

THIS WEEK
CLASS OF 2019 CELEBRATES GRADUATION 2
IN THE SPIRIT WITH ISLAND RELIGIOUS SERVICES 4
USO SHOW ENTERTAINS USAG-KA 6

JESSICA DAMBRUCH
SUCCESS FOR CLASS OF 2019

The Multi-Purpose Room at Kwajalein Jr.-Sr. High School was the scene for the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2019 on June 7. In true Kwaj style, the graduates marched barefoot bearing candles through the darkened room to the stage down a center aisle runner bearing the message “follow your dreams.”

Surrounding them were hundreds of family members and friends, teachers, USAG-KA personnel, and leaders from island organizations.

The students welcomed the loved ones and guests gathered at the ceremony as they set out to embark on their future.

In their welcome address to their loved ones and guests, Student Government Association President Graeson Cossey and Vice President Pania Alfred gave their speeches in Marshallese and English, respectively. They invited everyone to celebrate with them as they set out on their future.

The Valedictorian and Salutatorian, Meghan Day and her brother Garrett Day, gave their address to the students together, and challenged them to strive for what lies ahead with determination.

“Change is a scary thing,” said Garrett. “However, despite any fear of doubt, we will press on. We will push back knowing we have been prepared for what’s ahead by the knowledge given to us by our mentors and the community. And so, we march toward the unknown, toward possibility and success.”

“Everyone you see standing on a pillar of achievement did not build it alone,” added Meghan.

“There are two pieces of advice here. One is to accept help when you need it. Two is, help others when they need it.”

Personnel and members of LOGCAP, Range Generation Next, MIT Lincoln Laboratory, the Yokwe Yuk Women’s Club, JineTipTip Women’s Club, Kwajalein Atoll local government, the Island Memorial Chapel, the Lindsay Davis Kindness Foundation Scholarship, the Kwajalein High School Alumni Club, Kwajalein Scuba Club, Kwajalein Art Guild and the Student Government Association rewarded the graduates with scholarships honoring their ingenuity, vision and scholastic achievement.

In addition to their academic prowess, the class distinguished itself further as a graduating cohort by virtue of their temperament, teamwork and togetherness.

“This class stuck together,” said counselor Masina McCollum following the ceremony. “They were generous and kind and included each other.”

Of the 12 graduates, three are RIKatak students that live on Ebeye.

This was evident in special moments during the ceremony. Together, the female graduates performed a hula, and the class treated the community to a...
slideshow of class photos dating back to their early years in kindergarten. The slideshow included pictures of two students who had already left island that their friends wanted to include.

In a moment of humble thanks, the graduates presented orchid leis to their parents, honored faculty members Barbara Bicanich and Masina McCollum, and parent volunteers Jim and Jennifer Cossey for their patience, guidance and support throughout the years. Meghan Day was right: the students hadn’t achieved their successes alone, but they celebrated and acknowledged the teamwork that had helped them grow up together.

At last the big moment had arrived. U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll Commander Col. James DeOre and Command Sgt. Maj. Kenyatta Gaskins presented the graduates with their official certificates. As they received their diplomas, each graduate placed a lei around DeOre’s neck.

Onstage together, surrounded by colorful floral and tribal stage decorations, the seniors turned their tassels under a banner declaring them the “ohana koa”— their own tribe and Kwaj family. They donned cool, black sunglasses and danced down the aisle, on to the next great adventure.
Here’s the scenario: A chaplain from Texas and a Catholic priest from Fiji walk into a church on Kwajalein.

It sounds like the beginning of a joke, but it’s really the start of a great chapter in Kwajalein’s Island Memorial Chapel history.

Interdenominational Chaplain Brian Conner and Catholic Father Simione Volavola are ready to welcome you to the Island Memorial Chapel. The chaplain team now offers religious services for both congregations on Kwajalein and Roi-Namur and have unique stories to share with their parishioners.

Volavola, a missionary and priest of the order of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart and native of Fiji, is Kwajalein’s Catholic chaplain. He arrived here May 5 and leads the Catholic congregation in weekly Mass. He was drawn to the priesthood as a child after hearing a sermon delivered by a newly ordained Irish missionary priest in his home chapel.

It was the first inkling of a future vocation that would lead Volavola to travel the world.

“He seemed extremely tall—but then, everybody was,” said Volavola of Gerald McNicholas. “I remember desiring to be [a priest] like him—a tall man, but gentle and soft-spoken. He probably reminded me of my dad,” said Volavola. “He was a powerful and inspiring man to me.”

Volavola shared his vocational interest with Father James, a missionary priest from India, who was Volavola’s parish priest when he was a junior in high school. James encouraged him to graduate and try other employment before pursuing the plan. If his interest in the priesthood remained, said James, Volavola should contact him. For a decade, Volavola took jobs in finance and shipping before being ordained as a member of the order of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in the early 1990s—the first group of missionaries that visited the Marshall Islands in the mid-1800s.

This current assignment on Kwajalein is Volavola’s third time working in the Marshall Islands. He served on Ebeye from 2001 to 2005 and speaks fondly of his early experiences preaching even as he struggled to learn Marshallese on Likiep in order to deliver homilies from the pulpit.

“When I first heard Marshallese, there was no other language I could compare it to,” Volavola said. “I was stunned.”

With the help of a schoolteacher and careful study, he was able to learn Marshallese within six months.

“I always thought it was an act of grace,” said Volavola. “If He wants you to reach His people, He’ll help you learn their language.”
Volavola has also served parishes on Fiji, in Nazareth, Pennsylvania and was working in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia before arriving on the garrison. He says working on Kwajalein is still new to him, but he says he enjoys seeing the world and learning about its cultures through his work.

“What I enjoyed the most [about preaching on Ebeye] was being able to immerse myself in their culture and learning and speaking their language,” said Volavola. “That was a joy—being able to communicate with them in their own language and voice. They are very devout on Ebeye. They practice their faith regularly. There is a sense of community. I never felt lonely on Ebeye. I was always surrounded by kind, loving, hospitable, friendly people with a strong sense of volunteerism. They are generous with their time and their talents.”

Volavola wants congregants on Kwajalein to feel welcome wherever they serve their communities, but especially when they visit the chapel.

“I think everybody is at different stages of their faith,” he said. “Everyone has a unique relationship with the Lord. Therefore, it translates differently for everybody, and how they practice that relationship as far as rituals and the sacraments are concerned. … I hope that anyone, regardless of when they visit the church, feels like they are at home, and can find a home within it.”

“There are many different cultures in one little atoll.”

—Father Simione Volavola

Brian Conner served as a medic in the U.S. Army from 1987 until 2005. He then became a chaplain, a position he still holds in the Army Reserves. He has worked in Central and South America, but Kwajalein is the farthest away he’s ever been from his home state of Texas. In additional to serving in the chaplaincy Conner has also owned a private counseling practice and worked in television for 13 years, helping coordinate weekly broadcasting for church services.

“I thought that’s what my ministry was,” said Conner of his broadcasting experience. “I didn’t realize God was moving me into the chaplaincy.”

One calling led to a call: Conner was accepted into the Army Chaplaincy program within a week after applying and received a phone call congratulating him on his candidacy. After that, five years’ schooling began. At the end of his training, Conner emerged credentialed with a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies, a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy with seminary courses, and a Master of Divinity.

During his undergraduate studies, Conner emerged credentialed with a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies, a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy with seminary courses, and a Master of Divinity.

Therapy with seminary courses, and a Master of Divinity.

On Kwajalein, the chaplain draws on his unique skills to meet the needs of the diverse island population. He is here to offer religious assistance to all persons, regardless of their belief or religious affiliation.

“I like to help bring out people’s talents, so I don’t often talk about my own,” said Conner. “I’m the jack of all trades. … When I look back on how God guided my steps to this point, I get it. … I see how I fit here. It’s cool.”

One Sunday per month he also preaches in uniform while he drills with the Reserve program.

“As a chaplain, my job is to aim for center mass as best I can to serve everyone,” said Conner. “I don’t see it as a challenge. I work to help everybody.”

A large part of that challenge is in music. Whereas in the U.S. congregations have their pick of churches, the interdenominational parish includes music with traditional liturgical and modern styling. The musical interests are evenly split.

“There’s the group that prefers singing old hymns and one that prefers contemporary music,” said Conner. “We have more than 40 people at both services. At churches back in the states you’ll find the same thing. As an Army chapel, we have to do both. You might come in and sing out of a hymnal or be reading words projected by a computer. Pick the place where you fit.”

Conner hopes newcomers and long-time residents will check out the chapel and find a good place to fit.

“I’d like them to know it’s user-friendly,” said Conner. “You don’t have to be a perfect Christian to show up here. It’s family. We’re so far from our families back home. What better place to be family than in church? I’m trying to get life groups started—groups of people together to help them live life together on the island. I don’t care who you are or where you’ve been. When you come to this place, you need to feel that you’re loved. This is family, here.”

For more information and a religious services schedule, please contact the Island Memorial Chapel office at 5-3505.
1) Kwajalein audiences enjoy the USO Troupe performance May 29 at Emon Beach.  
2-3) USO Troupe entertainers perform for community members on Kwajalein May 29.  
4) Bob Hope performs on Kwajalein Atoll June 25, 1944 at the Richardson Theater.

USO TRouPE PERFORMS ON KWAJ AND ROI-NAMUR

BY JESSICA OMBRACH

U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation treated residents in communities on Kwajalein and Roi-Namur to back-to-back live, family-friendly performances by the United Services Organization Performance Troupe May 29 and 30, respectively.

The troupe, a quartet of singers, dressed in costumes reminiscent of 1940s-era military uniforms, sang classic rock hits and Americana tunes.

Songs performed included “America the Beautiful,” “R.O.C.K. in the USA,” by Jon Mellencamp, “Don’t Stop Believin’,” by Journey and “Shut Up and Dance with Me,” by Walk the Moon. During the performance, the entertainers sang and danced with children who ran to the front of the stage. A few brave audience members even got the chance to sing along with the entertainers.

The show on Kwajalein was interrupted by a sudden downpour, but that didn’t stop audience members from grabbing their lawn chairs and heading under the main pavilion to weather the remainder of the performance.

Kwajalein Atoll is no stranger to USO visitors. Since the 1940s, USO Show performances for U.S. servicemembers and family members stationed around the globe have included dances, musical performances, comedians and other acts.

On June 25, 1944, comedian and entertainer Bob Hope graced the stage of Kwajalein’s Richardson Theater to perform for troops stationed in the atoll following the liberation of the Marshall Islands. Actor Boris Karloff made at least one visit to the atoll, as well as countless movie starlets and singers.

In recent years, USO performances have diversified their offerings to appeal to the broader tastes of modern audiences.

As musical tastes and deployment zones have shifted, USO shows embraced modern entertainers like Robin Williams and popular country and rock music stars like the Zac Brown Band.

In the first decade of the 2000s, rock and heavy metal bands Drowning Pool, Avenged Sevenfold, Three Doors Down, Disturbed and Five Finger Death Punch performed for troops at bases in the Middle East.

Though musical stylings and performances change, nothing quite beats a song-and-dance spectacle reminiscent of a 1940s road show that harkens back to the roots of the USO. Kwajalein audiences hope it will not be too long before another performance by the troupe graces island stages.
USAG-KA WELCOMES NEW FIRE CHIEF

BY JESSICA DAMBRUCH

Kwajalein Fire Department Chief William Shanholtzer didn’t start the fire, but he’s here to help put it out.

U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll welcomes Fire Chief William Shanholtzer to the island emergency services team.

The chief, a former member of the U.S. Air Force, has served as a firefighter and station chief with the Department of Defense at locations around the globe to include England and Rota, Spain. A well-traveled native of California, he claims Savannah, Georgia as his home.

“I enjoyed the chance to see the world,” said Shanholtzer of his career to date. He says that Kwajalein, while unique, is not unusual when it comes to firefighting.

“Here on Kwaj we are just like any normal fire service around the world,” said Shanholtzer. “We have the fire service guys who jump on the truck and mitigate the problem. We also have our EMS firefighters here. These are the ambulance drivers who assess the patient, and deliver them to medical care at the hospital.”

The KFD also handles structural firefighting, fire alarm inspection, and provide assistance at the Bucholz Army Airfield and Dyess Army Airfield, as well as facilities on outer islands.

“These planes don’t just bring us people,” said Shanholtzer. “They bring us supplies. Our firefighters are pretty diverse in what they protect out here. We are blessed to be in this beautiful area. Our firefighters get to work via helicopter and boat.”

Newcomers will meet Shanholtzer at the island orientation. He invites the community to visit the fire station on occasions beyond the annual October Fire Safety Prevention Month activities sponsored by KFD.

The chief encourages children and families to ask if they have questions about firefighting and safety and hopes departments on island will take advantage of the free tours and fire extinguisher safety training offered by KFD.

Six weeks into his tour, Shanholtzer enjoys the island environment and working with the garrison and community residents while fostering the brotherhood within the firefighting team.

“Our number one reason for being here is to support the missions,” he said. “These guys are firefighters and professionals and it shows. ... I’m really pleased with all of our teams, here.”

Thank you to all the friends, family members educators and community members who helped the Kwajalein High School Class of 2019 achieve their most important scholastic milestone to date at graduation last week! Every day, you have made a difference in the lives of our great Kwaj kids.

—The Kwajalein Hourglass
Kwajalein Hospital and Public Health staff have observed an increase in Kwajalein residents and employees experiencing the “Kwaj Krud,” with symptoms of coughing, sneezing, congestion, and runny nose, with or without a fever. This is most likely from a virus and cannot be treated with antibiotics. Your healthcare team recommends the following to protect you, your co-workers, and your family’s health:

• Stay home if you are sick. You are not contagious after you have no fever for 24 hours. You may return to your regular activities 24 hours after your fever is gone.
• Expect the cough, congestion, and “blahs” to last seven to 10 days or longer if you smoke.
• Please talk to your HR or supervisor before coming to the ER or clinic just for a “work note.”
• Wash your hands frequently (use either soap and water or hand sanitizer).
• Throw your used tissues in the trash.
• Cover your mouth when you cough.
• Tylenol, Motrin or Robitussin will help with symptoms. Drink fluids. Don’t take aspirin.
• Come in to the clinic or ER if you are short of breath, unable to keep fluids down or have a fever of more than 103 degrees.
• Wash your hands frequently.

Stay Well,
Your Kwajalein Hospital and Public Health Team

For more information on health and safety, please call the Kwajalein Hospital at 5-2223/2224.
Join the community and celebrate July 4 with a red, white and blue afternoon of fun, games and grilling! Activities are available for kids of all ages.

For more information, please contact USAG-KA Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation at 5-3332.

Independence Day Schedule of Events

**Fun in the Sun**
Begins at 3 p.m.
MWR Bar & Grill, marine equipment, bouncy houses, corn hole, bocce ball, lawn dice and a volleyball hoops challenge.

**Bike Parade**
Begins at 5 p.m.
Decorate your bike and join the parade! This event will begin at the north end of the beach path and loop around the Namo Weto Youth Center.

**Community Water Fight.**
5:30 p.m. near Emon playground
Bring your own water shooters and get ready for a community-wide water fight!

**Flotilla Fun**
6 p.m. in the lagoon
Turn the lagoon red, white and blue with patriotic floats.

**Fun and Games**
6:30 p.m.
Join potato sack races and a tug of war battle.

**Fireworks Display**
7:30 p.m.
Enjoy the show!

The Army’s top space and missile defense leader chaired a panel on the importance of space in multi-domain operations during the 2019 Association of the United States Army Space and the Network Symposium here June 7.

Lt. Gen. James Dickinson, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, and the members of the panel discussed what is happening in the Army, DoD, and in the commercial sector to position the Army for continuing space dominance in multi-domain operations.

“The operational environment has the potential to be very crowded with platforms, capabilities, and effects, in overlapping layers, in all domains,” said Dickinson. “Space capabilities and applications are pervasive and essential to success in all other domains.”

Dickinson said the fundamental issue that multi-domain operations addresses is the adversary’s ability to create and maintain standoff.

“The threat seeks to achieve this by employing layers of anti-access and area denial systems designed to separate the elements of the joint force in time, space, and function, and rapidly inflict losses on U.S. and partner military forces, to achieve their objectives faster than the U.S. can respond,” Dickinson said.

Their intent is to impact operations by separating the U.S. and allies in various aspects.

“Multi-domain operations provide a solution to potentially integrate joint capabilities to compete, penetrate, disintegrate, and exploit peer and near-peer adversaries’ anti-access and area denial systems,” said Dickinson.

“As part of an interoperable joint force, Army space forces will integrate national, joint, commercial, and partner space and high-altitude capabilities to employ theater-focused space capabilities that deliver, down to the tactical level, space effects on tactical timelines that contribute to deterring and defeating adversary hostile actions.”

The Army is making organizational changes in response to competitors’ growing layered standoff capabilities.

A new and innovative formation specifically built to support multi-domain operations is the I2CEWS unit. It stands for intelligence, information, cyber, electronic warfare, and space.

In January, the first I2CEWS Battalion stood up in Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. Panel member, Richard De Fatta, director, USASMDC/ARSTRAT Future Warfare Center, said the I2CEWS Battalion provides related, but distinct capabilities to provide offensive and defensive cyber effects, Army space control capabilities, and to employ electronic warfare to support theater Army and geographic combatant commander mission objectives.

“The I2CEWS Battalion conducts intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, or ISR, by employing organic, multi-domain sensors and leveraging joint and national assets that detect, identify, and geo-locate enemy communications and non-communications, like radars and other emitters, as well as weapon systems. They also provide near-real-time signals and geospatial intelligence, or GEOINT, target acquisition and products,” said De Fatta.

“I2CEWS space capabilities provide freedom of action and maneuver by protecting U.S. and friendly space systems, preventing an adversary’s hostile use of U.S. or third-party space capabilities, and negating an adversary’s ability to employ space systems and services for purposes hostile to U.S. national interest,” De Fatta said. “These capabilities include the negation of adversary space capabilities through deception, disruption, denial, degradation or destruction.”

Another ongoing effort is the concept to develop the Theater Space Warfare Battalion, which is assigned forward to conduct operational preparation of the environment and preplanned space operations.

De Fatta explained how it differs from the I2CEWS Battalion.

“Where I2CEWS Battalion provides only space control capabilities as part of a mixed tool bag of effects to deter or defeat the adversary, the Theater Space Warfare Battalion focuses on providing a larger set of space capabilities to echelons above brigade, which provides the ability to proactively control the environment to dictate terms and conditions of competition to the adversary,” said De Fatta.

“While still in a conceptual development, the Theater Space Warfare Battalion core functions are planning and employing space and high-altitude capabilities in support of multi-domain effects for the warfighter,” said De Fatta. “These capabilities will provide the theater commander an organization capable of integrating space and high-altitude operations from the global down to the tactical edge.”

Following the remaining panel members remarks, the group answered questions from attendees, and Dickinson, the panel leader, made closing comments.

“We all need to remember we have 180,000 Soldiers amongst 10 named operations around the world who are all relying every day, all day, on space capabilities,” Dickinson said. “We exist for one reason and that is to support the warfighters on the ground, so that they can do their assigned missions and come home safely to their families.”
**E-WARENESS**

**TURTLE NESTING**

*Turtle nesting* season is between May and October. During high tide, females come ashore and lay their eggs, up to 150 eggs at a time. Turtles are protected by the Species Endangerment Laws.

If you spot a nest, do not bother or attempt to feed turtles. Let DI Environmental know at 5-1134.

Allon in lik ko an won ej ikotaan May im October. Ilo tore ne ej ibwij tok, kokora ko rej waneten tak im lik leb, non jonan lon lok 150 leb ilo juon wot ien.

Elane kwonaj elolo jikin lik kein an won kein, jab kebaaklok ak kajeon naji-rinlok won ko.

Karon lok DI Environmental ilo 5-1134.

---

E-Wareness is a weekly product of DI Environmental. If you have questions, please call DI Environmental at 5-1134. Elane elon am kajiltok, jouj im kurlok DI Environmental ilo 5-1134.
Snorkel with a buddy!

Don't forget to be safe when having fun at Emon Beach. Always team up with a buddy for snorkeling. It is recommended that you wear proper sun protection and bring water along to hydrate after you return to the beach. Have fun and be safe!
WEATHER DISCUSSION: The Intertropical Convergence Zone is located south of 5N where convergence between ENE and ESE trade winds develop deep convective showers. At our latitudes isolated to widely scattered, weaker lines of showers exist. This general pattern is expected thru the weekend. The ITCZ should move northward next week bringing more periods of rain. Trade winds this weekend should be around 13-17 knots.

June is typically a transition month into the beginning of the wet season. Though rain has been more frequent during the month of June, almost daily, we have only received 53 percent of normal for this month. The outlook for next seven days is below normal to normal precipitation.

SATURDAY: Partly sunny with isolated showers (10 percent coverage). Winds ENE-E at 13-16 knots.

SUNDAY: Partly sunny with widely scattered showers (20 percent coverage). Winds ENE-E at 14-18 knots.

MONDAY: Partly sunny with widely scattered showers (10 percent coverage). Winds ENE-ESE at 13-16 knots.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNRISE</th>
<th>MOONRISE</th>
<th>HIGH TIDE</th>
<th>LOW TIDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>6:31 a.m.</td>
<td>3:27 a.m.</td>
<td>9:31 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:09 a.m.</td>
<td>3:46 p.m.</td>
<td>9:40 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>6:31 a.m.</td>
<td>4:02 a.m.</td>
<td>10:28 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:09 p.m.</td>
<td>4:23 p.m.</td>
<td>10:14 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>6:31 a.m.</td>
<td>4:37 a.m.</td>
<td>11:03 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:09 p.m.</td>
<td>4:59 p.m.</td>
<td>10:48 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>6:31 a.m.</td>
<td>5:10 a.m.</td>
<td>11:38 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:09 p.m.</td>
<td>5:33 p.m.</td>
<td>11:21 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>6:32 a.m.</td>
<td>5:43 a.m.</td>
<td>12:11 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:09 p.m.</td>
<td>6:07 p.m.</td>
<td>11:34 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>6:32 a.m.</td>
<td>6:16 a.m.</td>
<td>12:46 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:10 p.m.</td>
<td>6:42 p.m.</td>
<td>1:22 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUN-MOON-TIDES

LASER TAG

Father’s Day Sunday, June 16
1-4 p.m. MP Room
FREE!
Ages: K-12
ATI CHECK-IN TIMES

Early departures—7:45-8:15 a.m.;
All other departures—8-8:30 a.m.
*Check with your ATI flight representative to confirm check-in and flight departure times.

SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

To set up a pick-up time for the shuttle please call: 5-3341 or 5-8294. If a representative cannot be reached, please leave a detailed message and your phone call will be returned as soon as possible. Shuttle services start one hour prior to check-in times for United flights and 0700 for the ATI.