

VOLUME 62 NUMBER 3

JANUARY 16, 2021

# THE KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS



## THIS WEEK

### DOD WELCOMES

FUTURE COMMANDER IN CHIEF 2

### THE WAY FORWARD

AT USAG-KA TOWN HALLS 4

### SEEING CLEARLY

WITH TELEMEDICINE 6

USAG-KA COMMAND SGT. MAJ. ISMAEL ORTEGA  
SPEAKS AT THE KWAJALEIN COMMUNITY TOWN  
HALL JAN. 7.



JESSICA DAMBRUCH



UNCLASSIFIED



THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, DC 20318

MEMORANDUM FOR THE JOINT FORCE

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO THE JOINT FORCE

The American people have trusted the Armed Forces of the United States to protect them and our Constitution for almost 250 years. As we have done throughout our history, the U.S. military will obey lawful orders from civilian leadership, support civil authorities to protect lives and property, ensure public safety in accordance with the law, and remain fully committed to protecting and defending the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

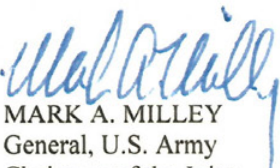

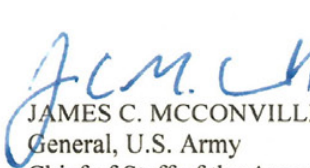

The violent riot in Washington, D.C. on January 6, 2021 was a direct assault on the U.S. Congress, the Capitol building, and our Constitutional process. We mourn the deaths of the two Capitol policemen and others connected to these unprecedented events.

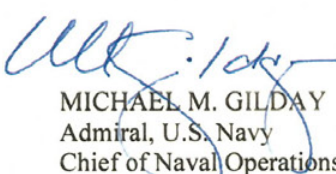



We witnessed actions inside the Capitol building that were inconsistent with the rule of law. The rights of freedom of speech and assembly do not give anyone the right to resort to violence, sedition and insurrection.

As Service Members, we must embody the values and ideals of the Nation. We support and defend the Constitution. Any act to disrupt the Constitutional process is not only against our traditions, values, and oath; it is against the law.

On January 20, 2021, in accordance with the Constitution, confirmed by the states and the courts, and certified by Congress, President-elect Biden will be inaugurated and will become our 46th Commander in Chief.

To our men and women deployed and at home, safeguarding our country—stay ready, keep your eyes on the horizon, and remain focused on the mission. We honor your continued service in defense of every American.

 MARK A. MILLEY General, U.S. Army Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff	 JOHN E. HYTEN General, U.S. Air Force Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff	 JAMES C. MCCONVILLE General, U.S. Army Chief of Staff of the Army	 DAVID H. BERGER General, U.S. Marine Corps Commandant of the Marine Corps
---	--	---	---

 MICHAEL M. GILDAY Admiral, U.S. Navy Chief of Naval Operations	 CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR. General, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff of the Air Force	 JOHN W. RAYMOND General, U.S. Space Force Chief of Space Operations	 DANIEL R. HOKANSON General, U.S. Army Chief of the National Guard Bureau
---	---	---	--

UNCLASSIFIED

THE KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS

The Kwajalein Hourglass is named for the insignia of the U.S. Army's 7th Infantry Division, which liberated the island from the forces of Imperial Japan on Feb. 4, 1944.  
The Kwajalein Hourglass is an authorized publication for military personnel, federal employees, contractor workers and their families assigned to U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll.

Contents of the Hourglass are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or USAG-KA. It is published Saturdays in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1.  
Phone: Defense Switching Network 254-5169  
Local phone: 5-5169

Garrison Commander.....Col. Jeremy Bartel  
Garrison CSM.....Sgt. Maj. Ismael Ortega  
Public Affairs Officer.....Mike Brantley  
Communications Manager.....Jordan Vinson  
Editor.....Jessica "JD" Dambruch



# THIS WEEK ON USAG-KA

## A Condensed News Brief For The “Kwaj-Busy” Life

### The Eyes Have It.

If you’re new to the atoll, buckle up. We moved right from heavy rainfall into strong winds. Fierce winds mean small craft advisory warnings and the potential for eye damage caused by airborne debris.

January is an excellent time to be thinking about eyesight. This month is Glaucoma Awareness month, and in other exciting news, Senior Hospital Administrator Steven Kass has announced that virtual visits to the optometrist are just around the corner.

Check out more in the article on US-AG-KA Town Halls on page 4.

### Outer Island Medevac.

It’s a worst-case scenario with a silver lining outcome: USAG-KA responded to and assisted the RMI with a request to medevac Lib residents this week via helicopter. Due to the sea state, medevac via a RMI hospital boat was not possible. Kommol Tata for assisting Lib in getting their residents to safety.

### Now Is the Winter Of Our Discontent.

Or is it? This line from Shakespeare’s “Richard III” might sum up the scene at the Kwajalein and Roi-Namur town halls if it weren’t for all of the good news. Yes: USAG-KA is expected to receive the Moderna vaccine this spring.

There is no definitive word yet on when “normal” travel will resume, so hold on tight, take a deep breath and admire those gorgeous palm trees on the way to get your flu shot.

If you’re still feeling down after checking out the palm trees, remember: You matter, and you’re not alone. Reach out to the Island Memorial Chapel (5-3505) or the Kwajalein Hospital to make an appointment with the Employee Assistance Program to chat. Write to Marybeth Dawicki at Marybeth.Dawicki@internationalsosgs.us to make an appointment.

### Letter from the Joint Chiefs.

This week, following violence and riots in Washington, D.C. at the U.S. Capitol building, the Joint Chiefs of Staff published an open letter to the Joint Forces recognizing President-elect Joe Biden as their future Commander in Chief.

“To our men and women deployed and at home, safeguarding our country—stay ready, keep your eyes on the horizon and remain focused on the mission,” reads the missive in its closing remarks. “We honor your continued service in defense of every American.”



USAG-KA Director of Public Works Derek Miller answers questions for the Roi community during last week’s town hall. The next RMI employee town hall is scheduled for later this spring.

### Want Really Good Coffee?

January’s Spartan Espresso event was this morning at 6:45 a.m. at the Kwajalein High School Multi-Purpose Room.

The fundraiser is perhaps the best reason to go back to high school. Students make lattes and hot coffees to order alongside freshly baked treats, and proceeds support class activities and charities. Don’t you wish you’d rolled out of bed early today?

Bring cash and be there early for the next round of Spartan Espresso in February. Remember, you can always place bulk orders through Spartan Espresso advisor Kristen Hosek. Call 5-2011 to learn more.

### Dining Haul.

Kwajalein Dining Services invites all takeout meal diners to help themselves to a bottle of water to-go. Additionally, diners are reminded that dishes and flatware should remain in their respective dining facilities. Please do not take metal cutlery. Biodegradable cutlery is provided for all takeout meals. Those opting to dine-in would like to have forks to eat with.

### Don’t Be the Tourist.

On your next visit to Roi, please be neighborly. Your island getaway is someone’s home. When visiting, gently use rentable equipment and refrain from borrowing beach or sporting equipment that doesn’t belong to you. Remember, Kwaj: Roi is the only island for miles serving Missile Burgers.

### A Tip from Your BQ Neighbors.

As exciting as it is to scrape melted, shrunken-down garments from the inside of a clothes dryer, it’s something all BQ residents would like to avoid. BQ mates, please be courteous to your neighbors. Set a timer when you do laundry to handle the load in a timely manner, and please don’t dry your neighbor’s garments.



### USAG-KA PAO Returns.

Before you call the Commander’s Hotline to report the only quarters on island with holiday decorations in the front yard, know the person who answers the hotline lives in those quarters. At the time of this writing, it’s been 29 days since Mike Brantley entered quarantine after undergoing surgery in Honolulu. It was no vacation: Mike continued working over the winter holidays and posted regular community information updates on USAG-KA Facebook from quarantine in Honolulu and on Kwaj while he was away. Mike’s beautiful wife, Vickie, joined him in quarantine when he returned home.

Welcome the Brantley family back outdoors next weekend. If you have questions about island life and USAG-KA policies, call the Commander’s Hotline is 5-5925.

### If You’re Reading This While Residing in Quarantine—

We look forward to having you in our community. Check out the “Kwaj Life” bingo card on page 15. Keep an eye out for the items listed. When you’re back outside, let us know how many you saw.

A Kwaj resident carrying more than five packages on their bike	Someone moving a large piece of furniture on a day vehicle	At least two people wearing red shirts on a Friday	An eight seater golf cart completely full of passengers	A soldier in uniform
A group biking three or four laps down Lapoon Road	Anyone “ghosting” on extra bike down the street (riding one bike, leaving another)	A Kwajalein sanitation vehicle making its rounds	Someone playing their Bluetooth speaker	Four people with a lot of olive gear.
A jagger	The big, moose pickup truck for the Reagan Test Site	Alberto Pandya, AFN Kwajalein DJ	A Kwaj resident riding their bike in the wind	A Kwajalein fire truck
A local Kwaj car (these are hard to spot and generally come out of sight)	Someone walking a dog	Someone making laps on a road bike as they train for the Rustman Triathlon	A coconut	Three people in a row not wearing hats
At least two people wearing red shirts on a Friday	Someone with a white dog (see the Sampson Dining Facility)	Someone wiping out on their bike (hope you don’t see this, actually)	Someone traveling with a bike trailer	Someone riding a gooseneck bike

**KWJ BINGO**  
FOR THOSE  
RESIDING IN  
QUARANTINE

TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU’VE GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO BY MOVING TO OUR UNIQUE COMMUNITY, SEE HOW MANY OF THESE “KWJ LIFE” ITEMS YOU CAN SEE OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW.

HINT: WATCH AN EPISODE OF THE “KWJ CURRENT” TV SHOW, AND YOU’LL BE SURE TO SEE AFN DJ ALBERTO PANDYA.



**#YOUAREHERE**  
WELCOME TO 2021. JOIN THE KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS IN A YEAR-LONG PHOTO PROJECT TO CAPTURE ISLAND LIFE WITH A CAMERA. PHOTOGRAPHERS OF ALL AGES ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT PHOTOS FOR PUBLICATION. FOR MORE INFORMATION, WRITE TO KWAJALEINHOURGLASS@DYN-INTL.COM.





## USAG-KA TOWN HALLS EXPLORE WAY FORWARD

*Flights, food and fascia were among questions raised at last week's Roi town hall. Pictured here, Roi resident Dave Saunders stands to address Col. Jeremy Bartel.*

BY JESSICA DAMBRUCH

**The U.S. Army** Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll command team has worked closely with island partners and the Republic of the Marshall Islands government in the past months to stay the course and achieve a mutual objective: Keep COVID-19 out of the RMI.

At last week's quarterly Roi and Kwajalein town halls, held on Jan. 6 and 7 respectively, USAG-KA Commander Col. Jeremy Bartel gave an update on quarantine support efforts. He shared his thoughts on the impending rollout of vaccines and welcomed questions about commodity areas and the unique challenges of living on Kwajalein and Roi.

Bartel introduced several recently arrived Department of Defense civilian employees from USAG-KA: Suzanne Mosier, from medical services; Maj. Benjamin Jackson, from the USAG-KA Department of Logistics; Robert Daniels, from Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation; and USAG-KA Command Sgt. Maj. Ismael Ortega.

"Thank you for helping us to accomplish our mission," said Ortega in his community address. "As a team, we'll continue to work to make the community better and look forward as much as possible." He wished Kwaj and Roi the best in the new year.

### COVID-19 Procedures

Keeping COVID out of the RMI is possible with the close synchronization of quarantine and travel arrangements with the RMI government.

"This [process] has allowed us to get some of our essential services up, get family members back and accomplish the FTM-44 mission—which is a huge accomplishment for DOD writ large," said Bartel. Since June 9, the garrison has received more than 400 incoming residents.

"Each new group has 18-22 arrivals every week on the ATI," Bartel said. "In order for them to get in with the current restriction, they check in at the Hale Koa Hotel in Honolulu where everyone stays with single-card entry. They enter a secure quarantine facility for 14 days. On day two, they receive a COVID test and an antibody test, which lets us know if they've had COVID in the past. On day 12, they get their last COVID test, and

if they're negative, they come to Kwajalein."

After leaving the Hale Koa Hotel—incoming passengers are only permitted to travel to the airport via two approved taxi services whose sanitation practices have been carefully vetted. Then, they board an ATI flight crewed by employees wearing personal protective equipment.

The current quarantine process requires five weeks to complete—two weeks in Hawaii and three weeks on USAG-KA—and includes multiple COVID tests in Hawaii and on USAG-KA to make sure there are no active cases on island and to eliminate the risk of community spread.

"The two weeks [spent] in Hawaii are so we don't import cases here," Bartel said. "Because we have the exposure risk, we do three weeks [on USAG-KA]. If we get community spread here, life as we know it is not going to be fun. We'll do what we see in the states: lockdowns and telework."

In anticipation of future travel and vaccines, USAG-KA Command has addressed the possibility of reducing quarantine time on Kwajalein to the RMI government. Instead of three weeks, it is hoped quarantine time might be reduced to two weeks.

Recently, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jamey Norton volunteered to be the "center of gravity" to facilitate coordination of the repatriation program, Bartel said.

He added: "Right now, we're doing what is needed to make sure we're keeping our Marshallese partners safe."

A group of Marshallese citizens is expected to enter the repatriation center Jan. 16.

### Vaccine Rollout

The asymmetric rollout of the Moderna vaccine within the atoll community occurs with little scientific data available about how the vaccine might mitigate virus transmission in the future.

In the past weeks, the RMI released 400 vaccines on Majuro and 200 Ebeye, respectively. Another 6,000 were anticipated for later, Bartel said.

Some members of Kwajalein's RMI workforce are now vaccinated. USAG-KA has not yet been notified about the arrival of vaccines for garrison residents.

Information about availability of a vaccine will be issued via the AFN roller

channel and USAG-KA Facebook, along with information on the next town halls later this spring.

"For Kwajalein, we're still looking to see if we get bumped up to a different status," Bartel said adding that U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command and the team at Installation Management Command - Pacific are supportive of the garrison's efforts.

"The hopeful side of me says January," said Bartel, of when the vaccine might become available. "The regular, logical side says probably mid-February."

It is likely that the travel restriction into the RMI will be extended through April.

### Respect Repatriation

The community is reminded to maintain its distance from the Kwaj Lodge repatriation center for all incoming groups of Marshallese residents.

Bartel directed the community to stay clear of the beaches and area surrounding the lodge and to allow the RMI National Police and Kwajalein security personnel to perform their security duties undisturbed.

### Medical, Travel Concerns

Garrison residents shared concerns about traveling before a vaccine is available. Some have young children. Others may have medical referrals or are required to work TDY.

Many questions will be more readily answered as data about vaccines becomes available in the future.

"I do not foresee any time where I have to say, 'You have to take this vaccine or leave the island by next week,'" said Bartel. "The only thing I can promise you is you won't be left out there. If you're on medical leave, we'll find a way to get you back."

This week, Kwajalein Hospital Senior Administrator Steven Kass clarified concerns about the amount of time spent in quarantine before an off-island medical appointment. Garrison residents traveling to Hawaii are not given any special dispensation related to Hawaii's mandatory quarantine based upon our COVID negative status, according to Kass.

The Kwajalein Hospital lab is not on the approved COVID testing list for Hawaii (Trusted Testing Partner). As such, obtaining a COVID-19 PCR test prior to



departure does not satisfy the official requirement and does not provide an official mechanism to circumvent the Hawaii-required-quarantine period for those individuals who want to stay in Hawaii. There are exemptions to the two-week quarantine period. The information regarding the exemption as well as the application is available at <https://ag.hawaii.gov/travelexemption/>.

Hawaii does not require a two-week quarantine for individuals traveling through Hawaii. They may need to sequester overnight to accommodate a layover, but do not need to remain in Hawaii for two-weeks prior to continuing their planned travel. Any conditions requiring special attention may change the timeline.

The pandemic has created additional concerns for community members seeking medical consultations, but a solution has emerged for those seeking eyecare. “We know there are things we cannot do here,” said Kass, at the Kwajalein town hall. “We do a ton for the facility that we have.”

Kass reported that optometry appointments will be available through a telemedicine solution. See the frequently asked questions page immediately following this article for more information.

### Public Works in Progress

The continued travel restrictions pose unique challenges for the garrison. Bartel said some individuals needed for key projects are more than eight months behind in their arrival.

On Roi, residents posed questions about the work order reporting process and raised questions about facilities maintenance, storage and groundskeeping in and around select sites.

With USAG-KA Director of Public Works Director Derek Miller, Bartel shared information about a new Army database that will benefit the maintenance process on island. He plans to move forward with a community pool renovation project, noted in the garrison’s annual work plan, that was hampered due to delays exacerbated by the pandemic.

Repaving of major thoroughfares on Kwajalein, while desired, is not expected soon: however, the grading of perimeter roads has improved travel.

Repairs to the George Seitz Elementary School playground will occur by the late summertime, said Miller. A few Kwajalein dog owners spoke about concerns over holes in the dog park they believe could pose a safety concern. There is now an open call for volunteers to assist in removing bagged droppings from the park receptacle to help the space be more enjoyable and functional.

“Dogs should be allowed on the island based on an obedience test,” suggested one Kwaj dog owner.

“I need to do that for all the residents,” quipped Bartel.

Kwajalein residents working at the RTS headquarters building shared concerns about the lack of water filtration to mitigate the life, health and safety issues posed by lead levels discovered in routine water inspection tests in the building and at two additional sites in late 2020.

Action was taken to post signs warning employees about the health risk where appropriate. In a concurrent ac-



U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY JESSICA DAMBRUCH

*Roi resident Gerald Baxter, left, raises an issue at the Jan. 6 town hall.*

tion, water filtration devices at drinking fountains throughout the island were removed.

Miller reported that Army Public Health Command requested removal of filters at the sites due to bacterial issues posed by a lack of maintenance. Kwajalein’s George Seitz Elementary School maintains filters onsite. A plan to mitigate the issue has yet to be released by USAG-KA DPW and is forthcoming by the end of a 90-day report period per Army Regulations.

### Flight from Roi

Getting away from it all when you live on Roi is tough, but concerns voiced by Roi residents about transit may lead to a solution involving space-A travel.

“As of late, because of COVID travel restrictions, we are getting a lot of people coming up from Kwaj,” said one Roi resident.

Kwajalein residents are authorized a space-A privilege for Monday morning return flights. The same privilege does not extend to Roi residents. Combined with the current weekend flight schedule, Roi residents said they find it difficult to come to Kwaj to shop for groceries, visit friends and just get a change of scenery before the work week begins.

“The Monday morning flight, when it happens—is the only opportunity Roi residents have to get to Kwaj and to come back to Roi without taking time off work,” said one resident. “Otherwise, the only other option we have is midweek. And that’s only when it happens. There are no flights on Sunday.”

“We’ll work with our Fly Roi Team,” said Bartel. “I want you guys to be able to get to Kwaj, just like I want Kwaj residents to be able to get to Roi. It’s only fair it goes both ways. I understand the limitations of being here.”

### The Internet

Those hoping for greater bandwidth on island can expect to wait for a Network Command operation that will provide greater connectivity, said Bartel. The operation will require additional renovations to USAG-KA’s data infrastructure.

### The USAG-KA Dinner Rush

On Kwajalein, shopping privileges at Surfway are determined by employers. Over the holidays, Kwajalein Dining Services extended dining opportunities to island families.

The Roi community is pleased with current stock at AAFES and applauded for AAFES managers Jeff Carroll and Danielle Watson. They asked about possible access to sundries and perishable items like ice, lunchmeats, eggs, milk and bread. Bartel said he would examine storage solutions to make additional food items available, but that arranging special orders for items to be flown from Kwaj would not be possible. Garrison residents can continue to place bulk orders for special items.

Due to the health risk of cross-contamination posed by personal containers inside dining facilities, at no time in the future will garrison dining facilities permit personal containers inside.

On Roi, a faulty electrical issue moving toward repaired status has kept the Café Roi dishwasher out of order. Roi residents asked about food safety quality assurance controls at Café Roi, a facility whose staffing has been heavily impacted by the pandemic, Bartel said.

To overcome these challenges, a rotating supervisory schedule was initiated at Café Roi, said USAG-KA Food Safety contract officer representative Rick Krewson. A new supervisor, set to be released soon from quarantine, will ease staffing issues.

“I’m 100 percent with how to clean,” said Bartel, citing his own humble beginnings working in food service. “We can focus on the things that will make it better.”

On Kwajalein, Bartel thanked the island for banding together during a difficult year.

“Honestly, this is an amazing community,” said Bartel, on Kwajalein. “You guys have done a phenomenal job in a very challenging year. The problems we have here are, granted, not the same as other places, but they are still problems that affect our quality of life in a different way—the mail, food, the gaps in shipments. You guys have all done an awesome job coming together as a community. I just want to say thank you. Stay with me for these two to three more months. Let’s get out of COVID without having to deal with community transmission and big issues with our quarantine houses. I appreciate everything you do.”



# VIRTUAL EYE EXAMS AVAILABLE THROUGH EYECARELIVE

## **What is a virtual eye exam?**

A virtual visit, also referred to as a telehealth visit, is a convenient alternative for an in-office eye exam. With a virtual visit, an eye care provider can begin a consultation to address your eye health concern from the comfort of your home, or while you're on the go, using technology like your smartphone, tablet or computer.

EyecareLive connects you with an eye doctor through a video call. Doctors can triage, diagnose and suggest a treatment plan for your eye health concerns through a HIPPA secure platform.

## **How much does a virtual visit cost?**

The cost of a virtual visit is \$59.

## **Do you accept insurance?**

EyecareLive does not accept insurance, meaning even those without insurance have access to virtual eye care. Each patient is required to pay a flat fee of \$59.

However, EyecareLive can provide an invoice, upon request, that the patient can submit to their insurance company for reimbursement.

In addition, the patient can use their HSA account to pay for the consultation fee.

## **How quickly can I expect to see an eye care provider?**

EyecareLive is committed to connecting the patient with an eye doctor the same day that an appointment is requested.

## **When will I be charged for a virtual visit and is there a refund policy?**

EyecareLive does collect the patient's payment information when they're requesting a visit. However, the account will not be charged until a doctor has accepted your request for a consultation and has scheduled the appointment.

If there is a discrepancy, the patient can submit a request for a refund within two days of the virtual visit. An EyecareLive representative will review the issue and complete a refund within 3 - 5 business days for eligible requests.

## **What are the benefits of a virtual visit for an eye exam?**

Eye care issues can occur anywhere, at any time. Internet searches can offer overwhelming or incorrect results. To avoid a misdiagnosis, or even an unnecessary visit to urgent care, EyecareLive provides an expert opinion at the patient's fingertips. A virtual visit is the most convenient way to receive eye care. Plus, it is affordable.

## **Who will see me during my virtual visit?**

EyecareLive has an extensive network of licensed eye care professionals, both optometrist and ophthalmologist, who are experienced in providing virtual care using EyecareLive telehealth platform. Patients will be connected with one of these providers for their virtual evaluation.

## **Can the eye doctor prescribe medication during a virtual visit? What about a prescription refill?**

The provider can prescribe medica-

tion according to the treatment plan that is established by the provider. However, there are limitations. For example, opioids may not be prescribed in many circumstances.

A prescription refill can be provided after a thorough examination. Also, the provider will review a detailed report of the patient's ocular and medical history prior to prescribing a refill. The decision to prescribe a refill, and dosage of the refill, is at the sole discretion of the doctor.

## **What technology is needed for a virtual visit?**

The patient can use any smartphone, tablet or computer that has a camera and a microphone to begin a virtual visit. Also, Wi-Fi is not mandatory, but it is highly recommended for optimal connectivity for the evaluation.

## **What ages can be treated with a virtual visit?**

EyecareLive can provide virtual care

for all ages. Minors under age 17 will be required to have a parent or legal guardian present for the exam.

## **Should I use EyecareLive in an emergency?**

No: If the patient is experiencing an eye emergency, such as sudden vision loss or a vision threatening injury, EyecareLive recommends the patient visit an emergency room or an urgent care facility. Call 911 for immediate emergency care.

## **How do I enter my island address so that it's recognized by EyecareLive?**

When registering with EyecareLive, please format your address this way so that EyecareLive can recognize that you're requesting an appointment from the island. Choose AP as the state and USA as the country.

PSC XXX box XXX

APO, AP 96555

**If you have additional questions, we're here to help. Contact us anytime at [help@eyecarelive.com](mailto:help@eyecarelive.com).**

## **VIRTUAL EYECARE IS A CLICK AWAY**



**SAME-DAY APPOINTMENTS  
EXPERIENCED EYE DOCTORS**

Easily renew an existing prescription, refill eye medications, treat common symptoms such as pink eye, dry eye, allergies and more for one simple fee of \$59.

**Get started online at :  
[EyeCareLive.com/2020](https://www.eyecarelive.com/2020)**



## **DoD Tenant Satisfaction Survey**

<http://www.celsurvey.com/ArmyFHSurvey2020.htm>

### **DUE BY JAN. 30**

**As a tenant living in Army-owned and/or leased family housing, feedback regarding your experience is very important to us. The information provided will help guide the Army in development of future improvements to our housing facilities and services.**

**Each unit should have received their survey by mail. Each has a unique code. If you did not receive a code, contact Scott Hill at 5-0133 or email him at: [michael.s.hill86.civ@mail.mil](mailto:michael.s.hill86.civ@mail.mil)**

# DR. JAMES FISHER WAS FIRST DIRECTOR OF USASMDC TECHNICAL CENTER

## EXTERNAL REPORT

Report provided by U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command

**Dr. James R. "Dick" Fisher** was the first Director of the U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command Technical Center, serving from Feb. 1, 1995 to Dec. 31, 1998. In 1997, he was promoted to SES Level 5, equivalent of a major general. This is the first SES 5 position in the command.

Prior to this, he headed the Sensors Directorate from June 15, 1986 and served as the Assistant Program Manager for Science and Technology from June 9, 1985. His other positions can be seen below. In the 1980s, he was a member of the Fletcher Committee, a group of 50 scientists and engineers which devised a missile defense plan which set the baseline for the Strategic Defense Initiative. (The Site Defense Radar was designed as a follow-on to the Safeguard Program. The radar was constructed and used at the Kwajalein Missile Range.)

When he retired from SMDC, he went returned to industry and was active in the Air, Space and Missile Defense Association. He was inducted into the ASDMA Hall of Fame in 2006.

**Dr. James Richard "Dick" Fisher**, age 85, of Madison, Alabama, went to be with his Lord Jan. 9, 2021.

He is survived by his daughter, Jill Lancaster, of Madison; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; a niece; nephew; and a great niece. He was predeceased by his wife, Rebecca Horner Fisher; son Brent Fisher; grandson, Jacob Fisher; and his only brother, Fred Fisher.

Dr. Fisher was born in Jonesboro, Arkansas, where he met and married Rebecca. Dick and Rebecca were childhood sweethearts and were married 52 years, until Rebecca's death in 2007. Dick was the son of Mildred McCall and Paul Fisher of Osceola, Arkansas.

Dr. Fisher completed his bachelor's degree of in Electrical Engineering with highest honors at Georgia Institute of Technology. He completed his master's degree and PhD in Electrical Engineering at UCLA. Dick was a member of Eta Kappa Nu honor society, Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi, Phi Kappa Phi. He was awarded a Howard Hughes Fellowship to attend University of California, Los Angeles.

Dr. Fisher worked for Hughes Aircraft in Los Angeles, California. He was a senior staff engineer in airborne radar-controlled weapon systems. He and family later moved to Dallas, Texas, to work for Texas Instruments, where he was a senior project engineer working in advanced avionics systems and anti-submarine warfare techniques.

In 1968, Dr. Fisher moved to Huntsville to manage the Radar Department at Teledyne Brown Engineering. After 14 years in industry, he began working for the U.S. Army. His first position was as manager of the Site Defense Radar Program. He held several positions of increasing responsibility, including: Director of the Innovative Technology and Advanced Concepts for the Advanced Technology Center; Command Technical Director from the Washington, DC Headquarters, where he was the senior scien-

tific and technical advisor to the commanding general; Director of the Sensors Directorate; and Executive Director of all Huntsville Operations. His last position was as Director of the Missile Defense and Space Technology Center, which was the research and development element of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. He managed day-to-day research, development, test, and evaluation activities of the command's five technical directorates.

Dr. Fisher ensured that the command's efforts were balanced and integrated to support the Army, Ballistic Missile Defense Organization and Program Executive Office for Air and Missile Defense. He was the highest-ranking civilian until his retirement in 1999.

Dr. Fisher was a charter member of the Senior Executive Service and held the equivalent rank of a major general. He was a major player in laying the foundation for development of non-nuclear strategic defense programs, such as the Homing Overlay Experiment, Vehicle Interceptor Subsystem, Ground Based Radar, Ground Based Surveillance and Tracking System, and the Airborne Surveillance Testbed. He also served on a Presidential Commission to develop the Strategic Defense Initiative Plan.

Dr. Fisher made major contributions to President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative. His scientific acumen, coupled with his executive skills, helped advance the nation's antiballistic missile defenses.

The Army's SDI Sensors Program, which he directed, carried the President's personal highest priority and was the highest priority program in the Department of Defense.

Dr. Fisher personally designed much of the nation's comprehensive long-range strategic defense plans against ballistic missiles. He was instrumental in the initial formulation and implementation of the Army's Allied Defense Program for the SDI Organization.

When President Reagan initiated the SDI Program in 1983, Dr. Fisher served on the Presidential Commission which developed the original SDI plan and led the Army's activities in developing the national response to the President's directive. Dr. Fisher was both nationally and internationally recognized for his sound technical judgement, creative conceptual perception, and insightful executive leadership.

After retiring, Dr. Fisher served on Advisory Boards for the Missile Defense Agency for several years. In 1985 and 1986 Dr. Fisher served as Technical Director for the U.S. Army Strategic Defense Command. He directed a multi-national study of the most effective, politically acceptable, and affordable approaches to defending NATO Europe against the Warsaw Pact tactical missile threat. He was selected for this assignment by the NATO Military Committee and the Advisory Group on Aerospace Research and Development. He was highly respected in the NATO Alliance.

Dr. Fisher was honored in 1988 and



*The U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command community offers condolences to the Fisher family this week, and fondly remembers Dr. James R. "Dick" Fisher, first director of the USASMDC Technical Center and his many contributions to defense research over the years.*

1993 with the prestigious Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive. As Director of the Missile Defense Technology Center, he received a Commendation from the Department of the Army Decoration for exceptional civilian service.

He was a recipient of the National Space Club Astronautics Engineer Award. This award is given annually to a scientist or engineer who has made an outstanding contribution to United States leadership in the field of rocketry and astronautics. His photo is on display at the Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

Dr. Fisher was also an honored recipient of the Medaris Award, the highest recognition bestowed by the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association, for his significant contributions to the technical progress of the defense preparedness of the United States.

A man of strong faith in God, he was an active member of Huntsville First Baptist Church, where he was a deacon, Sunday School teacher, Brotherhood director, Training Union director, and involved in several other activities. He was an active member of the Greater Huntsville Rotary Club, the Master Gardeners of North Alabama, Meals on Wheels, and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UAH, where he served on the Board of Directors as Treasurer.

His passions were the Lord, his family, and Christian and humanitarian missions. In addition to his many career accomplishments, Dick was a beloved Papa to his grandchildren, a loving father, and a kind and loyal friend.

He was admired by those that knew him and will be dearly missed. Services are private.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorials be made to the First Baptist Church Memorial Fund, the Rotary International Foundation, or the OLLI at UAH.



# DEAR KATHERINE:

## JOHN D. SCHNEIDAU WRITES FROM KWAJALEIN



**On Jan. 19, 1944**, the tank landing ship USS Addison County, LST-31, left Pearl Harbor Navy Yard and returned to the Pacific Theater to support combat operations at Kwajalein Atoll.

LST-31 was a component of Task Force 52, the Southern Attack Force's Advance Transport unit. It carried a complement of 17 tracked landing vehicles, ammunition, supplies and fuel to support operations. For her mission into the Marshalls Islands, LKST-31 received new 40 mm Bofuors guns, 20 mm Oerlikon cannons and an engine overhaul. She purred like a new car and wore a squeaky-clean shade of haze gray.

After arriving on Kwajalein Atoll Feb. 1 to offload cargo, transport Soldiers and equipment, the ship resupplied and prepared for the next operation: the battle of Eniwetok.

This week marks the beginning of LST-31's voyage to Kwajalein. To commemorate the ship's mission support, the Hourglass has reprinted materials by LST-31's Lt. Cmdr. John D. Schneidau, who described the voyage and conflict at Kwajalein Atoll in photographs and letters to his wife, Katherine.

Schneidau might have received a few surprised looks in January 1944 when his fellow officers saw the contents of his sea bag—several personal cameras—but then again, perhaps not. Schneidau, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, where LST-31 was also laid down, was a photography enthusiast.

"Hope the sun is out so I can get some good pictures," he notes along the way.

Schneidau composed his letter—at one point, he calls it a "book"—as one massive text block over several days in late January 1944 before mailing it home. He also followed a strict format for his correspondence. There are no line or paragraph breaks. Writing in a diary or chronological format was prohibited by

operational security standards, as was naming specific dates and locations.

In one passage, Schneidau says he's excited that there is a camera operator aboard from Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet Headquarters.

"There are several photographers aboard, and I have a couple of cameras myself, so I hope to get some interesting pictures," he says.

At first, Schneidau describes life aboard the ship as relatively uneventful: "Usually, in the afternoon around 3:30 [p.m.], I go out on deck in my shorts and pitch the medicine ball around with some of the officers to get a little exercise. Don't infer from this, however, that we have lots of leisure time. We haven't. Ship's work keeps us fairly busy most of the time. Our particular group of ships is considerably larger this time than last and is better escorted."

Of course, the quiet does not last. Those familiar with Kwajalein WWII history may find certain passages describing "heavily fortified islands" have resonance: "It is now two days after D-day and one day after troops landed on the main objective," writes Schneidau. "Yesterday morning before dawn, we steamed out of the lagoon to rendezvous in our area from which we were to take part in the operation. As we approached the island, the battleships opened their bombardment."

On the atoll, Schneidau describes violent scenes, casualties, and beaches illuminated at night by the glow of explosions and beacons. His post-bombardment photographs frame splintered tree trunks, but also several standing coconut palms, dispelling Kwaj myths of a lone coconut palm that withstood tons of shelling.

Schneidau went on to serve in the Pacific Theater at Eniwetok, Tinian, Okinawa and Saipan. Records of his many

photos and letters have been widely archived in museum collections and are available online. While he was not part of an embedded public affairs support team, Schneidau's photos and writing are invaluable and instructive about the day-to-day life of Soldiers and Sailors.

***The text of Lt. Cmdr. John D. Schneidau's letters has been gently edited for publication. The text of the letters can be found online in full, without line breaks online at the National WWII Museum.***

### **Dear Katherine:**

Well, here we are, on the way to hit the [Japanese]. This is the first I have written while we are underway although we have been going for a week now. I am not dating this as it is against regulations to keep a diary or to write in diary form. So, although I will add to the letter from time to time, I won't write it as a day to day chronicle, but merely as a continuous story.

Naturally, I won't mail it until a considerable amount of time after the operation is over and most of the stuff has been announced to the public.

We are on our way to invade the enemy in one of his biggest strongholds. In fact, this will actually be one of the most important and biggest operations in the Pacific war to date. Naturally, we are all proud to be able to play such a major part in it. The particular island our outfit is going to hit is the biggest and strongest of the group, so we expect plenty of trouble.

Makin and Tarawa were set-ups compared to what we are going into, inasmuch as there will be enemy air bases all around us. Of course, they will attempt to knock these out before we get there, but it is highly doubtful if they can com-





*A crewmember aboard LST-31 checks out their course.*

pletely knock out all of them.

The last week has been one of very little activity. We just roll along day after day at our seeming snail's pace with nothing to see but blue water and sunny skies.

The weather really has been fine. Clear and sunny every day, and not much sea, just a long swell that makes us roll gently from side to side, but not enough to bother with, although some of the Soldiers get seasick the first few days. Time means very little out here on the ocean. I seldom know what day of the week it is. A thousand miles gets to mean little to you in such an illimitable expanse of water. In fact, from where we were this morning, one could travel a thousand miles in any direction and not see land. We play poker most every night in the wardroom as there is no other pastime except reading.

Usually, in the afternoon around 3:30 [p.m.], I go out on deck in my shorts and pitch the medicine ball around with some of the officers to get a little exercise. Don't infer from this, however, that we have lots of leisure time. We haven't. Ship's work keeps us fairly busy most of the time.

Our particular group of ships is considerably larger this time than last and is better escorted. This morning before dawn, one of the destroyers picked up two subs on the surface about ten miles away. They submerged before the DD could get near and we don't think our group was spotted: however, one never knows. Subs will not be as much of a

bother, though, as planes. I think we have enough escorts to take care of the subs if there are only one or two. Tomorrow, we enter the area of enemy air search, that is, the area which the enemy probably patrols with his planes, and every day thereafter, the likelihood of being picked up by them becomes stronger.

We will probably make up a pool on when the first real General Quarters will be sounded. Took the crew up on the forecastle this morning and gave them the dope on the coming operation and also a little pep talk. Think they are all raring to go. So are we, for that matter. Wonder if the [Japanese] know we are on the way yet.

Probably not.

He'll pick us up soon, though. Well, it won't make much difference as he has probably been expecting us anyhow.

What did we give Janet for her birthday? Today is her birthday, I believe. Give her my greetings, although she'll get them a month or two too late.

Incidentally, I guess we will be out here on this thing for at least a month and perhaps two. It's a sort of progressive affair and will take a good bit of time to finish everything up. When its all over, I think we stand a good chance of getting sent back to the States this time. Hope so.

This ought to be one good show. There are several photographers aboard, and I have a couple of cameras myself, so I hope to get some interesting pictures. Well, that's all, to date. Will write more when more develops, which shouldn't be long, now. Tomorrow is possibly a little early but expect hot doings sure by day after tomorrow. Maybe we'll get a couple of more flags to paint on the bridge. -----

**F**our days have passed since I last wrote, and nothing has happened yet.

It seems amazing that we have not had any contact with the [Japanese] as we are now right in the midst of numer-



*U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. John D. Schneidau was a photography enthusiast who captured images of wartime Kwajalein using his personal equipment.*

ous islands he holds. In fact, we are just about surrounded by [Japanese] bases. Of course, our planes and warships are pounding them continuously, but I didn't think they could neutralize them so completely. Tomorrow is D-Day. If we are going to get anything at all, we'll get it this

evening. Things are entirely too quiet and peaceful. It's hard to believe that we are steaming along completely surrounded by [Japanese] bases, the nearest not more than 70 miles away.

There is a tremendous armada of ships of all descriptions divided into various task forces which are now closing in on the objective from all directions. Tomorrow morning will be the big day. Things will really start popping then.

The weather has continued to be as nearly perfect as we could wish it. Hope it keeps up for the next two or three days, at least. We'll need good weather for the small boats to land on the beach. These

**"This time, I got lots of good pictures of everything as I had a good camera and plenty of film."**



*LST-31 offloads at a beach on Enghli Island in Eniwetok Atoll circa February-March 1944 in this U.S. Navy photo.*





islands are all fringed by a coral reef and a heavy surf could cause lots of trouble. The [Japanese] know we are coming by now because some of their planes spotted other groups of ships that are in the vicinity the day before yesterday. There has been no report of any attacks on our ships by their planes, however. Seems like they would have tried to do something. I guess maybe most of their planes have been knocked out and they may be saving what are left of the day of the big attack.

As far as we are concerned, this has been like a pleasure cruise up to now. On the last operation, we were attacked twice before D-day and shot down the bomber on the day before. Well, no doubt tomorrow we will tell a different story. In two or three days, I'll have plenty to write about, so until then—au revoir. ---  
-----

**I t is now the afternoon of D-day.** The bombardment has been going on since dawn. There has been no sign of enemy planes yet, nor is it likely there will be any as our air cover is strong enough to maintain complete control of the air. There are far more than 1,000 fighters to protect us. I can't tell you exactly how many there really are, and the above figure is very low compared to the actual. It has been a picnic for us so far as we have nothing to do today at all and

will not take part until tomorrow.

The lessons learned at Tarawa were applied here, and instead of risking many men by a direct assault on the biggest base, they took adjacent lightly defended islands this morning and set up artillery units on top of them to shell the big island until its defenses are reduced.

The ships will also bombard it, of course, and have been doing so all day.

We hope to have it ready for invasion tomorrow morning, which is when we will play our part. There is no danger involved for us, however, only

for the troops that have to go ashore. Of course, it may take longer than one day to soften it up.

We get the reports over the radio from the planes that are spotting for the big ships. It is very interesting to listen to them. Some typical reports are: "Right on the button, you've flushed the enemy out of that position and they are now running up the beach," and, "That last salvo landed right in the blockhouse door, but I think you'll have to get it in the middle to do any good." You see, it's sort of a play-by-play description for us.

There is another force of ships that is hitting the northern section of the atoll in the same manner as we are hitting the southern, but we don't know yet how they are doing. There is a big airbase up that way.

After all the beautiful weather we have

been having, today, of all days, has to be rainy and dull. For that reason, we can't see much of what is happening from where we are except when there is a brief clearing in the weather. Tomorrow, however, we will be much closer in and will get a good view of the whole show.

Hope the sun is out so I can get some good pictures.

**P lenty to tell this time.** It is now two days after D-day and one day after troops landed on the main objective.

Yesterday morning before dawn, we steamed out of the lagoon to rendezvous in our area from which we were to take part in the operation.

As we approached the island, the battleships opened their bombardment. There would be a big, orange flash that momentarily lighted up the entire sky, then from the point from which the flash came, four—sometimes six—gleaming sparks raced with incredible speed towards the islands in a graceful, curving arc. Each spark represented a 14-inch shell.

As they neared the end of the trajectory, they seemed to slow up and float down onto the island, making brilliant flashes of light as they exploded.

Five or six seconds later, the sound of the explosions would reach us. As it became lighter, all types of ships closed in and kept up a continuous fire. The fire was concentrated on the section of the beach on which the troops were to land.

Then, the artillery on the adjacent islands captured the day before opened and laid down a barrage. At the same time, planes continually dive bombed the beach and big bombers dropped heavy bombs. The noise was terrific.

When the troops did get to the beach not a shot was fired on them. What a difference from Tarawa. Men who have been in to the beach say that for five hundred yards back from the water's edge, the earth is completely plowed up to a depth of 15 feet. Whatever was in that



**Manning their guns, a crew watches tank landing vehicles make their way ashore.**



stretch was simply buried. The [Japanese] had a concrete wall along the beach here about five feet thick, but there is not even a trace of it. Of course, all that didn't get the [Japanese] out of the rest of the island. They merely retired back from the beach, but it gave us a beach head. From then on, it was merely a matter of blasting them out.

This particular island was much more heavily fortified than Tarawa. Since the landings, the troops have been advancing slowly, rooting them out of pillboxes and blockhouses. The artillery and ships have kept up a continuous shelling as the troops advanced. Nighttime is the most spectacular as you can see oil and ammunition dumps explode, sending huge spots of flame as much as 1,000 feet into the air.

Last night, we were ordered to unload stuff that the troops needed during the night very near the beach. On one of the outer islands nearby that we have not yet landed on, a five-inch battery had been intermittently firing.

A destroyer turned his searchlight on us and the enemy battery, seeing us standing out like a sore thumb, took a couple of shots at us. About three shells hit the water near us and we could hear one whistle past, overhead. Luckily, he didn't hit us.

It wasn't much fun—especially when we are carrying hot cargo (munitions and fuel). It looks like it will be a couple of days yet before they finish off this particular island, which is the toughest in the atoll. Then, there are some others that have to be taken in the same atoll, but which won't be as tough.

I don't believe we have had many casualties, and I know the [Japanese] casualties have been heavy. In fact, it is unbelievable that anyone could still be alive after the pounding the island has received steadily for the past 72 hours. But there's plenty of them still in there. There was supposed to have been about 5,000 of them, although that figure is probably low. Very few will be taken prisoner, if any.

There has not been a [Japanese] plane in the vicinity for the entire operation to date. Reason: Every plane in the island group was shot down or damaged on the ground prior to the invasion and we how hold such air superiority that it is impossible for the [Japanese] to get any planes in.

Most of this stuff has now been released to the public via press dispatches as we get them over the radio every night. I don't know how the northern group has made out, but from the last reports, everything was going according to plan. The beach where the troops landed is really something to see. I don't want to miss getting a picture of it. This time, I got lots of good pictures of everything as I had a good camera and plenty of film.

There is also a special photographer from CINCPAC aboard who has taken a lot of pictures.

More in the next day or two. -----

**Here it is: the next day or two.** The battle for the main island in this section is still going on, but the



*The detritus of war: Pictured here, debris and portions of a Japanese light tank are visible in a pile of rubble.*

[Japanese] are now pushed into a corner and it shouldn't be long before they are wiped out. They fight right on to the end, though, no matter how hopeless the situation is. They figure if they can kill two or three of our troops before they kickoff, they have saved their face, or some such rot as that.

All night long, star shells have been bursting over the battlefield. They shed an eerie light over the scene. Several of our small ship boats have been into that section of the beach that we have well in hand with supplies.

Mr. Gurley, who went in one of the troops, says that the troops ashore dread the night, as the [Japanese] hide in their holes and underground chambers all day, or lie among the dead, and as soon as it gets dark, they sneak through the lines in the hope

of getting a few of our men before they are seen. It's a ticklish business as it is difficult to tell friend from foe in the darkness.

Yesterday morning, troops landed on another island next to the main one. This one was the second-best defended in the group here. We took part in that, also. This morning, troops will land on three more islands farther up the chain.

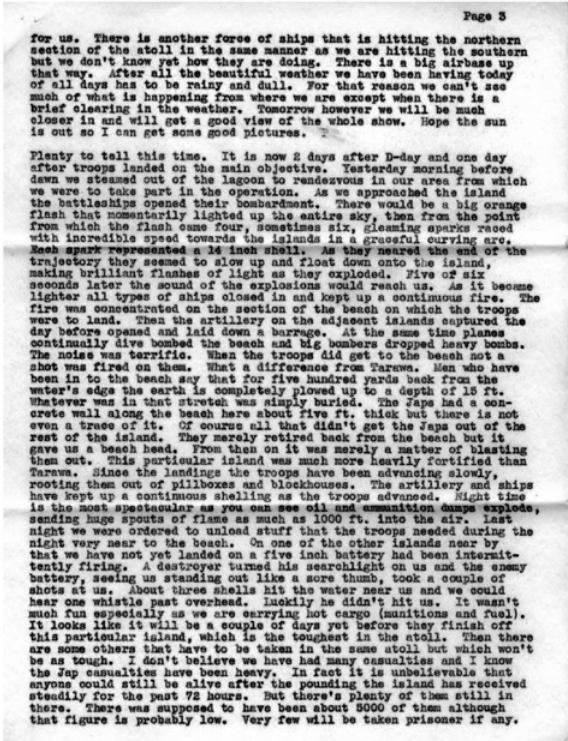
Shortly after the landing, we moved in to only a little less than a mile from the beach, so that we had a ringside seat for the whole battle.

The island is very narrow, and about a mile and a half long, so that with the glasses, we could watch our tanks and infantry as it advanced across its length.

The tanks were out in front and would crawl along slowly. Every now and then,

a puff of smoke would land near one as a [Japanese Soldier] threw a hand grenade. They would all stop and open up on the [Japanese] position until it was cleaned out or if it was too tough, the artillery from the other island would work on it or maybe a destroyer would steam right up to the beach and pound it. Then, the tanks would move on.

One tank was way out in front of all the others—too far out front. About 10 [Japanese] ran out of the blockhouse and surrounded it, throwing hand grenades at it. The tank would have been done for, escape that another tank a good way behind could see what was going on through a break in the trees and wiped out the [Japanese] with light machine gun fire.



**A "sea of gray":** In this excerpt from Schneidau's letter, we see how WWII OPSEC looked on paper.





*A tank crew waits for the haze to clear in this Schneidau photograph.*

Through the glasses, we can see the infantry picking their way along behind the tanks.

The boys step warily and rather gingerly as they advance, believe me. At the first sound of rifle fire, they all dash for cover and then proceed to locate the point where it came from. When they do, they sneak up on it from all sides and toss in grenades. They are about two-thirds of the way up the island now and should finish up by tonight. All of the really tough islands have now been taken.

There are a good many more that we haven't landed on yet, but they are lightly defended, unimportant and can be taken at leisure with a small force. I think we will all have everything cleaned up here in another week at most. I guess we will probably be around longer than that, though. How long, it is hard to guess.

There are other atolls in the group that they may take over before we go back, in which case, we might well be around here over a month.

None of us are anxious to stay longer than necessary as it is certain we'll get some air raids, eventually. It's a little early yet, to expect them, but in another week, the [Japanese] will probably start sending planes over every no and then on nuisance raids.

Walter is writing Rosemary a book like this, also. We may wait till we get back to the base to mail it, as you will probably get it just as fast, anyhow, seeing how long it took you to get the one I mailed at Tarawa.

Some mail went in today, but I was too late to get a letter in. However, I am sure we will have some kind of mail service in the next few days, so I will dash off a short note letting you know all is okay.

Went out this morning with another task force to capture three more islands. These last three were not nearly so heavily defended as the ones preceding and were cleaned up in one day. We now hold practically the entire southern tip of the atoll and most of the northern top, including all the strong points. Oth-

er islands can be taken whenever we get around to it as they have only small garrison forces on them.

This evening, some of our casualties were brought aboard for preliminary treatment while awaiting transfer to a hospital ship. We have a doctor aboard.

One Soldier had a bullet hole in his chest just above the heart. It was a perfectly round hole about the size of a dime. The slug was still inside. They gave him plasma and dressed the wound with sulfanilamide. The Doc says he'll probably recover. He didn't seem particularly bothered by it.

The other two had shrapnel wounds in their legs and arms which weren't serious. Another guy had been hit by a bullet in the wrist. The bullet had struck his rifle and glanced off into his arm.

He said the force of it spun him around

and knocked him down. Says you don't feel any pain, just a heavy blow and numbness, and it's hard to tell where you're hit until you look around for the blood. Interesting.

A boat came alongside later in the night and took them off. -----

**A**nother day – two more islands taken. Up until now, we've taken part in the seizure of every island in the southern section. I think we're about through now, as far as that part of the job goes, but have no idea what we'll do next. We should go alongside some transport today and get water, as we are running low.

Some of the ships have [Japanese] prisoners aboard. Would like to get the one that could speak English as I imagine it would be interesting to talk to him.

I understand that on the main island that we hid the second day, the [Japanese] put all the [Marshallese] children up to 15 years of age in a big hole and machine-gunned them. They also herded the [adults] onto the beach and shot them because they wouldn't fight for them. This was told [to] us by one of the wounded we had aboard. There were a good many [Marshallese] on several of the nonfortified islands, however, who were unharmed. I believe they got two or three [Japanese] women on the big island.

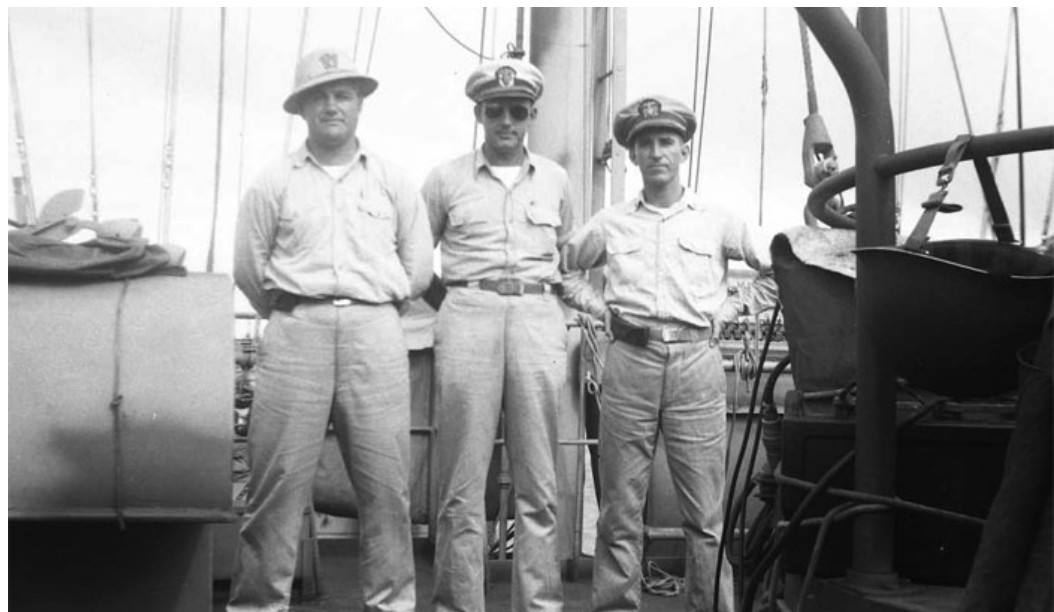
The Army unit aboard is sending some mail in today, so I will write you a short note. Hope you get it in a reasonable length of time.

Heard some say today that there is a bill in Congress for \$100 per month extra for members of the amphibious force, as extra hazardous duty pay, same as they now give paratroopers and submariners. I'll believe it when I see it, like all rumors.

Sounds like a lot of baloney to me as there is nothing in this type of duty warranting extra compensation any more than any other type of duty afloat. I won't refuse it if it's true, however.

Looks like the end of the page coming up, so I'll close for the time being. -----

**"One tank was out in front of all the others—too far out front."**



*Officers on the deck of LST-31 enjoy fair weather in this courtesy photo from the collection of Helen Schneidau. From left: John Donald Schneidau, Jr., commanding officer; Walter Humkey, executive officer; and John Kern, first lieutenant.*



# UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE ON KWAJALEIN

## PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT

*It is ironic* that as we move forward in time away from a conflict, the danger posed by its remnants remains.

USAG-KA has announced several recent safety messages related to unexploded ordnance disposal safety operations.

Unexploded ordnance, also called UXO, represents Kwajalein's very real and dangerous connection to WWII history. More than 70 years after the liberation of Kwajalein Atoll, UXO is still being recovered.

Over time, UXO can become more sensitive. Fuzes may still be armed and explosives

may become unstable.

These are just a few of the reasons UXO should only be dealt with by Kwajalein EOD personnel. As you explore, play and enjoy life on Kwajalein, you may discover objects you can't identify. If you are unsure if an item found is UXO, assume it is and do not disturb it.

Here are a few historical facts about UXO on Kwajalein.

**UXO on Kwajalein Atoll**  
It is estimated that one shell was fired every three to five seconds during the 1944 pre-invasion of Kwajalein. U.S. airstrikes targeted Japanese vessels, aircraft and

ordnance depots. During the first two days of Operation Flintlock, thousands of tons of ordnance were fired and dropped from Navy aircraft, ships and Army artillery.

Ground forces fought for four days to secure Kwajalein. To support their effort, tons of ordnance were fired. The quantities of Japanese ordnance fired on Kwajalein—or yet to be found—remains unknown.

UXO is definitely not an item to take as a souvenir. If you encounter something you think is UXO, do not touch it. Instead, do the following:

**Mark It.** Mark the area around the item in such a way that it can be found again. Do not place anything on the item itself, but rather near or around it.

**Leave the Area.** Leave the area following the same path you took in, looking around for any other potentially hazardous items you may have missed.

**Walk—don't run.** Please don't put yourself at risk of a slip, trip or fall trying to move faster than necessary. Get at least 300 feet away from the item.

**Notify EOD.** Once you've left the location of the UXO, notify the proper authorities. Remember to provide information such as:

**Location:** Explain where the UXO. Include nearby buildings or landmarks and how you marked it.

**Size:** Use relative comparisons: "As big as a coconut..."

**Shape:** Whether the object is cylindrical, round, egg- or teardrop shaped.

**Material:** Whether the object is metallic, rusty, shiny, dull and any discernable color on its surface.

Remember, UXO is not a souvenir. It is a dangerous relic that requires special handling. As you travel the atoll, be mindful of your surroundings. When you do see UXO, please report it to a contact number below.

**Contact Information:** Provide your contact information to EOD. Your assistance may be needed in correctly identifying the location of the UXO. EOD Contact Phone Numbers.

**Kwajalein EOD:** 5-1433

**After Hours Contacts:**  
Central Processing Stations:  
Kwajalein: 5-4445  
Roi-Namur: 5-6445

For UXO found on RMI Outer Islands, please notify the Republic of the Marshall Islands Liaison at 5-3600.

## EOD OPERATIONS FRIDAY, JAN. 22



**EOD will be conducting operations at UXO Disposal Site Kwajalein 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. The area indicated in the map will be off-limits until operation is complete.**

## WATCH AND LISTEN

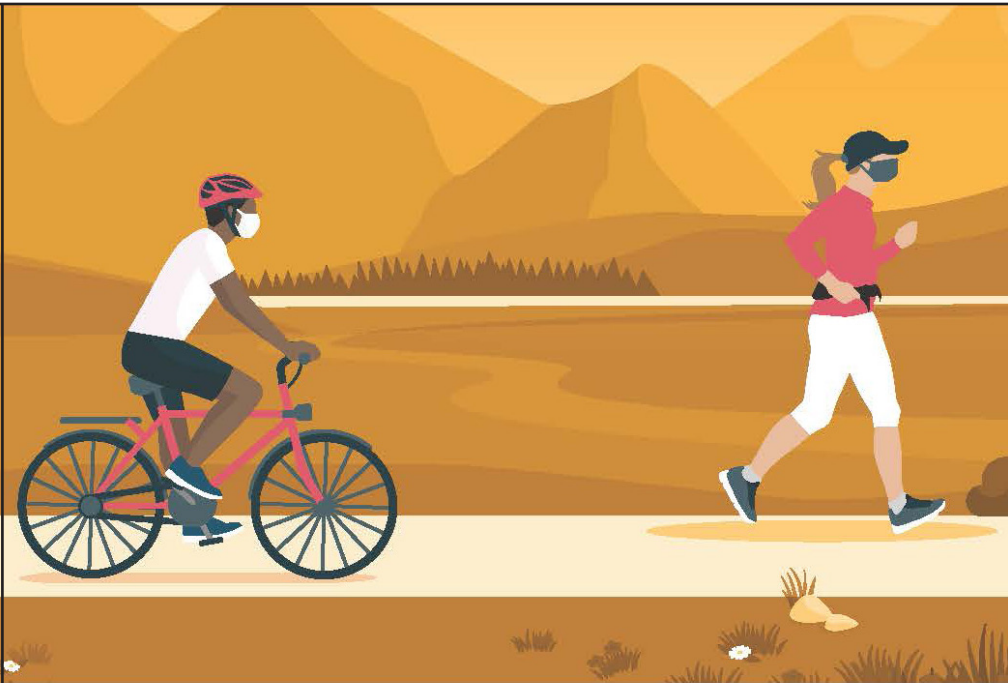
AFN Kwajalein is the world's only contract run Armed Forces Network. Check in with the team to see and hear about Kwaj life.



You don't have to surf to catch the wave. Check out the latest episode of Kwaj's local TV show on KTV 20-2.



People from Kwaj talking about life. Check out this original radio show on AFN 99.9 The Wave at Saturdays at 5 p.m. and Tuesdays at noon. Listen on the AFN roller channel, 19-5 for Kwaj and 45-1 for Roi.



Take care of your body and get moving to lessen fatigue, anxiety, or sadness





## HYDRATION TIPS

There are many simple tricks to staying hydrated throughout the day. Here are a few of the lesser-known benefits of drinking water.

- Water helps the body reduce toxins
- Water can relieve nausea
- Water improves the body's overall immunity
- Water helps dissolve minerals and nutrients in the body
- Water carries oxygen and nutrients to cells
- It might sound crazy, but water can assist the body in regulating its own temperature
- Hydration is just as important for pets as for humans. Bring water or ice for your dog to enjoy on their next walk.
- Water provides much-needed moisture to help maintain delicate tissues in the mouth, eyes and nose

## RMI TRAVEL BAN EXTENDED TO FEB. 7

**RMI NOVEL COVID-19  
UPDATED INTERIM HEALTH  
TRAVEL ADVISORY &  
RESTRICTIONS  
ISSUANCE 21:  
AS OF JAN. 5, 2021**

An extension of the total suspension of international travelers coming into the RMI via air travel will continue until **Feb. 7, 2021**.

For more information about the Republic of the Marshall Islands Issuance 21, please contact the Commander's Hotline at 5-1098 or the US-AG-KA Host Nation Office at 5-5235.

### ISLAND HOPPER FLIGHT SCHEDULE

United Airlines has confirmed reinstatement of the full Island Hopper flight schedule. Please note that the travel ban for the Republic of the Marshall Islands is still in effect and all flights are subject to change.

For more information, please contact United Airlines reservations at 1-800-864-8331.

**JANUARY CHECK-IN TIMES**  
**UA 154 - 10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.**

**JANUARY FLIGHTS**  
**UA 154 - Jan. 16 (GUM)**

**FEBRUARY CHECK-IN TIMES**  
**UA 155 - 3:30 - 4:50 p.m.**  
**UA 154 - 10:45 - 11:15 a.m.**

**FEBRUARY FLIGHTS**  
**UA 155 - Feb. 12 (HNL)**  
**UA 154 - Feb. 13 (GUM)**



## CYS JANUARY SPOTLIGHT

U.S. ARMY GARRISON-KWAJALEIN ATOLL  
CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES

### Child Development Center

#### Baru

Saturdays - Water Play Day

#### Bako

Tuesdays - Pre-K Music Class  
Tuesdays - STEAM Swim Day. Send your child with water clothes, a towel and dry clothes  
Wednesdays - STEAM Functional Fitness  
Thursdays - Pre-K Music Class  
Thursdays - STEAM Library  
Saturdays - Pre-K Music Class  
Saturdays - STEAM Reading Buddies

#### Start Smart Sports

Parent and Child Yoga - Come reach for it in our parent and child yoga class. Session runs through Feb. 4

#### School-Age Care

Tuesdays - Art  
Wednesdays - Functional Fitness - 2:15 - 3:15 p.m.  
Thursdays - STEM  
Fridays - Recreation  
Saturdays - Character Counts

#### 4-H

Wednesday and Friday from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.  
Join us in January as we explore this month's exciting theme: robotics.

**For CDC activities at the Millican Family Pool, parents are reminded to send children with water clothes, a towel, dry clothes and swim diaper if needed.**

### SAC Sports

Ninja Warrior Challenge.  
Season runs through - Feb. 9

#### Namo Weto Youth Center

Tuesdays - Recreation, 3:15 - 4:15 p.m.  
Keystone Meetings - 11:40 a.m.  
Wednesdays - Tremendous Trivia, 4:30 p.m.  
Thursdays - Ted Talks - 4 p.m.  
Fridays - Frappuccinos - 4 p.m.  
Saturdays - Smoothies - 3:30 p.m.  
Sundays - Keystone Officers Meeting, 4:15 p.m.  
Sundays - Board Games - 4 p.m.  
Sundays - Yoga - 6 p.m.

#### Special Events

Jan. 17 - Bowling, 7-9 p.m.

#### Parent Information

All CYS Facilities will be closed Jan. 19 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



Wherever we are,  
we can change the world together.

Extend your service and join the CFC community to do even more to help those in need. As a member of the U.S. Department of Defense, you can give to the charities you care about through payroll allotment, sign up to volunteer, and *Be the Face of Change*.



Show Some Love at [GiveCFC.org](https://GiveCFC.org)

For more information please contact Ms. Sampayan- 805-355-2767 or SSG Vazquez - 805-355-1419





**51st Annual Kwaj Open**  
**Jan. 24 – 31, 2021**  
**Tee Off Social – Jan. 23rd 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.**  
**at the Vet's Hall**  
**Entry Fee - \$80 members, \$100 non-members**  
**includes shirt, prizes, and banquet**



**First Round – Sunday, Jan. 24**  
**Chip, Putt, Drive – Wednesday, Jan. 27**  
**Horse Races – Thursday, Jan. 28**  
**Putting Competition – Saturday, Jan. 30**  
**Final Round – Sunday, Jan. 31**  
**Banquet – Monday, Feb. 1 at Yacht Club**

**Contact Chris Heins [cbheins@gmail.com](mailto:cbheins@gmail.com)**  
**with questions and tee times**

A Kwaj resident  
carrying more than  
five packages on  
their bike



At least two people  
wearing red shirts  
on a Friday

An eight-seater golf  
cart, completely full  
of passengers

A Soldier  
in uniform

A group biking  
three or four across  
down Lagoon Road

Anyone “ghosting”  
an extra bike down  
the street (riding  
one bike, leading  
another)

A Kwajalein  
sanitation vehicle  
making its rounds

Someone playing  
their bluetooth  
speakers

Four people with a  
lot of dive gear.

**KWAJ BINGO  
FOR THOSE  
RESIDING IN  
QUARANTINE**

A jogger

The big, maroon  
pickup truck for the  
Reagan Test Site

Alberto Pandya,  
AFN Kwajalein DJ



A Kwaj resident  
losing their hat in  
the wind.

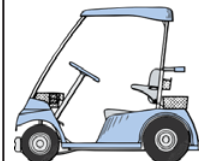
A Kwajalein  
fire truck

**SEE HOW MANY OF  
THESE “KWAJ LIFE”  
ITEMS YOU CAN SEE  
OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW.**

A feral Kwaj cat  
(these are hard to  
spot and generally  
come out at night)

Someone walking  
a dog

Someone making  
laps on a road bike  
as they train for the  
RustMan Triathlon



Three people in a  
row not wearing  
hats

**HINT: WATCH AN  
EPISODE OF THE “KWAJ  
CURRENT” TV SHOW,  
AND YOU’LL BE SURE TO  
SEE AFN DJ ALBERTO  
PANDYA.**

At least two people  
wearing red shirts  
on a Friday

Someone with a  
white to-go box  
from the Zamperini  
Dining Facility

Someone wiping  
out on their bike  
(hope you don’t  
see this, actually)

Someone traveling  
with a bike trailer

Someone riding a  
gooseneck bike



# KWAJALEIN AT THE MOVIES

JOIN KWAJALEIN AT THE MOVIES. UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, ALL MOVIES BEGIN AT 7:30 P.M. CONTACT MWR AT 5-3331 FOR MORE INFORMATION. SHOW-TIMES MAY VARY FOR SPECIAL “MOVIES UNDER THE STARS” EVENTS.

## YUK THEATER KWAJALEIN

SATURDAY, 16 JAN.  
“GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS”  
(PG-13) 132 MIN

*Millie Bobby Brown and Vera Farmiga*  
Members of the crypto-zoological agency Monarch face off against a battery of god-sized monsters, including the mighty Godzilla, who collides with Mothra, Rodan, and his ultimate nemesis, the three-headed King Ghidorah. When these ancient super-species-thought to be mere myths-rise again, they all vie for supremacy, leaving humanity’s very existence hanging in the balance.

SUNDAY, 17 JAN.  
“TEEN TITANS GO! TO THE MOVIES”  
(PG) 84 MIN.

*Greg Cipes and Tara Strong*  
It seems that all the major superheroes out there are starring in their own movies—all but the Teen Titans. Robin is bound and determined to remedy that situation by becoming a star instead of a sidekick. With a few madcap ideas and a song in their hearts, the Teen Titans head to Hollywood to fulfill their dreams. Things soon go awry, however, when a supervillain plans to take over the planet—putting the very fate of the young heroes on the line.

MONDAY, 18 JAN.  
“YELLOW ROSE”  
(PG-13) 94 MIN.

*Eva Noblezada and Dale Watson*  
A Filipina teen must decide whether to stay with her family or leave her small Texas town to become a country music singer.

SATURDAY, JAN. 23  
“COME PLAY”  
(PG-13) 96 MIN.

*Gillian Jacobs and Azhy Robertson*  
Parents fight to save their son when a mysterious creature uses his electronic devices to break into our world.

SUNDAY, JAN. 24  
“PETER RABBIT”  
(PG) 94 MIN.

**MARGOT ROBBIE AND DAISY RIDLEY**  
Despite his efforts, Peter can’t seem to shake his reputation for mischief among the other rabbits. Once he adventures out of the garden Peter finds himself in a world where mischief is appreciated, but soon his family come to bring him home.

SUNDAY, JAN. 25  
“LET HIM GO”  
(R) 113 MIN.

*Kevin Costner and Diane Lane*  
Following the loss of their son, a retired sheriff and his wife leave their Montana ranch to rescue their young grandson from the clutches of a dangerous family living off the grid in the Dakotas.

## TRADEWINDS THEATER ROI-NAMUR

SATURDAY, JAN. 16  
“THE BROKEN HEARTS GALLERY”  
(PG-13) 108 MIN.

*Dacre Montgomery and Phillipa Soo*  
What if you saved a souvenir from every relationship you’ve ever been in? The Broken Hearts Gallery follows the always unique Lucy, a 20-something art gallery assistant living in New York City, who also happens to be an emotional hoarder.

SUNDAY, JAN. 17  
“THE LAST SHIFT” (R) 90 MIN.

*Richard Jenkins and Shane Paul McGhie*  
Calling it quits after 38 years, an ageing fast-food worker trains his young replacement on the graveyard shift at Oscar’s Chicken and Fish.

SATURDAY, JAN. 23  
“GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS”  
(PG-13) 132 MIN.

*Millie Bobby Brown and Vera Farmiga*  
Members of the crypto-zoological agency Monarch face off against a battery of god-sized monsters, including the mighty Godzilla, who collides with Mothra, Rodan, and his ultimate nemesis, the three-headed King Ghidorah. When these ancient super-species-thought to be mere myths-rise again, they all vie for supremacy, leaving humanity’s very existence hanging in the balance.

SUNDAY, JAN. 24  
“YELLOW ROSE”  
(PG-13) 94 MIN.

*Eva Noblezada and Dale Watson*  
A Filipina teen must decide whether to stay with her family or leave her small Texas town to become a country music singer.

### WHAT THE CRITICS ARE SAYING

**ON “CARS 3”:** ‘Cars 3’ opens with Lightning losing to a new, state-of-the-art rival Jackson Storm, a hotshot who trains on a videogame-style simulator and boasts a host of technical improvements.  
—MICHAEL O’SULLIVAN, WASHINGTON POST

**ON “THE BROKEN HEARTS GALLERY:”** ‘The Broken Hearts Gallery’ hits all the stops on the road to romantic-comedy gold. So, why did it take the exit onto Meh Boulevard?  
—JOHNNY OLEKSINSKI, NEW YORK POST



**ON “THE LAST SHIFT”:** Despite some unexpected character choices and other small stumbles, this indie drama gets by on great performances, bittersweet humor, and many snapshots of heartbreaking truths.  
—JEFFREY M. ANDERSON, COMMON SENSE MEDIA

**ON “THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI”:** A ferocious Frances McDormand plays a grieving mother seeking justice in Martin McDonagh’s movie, which mixes tears and tragedy with corrosive laughs.  
—MANOHLA DARGIS, THE NYTIMES

**ON “TEEN TITANS GO! TO THE MOVIES”:** Families who choose to cope with its inane gags will find a flick that delivers some solid messages about what matters most.  
—PLUGGED IN STAFF

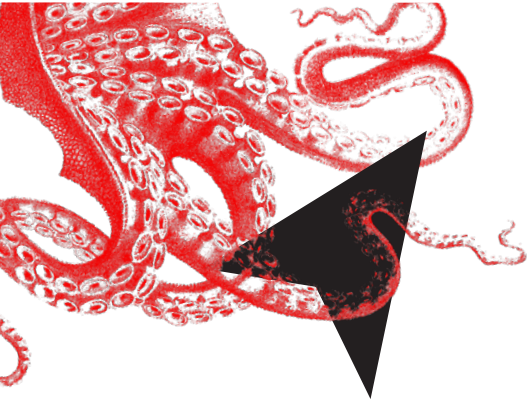
**ON “YELLOW ROSE”:** Driven by Noblezada’s standout central performance, writer-director Diane Paragas’ memorable drama is an exploration of identity and immigration, as well as a lovely tribute to the power of music.  
—SANDIE ANGULO CHEN, COMMON SENSE MEDIA

**ON “COME PLAY”:** In Jacob Chase’s film, a monster from another realm invades ours through phone screens and tablets.  
—BEN KENIGSBURG, THE NYTIMES

**ON “LET HIM GO”:** The stuff of serious drama lurks here but escapes exploration.  
—JOE MORGENSTERN, WALL STREET JOURNAL

**ON “GODZILLA: KING OF THE MONSTERS”:** This metropolis-mulching monster masher makes superhero-movie destruction look almost dainty in comparison.  
—PLUGGED IN STAFF





# KWAJ COMMUNICATION

For a small island, Kwajalein has a lot going on. Any given weekend, friends and community organizations host events and opportunities to meet others and try new hobbies.

Many private organizations and meet-ups make exclusive use of Facebook to contact their general membership. To reach an even wider audience—including those not on Facebook—check out some of the official channels below.

## USAG-KA FACEBOOK PAGE

U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll posts community-wide updates to its official Facebook page.

Check daily for information about flight restrictions, travel delays, safety and updates to garrison residents and employees at <https://www.facebook.com/USArmyKwajaleinAtoll/>.

## THE KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS

The Kwajalein Hourglass is available online each week via a link on the USAG-KA Facebook page and the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command homepage. The Kwajalein Hourglass contains news, USAG-KA Command updates, event information, articles about island life, activities and safety messaging.

Several island organizations distribute the Hourglass directly to employees via email. If you would like to add email address to the USAG-KA Public Affairs Office Hourglass mailing list, please contact the USAG-KA Public Affairs Office at 5-4848.

## THE AFN ROLLER CHANNEL

Get the word out to the community via the AFN roller channel. Updates to the channel occur twice per week on Wednesdays and Saturdays, respectively.

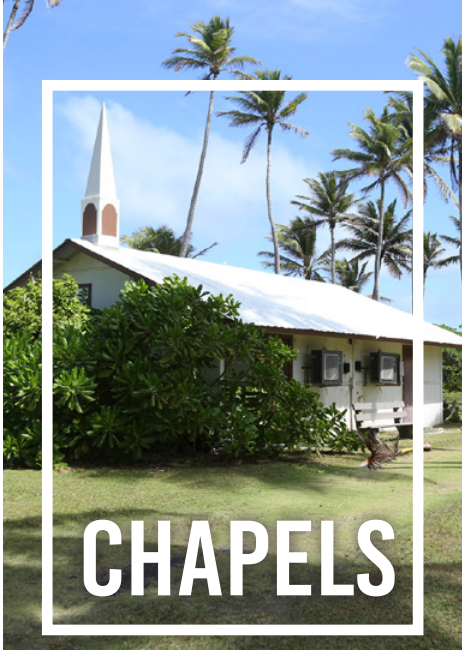
Help wanted ads, private organization event advertisements and health and safety messaging are just a few of the types of messages you may see roll by during the week.

Email messaging to [kwajafnroller@dyn-intl.com](mailto:kwajafnroller@dyn-intl.com). To ensure your message meets Army regulations, contact the USAG-KA Public Affairs Office at 5-4848.

## ISLAND BULLETIN BOARDS

Going to the gyms, libraries or schools? Check the bulletin boards for posted messages about upcoming activities. Some of these boards are specially allocated for use by MWR.

Contact MWR at 5-3338 for information about how to advertise your messages using the boards.



For more information call 5-3505

## WHAT'S YOUR WORSHIP STYLE?

**Traditional Services.** Sundays, at 8:15 a.m. in the small sanctuary.

**Sundays, 9:15 a.m.** Catholic Service in the main sanctuary.

**Weekdays at 5:15 p.m.** Weekday mass 5:15 p.m. in the chapel offices

**Saturday, 5:30 p.m.** Saturday night mass in the small sanctuary.

**Sundays, 11 a.m.** Interdenominational Service. Rock out to modern praise and worship songs.

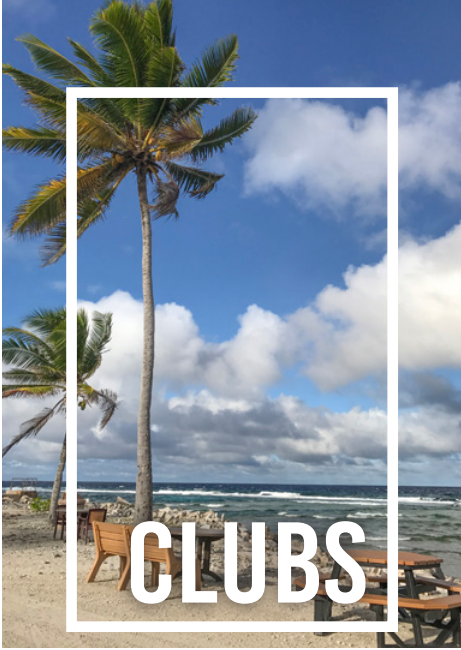
**Kids Kingdom.** Looking for a way to connect to the chapel community with your kids? The Island Memorial Chapel now offers Kids Kingdom. This kid-focused program meets during the Protestant services at 8:15 a.m. and 11 a.m., and also during Sunday Catholic mass at 9:15 a.m. Children are welcome to join this fun weekly activity.

## RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

**Men's Bible Study Group** meets Thursdays at 5:45 p.m. in the chapel conference room.

**Ladies' Bible Study** meets 9:15 a.m. Thursdays at Qtrs. 405-B Taro. Contact Sally Bulla at 5-9804 for more information.

**Theology on Tap.** Monday, Jan. 18, 6:30 p.m. in the Adult Recreation Center. The theme for discussion is "Prejudice and Diversity." Bring a beverage of your choice. This event is open to adults aged 21 and older.



Call Kwaj MWR at 5-3331 and Roi MWR at 5-6580 for updates.

## COUNTRY CLUB

**Enjoy Country Club Brunch every first Sunday of the month. from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Cost is \$20 for adults and \$12 for children. Enjoy a variety of brunch foods including fried chicken, bacon, eggs, quiche, sausage, hash browns, grits, pasta salad, pancakes, fruit and biscuits.

Menu selections are subject to change. No reservation required. Seating is limited. 45-minute time limit per table. For more information, call MWR at 5-3331.

**Poetry Wednesdays.** Poets wanted. Come experience the power of the spoken word on the last Wednesday of each month from 6 - 7:30 p.m.

**Uno Saturdays.** Come play Uno every Saturday at 6 p.m.

## OCEAN VIEW CLUB

**Ladies Night Sundays.** 7 - 11 p.m. Enjoy wine flights and jazz.

**Men's Night Mondays.** 5 - 8 p.m. Enjoy drinks and pizza specials. Purchase two medium pepperoni or cheese pizzas from the Sunrise Cafe for \$21.

**Trivia Tuesdays.** 5 - 6 p.m.

**Happy Hour Wednesdays.** 5 - 7 p.m.

**Top 100 Thursdays.** 7 - 11 p.m.

**Reggae Fridays.** 7 - 11 p.m.

**Saturdays.** Enjoy activities like game nights, karaoke and live music.

## ROI-NAMUR OUTRIGGER CLUB

**Karaoke** - Sunday nights at 8 p.m.

Blackened Mahi Sandwich - \$10  
Six-ounce blackened mahi steak on a fresh baked bun with lettuce, onion and tomato, and a choice of side dish.

Grilled Milkfish Plate - \$10  
Eight-ounce seasoned and grilled fillet with rice and a choice of side dish.

Cauliflower Fried Rice - \$4  
Add bacon with chicken or mushrooms for \$6.  
Mashed cauliflower - \$2  
Cauliflower tater tots - \$2



# AMIDST COVID, ARMY WORKS ON LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENTS TO QUALITY OF LIFE

## EXTERNAL REPORT

By Karen Jowers, *Militarytimes.com*

**Even as Army officials** try to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the quality of life of soldiers and families, they're looking beyond the pandemic in their continuing efforts to improve quality of housing, child care capacity, permanent change of station moves and better employment opportunities for spouses.

"We understand our strengths and weaknesses. We know we have gaps. ... But we have a pretty good grasp of the data that helps us inform some decisions that we make," said Lt. Gen. Douglas Gabram, commander of the Army Installation Management Command. He took command on Jan. 22, just before COVID hit.

"We as a team are committed to making it better for our soldiers, civilians and families,"

Here are some of the efforts.

### Housing

Gabram and his team are tracking maintenance work orders at each installation. In anticipation of the COVID dangers, before the nationwide shutdown in March, officials decided to limit maintenance in soldiers' homes to those issues affecting life, health and safety, "because folks didn't want maintenance workers in their homes if they didn't need to go in there," he said.

Residents have been emailing photos of maintenance issues for evaluation. For minor maintenance issues, like changing air filters, maintenance experts have been connecting to residents via video calls to walk them through the replacement procedures. They've also provided supplies to help residents take a more active role in maintaining their homes. In August, housing companies started tackling the backlog of work orders that had been put on hold because of COVID, and in general that work order situation "is in pretty good shape" now, Gabram said.

They're also tracking the number of families who are displaced from their homes because of mold and other issues. There are 63 displaced families on Army installations, out of 87,133 residences, with 22 of those being pre-planned to facilitate renovations.

### PCS moves

The Army is putting together "PCS Summer Surge 2.0", applying lessons learned this year during the pandemic in the hope of improving moves in the summer of 2021.

Soldiers made about 72,000 household moves during the June-through-September compressed PCS cycle following the stop movement order in the spring. More than 97 percent of those moves were inspected in person by a quality assurance inspector, surpassing the DoD requirement. The customer satisfaction rate was 94.5 percent for Army moves in the period from Jan. 1 through Sept. 20, Gabram said.

In 2019 Gen. Gus Perna, then-commander of the Army Materiel Command,



*Lt. Gen. Douglas Gabram, Army Installation Management Command commanding general, speaks with staff at the Fort Sam Houston Child Development Center about their safety and health protocols in May 2020.*

ordered a study of the three small installations with the highest turnover rate — Carlisle Barracks, Fort Leavenworth and Fort Bliss. The goal was to improve the quality of moves by looking at transportation, personnel, orders, household goods and maintenance on the homes between occupants.

"If we could improve the quality of all those things, we'd have a much better-quality move," Gabram said. "We had this in place, and then what happened? COVID hit." So, their plan moved up to Army headquarters for use on a broader scale.

One change is to try to get orders to most soldiers 120 days before their report date, giving them and their families more maneuvering space to deal with household goods, schools, housing and the myriad other elements of a move.

### Childcare

Before COVID hit, Army child development centers had a capacity of 19,557 children, which fell short of the needs of Army families. Recognizing that shortage of childcare spaces, Army officials established a facilities investment plan, Gabram said. The 10-year strategy involves 21 funded projects that will provide an additional 4,300 childcare spaces.

A new requirement gives military families priority in child development centers, which, in effect, adds more spaces. Since Sept. 1, when the DoD requirement took effect, Army installation CDC officials have given 655 supplanting notices to lower priority families, giving them 45 days' notice that their space is needed for a higher priority family. Out of the 655 who have been supplanted, 545 have been civilian families and 110 have been active-duty families who were supplanted by a higher-priority military family, Gabram said.

Senior division commanders and garrison commanders have the authority to grant exceptions to policy, depending on the situation.

Individual CDC capacity is affected by the installation's health protection con-

dition. With COVID, the current attendance is 9,889, or 51 percent of capacity. With COVID-induced requirements, there are fewer children allowed in a room. In some cases, parents have chosen not to put their children in childcare during COVID for a variety of reasons, Gabram said.

"You can't social distance children," Gabram said. The lowest capacity the CDCs went to was 25 percent, in March and April, but they didn't close, because of mission requirements, he said.

"At CDCs, we get hit every day in terms of [positive COVID cases], but we're pretty good about mitigating the risks, closing the minimal amount of rooms, minimizing the impact to the mission, and messaging the parents and chain of command appropriately.

"We're very proficient and effective in executing our mission in a COVID environment. If it gets worse, we're prepared for that, because that's what we do. Our installations work through it. We were getting through it when others weren't."

### Spouse employment

Like the other service branches, the Army has a number of programs designed to increase employment and education opportunities for spouses.

This year, Army officials have streamlined the process for spouses who want to operate home-based businesses on installations. Now, officials at Morale, Welfare and Recreation "escort" a spouse through the administrative and legal process, cutting the approval time. Of the 616 home-based businesses on Army garrisons, 471 are operated by spouses, and that doesn't include family childcare homes.

Spouses who are employed in non-appropriated fund activities now have access to the Civilian Employment Assignment Tool, helping them continue employment as they transfer to another duty station. As of October, 1,000 people have been registered and 428 have been reassigned to jobs, of which 240 are military spouses, Gabram said.



# CLASSIFIEDS

The community wants to hear from you. Send in your announcements and Classified ads to The Kwajalein Hourglass. Submit ads and announcements Wednesdays to [kwajaleinhourglass@dyn-intl.com](mailto:kwajaleinhourglass@dyn-intl.com).

## HELP WANTED

To research and apply for government employment opportunities on U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll and worldwide, visit [usajobs.gov](http://usajobs.gov). Done hiring? Write to [kwajalein.hourglass@dyn-intl.com](mailto:kwajalein.hourglass@dyn-intl.com) to remove your help wanted listing.

**Community Bank** seeks a part-time Banking Center Service Specialist, or teller. Submit applications and resumes to [www.dodcommunitybank.com](http://www.dodcommunitybank.com). Contact Rita Pyne at 5-2152 for more information.

**Nan Inc.** seeks a qualified quality control manager and site safety and health officer. To apply, visit [www.nanhawaii.com](http://www.nanhawaii.com) and contact Clint Ueatari or Kevin Short at 5-2632, 5-1260 or 5-2998.

**Tribalco** seeks experienced and highly motivated senior, mid- and junior network technicians to join our team. Apply via <http://www.tribalco.com/jobs.html>.

**RGNEXT, LLC** seeks qualified candidates to fill several open positions on Kwaj and Roi in engineering, technical and other areas. For more information and to apply, go to [www.rgnext.com](http://www.rgnext.com).

**DynCorp International** is looking for qualified candidates for various positions. Current DI open positions on USAG-KA include administrative services, data analysts, education services, aviation and airfield operations, marine operations and public works among others. To apply, go to [www.dilogcap.com](http://www.dilogcap.com) or contact your local HR representative.

**USAG-KA Child and Youth Services is hiring coaches.** No experience necessary. All children of head coaches play for free. Visit Central Registration or call 5-2158 in Building 356.

## NOTICES

**Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the REB, room 213 for open meetings.**

**Ongoing Smoking and Tobacco Cessation.** Please call EAP at 5-5362 or make an appointment with a physician.

**Tobacco Use on USAG-KA.** Smoking permitted only in designated smoking areas. All smoking and cigarette butt receptacles must be at least 50 feet from entrance of facilities. USAG-KA Policy Memorandum 600-8 sets forth specific policies designed for the protection from the negative impact of tobacco use. Smoking cessation programs are available. Please contact Mary Beth Dawicki at 5-5362 or [Marybeth.Dawicki@internationalalsogs.us](mailto:Marybeth.Dawicki@internationalalsogs.us).

**Island Memorial Chapel Counseling Services.** The IMC chaplains are available for appointments on both Roi-Namur and Kwajalein. Contact the Chapel office at 5-3505 to schedule a meeting. Discussions in pastoral counseling are kept private, and confidentiality belongs with the client.

**The Employee Assistance Program** Counselor Mary Beth Dawicki is ready to listen. Contact Dawicki at 5-5235 or email at [marybeth.dawicki@internationalalsogs.us](mailto:marybeth.dawicki@internationalalsogs.us) to

make an appointment. Information shared during appointments is confidential. As an alternative to in-person meetings, phone consultation or virtual meetings are available utilizing a HIPAA compliant platform. Call 5-5362 for more information.

**Don't Rush to Flush: Kwajalein Drug Take Back Program.** Cleaning out your medicine cabinet? Don't flush old medicines in the Kwaj water system. You can safely discard expired materials at one of two island collection receptacles. Discard drugs at the Kwajalein Hospital Pharmacy during business hours Tuesday through Saturday and at the 24-hour collection bin at the Kwajalein Police Department, Bldg. 803.

Items eligible for collection include prescription and over-the-counter drugs; pills, tablets and capsules; ointments; creams; lotions; powders and no more than 4 oz. liquid medicines.

**Metro Flights.** Eating and drinking on Metro and helicopter flights is strictly prohibited. For your own safety and the sanitation of flights, we ask that you refrain from consuming food and beverages during flights. All drinks and snacks should be enjoyed in the air terminals or upon arriving at your destination. We appreciate your cooperation. Contact Lee Holt at 5-2102 and Fly Roi at 5-6359.

**Report non-emergencies.** Send in secure reports online at the USAG-KA Police Department Facebook page. To report a nonemergency by phone, call 5-4444. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/kwajaleinpolice/>.

**The Kwajalein Hospital** now accepts the following five insurance providers: Geo Blue/BCBS, Tri-care, United Healthcare, Aetna and Cigna. For those patients not covered under these providers, pay and claim is in effect.

**Yearbook Sales.** Purchase your 2020-2021 yearbook online at [Kwajaleinschools.org](http://Kwajaleinschools.org). by Feb. 1.

## ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

**Power Walk Ex Class.** Stand strong, move forward and get to stepping with Power Walk Ex Class. The class meets Thursday and Saturday from 6 - 7 a.m. Walk will begin and end at the Ivey Gym. All MWR fitness classes require a wellness class pass. For more information and to purchase your pass, visit the MWR desk at the Grace Sherwood Library or call 5-3331.

**Spring Dance Collective with Courtney Strouse.** Classes for all age groups in a variety of styles run now through April 30. Email [dancekwaj@gmail.com](mailto:dancekwaj@gmail.com) for the details.

**Basketball Season.** Come out and support your favorite teams. Seasons runs until Feb. 20. Contact MWR with questions at 5-3331.

**Swap and Shop Community Yard Sale.** Jan. 18 from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. Palm St., north of the tennis courts. Clean out your closets and start the new year with a little extra cash at this community yard sale event. Register pay \$5 to reserve your table at the MWR desk in the



CONTACT THE USAG-KA SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ ASSAULT RESPONSE AND PREVENTION VICTIM ADVOCATE

**Staff Sgt. Yadira Vazquezrodriguez**  
**SHARP Victim Advocate**  
**Work: 805 355 0660 / 1419**

**USAG-KA SHARP Pager:**  
805 355  
3243/3242/3241/0100  
USAG-KA SHARP VA

**DOD SAFE Helpline:**  
877 995 5247

## HUNGRY? GRAB DINNER AT AAFES

### AMERICAN EATERY

**Sunday** - closed  
**Monday** - closed  
**Tuesday - Saturday,**  
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

### SUBWAY

**Sunday,** 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
**Monday,** 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
**Tuesday,** 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
**Wednesday,** 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
**Thursday,** 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
**Friday,** 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
**Saturday,** 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

### BURGER KING

**Sunday,** 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
**Monday - Friday,**  
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
**Saturday,** 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

### ANTHONY'S PIZZA

**Sunday,** 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
**Monday - Friday,**  
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
**Saturday,** 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



**Grace Sherwood Library.** A bounce house will be available to entertain young shoppers. Cold beverages will be available for sale. All home-based businesses selling crafts and concessions must have a 2021 vendor license. For more information, contact MWR at 5-3331 or 5-3332.

**70's Costume Party.** Sunday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m. - midnight. Hit the Ocean View Club dance floor with MWR for this themed dance party. Enjoy the greatest hits of the 70's with DJ Devil Rey. Costumes are welcome but not required. For more information, contact MWR at 5-3331.

## FUNDRAISERS

**Yokwe Yuk Welcome Club Soup Supper.** Friday, Jan. 22, 5 - 7 p.m. in the Religious Education Building. Save the date and let the YYWC cook for you. Eat in or carry out soup, bread and desserts available. Donations from the event benefit the YYWC Education Assistance Fund. Contact YYWC officers for more information at [YYWCinfo@gmail.com](mailto:YYWCinfo@gmail.com).

**Support Kwajalein School System fundraisers.** Interested in learning about ways to support Kwajalein School System Please contact KSS Head of School Paul Uhren for a complete listing of fundraiser activities at 5-3601.

**The Yokwe Yuk Welcome Club** will begin plant sales to raise funds for Education Assistance Committee in 2021. All varieties of potted plants are accepted at sale date. Contact Julie Makovec on Facebook and email Debbie Proudfoot at [YYWCinfo@gmail.com](mailto:YYWCinfo@gmail.com).

## HOURS AND OPENINGS

**Self Help** is located in Bldg. 1791. Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday - 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Visit Self Help to pick up tools to complete a number of household maintenance and up-keep projects.

**Kwajalein Furniture Warehouse.** To schedule deliveries and pick-

ups of Family Housing or BQ furniture please call the Army Housing Office at 5-3450.

Did you know that the Zamperini Cafeteria and Café Roi have customer comment cards for you to comment on your dining experience? They are on the tables at the Zamperini, and at the cash register at Café Roi.

The Surfway's forms are on a podium inside as you enter the store. Just fill them out and put them in the Customer Comment Box. Make your voice heard!

## E- WARENESS Petroleum Storage Tank Annual Inspection

Each department must inspect tanks annually via trained custodian:  
Examine for and remove water; examine secondary containment areas to ensure they are impervious to water and draining properly; inspect for paint failure and corrosion; and examine leak detection, gauges, vents and valves.

Aolep department ko rej aikuj etale nien dren ko aolep yio ippen juon eo ewor an jela ikijen jerbal kein: lale dren ko im jolok dren ko renana; etale nien dren ko jet me emaron wor ettal ie; etale uno ko im ijoko rej elejo; etale ijoko rettall, anol ko, vent ko, im valve ko.

Contact Environmental at 5-1134 for information.





## MWR KITE NIGHT

**BRANDON FIELD**  
**SATURDAY, JAN. 30**  
**5 - 7:30 P.M.**



*Fill the sky with color. Bring out your own stunt kite, air foil or character kite and come fly with us. Free kits are available for participants.*

*Children must be accompanied by parents at this event. For more information, contact MWR at 5-3331.*

## UXO REMINDER

### PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Remember** the three Rs of UXO: Recognize an item as possible Unexploded Ordnance. Retreat from the area of the UXO. Report suspected UXO immediately by notifying EOD (5-1433) or CPS (5-4445).

Provide the following information: Location (building #, GPS, landmarks, etc); Size (compared to common items - football, scuba cylinder, etc).

Treat UXO like you would treat dangerous sea creatures. Look but do not touch. For a detailed refresher, please attend the Island Orientation Briefing on the

fourth Wednesday of every month.

Kemejmej R ko 3. Recognize (kile) juon kwopej bajjok emaron Bokutan ak kein kabokkolok (UXO). Retreat (Jenliklik) bed ettolok im jab kepaak UXO eo. Report (Ripoot e) baktun ak kein kabokklok eo ien eo emokajtata non EOD ilo nomba kein (5-1433) ak CPS (5-4445).

Ken melele kein: Ia eo (nomba in ijo, GPS, kakolle in ijo, etc.); Jonan (jonan e ibben jet kain mweik - football, taan in turan, etc.).

Tiljek kon UXO kein einwot am kojparok menin mour in lojet ko rekawotata. Kalimjek wot jab jibwe.

Non bar kakemejmej eok, eokwe jouj im koba lok ilo Island Orientation allon otemjej.

## USAG-KA WEATHER WATCH

RTS WEATHER STATION STAFF



## SUN - MOON - TIDES

### WEATHER DISCUSSION:

Weakening of the subtropical ridge has resulted in decreased trade winds. However, stronger trades look to make another appearance later Sunday and lasting through at least Tuesday.

In addition, slightly better chances for rainfall are expected, mainly Sunday into early Monday. Mostly dry conditions are expected Tuesday into the middle of next week.

**SATURDAY:** Partly to mostly sunny with widely scattered showers. Winds

NE-E at 16-22 knots with higher gusts.

**SUNDAY:** Partly sunny with widely scattered showers. Winds NE-E at 16-22 knots with higher gusts.

**MONDAY:** Partly to mostly sunny with widely scattered showers. Winds NE-E at 17-23 knots with higher gusts.

**NEXT WEEK:** Brisk trades and mostly dry with winds slackening a bit mid-week.

	SUNRISE SUNSET	MOONRISE MOONSET	HIGH TIDE	LOW TIDE
SUNDAY	7:09 a.m. 6:49 p.m.	10:15 a.m. 10:23 p.m.	6:47 a.m. 3.3' 6:54 p.m. 4.1'	12:48 a.m. -0.3' 12:36 p.m. 0.0'
MONDAY	7:09 a.m. 6:50 p.m.	10:56 a.m. 11:10 p.m.	7:21 a.m. 3.1' 7:25 p.m. 3.7'	1:19 a.m. -0.1' 1:11 p.m. 0.3'
TUESDAY	7:09 a.m. 6:50 p.m.	11:35 a.m. 11:54 p.m.	7:56 a.m. 2.9' 7:57 p.m. 3.3'	1:50 a.m. 0.2' 1:47 p.m. 0.7'
WEDNESDAY	7:09 a.m. 6:51 p.m.	12:12 p.m. -----	8:38 a.m. 2.8' 8:34 p.m. 2.8'	2:22 a.m. 0.5' 2:31 p.m. 1.0'
THURSDAY	7:10 a.m. 6:51 p.m.	12:49 p.m. 12:38 a.m.	9:34 a.m. 2.6' 9:27 p.m. 2.4'	3:01 a.m. 0.8' 3:37 p.m. 1.3'
FRIDAY	7:10 a.m. 6:52 p.m.	1:29 p.m. 1:22 a.m.	11:02 a.m. 2.6' 11:08 p.m. 2.1'	3:56 a.m. 1.0' 5:36 p.m. 1.4'
JANUARY 23	7:10 a.m. 6:52 p.m.	2:09 p.m. 2:08 a.m.	12:44 p.m. 2.7' -----	5:25 a.m. 1.1' 7:36 p.m. 1.2'



**Click the logo to visit  
RTS Weather online.**





# WE'RE HERE BECAUSE THEY GOT HERE FIRST.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY LT. CMDR JOHN. D. SCHNEIDAU

## How our newspaper got its name

The shoulder sleeve insignia of the 7th Infantry Division consists of two black, equilateral triangles placed vertically on a red circular disc giving it an hourglass shape.

The hourglass of the insignia was consequently used in the title of the island newspaper, The Kwajalein Hourglass.

## #SALUTETHE7TH

**GET THE WORD OUT.** SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMUNITY UPDATES AND EVENT FLIERS TO [KWAJALEINHOURLASS@DYN-INTL.COM](mailto:KWAJALEINHOURLASS@DYN-INTL.COM) WEDNESDAYS BY 5 P.M.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT USAG-KA PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER MIKE BRANTLEY AT 5-4848.



## CLICK THE 7TH INFANTRY DIVISION LOGO TO CHECK OUT PHOTOS FROM THE KWAJALEIN HOURLASS ONLINE.