at all times.

**Monday, September 5:** All swimmers must exit the water at Emon Beach by **8:15pm** in preparation for the fireworks display.

Monday, Sept. 5 in support of the Labor Day Beach Blast. Please join us at Emon Beach for the fun and festivities!



Safely Speaking: The health hazard pictogram is one of the new OSHA symbols you'll start to see on workplace chemicals. It means it may cause cancer or other serious health problems.

Special Safety Notice: Recognizing Signs and Symptoms of Fatigue. If you find yourself or your coworker showing signs and/or symptoms of fatigue, stop work immediately and notify your supervisor.

E-talk: Exporting Artifacts. It is illegal to export any artifact, cultural property, or archaeological resource from USAG-KA or the RMI. Questions or concerns? Call Archaeology at 5-9502.

## Captain Louis S. Zamperini Dining Facility

\*MENU CURRENT AS OF AUGUST 24

### LUNCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	September 3
Boneless chick. w/ salsa	Short ribs	Fried chicken	Baked meatloaf	Creole macaroni	Sloppy Joes	Chicken parmesan
Nachos	Blackened chicken	Chili cheese dogs	Garlic roast chicken	Jerk chicken	Citrus roast chicken	3 cheese tortellini
Chef's choice	Lyonnise potatoes	Corn bread	Mashed potatoes	Red beans and rice	Roasted potatoes	Vegetarian medley

### DINNER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	September 3
Caprese chicken	Sliced roast beef	Pork adobo	Steak night	Fajitas	Pork curry	Beef ragout
Fettuccine	Fish du jour	Chicken stir-fry	BBQ chicken	Refried beans	Fish du jour	Chicken nuggets
Beef stew	Mashed potatoes	Parslaid potatoes	Scalloped potatoes	Chef's choice	Lumpia	Egg noodles





## Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Contact Information

Capt. David Rice  
SHARP Victim Advocate

Work: 805 355 2139 • Home: 805 355 3565  
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

## COMMANDER'S HOTLINE

HAVE SOMETHING THE USAG-KA  
COMMANDER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

CALL THE COMMANDER'S  
HOTLINE AT 51098 TODAY!

## WEEKLY WEATHER OUTLOOK

RTS WEATHER STATION STAFF

**WEATHER TRENDS:** We've had near normal rainfall. In fact, through Aug. 24, we have had the three expected days, each with over an inch of rain: 1.18 inches on Aug. 1, 2.39 inches on Aug. 10 and 1.16 on Aug. 20. A progression of waves in the easterly winds has diminished. Some of the previous passing waves have gone on to develop into significant tropical cyclone threats west and northwest of the atoll in the triangle from Guam to Wake Island to Japan.

**OUTLOOK:** We expect to see most convection in the next few days establish well south of the atoll, hugging the equator. Our winds should generally remain from northeast to southeast and light to moderate, with fewer doldrum periods until late next week. The Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), which is formed from convergence of northeast and southeast surface winds, is likely to become more active to our east and begin migrating toward Kwajalein by next week. Consequently, periodic convection, heavy showers and occasional lightning threats will ramp up later next week. This should follow only stray and sporadic activity in the next few days through the weekend. With no significant source of west winds at the surface, the probability of tropical cyclone spin-up threats will remain lower in our area. Computer models indicate most of the source of the west winds should remain with the monsoon trough well west and northwest of the Atoll. Our wave-watch models indicate the strong tropical cyclone activity to our west and northwest has generated some significant wave swells from the northwest. Swells are wave energy (momentum) in the water, generated by distant wind storms, that can be completely different from our prevailing local wind directions. Our atoll harbors and shore lines should be on guard for northwest swells that will reach us by about Aug. 30.

## SUN-MOON-TIDES

	SUNRISE SUNSET	MOONRISE MOONSET	HIGH TIDE	LOW TIDE
<b>SUNDAY</b>	6:41 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	2:41 a.m. 3:31 p.m.	1:08 a.m. 3.3' 1:58 p.m. 2.7'	7:55 a.m. 0.5' 7:45 p.m. 0.6'
<b>MONDAY</b>	6:41 a.m. 6:59 p.m.	3:36 a.m. 4:25 p.m.	2:11 a.m. 3.7' 2:48 p.m. 3.1'	8:45 a.m. 0.1' 8:38 p.m. 0.2'
<b>TUESDAY</b>	6:41 a.m. 6:58 p.m.	4:31 a.m. 5:16 p.m.	2:57 a.m. 4.1' 3:25 p.m. 3.5'	9:23 a.m. -0.2' 9:19 p.m. -0.1'
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	6:41 a.m. 6:58 p.m.	5:24 a.m. 6:03 p.m.	3:34 a.m. 4.4' 3:58 p.m. 3.8'	9:55 a.m. -0.5' 9:54 p.m. -0.4'
<b>THURSDAY</b>	6:41 a.m. 6:57 p.m.	6:15 a.m. 6:49 p.m.	4:07 a.m. 4.5' 4:27 p.m. 4.0'	10:24 a.m. -0.7' 10:26 p.m. -0.5'
<b>FRIDAY</b>	6:41 a.m. 6:57 p.m.	7:04 a.m. 7:32 p.m.	4:37 a.m. 4.6' 4:55 p.m. 4.2'	10:52 a.m. -0.7' 10:56 p.m. -0.6'
<b>SEPTEMBER 3</b>	6:40 a.m. 6:56 p.m.	7:51 a.m. 8:14 p.m.	5:06 a.m. 4.5' 5:23 p.m. 4.2'	11:18 a.m. -0.7' 11:25 p.m. -0.5'

## DOES YOUR TO-GO BOX LOOK LIKE THIS?



Patrons are expected to follow the portion control guidelines as written in DI 1019 that authorize the following food items.

2 portions, main entrée  
2 portions, starch  
1 portion, vegetable side  
1 portion, salad  
1 portion, soup

If patrons continue to ignore the guidelines, take-out privileges could be revoked.

## Café Roi

\*MENU CURRENT AS OF AUGUST 24

### LUNCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	September 3
Roast pork loin Baked chicken Egg florentine	Garlic roast beef Chick. w/ bacon Egg muffins	Sloppy Joes Honey mustard chicken Cheesy potatoes	Grilled cheese Pork pimento Egg foo young	Cheese quesadillas Hamburger steak Home fries	Apple glazed chicken Baked fish Succotash	Mushroom swiss burger Roast pork Couscous

### DINNER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	September 3
Southwestern chicken Fish tacos Ranch style beans	Chicken marsala Stuffed peppers Pasta puttanesca	Pork chops Herb roast turkey Mashed potatoes	Grilled steaks Fish florentine Corn on the cob	Fried chicken Meatloaf Mashed potatoes	BLT Night Tuna melts Slider hamburgers	Roast chicken Oxtail stew Green bean casserole



# ZIKA CASES ON RISE AMONG DOD PERSONNEL, DEPENDENTS

## EXTERNAL REPORT

By Cathy Kropp, U.S. Army Environmental Command

**Nearly every state is reporting** cases of the Zika virus; only Idaho, South Dakota, Wyoming and Alaska have not reported it. As of Aug. 10, there are 69 confirmed Zika virus cases in Military Health System beneficiaries, including 52 Service members, nine dependents, and eight retirees. There is one confirmed case in a pregnant

service member.

The majority of cases of Zika in the U.S. have been travel-related. To see a list and map of areas reporting active mosquito transmission of Zika virus, visit the CDC website at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-travel-information>

Between July 29 and Aug. 10, Florida health officials reported 21 Zika cases, including at least four probable cases and one pregnant woman, that were likely acquired through local mosquito

transmission in a one-square mile area of Miami-Dade County, just north of downtown Miami.

Only about one in five people who have Zika show symptoms. You may have Zika and not know it. Even those with symptoms do not usually get sick enough to go to the hospital.

The most common symptoms of Zika are fever, rash, joint pain, and pink eye (conjunctivitis). These symptoms can last several days to a week and are typically mild. See your health care provider if you develop any symptoms or have additional questions.

The best way to protect you and your family from the Zika virus is to avoid mosquito bites. Eliminate mosquito breeding sites such as pots, toys and other containers that can hold water. Use insect repellent when outdoors and use screens to keep mosquitos from coming indoors.

Pregnant women and those who could become pregnant, as well as their partners, should not travel to any area known to have active ongoing Zika transmission. If you have recently traveled to an area active for Zika, you should talk with your health care provider about Zika virus testing.

Zika may cause serious birth defects in babies born to women who were infected with the Zika virus during pregnancy. Men with Zika can spread the virus to their partners during sex. Even if you show no symptoms, use condoms every time you engage in sexual activity. Abstinence is the only way to ensure you do not get sexually transmitted diseases like Zika.

Though Army pest managers are aggressively implementing control measures, the *Aedes aegypti*, which is the mosquito species most capable of spreading Zika, is difficult to control. They tend to live and breed near covered structures and stay near humans, so aerial spraying is not very effective.

The best way to prevent Zika is to #FighttheBite (see attached flyer). Avoid contact with mosquitoes by remaining indoors in air conditioned locations, wear long-sleeved protective clothing, apply effective mosquito repellent, and eliminate/avoid any standing water.

**WANTED**

★ DEAD NOT ALIVE ★

**THE BITE N' BANDITS**

**REWARD**  
SAFE AND HEALTHY  
WORKPLACE

**BLOODBAGS MCSKEETER**  
AEDES AEGYPTI

KNOWN TO TRANSMIT  
★ ZIKA VIRUS ★  
★ WEST NILE ★  
★ YELLOW FEVER ★

**BLOODSUCKER TUCKER**  
AEDES ALBOPICTUS

FEEDS AT DAWN AND DUSK  
SNEAKY BITER - WILL COME INDOORS!

FEEDS DURING THE DAY  
BITES MULTIPLE TIMES - AGGRESSIVE!

★★★★★ **#FIGHTTHEBITE** ★★★★★

**DEFEND**  
MOSQUITOS ARE OUT AT ALL HOURS OF THE DAY  
**AND NIGHT**  
ALWAYS PROTECT YOURSELF!

**DRESS**  
WEAR LIGHT-COLORED, LOOSE-FITTING LONG SLEEVES AND PANTS WHEN YOU GO OUTDOORS.

**DRAIN**  
DRAIN STANDING WATER FROM AROUND YOUR HOME SO MOSQUITOS HAVE NOWHERE TO BREED.

**DEFEAT**  
ALWAYS USE A PERSONAL REPELLANT CONTAINING: ★ DEET ★ 15-35 ★ PICARIDIN ★  
ALWAYS FOLLOW THE LABEL INSTRUCTIONS!

★ KEEP POOLS CHLORINATED ★ DRILL HOLES IN TRASHCANS AND RECYCLING BINS ★ FIX LEAKY FAUCETS ★

**WATCH OUT FOR POPULAR BREEDING GROUNDS**

CHILDREN'S TOYS ★ CHILDREN'S WADING POOLS ★ FLOWER POTS ★ BIRD BATHS ★ PET DISHES  
RAIN GUTTERS ★ GUTTER DOWNSPOUT TUBE ★ CAVITIES IN TREES ★ OLD TIRES ★ TRASHCANS

A public service announcement from the U.S. Army Environmental Command. <http://www.aec.army.mil>