

# THE KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS



## **THIS WEEK**

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### **PALLET TREE CONTEST**

ARTISTS WIN BIG MONEY - P 6

The Kwajalein Jr./High School Concert Band, under the direction of Kyle Miller, performs onstage at the Dayve Davis MP Room during the Dec. 8 Holiday Band Concert.

📷 Jessica Dambruch

# HOW MILLER MAKES THE MUSIC

BY JESSICA DAMBRUCH

**C**onducting wand poised in the hushed air of the Multipurpose Room, Band Director Kyle Miller surveyed the student musicians onstage during holiday concerts Dec. 6 and 8. He saw seasoned upperclassmen, novice clarinetists and eager young brass players.

The bands watched for their cue, waited and breathed, as one.

"When you pick up an instrument you have to tell yourself to breathe in a specific way," said Miller in an interview with the Hourglass, Dec. 10. "Breathing, breathing in enough and controlling it on the way out is really im-

portant."

Kyle Miller studied music at the University of Minnesota. Though he began as an engineering major, he picked up a saxophone and never looked back. The music department was too rewarding, he said. Today, Miller helps Kwaj kids learn to appreciate and produce music. He adds new dimensions to the school programs that thrived under the direction of former director Dick Shields.

"Every adult that I talk to, that has kids that are about to start the program will say 'I was in band all through school. I had a blast. I want my kids to do that,'" Miller said. "Or they'll say, 'I started

band, and then I quit later on, and I really wish I would have stayed in."

Under Miller's leadership, the bands have grown in resonance and number. In a few years, his recruiting efforts at the elementary school will give him the diverse instrumentation he needs to introduce new compositions to the repertory. He will have a strong low brass line and a concert ensemble of 50. He hopes his students will always keep music with them.

"Nobody ever tells me, 'I tried band and I quit, and I didn't like it,'" Miller said. "Nobody ever says that. They either have had a great experience, or they wish they had had more."

The only trick to music training is to continue; the future holds possibilities for musicians who stick by their horn. There's the blazing summer brass of Drum Corps International, local and professional ensembles and the videogame orches-

tras at MAGFest—not to mention just playing for fun. Band training also helps secure scholarships to colleges and universities. Miller helps students realize that these potential futures can come about as result of putting in dedicated practice now.

The impact of local music education is not reserved for the classroom. Not long ago, students from Majuro's Assumption High School performed with the Kwajalein band program as an honor band performance opportunity. Kwaj ensembles also fulfill a civic obligation each year for the Veterans Day, Memorial Day and Tree Lighting events on Kwaj and the Liberation Day event on Ebeye.

The local startup cost to play is the price of a student-grade instrument and supplies. After an introduction to band in fourth grade, fifth graders attend weekly sectional practice and full band rehearsals. Upon entering junior and senior high school,

U.S. Army Photos by Jessica Dambruch



**LEFT:** The Fifth Grade Band demonstrates its musical skills during the holiday concert on Dec. 8. **RIGHT:** Diamond Calep prepares to play "Fantasy on Coventry Carol," as arranged by Jerry Brubaker.

## 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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**Garrison Commander.....Col. Michael Larsen**  
**Garrison CSM.....Sgt. Maj. Angela Rawlings**  
**Public Affairs Officer.....Nikki L. Maxwell**  
**Managing Editor ..... Jordan Vinson**  
**Associate Editor ..... Jessica Dambruch**  
**Media Services Intern.....Colleen Furgeson**

musicians have one scheduled rehearsal each school day.

"That's a huge thing for a sixth grader to have band every day," emphasized Miller. "The growth in seventh grade here, is as much, or more, as what they did in the last two years."

And you don't have to start in fifth grade, added Miller. Novice students are also welcome to join the band program.

"Music is for everybody. Anybody who wants to participate, we can find a place for," he said.

He works with novices individually and recommends 20 minutes of practice per day, like homework, for beginners. After that, musicians learn to own preparation time outside of rehearsal before the big concerts.

Proud parents watched the entire fifth and sixth grade elementary school class perform Dec. 6. Two nights later, the Multipurpose Room was packed for performances by the Stage Band, Junior Band and Concert Band as they performed Christmas classics and popular compositions like "Fantasy on Coventry Carol" and Anderson's "Sleigh Ride."

Miller stressed that music is a valuable skill. He wants to bust up the boundary between the perceived return of other activities, such as sports, versus fine arts training.

"I'd like to dispel that old myth," he said. "Kids don't

have to choose between sports and music. Both things give value to kids in different ways."

When musicians train, they are also learning a foreign language they will speak for the rest of their lives, Miller said.

"You're learning the staff lines, the symbols—not only to determine what notes to play but how to play them—and interpreting what you see on the page through the brain and out through the body," said Miller. "It is a pretty complicated process."

Dick Shields, the former band director, looks back fondly on his experience and agrees with Miller.

"I really think the rigor of music study helps to nurture the complete individual," said Shields. "It was also great fun, which is also very important for young people."

Sometimes that fun starts as bravery. Lately, the high school concert band progressed through works by modern composers Frank Ticheli and David Holsinger, both of whom are writers who lean on heavy brass to power their scores. Thanks to some gutsy high school musicians, Miller employed French horns and bass clarinets this year.

"And for two clarinet players to switch to a brass instrument like that is not easy," he said. "It's completely differ-



*Trombonist Cameron Jones provides an important voice in the Concert Band brass section.*

ent with the embouchure, the facial muscles, to get a good sound. It's pretty important to have those things covered, and I appreciate having kids that are willing to step up and do that."

When Miller looks into the future of his ensembles, he is excited for the upcoming school year, he said.

"Next year's eighth grade class is going to have four to five low brass players coming into the high school. The sound they put out is really great."

But there are always things that would help, such as any renovation to available practice spaces, like higher ceilings. Miller also wants to partner with musicians at a

distance to open a dialogue for his bands.

"I would really like to have the kids Skype with a composer or with another ensemble somewhere else and exchange ideas and play for each other. Sometimes we forget that these composers are still living and that we can still talk to them."

If you're a musician who has strayed, keep practicing, Miller said. If you're a new musician, stick with the program. On the other side of those hours of practice there are richer sounds and a life-long return.

"I would like these kids to be able to say, 'I was in it all the way through school and loved it,'" Miller said.



*FAR LEFT: Carson Enes, one of four clarinet players in the woodwind section of the Fifth Grade Band, plays for the crowd. LEFT: Kyle Miller directs the Concert Band during their holiday concert Dec. 10.*



# LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT

HOURLASS REPORT

**“Kwajenuity” collided** with holiday spirits to produce glowing results for the Fifth Annual Light up the Night event on Kwajalein. The community met in the High School Multi-Purpose Room Dec. 10 for an evening of festivities and domicile decoration tours. The event was sponsored by Quality of Life in conjunction with Community Activities, National Honor Society, Student Council and Spartan Expresso.

Equipped with goodie bags, kids of all ages traveled from game stations to snack stands while teens, couples and parents queued up at Spartan Expresso for free beverages while they waited their turns to tour the island and vote for the most festive holiday decorations.

During the tour, folks enjoyed a 30-second dramatic rendition of “A Christmas Story,” performed by residents. Rope lights twisted up tree trunks; glowing inflatables fought the breeze of the rainy season; and entryways glimmered with lighted festoons. Laser lights cast dancing glitter on surrounding palm trees.

It was a fierce and merry competition. The winners of the 2016 competition are as follows. First place: the Yurovchak family. Second place: the Premo family. Third place: the Nienow family. \

**Sincerest apologies to the Bailey family, who were inadvertently left off the ballot. The elves’ silhouette workshop was original and delightful.**

📷 U.S. Army photos by Jessica Dambruch



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** The Premo home glows during the competition; the party continues down the street as young attendees take in the sights on the tour; Bethany Arsenault, right, helps her daughter Reagan consider a future as the smallest reindeer on Santa’s sleigh team; Dorina, Aaron and Oliver Enes sport their Christmas gear; reindeer games are popular pastime for teens and kids at the fifth annual Light up the Night event.

# RUNNERS TAKE ON 26.2 LONG MILES DURING ANNUAL KWAJ MARATHON

COMMUNITY CONNECTION BY BOB SHOLAR

**The Kwajalein Running Club** conducted the 35th Annual Paupers' Marathon and Relay Dec. 12 and timed it to occur the same time as the famed Honolulu Marathon some 2,200 miles away.

First across the line was Eric England in 3 hours, 57 minutes, 34 seconds. For the ladies, it was Christi Cardillo at 5 hours, 19 minutes, 22 seconds. This was Cardillo's sixth completion of the Paupers' Marathon; it was England's second.

Seven runners signed up to attempt the whole Paupers' Marathon, and they all finished. Notably, two members who had signed up on teams developed overnight enthusiasm and ended up running the whole 26.2 miles, bringing the finisher count to nine. Hats off to David Casbarra and Ted Shultz for taking the plunge. All nine were awarded finisher T-shirts and KRC Paupers' Marathon finisher medals.

Not listed among the finishers, Patrick Edwards deserves an honorable mention, as he ended up running an unorthodox half marathon-plus. Recruited to anchor a team, he arrived mid-event, expecting to run anchor but found his teammates had all decided overnight to start at 3 a.m. and were all still out on the course. Edwards entered the course loop backwards, found them in various places and graciously ran with them as moral support for a total of more than 3.5 hours.

## Full Marathon Finishers:

1. Eric England—3:57:34
2. Christi Cardillo—5:19:22
3. David Casbarra—5:29:05 (1st Marathon ever)
4. Holly Maness—5:51:22
5. Ted Shultz—5:51:22
6. Christina Barnes—6:58:00 (1st Marathon ever)
7. Laura Lawson—6:58:00 (1st Marathon ever)
8. Mereille Bishop—7:39:05
9. Lynn Leines—7:39:05

## Half Marathoner Finishers:

1. Holly Botes—2:11:24
2. Steve Beggs—2:33:35

## Teams:

1. Liam Beguhn, Dominic Leines, Ryan Hess, Zach Hill and Julia Sholar—3:52:37
2. Shana Darrah, Dan Laverty, and Gina Hinton—4:13:07.



Pauper's Marathon runners Holly Maness, left, Ted Shultz, middle, and Patrick Edwards approach the finish line Monday, Dec. 12. It was Shultz' first attempt at tackling a full 26.2-miler.



Courtesy of Linn Ezell and Christi Cardillo



LEFT: Dave Casbarra sports his Pauper's Marathon medal after completing his first marathon, Monday, Dec. 12. RIGHT: Julia Sholar and Liam Beguhn tag during a transition stage in the Pauper's team division.

# O PALLET TREE O PALLET TREE

## HOURLASS REPORT

**No two holiday trees** are alike.

When Quality of Life funded resources for a special do-it-yourself community arts project to help adorn the streets of Kwajalein and Roi-Namur with Christmas cheer, it was the beginning of a very creative holiday season.

The secret ingredient? Wooden ship-

ping pallets, cut into the form of Christmas trees to be decorated by families, individuals and teams, strategically planted around the island. The goal? To win the popular online vote for cash prize money.

During the open construction period, Kwaj has witnessed the creation of trees of every possible persuasion: traditional tinsel trees, trees made of debris found

along the shorelines, trees engineered to rotate via the power of the wind and trees bearing slogans, movie characters and blinking Christmas lights.

And the votes are in! Congratulations to the following winners of the 2016 Pallet Holiday Tree Decorating Contest.

**Heads up:** the results from the Roi-Namur contest will be posted after voting concludes this weekend!



**Solo Division, first place**  
Tracy McConnell



**Solo Division, second place**  
Phaylina Tagans



**Solo Division, third place**  
Evelyn Smith



**Group Division, first place**  
Information Services Mission Support Dept.



**Group Division, second place**  
Holly Maness and John Osterson



**Group Division, third place**  
Teigen Family

# KWAJALEIN SCUBA CLUB CELEBRATES STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



U.S. Army photo by Jessica Dambruch

**LEFT TO RIGHT:** Jimmy Severson, Sharon Rice, David Rice, Michael Lowry, Dan Tibbles, Alex Divinsky and Ken Cleland celebrate the culmination of their dive instructor certification testing together at the Kwajalein Yacht Club during a ceremony Dec. 12.

## HOURLASS REPORT

**Kwajalein dive professionals**, old and new, gathered Dec. 12 as the Kwajalein Scuba Club celebrated the achievements of seven new PADI certified instructors at the Kwajalein Yacht Club.

The occasion marks only the third time within 40 years that Professional Association of Diving Instructors leadership has ventured to Kwajalein to conduct the rigorous instructor's examination.

"For all of involved, this was a monumental and life changing series of events," said Michael Hayes, the presi-

dent of the Kwajalein Scuba Club.

The students went through four months of rigorous development and training, culminating in a 10-day instructor's development course, taught by visiting PADI Course Director Bob Ross. The IDC tested and assessed the instructor candidate's ability to conduct all PADI core courses.

The students are now able to organize and present information, conduct skill development sessions and control open water dives.

"Basically, they get really good at demonstrating skills while watching out for

student diver safety," said Hayes.

After completing the IDC, the PADI Regional Manager, Michael Janssen, conducted an instructor's examination. The exam is a two-day evaluative program that tests an instructor candidate's teaching ability, dive theory knowledge, skill level, understanding of the PADI System and attitude and professionalism. At the conclusion of the examination, the students earned the credential of PADI dive instructor.

Though the the testing process was long and arduous, many graduates said they cannot wait to return to the water.



**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.



Courtesy of Sam Engelhard



Dressed in what look like red Gumby suits, Marine Department staff go through an open water emergency training exercise last month at the Adult Pool on Kwaj. Time with emergency exposure suits (pictured, at left), personal flotation devices and large life rafts (at right) gave the crew hands-on experience in deploying emergency countermeasures in threatening maritime environments.



Courtesy of Kim Yarnes



U.S. Army photo by Jessica Dambruch

LEFT: Zackios Kuli is all smiles during a holiday "reindeer game" at the Community Activities Christmas party Dec. 9. RIGHT: The friendly competition in the gingerbread house contest in the ARC Dec. 3 brought out the culinary creativity of Kwaj residents; a snazzy Kwaj-style sandcastle won first prize; a dome gingerbread house, complete with Kwaj-condition bikes and pallet tree; a traditionally styled gingerbread cottage and resident snowman.



U.S. Army photo by Jessica Dambruch



Courtesy of Kim Yarnes

LEFT: Cliff Pryor, left, and Michael Hayes attend the KSC instructor course completion ceremony at the Yacht Club, Dec. 12. RIGHT: Richey Kilinek, Peter Aron and Harold Butuna pose for a photo during the CA holiday party Dec. 9 at the ARC.



# HERO OF THE WEEK

BY CARI DELLINGER



**USAG-KA's Hero of the Week** is Kwajalein Fire Department's Assistant Fire Chief Carmel Shearer. Assigned to the training division of Kwajalein's Fire and Emergency Services, Shearer is instrumental in ensuring her team is physically fit and trained to handle any emergency situation on island. She also teaches first aid and lifesaving skills to different community groups and assists firefighters with required and career advancement courses. Shearer is passionate about her job, and her personality can best be described as motivating.

In addition to teaching CPR and first aid classes, Shearer enjoys educating the community. She's got her hand in everything from KFD's Fire Prevention Week and 4H Club events, to babysitting classes and fire station tours.

"We get some positive feedback, and folks seem to enjoy the classes," says

Shearer. "And I totally enjoy the interoperability between departments—hospital with mass casualty training, airfield and Berry Aviation with the quarterly aircraft drills, and Community Activities with water safety classes. Motivating and mentoring is contagious, and I like to pass it on."

Originally from Pennsylvania, Shearer came to Kwajalein in 2013, after retiring from the Kennedy Space Center, where she worked as a return-to-flight astronaut rescue team member. Shearer is a sports enthusiast who enjoys scuba diving, snorkeling, fishing and golf in her free time. She's proud to note her golf handicap has dropped from 54, when she first started at Holmberg Fairways, to 22 today.

Shearer resides on Kwaj with "Trek", her beloved and very active Irish water spaniel.



**Carmel Shearer**

U.S. Army Photo by Cari Dellinger

# THUMBS UP!

**THUMBS UP** to the Kwajalein Post Office staff. They're the folks who connect us with all the goodies we need year-round. But during this time of year, they turn the intensity up to 11. It's no easy feat processing multiple semi-trailers of mail each week. Give these guys and the rest of the staff (not pictured) a pat on the back.





# THIS WEEK IN KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS HISTORY

## CHRISTMAS IN RMI OFFERS UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

By the Rev. Elden Buck, as told to Pat Cataldo

*This column, which details the history of Christmas traditions in the Marshall Islands, originally ran in December 2003. Americans who observe a Marshallese Christmas celebration gather memories to last a lifetime. It is an occasion of excitement and gaiety, of surprises and delights, and of generous—even lavish—gift-giving, in which the whole community enthusiastically participates.*

*The Rev. Elden Buck, who shared his knowledge of Marshallese customs in this reprinted article, was the Protestant chaplain at Kwajalein from 1968 until 1981. Before that, he and his wife, Alice, served as missionary advisers on Ebeye for five years and on Kosrae for four years.*

### Part I

Preparation for Christmas in the Republic of the Marshall Islands begins in October, when singing groups, called *jebta* (chapters, in Marshallese; alternate spelling: *jepta*), are called together. These groups are mostly gathered around the landowner on whose land they live, although on Ebeye there are also island chapters, made up of people from Ailinglaplap, Jaluit or Kapinmeto — the western and northern islands of Lae, Ujae, Bikini, Wothe, Rongelap, Eniwetok and Ujelang. Kapinmeto means “those at the edge of the sea.”

Everyone is involved in the singing groups, with old people and small children included in the same *jebta*. On Ebeye, the groups may have as many as 40 or 50 members.

By the time of the first rehearsal, songs will have been selected by the *iroij* (chief), *alap* (landowner) or appointed director. Some of the songs are new and original each year; some have new words for old tunes. 20 or 30 years ago, all the songs were new every Christmas, and there were no traditional Marshallese Christmas songs.

Americans would have a hard time recognizing written Marshallese music. There is no clef, no staff — in fact, there are no notes. Instead, the four-part harmony is written in a number system: Do=1 and 8, Re=2, Mi=3, and so on. The singers sight-read.

All through November and December, the *jebta* rehearse almost every evening, meeting from about 9 p.m. until as late as 2 or 3 a.m., at any available location.

Rehearsals don't much resemble an American choir practice. It is common to see some members sleeping, others conversing, and children playing noisily, while some people study the numbers and others learn from the better sight-readers. The cacophony doesn't seem to disturb the director or those concentrating on the music.

Selection of the songs is carried on in great secrecy, but rehearsals are not. In fact, there is exciting competition, and it is considered special fun when two groups can hear each other while rehearsing. Each group is eager to have the best songs, and the more verses, the better. Often one *jebta* learns 10 songs.

Early in the rehearsal schedule, the *jebta* appoints a committee to decide upon and purchase material for uniforms, dresses and shirts, all made of the same fabric. Often, a *jebta* will have three or four uniforms.

### Part II

Each *jebta* decides early—usually in October—upon a theme for



*Jepta performance Dec. 25, 2013 on Ebeye.*

its presentation in church on Christmas Day. The themes frequently seem to have little to do with Christmas. In fact, they may be on a subject such as firing a missile. And yet, they are always ingeniously brought around to a spiritual Yuletide application.

Scripture verses are often repeated in unison, and verses of scripture and prayers are included in each chapter's presentation.

A member is assigned to oversee the building of props to carry out the theme. The props can be elaborate and inventive, with moving parts, break-aways, small explosive devices and many surprises for the audience. For example, a group might bring in a large cross, march around it singing, and, at a given signal, pull a wire that causes the cross to split into halves, from which a Christmas tree rises to the ceiling.

While all of the plans and props are being made, another committee decides what gifts the chapter will bring to the church and collects money for the cash gift. On Ebeye, it isn't unusual for a chapter's cash gift to the church to reach \$800 or \$1,000, in addition to cases of soda, 100-pound bags of flour, 10-pound sacks of sugar and rice, cases of soya or laundry soap, bolts of material and island handicraft. The group also decides what small presents they will throw to the audience during their performance.

On the outer islands, chapters give gifts centered around food.

During the Sundays of Advent, chapters sing following morning worship service, as a hint of what they will perform on Christmas Day. On Ebeye, one chapter or *weto* (section of property) is chosen each Sunday in December to sing at the church. On its Sunday, the group cleans up, decorates, and prepares food for after the service. This is also the day the group's gift to the pastor is presented.


Sometime during the two weeks before Christmas, each group dresses in its uniforms and goes out, seldom before midnight, to sing and present gifts to the *iroij*, pastor, missionary and other village or island dignitaries.

One Sunday—usually the last Sunday before Christmas—is designated “singing Sunday,” and all or most of the groups sing at church. It is a sort of dress rehearsal for the main performance on Christmas. But the big surprises in the presentations will be kept secret until Christmas Day. The groups have a uniform for “singing Sunday” and another for Christmas.



*Jebta performance Dec. 25, 2015 on Ebeye.*



 Courtesy of Jordan Vinson

On Christmas Eve, the pastor and one or two church elders are expected to visit each chapter, to sample the whole program, make suggestions as to propriety and see that the dances are not too lively.

At this time, the chapters draw straws for order of appearance. No chapter wants to be first—in fact, the later, the better.

After this final rehearsal, the chapters march around the island singing. On outer islands, this is done on foot by lantern light. On Ebeye, it is often done from the backs of trucks.

### **Part III**

On Christmas Day, the celebration begins after all the jebta have gathered at the church to hear the Christmas story read from the scripture and to offer their special thanks in prayer and worship. The celebration goes on until all the chapters have performed. On Ebeye, this can mean a 12-14-hour observance, or even a second day.

Each jebta leader begins by bringing into the church his group's gifts of food and supplies and the props for its presentation. The jebta, gathered out of sight at some distance, begins singing its marching song and slowly approaches the church. This procession is actually a sort of dance, including intricate over-under and serpentine patterns. The leader, and sometimes the whole group, waves a flag or scarf, and all singing is done at the greatest volume.

The entrance march ends with the group in singing position—sometimes facing the audience, but more often facing the pulpit—and the presentation begins.

Between songs, there are speeches by the iroij (chief), the alap (landowner) and any other dignitary accompanying the group. Each jebta has some member of an iroij family as its sponsor.

The climax comes when the theme is explained, and the props are put into action. One year, a chapter chose "Paul's Shipwreck" as its theme. They built a 25-foot float shaped like a ship and pulled it to the church. There the float fell apart on purpose, spilling gifts to all onlookers.

Should a prop not work or a jebta make an obvious mistake in harmony or words (all singing is done from memory), there is much laughter, clapping and friendly name-calling from the audience.

As the props are being activated, the first of the money gifts will become obvious. There is no giving in secret. The group

begins its "giving song" and marches past the altar, piling on cash. They don't go around just once, but again and again, each time placing more money. For this reason, small change is at a premium on Ebeye at Christmas time. An individual's gift might be \$10, but he will want it broken into small denominations, so he can give again and again.

During this same time, the singers throw gifts to the audience, including bars of soap, boxes of matches, gum, thread, candy, pieces of material, rolls of pandanus and so forth, while the women lavishly spray cologne and perfume over on-lookers. Gifts are seldom thrown to anyone in particular, although it is not unusual for a woman to be wearing several dresses and remove the top one to give to a friend or leader.

A chapter deliberately works toward hypnotic excitement in the giving song and march, increasing its singing volume while clowning outrageously. The greater this excitement, the more likely it is that members of the audience will jump up, join the circle, and add more cash to that of the performing group.

At the close of the day, the pastor leads a brief worship service. The altar area is jammed to the ceiling with food. It remains there for several days until leaders gather to divide it—a process that can also take several days.

The pastor and church leaders divide the money among themselves, the iroij and school teachers, traditionally returning some of the food to the chapter.

### **After Christmas**

Midnight of the 25th does not signal the end of Christmas for the Marshallese. The chapters continue meeting, often until the middle of January, to sing and visit those village leaders they missed before Christmas—and especially to make plans for the great feast and party each chapter holds.

Almost always, these parties include a gift exchange, for which names are drawn. No \$10 limit here—very expensive presents are given. For example, a man or boy might receive three shirts, two pairs of pants, a pair of shoes, a new razor, several writing tablets, a box of laundry soap, a bag of sugar and a \$20 bill.

With the jebta parties, the long holiday season ends. Christmas in the Marshall Islands is a thanksgiving festival, celebrated joyously to commemorate the coming of Christ.

# NEW SMDC DEPUTY COMMANDER APPROVED

EXTERNAL REPORT

SMDC/ARSTRAT Press Release

**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Alabama**—The Secretary of the Army has approved James B. Johnson Jr. as the new deputy to the commander U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

Johnson, who has been the acting deputy to the commander since September, will be the command's most senior civilian, providing leadership for the Army's space and missile defense programs, acquisition, personnel and resource management.

Johnson served as the director of the USASMDC/ARSTRAT Future Warfare Center since April 2015. In this position, he outlined general program policy to support the Future Warfare Center's primary roles in bringing space and missile defense capabilities and concepts to the Warfighter. Included in the Future Warfare Center are the Capabilities De-

velopment and Integration Directorate, the Training and Doctrine Command Capability Managers for Space and Missile Defense, and the Directorate for Training and Doctrine.

From May 24, 2010, to March 2015, Johnson served as director of the U.S. Army Test, Measurement, and Diagnostic Equipment Activity. From July 15, 2008 to May 2010, he served as director of the Developmental Test Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

On Jan. 7, 2007, Johnson was appointed to the Senior Executive Service. His prior assignments include director of the U.S. Army Redstone Technical Test Center (RTTC), Developmental Test Command, as well as multiple assignments in the Missile Defense Agency, Ground-Based Midcourse Defense Joint Program Office in Huntsville, Alabama; director of Test Operations; deputy product manager of the Test, Training and Exercise Capability Product Office; and chief of the Test Products Division in TTEC.



James B. Johnson Jr.

U.S. Army photo

# CHANGING MILITARY FAMILIES REQUIRE MORE FLEXIBLE SUPPORT, ARMY SECRETARY SAYS

EXTERNAL REPORT

By C. Todd Lopez, Army News Service

**WASHINGTON**—Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning believes the Army needs to change how it provides support to Soldiers and their families.

Speaking at the Brookings Institute in Washington, D.C. Thursday before representatives and members of the Blue Star Families, an organization founded in 2009 that performs one of the largest surveys of military families and directs them to sources of support, Fanning noted the number of military families with stay-at-home spouses is shrinking.

"The Army needs to recognize that more military spouses are working now," Fanning said. "We must adjust to a reality where it's no longer expected that married Soldiers will have a stay-at-home spouse who takes care of the family and homestead and does volunteer work on the side."

The Army must invest more in programs that support families, Fanning said, in recognition that a growing number of military spouses will want to pursue their own career paths, in-



U.S. Army photo

*Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning delivers opening remarks to representatives and members of the Blue Star Families at Brookings in Washington, D.C., Dec. 8, 2016. The discussion was to mark the release of the 2016 Blue Star Families annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey, one of the most critical tools to understanding the issues facing service members, veterans, and military family members.*

dependent of their serving partners. Additionally, in order to remain a competitive career option, the Army must be able to attract men and women who have career-oriented spouses.

Fewer Americans will choose to join the Army if progressing in their careers requires having an "infinitely flexible, stay-at-home-spouse."

"We need to work on employment opportunities for spouses that aren't in the military," Fanning said. "And we need to do more to make career paths for dual-

military families workable. All too often, it works for a little while, and then one of the two has to make a decision to get out to support the other one. We need to make daycare more available."

Fanning suggested that it might also be time to rethink career paths in the military to offer more support for families. For instance, it might be possible, he said, for the Army to extend the number of years it takes for Soldiers to chart

See **FAMILIES**, page 13

# UNACCOMPANIED PERSONNEL

THIS PARTY'S FOR YOU!

DON'T SPEND CHRISTMAS DAY ALONE - COME OVER AND JOIN THE FUN!

## 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL "STRAY-DOG" CHRISTMAS PARTY

SPONSORED BY "BUCKMINSTER & FRIENDS"

SUNDAY DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> AT THE ARC  
4:00 – 9:00 pm

CHRISTMAS MOVIES! ~ HOME-MADE SNACKS!  
GRAB-BAG GIFTS! ~ DOOR PRIZES!

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS & MAKE NEW FRIENDS!  
START A POOL GAME OR SHOW OFF YOUR PING-PONG PROWESS.

### DO YOU PLAY AN INSTRUMENT?

BRING IT TO THE ARC FOR THE MUSIC JAM THAT EVENING

COFFEE, WATER, AND SODAS WILL BE AVAILABLE  
BUT FOR SOMETHING MORE "ADULT" IT'S B.Y.O.B.



QUESTIONS? WANT TO HELP? CONTACT SABRINA AT 5-4498  
(LEAVE A MESSAGE, BUT IF A RABBIT ANSWERS - HANG UP)

## DIVE SAFETY TIPS!

Always dive with a buddy.  
Never dive alone.

Wait at least 12 hours before  
flying after doing a single dive.

Wait 18-24 hours after doing  
multiple dives.

Divers Alert Network (DAN)  
recommends refraining from  
strenuous work at least 24 hours  
before AND after diving.

Keep your gear up-to-date  
and serviced regularly. DAN  
recommends that regulators  
get overhauled at least once  
a year.

Each diver should have their  
own computer.

On any given dive, both div-  
ers in the buddy pair should  
follow the most conservative  
computer.

Do not ascend greater than 60  
feet per minute.

Even if not required, always  
make a safety stop at 15 feet  
for at least 3 minutes.

Start the dive day with the  
deepest dive first.

Avoid making multiple deep  
dives on the same day.

### FAMILIES, from page 12

a successful career.

"We have these pole years, and you have to hit a year every single year," he noted. "In fact, in many of the services to really excel you have to hit that year early. There is no reason we can't, for example, stretch things out a little bit more to give people more time ... for developmental opportunities and to make decisions for their family that doesn't take them off the track to get them to general officer."

Fostering such stability in family life would go a long way toward helping Soldiers cope with deployments and the stress of being separated from family for extended periods, he said.

#### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SHIFT

The Army must also continue to ad-

vance its approach to behavioral health, Fanning said. Currently, behavioral health assistance must be initiated by Soldiers, meaning the burden is on the Soldier to proactively seek help after a deployment.

That behavioral health paradigm needs to change, Fanning said.

"We should expect, [and] you should expect you're going to need it," he said. "So you're going to have to go through it when you come back."

Special Operations Command has already implemented successful measures to provide behavioral health services to all its Soldiers immediately upon returning from deployment.

Fanning said these efforts are worth replicating elsewhere. "We need to move it across the force as a whole," he said.

## HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY



# WEEKLY WEATHER OUTLOOK

RTS WEATHER STATION STAFF

**WEATHER TRENDS:** The headlines coming into this weekend are the winds and sea state. Surface wind speeds are averaging 20 knots with significant wave heights around 7 feet. We are expecting the surface wind speeds to increase to 25 knots sustained Friday and Saturday then fall back to around 20 knots through next week. Ocean wave models increase significant wave heights to 12 feet by Saturday. The end of the week high winds coincide with king tides. Sea surface levels are already 5 inches above normal due to a weak La Niña. Given a combination of these conditions, wave run-up models for the ocean-facing shorelines are predicting sea level heights of 8.7 feet above mean lower-low water for northeasterly facing reefs on Kwajalein Atoll. For reference, the shore level is generally around 9.8 ft the mean lower-low water point.

We were surprised by nearly a 3 inches rainfall on the Dec. 11. This rainfall brought our totals for the month to average levels. Going into next week, the Intertropical Convergence Zone remains the only forcing mechanism for significant rain. The ITCZ will be situated across the mid-RMI region, but close enough to Kwajalein were periods of shower activity will exist next week. We continue to believe rainfall will remain near monthly averages.

**IMPACT:** Inundation events of low lying coastal areas in the Ratak chain (Majuro) are likely. The Ralik chain (Kwajalein), being leeward of the Ratak, benefits from wave height attenuation. With similar forecasted conditions, Kwajalein atoll has experienced damage in the past to the causeway linking Ebeye and Gugueegue. However, the conditions being forecasted have also typically resulted in no reported problems. For Kwajalein and Roi-Namur island assets, we are expecting a marginal risk of one-to-two hours of inconvenience flooding either side of peak tides. We are **NOT** expecting destructive inundation events, such as those which occurred in December 2008 on Roi-Namur.

We will be issuing a High Surf Advisory statement to the public on our TV Roller. If anything changes, we will issue updates as necessary. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our duty forecast by phone at 53347 or by email.



## COMMANDER'S HOTLINE

HAVE SOMETHING THE USAG-KA COMMANDER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

CALL THE COMMANDER'S HOTLINE AT 51098 TODAY!



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

## SUN-MOON-TIDES

|                    | SUNRISE<br>SUNSET      | MOONRISE<br>MOONSET      | HIGH TIDE                          | LOW TIDE                            |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>SUNDAY</b>      | 6:57 a.m.<br>6:34 p.m. | 10:44 p.m.<br>10:34 a.m. | 6:56 a.m. 3.3'<br>7:07 p.m. 4.2'   | 12:56 a.m. -0.4'<br>12:45 p.m. 0.1' |
| <b>MONDAY</b>      | 6:58 a.m.<br>6:35 p.m. | 11:36 p.m.<br>11:22 a.m. | 7:40 a.m. 3.0'<br>7:49 p.m. 3.7'   | 1:39 a.m. 0.0'<br>1:28 p.m. 0.5'    |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>     | 6:58 a.m.<br>6:35 p.m. | -----<br>12:07 p.m.      | 8:32 a.m. 2.8'<br>8:37 p.m. 3.2'   | 2:24 a.m. 0.4'<br>2:18 p.m. 0.9'    |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b>   | 6:59 a.m.<br>6:36 p.m. | 12:24 a.m.<br>12:50 p.m. | 9:41 a.m. 2.6'<br>9:42 p.m. 2.8'   | 3:19 a.m. 0.7'<br>3:29 p.m. 1.3'    |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>    | 6:59 a.m.<br>6:36 p.m. | 1:11 a.m.<br>1:31 p.m.   | 11:13 a.m. 2.6'<br>11:15 p.m. 2.5' | 4:30 a.m. 0.9'<br>5:17 p.m. 1.4'    |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>      | 7:00 a.m.<br>6:37 p.m. | 1:56 a.m.<br>2:11 p.m.   | 12:38 p.m. 2.8'<br>-----           | 5:52 a.m. 0.9'<br>6:56 p.m. 1.2'    |
| <b>DECEMBER 24</b> | 7:00 a.m.<br>6:37 p.m. | 2:42 a.m.<br>2:52 p.m.   | 12:45 a.m. 2.5'<br>1:36 p.m. 3.1'  | 6:58 a.m. 0.8'<br>7:58 p.m. 0.9'    |

### Captain Louis S. Zamperini Dining Facility

\*MENU CURRENT AS OF DEC. 14

#### LUNCH

| Sunday           | Monday            | Tuesday           | Wednesday            | Thursday          | Friday              | December 24         |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Chicken w/ salsa | BBQ pork ribs     | Lasagna           | Meatloaf             | Sicilian hoagie   | Fish du jour        | Chicken adobo       |
| Spinach quiche   | Blackened chicken | Vegetarian Medley | Mashed potatoes      | Jerk chicken      | Super bird sandwich | Lumpia (egg rolls)  |
| Nacho beef       | Lyonnais potatoes | Garlic bread      | Garlic roast chicken | Beef w/ red beans | Onion rings         | Coconut ginger rice |

#### DINNER

| Sunday              | Monday          | Tuesday          | Wednesday          | Thursday      | Friday            | December 24           |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Chicken saltimbocca | Roast beef      | Cantonese pork   | Steak night        | Fajitas       | Sloppy Joe's      | Minute steak w/ gravy |
| Beef stew           | Fish du jour    | Chicken stir-fry | BBQ chicken        | Refried beans | Citrus roast pork | Chicken nuggets       |
| Chef's choice       | Mashed potatoes | Sesame noodles   | Scalloped potatoes | Chef's choice | Roasted potatoes  | Mashed potatoes       |

# 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.

## LOST AND FOUND

One Amazon Fire tablet, 10.5" and one blue personal size cooler. Left Dec. 2 at Emon Beach Pavilion. Please call if found, 5-1725.

## FOR SALE

Osprey, 21-foot catamaran sailboat. \$7,000. Includes 5hp motor, solar power, VHF radio, stereo, shower, mast (new as of May, 2013), all extras (misc supplies and tools). Needs some repairs (starboard center beam and trailer). Call DJ on Roi: 5-6313 daytime, 5-6056 evening.

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

Burger King will re-open for business starting on Saturday, Dec. 17.

Jingle Bell Fun Run. 5:30 p.m., Dec. 17. Emon Beach Main Pavilion. Bring your bells (limited bells and "jingles" also provided) and get jingled up before heading out for an easy 2-mile run through housing.

Scuba Santa Arrives. 6:30 p.m., Dec. 18 at Emon Beach.

On Monday, Dec. 19, the following facilities will experience an eight-hour power outage starting at 8 a.m.: 510 Fiberglass Wetwell; 746 Sewage Lift Station; 1880 Emon Beach Pavilion. That same day, the following facilities will experience a brief power outage while connecting and disconnecting

a temporary generator: 622 Bargain Bazaar/Morgue; 628 Exchange Laundry; 634 Tennis Court; 638 Bank of Marshall Islands.

Marshallse Cultural Society December Meeting. 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 20, at the Marshallse Cultural Center Nominations for officer positions will take place at this meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Kwajalein Atoll International Sportfishing Club (KAISC) monthly meeting. 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 21, at the Pacific Club. All anglers welcome to attend! Questions? Contact Trudy, 55987.

Package Delivery Service. Automotive services is offering a package delivery service at the Post Office now through Dec. 23. A delivery sled and elves will be available during all package window hours of operation. Take your boxes to the van, count them with driver, provide your quarters number and we'll do the rest. Someone must be home to sign for and accept the package delivery.

Kwajalein Yacht Club's monthly meeting is on Friday Dec. 30, 6:30pm at the Yacht Club. Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

ATTENTION COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES VENDORS. Commercial Activities licenses will expire Dec. 31, 2016. If you are a current vendor you should have received a reminder letter and a 2017 application by email. If you would like to become a vendor please contact Community Activities at 5-3331 to receive a 2017 Vendor Application and a letter that explains the process.

Vets Hall New Year's Eve 1st Annual Ball Drop. Ring in the New Year at the Vets Hall and enjoy the Vets Hall's first annual midnight ball drop and champagne toast! Dance the new year in listening to the hits DJ Gus Garcia will be spinning. If you have a request for that special song let Gus know early so he can get it in the lineup. Doors open 7p.m., with music starting at 9 p.m. There will be a shuttle running

all night starting at 7:45 p.m. Bus will stop at Surfway, Oceanview, Country Club, Vets Hall and Space Fence so park your bike and ride safely to and from the celebrations!

2017 Adult Basketball Registration December 27 - January 6. Basketball registration will begin for the 2017 season. Registration fee is \$100 per team. The season will run from January 18 - March 3. A&B Leagues. Team slots are limited, so register fast! Questions? Email or call Derek at 5-1275 or 5-3331.

Want to learn how to dance? Come join us Wednesdays CRC Room 6 and Saturdays at CRC room 1 both times at 7:30-9 p.m. We will be teaching swing, blues, Latin, and everything ballroom. Beginners always welcome. For questions contact Josh H 52423 W 57266.

Pools and Beaches Winter 2016 Hours (Dec. 20 - Jan. 2). Millican Family Pool: 1-6 p.m. Weekdays and Sunday; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday; Closed Thursdays and Christmas Day. Emon Beach: 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Tues. - Sun.; Noon- 4 p.m. Sun. - Mon. (beach not guarded Christmas Day). Adult Pool: Open 24/7 (buddy swim recommended).

Remember this holiday season ... rules for electric safety. Don't overload outlets or extension cords. It could damage the electrical system or even cause a fire. Make sure all electrical cords are tucked away, neat & tidy. Pets might chew on electrical cords, and Santa might trip and fall! Never yank an electrical cord from the wall. Pulling on a cord can damage the appliance, the plug or the outlet.

E-Talk: Did you know, AAFES Exchange offers a 5¢ discount for every AAFES reusable bag used by customers?

Safety Speaking: Holiday Safety Tips. Use only outdoor Christmas lights for exterior displays connected to a ground fault circuit protected (GFCI) receptacle. Examine light strings for

loose bulbs, corrosion or worn wires. Avoid overloading wall sockets and extension cords. Christmas Tree Safety. A 6' tree will use about 1 gal. of water every two days. Check the water level every day. Use only UL approved lights and no more than 3 strands linked together

Have a Fire Safe Holiday Season. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart. Make sure you keep the tree watered. If a dry tree comes into contact with a flame, it can easily catch on fire and spread quickly throughout your home. This video shows the difference between a dry and watered tree: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZk4v1XCnc8>

## RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE



### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

- 10 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 25, at the Community Activities Building

### Protestant/Interdenominational:

- 6:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 24, at the main chapel
- 8:15 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 25, at the small chapel
- 11 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 25, at the main chapel

### Catholic

- 5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 24, at the main chapel
- 9:15 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 25, at the main chapel

## Café Roi

\*MENU CURRENT AS OF DEC. 14

### LUNCH

| Sunday             | Monday        | Tuesday            | Wednesday               | Thursday            | Friday           | December 24       |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Cornish hens       | Hot dogs      | Jamaican patties   | Turkey and cheese sand. | Roast beef sandwich | Salmon cakes     | Kalua pork        |
| Hamburger steak    | Hamburgers    | Dry-rub roast beef | Stir-fry vegetables     | Roasted turkey      | Cuban sandwich   | Fish sandwich     |
| Au gratin potatoes | Pork sandwich | Eggs migas         | Wild rice               | Stuffing            | Potatoes O'Brien | Veggie fried rice |

### DINNER

| Sunday              | Monday          | Tuesday                 | Wednesday           | Thursday        | Friday             | December 24  |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Enchilada casserole | BBQ chicken     | Herb pork loin          | Grilled steak night | Fried chicken   | American pot roast | Hamburgers   |
| Santa fe chicken    | BBQ spare ribs  | Caribbean seafood curry | Huli huli chicken   | Roast pork      | Mac and cheese     | Chili dogs   |
| Borrocho beans      | Corn on the cob | Islander's rice         | Baked potatoes      | Mashed potatoes | Roast chicken      | Beef tamales |



# HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

*The holiday season is in full effect*, and for most of us it's a time that we all look forward to as it means attending parties, relaxing and spending time with the people we love most. It is meant to be a time of joy and celebration. By simply following a few helpful tips you can ensure that your holidays will be safe, merry and bright!

## Home Safety

- Use only outdoor Christmas lights for exterior displays connected to a ground fault circuit protected (GFCI) receptacle.
- Examine light strings for loose bulbs, corrosion or worn wires.
- Avoid overloading wall sockets and extension cords.

## Christmas Tree Safety

- A 6-foot tree will use about one gallon of water every two days. Check the water level every day.
- Use only UL approved lights and no more than three strands linked together.

## Safe Holiday Toys

- Avoid toys that shoot or include parts that fly off.
- Avoid giving toys with small parts to young children.
- Read and follow operating or assembly instructions carefully.
- Look for the letters "ASTM". These letters indicate that the product meets the national safety standards set by the American Society for Testing and Materials.
- Explain and demonstrate the safe operation of a toy.

## Traveling Safety

- If you are traveling abroad for the holidays be prepared for the changing winter conditions, and take extra precautions when driving on icy roads.

## Food Safety

- Wash your hands thoroughly and often: before, during and after food preparation.
- Use a food thermometer to make sure the meat, poultry and fish are cooked to a safe temperature.
- Refrigerate leftovers within two hours.

# USAG-KA SPORTS VOLLEYBALL

## RESULTS LAST WEEK

### DECEMBER 6

|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Posers def. Freshman       | 25-10/25-11       |
| Wildcats def. Ohana Koa    | 22-25/25-17/15-3  |
| Dazed/Confused def. SOTB   | 17-25/25-11/16-14 |
| A Motley Crew def. Sideout | 26-24/25-16       |

### DECEMBER 7

|                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Nation White def. Attackers        | 25-17/25-27/15-7 |
| Serve's Up def. Blacksmiths        | 25-19/25-17      |
| That's What She Set def. Mon Kubok | 25-10/25-15      |
| Spartans I def. Corder Pounder     | 25-14/25-21      |

### DECEMBER 8

|                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Dazed/Confused def. Motley Crew | 25-19/25-16       |
| Wolf Pack def. Sideout          | 25-17/19-25/15-10 |

### DECEMBER 9

|                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Nation White def. Blacksmiths       | 25-20/20-25/15-6 |
| Attackers def. Serve's Up           | 25-14/25-22      |
| Spartans I def. That's What She Set | 25-11/25-15      |
| Sets on the Beach def. Sideout      | 25-17/26-24      |

## A LEAGUE RECORDS

|                     | Win | Loss |
|---------------------|-----|------|
| Spartans I          | 8   | 1    |
| That's What She Set | 7   | 2    |
| Mon Kubok           | 2   | 7    |
| Corder Pounder      | 1   | 8    |

## B LEAGUE RECORDS

|                    | Win | Loss |
|--------------------|-----|------|
| Dazed and Confused | 6   | 2    |
| A Motley Crew      | 6   | 2    |
| Wolf Pack          | 4   | 4    |
| Sets on the Beach  | 2   | 6    |
| Sideout            | 2   | 6    |

## HIGH SCHOOL RECORDS

|           | Win | Loss |
|-----------|-----|------|
| Posers    | 9   | 0    |
| Wildcats  | 5   | 4    |
| Ohana Koa | 4   | 5    |
| Freshmen  | 0   | 9    |

## HIGH SCHOOL RECORDS

|              | Win | Loss |
|--------------|-----|------|
| Nation White | 7   | 2    |
| Serve's Up   | 4   | 5    |
| Attackers    | 6   | 3    |
| Blacksmiths  | 1   | 8    |