

VOLUME 65 NUMBER 5

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# THE KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS



A U.S. SERVICEMEMBER SURVEYS THE BARREN LANDSCAPE OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS CIRCA 1944 FOLLOWING OPERATION FLINTLOCK.

 KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS ARCHIVES

**OPERATION FLINTLOCK 2**  
HISTORY REMEMBERED

**MARSHALLESE SCOUTS 8**  
HELPED SECURE ATOLL

**JOURNEY'S END 10**  
FOR TRAVELING TRIO

# THE BATTLE FOR KWAJALEIN

WITH OPERATION FLINTLOCK, U.S. FORCES UNDERTOOK ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE AMPHIBIOUS MILITARY CAMPAIGNS IN HISTORY.

**O**peration Flintlock, the code name for America's invasion of the Marshall Islands, would involve troop landings on the atolls of Majuro, Eniwetok and Kwajalein, resulting in the clearing upwards of 100 small islands of Japanese resistance and destroying critical enemy naval and air bases.

What follows are a series of stories on the invasion of Kwajalein Atoll, the fulcrum of Operation Flintlock, with a focus on Kwajalein Island, where the Army's 7th Infantry would take on the men of Japan's 6th Base Force, 6th Defense Force, amphibious brigades, naval special landing forces and South Seas detachments.

These stories come from a report by former Kwaj resident and Kwajalein Hourglass editor Pat Cataldo. They were printed in 1994 in a special edition for the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Kwajalein.

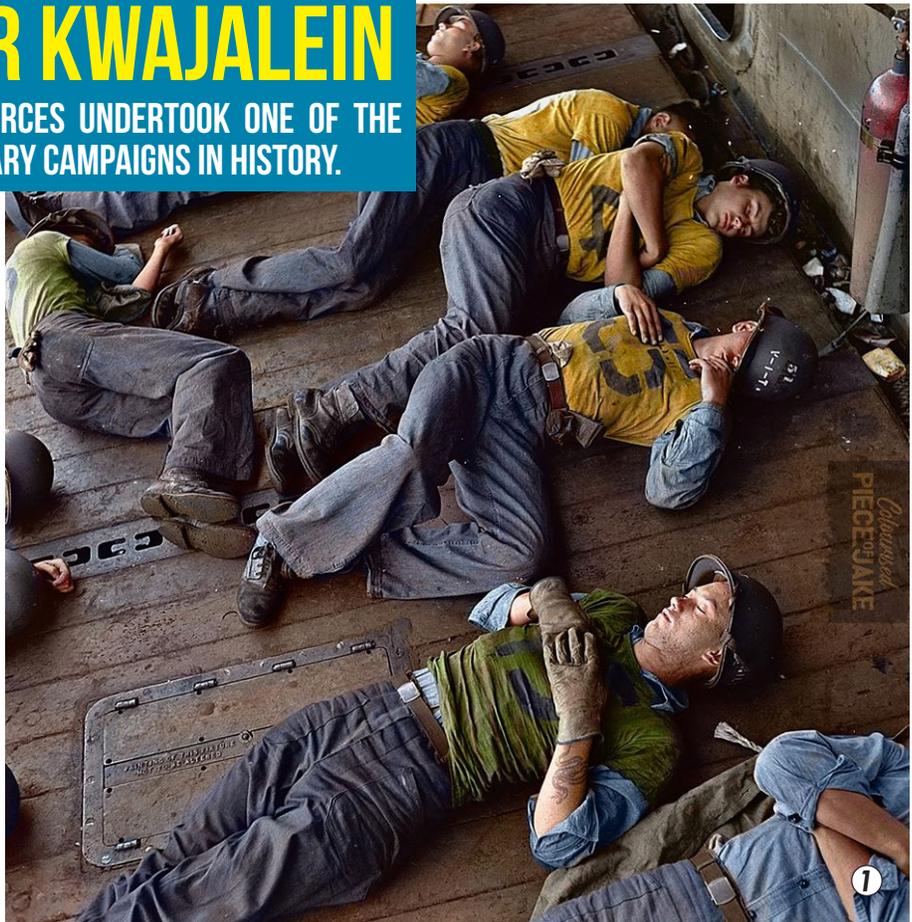
## Jan. 30, 1944

Kwajalein Island lay battered and burning after two days of pulverizing naval bombardment, intensive bombing and strafing by land and carrier-based planes.

The fires of destruction on Japan's principal naval base in the Marshalls were visible to men of the 7th Infantry Division (the "Hourglass Division"), veteran troops who waited for D-Day aboard vessels of the Southern Attack Force.

Roi and Namur islands, the center of Japan's air power in the Marshalls, were under attack from planes and ships of the Northern Attack Force, while men of the 4th Marine Division, not yet tried in battle, also waited for D-Day.

That afternoon, the battleships Massachusetts, Indiana and Washington pounded Kwajalein with 1,000 rounds of 16-inch ammunition—an average of one 250-pound shell every 15 seconds



1) Exhausted enlisted crew members aboard aircraft carrier USS Lexington, CV-16, sleep in tangled patterns after 24 hours at General Quarters, off Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands, Dec. 5, 1943. (Colorized WWII photo courtesy of Coloured Pieces of Jake).



2) The USS Indiana, en route to the Marshall Islands, January 1944. (U.S. Navy photo)

## 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.

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Garrison Commander.....Col. Drew Morgan  
Garrison CSM.....Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest Miller  
Public Affairs Officer.....Mike Brantley  
Editor.....Jessica "JD" Dambruch



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY MIKE BRANTLEY

- 1) A B-24J bomber flies over the island of Kwajalein, softening up Japanese defense positions in anticipation of the ground assault.
- 2) Dr. Michael Krivdo, command historian, U.S. Army Pacific, explains the movement of the 7th Infantry Division 80 years ago today at Coral Sands Beach to the Kwajalein community and guests during a guided battlefield tour for the 80th Anniversary Commemoration for Operation Flintlock, Feb. 2, 2024.

of the four-hour bombardment.

The attacks on Kwajalein, Roi and Namur began early the day prior. Though weather was 'squally' and skies were overcast, planes from the carriers Cowpens, Monterey and Bunker Hill, positioned southwest of Kwajalein, took off an hour before sunrise for the first bombing run on Kwajalein's airfield and nearby buildings.

Despite intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire, the bombing and strafing continued over the entire island throughout the day.

At Roi and Namur, planes from the carriers Essex, In-

trepid and Cabot began their assault at dawn, dropping 2,000-pound bombs on runways and scouring numerous hits on hangars, fuel dumps and gun positions. Ninety-two Japanese aircraft were based on Roi, but U.S. planes at once gained command of the air, and after 0800, no Japanese planes were seen flying airborne.

B-25s, flying from bases in the Gilbert Islands, joined in the attack to drop 23 tons of bombs on Kwajalein and 15 tons on Roi.

More than 400 sorties were flown over Kwajalein, Roi and Namur by carrier-based planes. U.S. losses totaled

four Helicats and a torpedo bomber over Kwajalein.

No U.S. ship was attacked by enemy aircraft.

In related actions over the past two days, the airstrip at Majuro had been completely neutralized by air attack, and Japanese installations on Wotje, Maloelap, Jaluit and Mili were severely damaged by bombing and strafing guns.

### Jan. 31, 1944 7th Infantry Troops Ashore Near Strongholds

After a series of highly successful amphibious landings, American troops were ashore on four small islands

near Kwajalein and on five islets flanking Roi and Namur. They closed in on the two major Japanese strongholds. Every objective was gained. U.S. casualties were classified as light.

In Jan. 31 actions around Kwajalein island (codename: Porcelain), U.S. troops captured Enubuj (Carlson), Ennylabegan (Carlos), Gea (Carter) and Ninni (Cecil) islands and brought Gea Pass under U.S. control. American casualties were one dead, two wounded.

Forty-eight 105-mm howitzers were set up on Enubuj and harassed Kwajalein, as heavier 155mm guns rapidly



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY MIKE BRANTLEY

1) The U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS Yorktown, pictured in Aug. 31, 1943 during the raid on Marcus Island. Lt. Cmdr. James H. "Jimmy" Flatley, Commander of Air Group 5, sits in his Grumman F6F-3 Hellcat before takeoff. During the Battle of Kwajalein, the Yorktown's aircraft continued to fly air cover over the atoll from Jan. 29 through 31, and from Feb. 1 to 3. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Charles Kerlee)  
 2) Staff Sgt. Effie Mahugh, a public affairs non-commissioned officer from the 7th Infantry Division, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, represented the division who fought on Kwajalein 80 years ago today. A USAG-KA memorial located near Bucholz Army Airfield commemorates the 7th ID and bears its shoulder sleeve insignia, also visible on Mahugh's uniform in this photo. Mahugh's mother and family were born and raised on Ebeye, next door to Kwajalein.

landed. The naval bombardment of Kwajalein's defenses continued, and the wall of destroyers delivered harassing fire on Ebeye (Burton), Japan's chief seaplane base in

the Marshalls. It was known to harbor several hundred Japanese troops.

At the northern end of the atoll, the 25th Regimental Combat Team of the 4th

Marine Division secured five islands near Roi and Namur at a cost of 18 American dead, eight missing and 40 wounded. Artillery was established ashore, and North Pass was

later safe for the passage of ships.

As evening fell, fresh landing troops were poised for the next day's strikes against Kwajalein, Roi and Namur, the main objectives for the invasion.

The action began at dawn, when battleships Pennsylvania and Mississippi began firing on the western end of Kwajalein. By 0830, Enubuj, Ennylabegan, Kwajalein, Ebeye and South Guegeegue (Beverly) were systematically raked by the fire of four battleships, three cruisers and four destroyers. In preparation for landings by the 17th Regimental Combat Team on Enubuj and Ennylabegan, more than 2,000 rounds of 5-inch shells poured onto the islands. Twenty-one tons of bombs and 50,000 rounds of 50-caliber ammunition were expended by 51 escort carrier planes in bombing and strafing runs.

The landing on Gea was made shortly after by B Troop, a provisional unit made up of men of the 7th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop and Co. B, 11th Infantry.

After a short fight, the island was secured at 0930. Twenty-two Japanese were killed, and one was taken prisoner. American losses included one killed and one wounded.

U.S. troops captured Enubuj at noon, taking 20 prisoners after very light resistance. Within an hour, divisional artillery began coming ashore. By 1800, the howitzers were registered on Kwajalein.

Ninni, which with Gea, guards an important entrance to the lagoon, was captured by A Troop at 1230. The men first mistakenly landed on Gehh, the next island northwest of Ninni, after fighting strong currents and offshore winds in their rubber landing craft. The error was discovered after a brief reconnaissance, during which four Japanese were killed and two taken prisoner. When troops



*A corpsman administers aid to a wounded ally.*

proceeded to Ninni, they found it unoccupied and took possession at once.

Opposed only by a few Japanese firing light rifles and automatic weapons, the 17th RCT captured Ennylabegan by 1300 without a single American casualty. Organization began immediately to set up supply dumps and repair stations.

A unique part of the day's operation was the use, for the first time in the Pacific, of an underwater demolition team. At 1000 hours, and again at 1600, this team worked its way within 300 yards of the beach at the western end of Kwajalein island where U.S. forces landed the next day.

They searched for underwater obstacles and anti-boat mines.

As light faded on Jan. 31, troops of the 32nd and 184th Regimental Combat Teams (RCTs) of the 7th Infantry Division moved from transports to LVTs. They were scheduled to make the initial landings on Kwajalein the next morning.

### **Feb. 1, 1944** **A Day on Kwajalein**

After a near-perfect amphibious assault on beaches at the west end of Kwajalein, troops of the 32nd and 184th RCTs, and the 767th Tank Battalion advanced approxi-

mately one-third the length of the island against stiffening Japanese resistance.

The most devastating naval, artillery and air bombardment yet seen in the Pacific began at dawn and continued until H-Hour. At one time, two shells per second were hitting specific targets and areas ahead of the assault troops.

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**Altogether**, nearly 7,000 14-inch, 8-inch and 5-inch shells hit Kwajalein after being fired from supporting naval vessels alone.

Most landed on the main beaches before the assault.

Field artillery on Enubuj (Carlson) expended 29,000 rounds of 105mm ammunition. Heavy bombers flew from Tarawa to drop 15 1,000- and 2,000-pound bombs on the landing area. Carrier-based dive and torpedo bombers and fighters flew a total of 96 supporting sorties.

As the landing craft started for shore, Navy aircraft made a last strafing run. Artillery shells from Enubuj continued to strike the beach when the LVTs were within 35 yards.

The first wave of troops landed exactly on schedule at 0930 at Red Beach 1 (in the vicinity) of the invasion beach marker). One minute

later, troops went ashore at Red Beach 2 (near the USA-KA Photo Lab).

Within 12 minutes, 1,200 men and their equipment had landed without a single casualty, and amphibious tanks had advanced 100 yards to support the troops as they organized.

So effective was the prelanding bombardment that Japanese resistance was at first largely confined to sporadic small arms fire as the 32nd RCT advanced along the ocean side, and the 184th RCT moved forward on the lagoon side.

By 1130, determined Japanese resistance had developed, but U.S. troops continued their advancement.

By about 1800, they had driven approximately 1,600 yards along the length of the island from the landing beaches.

The 184th had established defensive positions for the night on a line inland of the lagoon (just west of Bldg. 1010), with the 32nd dug in on a line inland from the ocean (in the area of the weather station).

American casualties at the end of the first day of the Battle of Kwajalein were 17 dead and 46 wounded. Japanese casualties numbered 500 killed and 11 captured.

### **Feb. 2, 1944, D+1**

At the end of the second day's fighting on Kwajalein, hopes were high for a speedy victory. But U.S. troops were wary and watchful for suicide counterattacks by the 200 to 300 Japanese Soldiers believed to be the only enemy survivors.

Reports from prisoners indicated that 1,000 to 1,200 Japanese fell during the day's assault, and that remaining defensive positions were in ruins, with all communications broken.

Orders came from the headquarters of Maj. Gen. C. H. Corlett, commander of the

7th Infantry Division, to be alert, as "the Japanese soldier makes his suicide counterattack at dawn on the day after his cause becomes hopeless."

The day's action began at 0715, when men of the 32nd and 184th Regimental Combat Teams and 767th Tank Battalion moved forward after 15 minutes of preparatory fire from artillery on Enubuj (Carlson) Island.

Advancing along the ocean side, the 32nd with support tanks, reduced two Japanese strong points—"Cat" (in the vicinity of the Country Club and golf course) and "Corn" (at the east end of the runway). Corn was protected by an elaborate tank trap that extended nearly halfway across the island.

These troops were dug in for the night in the abandoned trenches and shell craters around the tank trap.

The 184th, in its push up the lagoon side, met considerable resistance in the area now covered by freshwater tanks. There, the rubble of a large number of buildings offered enough cover for Japanese snipers and machine gun crews. Because tanks assigned to the 184th had been loaned to the 32nd for assault on "Corn" strong point, the infantry advance was temporarily stalled.

The 184th had positions for the night on a line slightly westward of that of the 32nd. U.S. casualties for the day totaled 11 killed in action and 241 wounded.

In 70 sorties, carrier-based planes dropped 40 tons of bombs and expended 20,800 rounds of 50-caliber ammunition. No Japanese aircraft was seen operating in the entire Marshall Islands area.

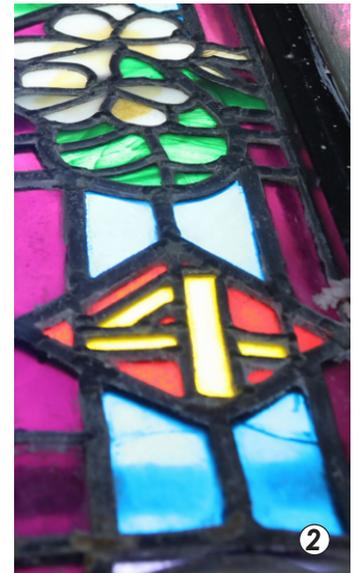
Naval units of the Kwajalein Defense Group and transports carrying reserve forces arrived in the lagoon, along with the hospital ship Relief.

### **Feb. 3, 1944, D+2**

U.S. infantrymen pushed



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY JESSICA DAMBRUCH



1) A Marine visits the ruins of a Japanese Type 89 127mm dual-purpose gun Roi-Namur during a battlefield tour this week. 2) The U.S. Marine Corps 4th Infantry division insignia is included in the stained glass window of the Island Memorial Chapel on U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll. The addition to the historic facility was unveiled during the 50th anniversary of Operation Flintlock in February 1994.

forward against a fanatically determined and heavily defended enemy to gain another thousand yards in the Battle of Kwajalein.

It was the costliest day yet for American troops on the island, with 54 killed in action and 255 wounded.

The previous night's estimates by prisoners of 200 to 300 Japanese survivors proved to be way off the mark. The 184th Regimental Combat Team reported 800 to 1,000 enemy soldiers killed in their area. In one huge blockhouse alone, 200 were found, most of them apparent suicides. The 32nd reported an additional 300 enemy dead in the advance along the ocean side.

U.S. troops had expected to make a rapid advance to the north end of Kwajalein, but the 184th ran into serious trouble shortly after it moved out at 0715.

As infantrymen approached the area around what is now the intersection of 9th St. and Lagoon Rd., they came without warning upon the most heavily fortified area of the island.

Facing them on the near edge of this area stood a great

blockhouse of reinforced concrete. Fifty yards beyond, nearly undamaged by bombardment, were two huge shelters of thick, reinforced concrete, steel plate and logs under a mound of sand several feet thick.

Other underground shelters and concrete blockhouses, intact and active, were scattered through dense ruins, rubble and trees.

One observer described it as "trying to fight one's way across the landscape of a nightmare." Small, often isolated groups of infantrymen with rifles and whatever demolition charges they could carry or drag, blasted out one nest of enemy combatants after another.

Smoke and flying debris were so thick that units operating 10 yards apart were unaware of each other's presence. One building was found to be empty. To prevent its possible reentry by enemy troops, it was demolished and set afire.

Later it was discovered that the building had contained all the beer, sake and candy the Japanese had on Kwajalein. Only a few bottles of

beer were saved.

The 32nd RCT had an easier time of it. From their jump-off point to about the location of the Terminal Building, there was little resistance.

Then, a pillbox off to the left—near the former location of the Richardson Theater projection booth—caused a temporary halt. Demolition charges and 75mm shells from medium tanks drove the enemy out one by one.

With resistance continuing light, the 32nd advanced to the area of the Adult Pool.

As night fell the threat of Japanese counterattack increased. Some incidents occurred as far as 1,000 yards behind the 32nd's advanced positions.

Just after sunset, a bugle was heard among the Japanese at the foot of the pier at 6th St., followed by a headlong attack by screaming Japanese. They were cut down to the last man.

Illuminating shells and naval searchlights, together with sporadic artillery and naval fire, are being employed to lessen the chance of a night attack. But the Ameri-

can troops on Kwajalein await the expected dawn charge.

## Ebeye

Another phase of the Battle of Southern Kwajalein Atoll began when the 17th Regimental Combat Team made an amphibious assault on Ebeye (Burton), the chief Japanese seaplane base in the Marshalls.

Among Japanese facilities, there were more than 120 machine shops, warehouses and other buildings. A 100-yard-wide concrete ramp for seaplanes extended about 300 yards along the northern lagoon shore, with large hangars and repair shops nearby. A 160-yard concrete pier extended into the lagoon about midway along the coast.

The morning's preliminary naval and air bombardment was so effective that on the landing beach (lagoon side, south end of Ebeye) and for 200 yards inland, no live enemy Soldiers were encountered.

The advance proceeded steadily northward, slowed somewhat by enemy pillboxes and a large number of individual rifle pits in which

enemy Soldiers were concealed, waiting for the chance to fire on U.S. troops from behind.

Though resistance was determined, it seems to consist mainly of individual and small group action without apparent direction. Some Japanese were discovered fighting with spears made of bayonets attached to poles.

The 17th RCT took defensive positions on a line about 50 yards south of the pier.

The islands Big and Little Buster, between Kwajalein and Ebeye, were also taken under fire, and occupation was completed by 1630 that day.

The text that follows is an excerpt from "The Fourth Marine Division" by Robert Sherrod, which details the battle for Roi-Namur. It first ran in The Kwajalein Hourglass in February 1994.

### Feb. 4, 1944, D+3: The 7th Infantry, Victorious in Battle of Kwajalein

The Battle of Kwajalein was over.

At dusk, men of the 32nd Regimental Combat Team surged across the last 150 yards of the island, overrunning the one remaining bunker and gun emplacement known today as Bunker Hill, near Qtrs. 223.

Across the lagoon, two and a half miles to the north, U.S. troops could see where another American victory was won. Ebeye was declared fully secured at 1537, after the 17th RCT made a fast, almost unopposed advance from the pier to the north shore.

The final action on Kwajalein began at sunrise, shortly after 0700, when the 32nd pushed off from the night's bivouac near present-day location of the Adult Pool for an advance along the ocean to now-6th St. where the team was to fan out for a sweep over the entire island to the north end.

Almost immediately, there was heavy fire from Japanese who had been bypassed the day prior on oceanside Kwajalein, near the former location of the Pacific Bachelor Quarters. The advance was stalled for nearly three hours, as units turned aside to clean out positions that fired on them.

At the same time, the 184th RCT encountered pockets of determined resistance in the area near 9th St. and Lagoon Road. At last, for the first time since the landings, the enemy surrendered in considerable numbers. Many had been isolated, without water, for the past two days.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY MIKE BRANTLEY

1) U.S. servicemembers observe a 21-gun salute during a memorial ceremony after the Battle on Kwajalein. 2) The newly-restored Richardson Theater on Kwajalein was the site for the 80th Anniversary Commemoration for Operation Flintlock, Feb. 2, 2024. Representatives from U.S. Army Garrison – Kwajalein Atoll, 4th Marine Division in New Orleans and 7th Infantry Division from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, as well as Sen. Kitlang Kabua participated in the event. Elements of the 7th Infantry captured Kwajalein island 80 years ago while elements of the 4th Marine Division took Roi-Namur.

Thirty-one Koreans and Japanese ran out of one building after the 184th brought up a loudspeaker and Ninsei interpreters, who broadcasted promises of food, water and immunity from harm. More than 90 prisoners were taken by the 184th during the morning.

In another area, men of the 32nd covered five with Korean prisoners with rifles and moved them from shelter to shelter while the prisoners persuaded others to surrender. In less than an hour, 33 prisoners were taken.

By 1300, the 184th had reached its objective at the foot of the pier. After cutting off the enemy withdrawal across from 5th St., the 184th turned its attention to a thorough mop-up of areas to the rear. By 1430, all enemy action had been overcome on the lagoon side from the landing beaches to the pier.

The 2nd Battalion, 32nd RCT, was in position north of 6th St. at 1345 to begin its final assault through what is now the old Navy housing area. The ground was a tangle of debris interlaced with trenches, many of which contained the long dead. The stench of decay and the acrid odor of burned palm wood filled the air.

With satchel charges, grenades and ultimately flame throwers, the 32nd

cleared dugouts and still-active pillboxes and blockhouses.

When the weary victors reached the northern tip of the island at 1920, organized resistance had ceased.

### Feb. 5, 1944, D+4

The Southern Invasion Force completed the occupation of Southern Kwajalein Atoll from Ennugeligelap in the west to Gellinam in the east.

American losses were 142 dead, two missing in action, 845 wounded. The best estimate of enemy losses in Southern Kwajalein Atoll was 4,938 casualties and 206 prisoners, including 127 Koreans.

### Feb. 6, 1944, D+5

After a day spent burying enemy dead, the men of the 32nd and 184th RCTs turned Kwajalein Island over to garrison and defense forces.

Check next week's Kwajalein Hourglass for more coverage of the 80th Anniversary Commemoration of Operation Flintlock on U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll. Special thanks to the many distinguished visitors, guests and talent who helped to make this milestone event a success.

# REMEMBER THE MARSHALLESE SCOUTS

KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS ARCHIVE

By Jane Toma  
Feb. 4, 1994

**Hideo Milne**, former marine and recreation superintendent at U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll—called USA-KA in the 1990s—was just a baby when the Americans came to the Marshall Islands during World War II. Although he doesn't remember those days, he has cherished recollections about historic events of the era from his relatives who were interpreters and scouts for the Americans during the war. He recalls how the uncles were recruited and worked.

After the invasion of Kwajalein, U.S. servicemen came to Ebon, where Hideo's family lived. There were very few Japanese living on Ebon at that time, says Hideo. The Japanese fired upon the Americans and were subsequently killed.

Afraid, the Marshallese on Ebon approached the Americans with a flag of truce. The Soldiers asked for Hideo's uncles: Edward, James M., James K. and Walter Milne, all grandsons of a Scottish whaling captain and a Gilbertese woman. The Americans knew the men spoke English and wanted them to translate and reassure the Marshallese that they would not be killed.

Hideo's uncles boarded a landing ship tank vessel where they joined up with Dwight Heine, grandson of the missionary Carl Heine, and several other Marshallese men who had been picked up by the Americans on other islands. They all went to Kwajalein and worked as interpreters and scouts for the American forces.

The scouts helped with the "mop up" or securing of the islands and atolls that were not heavily fortified by the Japanese. They went ashore at night to check on the Japanese and explain to the Marshallese that the Americans meant them no harm.

Edward also told Hideo that, at first, the Marshallese were afraid of him. Marshallese people in those days, he explained, did not travel to other islands. With his light skin and bald head, Edward did not appear to be Marshallese.

The Marshallese were fearful of the Japanese who had confiscated food and severely punished them if they didn't cooperate. The Japanese also told the Marshallese that the Americans would kill everyone.

The Americans bypassed fortified bases on Jaluit, Maloelap, Mili and Wotje atolls. Although they didn't invade, U.S. forces harassed those bases daily with bullets and bombs.

Edward and other scouts went on reconnaissance missions on those atolls to report on the condition of the Marshallese and Japanese there. When he

was on Maloelap, Edward learned that his brother Alex was imprisoned at the camp on Taroa, Maloelap.

Alex had disappeared after some American pilots had been shot down. When the Japanese came to get him to interpret, he was out gathering breadfruit. Suspecting he was trying to help the pilots, the Japanese took him away from his family. They never saw him again.

Visiting Maloelap in the 1950s, Hideo found a grave bearing Alex's name. The Marshallese at Taroa said he'd been beheaded.

Hideo's uncles are gone, and with them, important information about a significant time.

"They rarely talked about that time," says Hideo. "And only when I asked. I'm glad I asked about that time of their lives—but I wish I had asked more."



*James K. Milne, later a Scout for the Americans, pictured as a child with his family. Left to right, front row, James K. Milne, James S. Milne, John N. Milne (sitting on James S.'s lap) Liomere Milne and Mita Curry. BACK ROW: May Milne, Ahmida Milne, and Florence Milne. James K. is one of Hideo's uncles who worked as a scout during WWII. His father, John N., is the son of a Scottish whaling captain, Thomas Edward Milne. Liomere is James S.'s wife, Florence is his sister and May, John N. and Liomere are his other children. Mita is the daughter of one of his sisters.*



📷 COURTESY PHOTO

From left: Kwajalein residents Jenny Prim, Mandy Kennington and Melissa Elkins.

## KWAJALEIN TRIO TOOK ON CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

// MIKE BRANTLEY, USMC-KA PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

While our trio made their way across northern Spain, they would meet many fellow world travelers and share their story of coming from the tiny Marshall Islands to experience this feat together.

A group of 18-year-olds she met exploring the world hold a special place in Elkins' heart. "Four from America and one from England. They were all on a gap year exploring the world and the Camino was a part of that. They were a respectful, resourceful group of young people who put a lot into making wise decisions with their money and time. We had wonderful conversations with them about life and future plans. As we kept running into each other on the walk, we would refer to them as our 'barn children' because we were all sleeping in a converted barn the first night we met. They referred to us as 'the mums.'"

"We met so many people on our walk," said Kennington. "Some were just faces you passed occasionally exchanging hellos, nods, half waves or sometimes just an exhausted smile. We were all on the same path with different destinations for different reasons but each one of us was putting one foot in front of the other with the same goal – to finish! And where that was or how long it was

going to take was different for everyone. Really, by taking that first step, wherever you started or wherever you ended, you were a pilgrim and that made us all united in some strange way."

Kennington added "It was wild to walk into a major city and have strangers recognize you and wave you over for a drink or just to say hi. Strangers were no longer strange; you knew their faces, usually where they were from and sometimes their names. Names really didn't matter. But the tribe you create on this journey is unique. It's this beautiful web of people weaving in and out, day by day, week by week."

One person in particular that Kennington recalled was Tracey. "She would kind of pop out of nowhere, have lunch or a drink, threaten to kill me and pop off again. Yes. I said that right. I think she threatened to kill me on three occasions. She would hug me, laugh, then make a joke of it. It was kind of funny and a little bit scary because she would give you this look that would make you think that just maybe she would. We joked about her putting her husband in a box so she could go on this trip and she jokingly referred to herself as the black widow of the Camino. I am not sure if Tracey made the entire journey but somehow I feel like she must have."

### The Marshall Islands Girls

Having the Marshallese flag on their backpacks was always a great conversation starter, said Prim.

"It is customary to don the flag from where you began your Camino," said Elkins. "For us, that was the Republic of the Marshall Islands. I don't think any of us were prepared for the number of questions about our flag, the RMI, Kwajalein and its relationship with the U.S."

"We actually came up with a big of short-hand information that was enough to satisfy most people in passing. But there were other times when we had very meaningful conversations with people about opportunities to work on Kwaj or support humanitarian missions on other Marshallese islands. There were many people who referred to us as 'The Marshall Islands Girls'. It was pretty cool being able to bring awareness to the RMI."

"Most people had zero idea where Kwaj or the Marshall Islands were located," said Kennington. They thought it was fascinating that we came that far and always wanted to know why we were there. We had one guy recognize the flag sewn on the back of Melissa's pack. He collected flags and just recently got one of the RMI. There were always follow-up questions and half the time people nodded like they understood but you knew they had no real idea. Some people Googled it and sometimes there were maps around but most of the time we just said it was between Australia and Hawaii."

### The Hardest Thing

The Camino de Santiago is not without pain and our trio suffered and survived seven weeks of walking in less-than-ideal conditions at times, all the while their minds and bodies were being tested daily.

"Being in pain," exclaimed Elkins. "We didn't really have time to heal or recover. The level of pain and injury we endured was more than what any of us thought we could work through. Had we been home in that kind of pain we would have been on the couch trying to rest. On the Camino, however, we just taped, wrapped, rubbed, cried and limped our way through it, day after day. It seriously never stopped hurting. Around the half way point we all kind of hit a wall of disappointment that we couldn't acclimate to the physical demands. But we met some people who had done this Camino before, and they confirmed that there is really no way to get around the pain; you

just discover better ways to manage it – like cold foot soaks and stretching well before bed.”

Kennington said the hardest thing for her was getting on the plane to leave for the trip. “I am not a huge fan of flying and there is always that little nigggle of concern I would never see my family again,” she said. “The second hardest thing was climbing in or out of a top bunk after a long day of hiking, and the third hardest thing was dealing with my blisters. I got some pretty epic ones that blistered on top of blisters on top of blisters. It was just getting in your shoes and then getting over the pain which was usually gone after the first hour, or greatly decreased.

“The easiest was getting on a plane to leave for Kwaj,” said Kennington.

For Prim, the person who started this idea of the three of them taking the trip in the first place, the hardest part was a friend’s struggle with a cancer diagnosis.

“We had just learned about our friend Courtney Strouse and her recent diagnosis with cancer before we left and as we started our journey in Spain, she started her treatment back in the U.S. We prayed all along the way and showed support by wearing pink shirts. She kept encouraging us and followed our journey on Facebook. We will continue to pray for her healing and for her family to stand united throughout this hard time,” she said.

### The Best Part

Taking in the entire journey from start to finish in account, what would be the one thing our trio takes away from this experience?

For Elkins it was the personal experience. “Completing the Camino is special,” she said. “It’s nearly impossible to describe, so people who have not had the experience simply cannot fully understand – and that makes it just that much more special.”

Prim said that it was hard to pick just one part due to the fact that all the single experiences make the sum. “Some days it was the most beautiful sunrise after we walked already two hours in darkness, or the feel of the water pressure on my sore muscles in a hydrotherapy swimming pool. It could have been the moment we finally arrived at an albergue after crying hours before that we won’t make it anywhere – the sound of the nuns singing at evening mass – having a statue of Mary along the way whispering

us encouragement – and reaching the kilometer 0.00 marker in Finisterre!”

“As I walked up to the 0 kilometer marker, I stood there hugging it for a picture looking back from where I came from and realized I had actually walked across a country,” said Kennington. “I had finished something. Anyone who knows me knows finishing something is a big deal. I start a thousand things and never feel worthy of finishing. As I walked away from the lighthouse marker at the ‘end of the world,’ I finally understood why I was worthy. That I judge myself harder than anyone in my life and it’s okay to just be me. I am good enough.

“It’s a really rare thing to be able to accept yourself,” said Kennington, “and I finally felt worthy of my own acceptance. What I put out in the world is good enough and I should be proud of it, not embarrassed.”

Kennington also said that, “I learned that my family can survive without me. That if something should happen to me they will be okay. They missed me and were so happy to have me home, but everyone marched on while I was doing my own march. It gave me a huge sense of relief. It was freeing in a way I can’t fully describe and I feel blessed to have had this experience.”

### Revelations

So after nearly 500 miles, and months to reflect on what they accomplished together and individually ... the million-dollar question is ... Would you recommend this walk, and why?

“Absolutely,” exclaimed Prim. “You learn so much about yourself physically and spiritually, even if you consider yourself as an atheist. All the while you meet other people from all kinds of backgrounds and immerse yourself in Spain’s country and culture. It is not easy, but definitely rewarding in all aspects of your life.

“The Camino provides,” added Prim. “It always does. If you are ready to let go, you might get surprised by the outcome.”

For Elkins, she said she didn’t know if she would recommend the route and distance they chose to just anyone. “It is an intensely demanding trek and probably 95 percent of the people who we met along the way agreed that it was more than they bargained for physically and emotionally.

“I would recommend that everyone embark on some kind of pilgrimage journey,” she added. “Had I known more

about the Camino, I probably would have chosen a couple of plot points to get me through a week of hiking at a time. That’s what many people do. They walk for a week, then come back the following year, starting where they left off to walk another 200 km or so. I don’t think you ‘need’ the entire length of the walk to have a life changing experience via the Camino, but I would do the whole thing again in a heartbeat!”

And for Kennington who learned that she could do hard things, she responded with, “I would recommend this hike to everyone! This hike opens your heart to a new world around you. It allows you to unplug from the real world and reconnect with yourself.

“Most of us are so hung up on what the news has to say, who posted what on Facebook or Instagram, what the latest trend is or fad died. The Camino takes all that and lessens its importance. It connects you with all kinds of people from all over the world, all with a similar purpose and different reasons for being there.

“Ask yourself when was the last time you shared a meal with a stranger, shared a bathroom or shower experience?” said Kennington. “When was the last time you walked into a room unsure of who you were sleeping with that night. You learn to let go, to open up and accept that some things are out of your control.

“This hike may not be for everyone; it surely isn’t for the light of heart,” she added. “I would say go for it. There is nothing I can put in words that can truly express the entirety of this experience. You just have to experience it for yourself.”

Through our trio’s ups and downs, they always had each other’s backs, even near the finish line.

“A couple days outside of reaching Santiago (the official end of the original pilgrimage), I decide I wanted to call that my end and not continue the extra 90 km to Finisterre (the ‘end of the world,’ said Elkins. “I sat up that night trying to figure out the train system to get me to an airport and calculated the cost of changing my travel plans. I was absolutely certain that I could not endure another week of hiking. I was done and miserable.

“Luckily, my girls fought for me and I pulled it together,” she added. “When we reached the end of the world together, I was more grateful for the entirety of the journey that I ever could have imagined. It turns out, I was exactly where God needed me to be, with exactly the right people.”

# THE HUSBANDS TALK: NATHAN ELKINS

// MIKE BRANTLEY, USMC-VA PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

I spoke with each of our trio's husbands while they were making their way across northern Spain last fall. Here is what they had to say about their wives and what they were embarking on. This week, we feature is Jason Kennington with the 500th Military Intelligence Brigade, spouse of Mandy Kennington. They have two children and have been married 17 years.

## How proud of your spouse are you?

I'm extremely proud of her! Walking more than 800 km is certainly a physical feat; however, barring injury, I knew the physical part would take care of itself; she'd get tougher and more accustomed each day. The part I find most impressive is the mental fortitude required to stay the course. The heart she showed to push through pain each day and just 'bite down on the mouth guard' and swing for the fence – she's a warrior for sure.

## Any words of wisdom before she departed?

Drink water and take Motrin.

## What concerns did you have for your spouse?

Rolling an ankle or some other physical injury that would've prevented her from finishing.

## Has she always been adventurous or was this a spur-of-the-moment decision?

Yes, she's always been adventurous and yes, this was a spur-of-the-moment decision.

## How often did you speak with your spouse while she was away, and what are some things you talked about?

We talked a couple times a week. She'd describe the town they were staying in, the previous day's walk or a different muscle ache. We also talked about the kids and how they were doing in school.

# ACTS OF KINDNESS CONNECT KWAJ COMMUNITIES



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY JESSICA DAMBRUCH

A group of more than 40 students, parents and volunteers honored peace with a community beach clean-up in observance of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Led by student leaders from the Tri-M Music Honor Society, participants received a safety brief before clearing the beaches of trash. Special thanks to all who participated.



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY JESSICA DAMBRUCH

Children and parents from Ebeye visited Kwajalein recently for the third annual Angel Tree event, held at the AAFES Food Court. The gift-giving opportunity pairs families and young children with Kwajalein residents to receive donated gifts, toys, school supplies and other items. Among this year's guests were students and teachers from the Ebeye Center for the Deaf. Pictured here, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Nate Elkins delivers a gift to a young Ebeye resident with RMI Liaison Office Specialist Kalani Riklon.



*A Roi employee travels from a supply storage area to a makeshift kitchen at the Roi-Namur C-building on Jan. 29, 2024. The facility serves as a temporary kitchen and serving area for the island's staff following damage to the island during a Jan. 20 inundation.*

U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY JESSICA DAMBRUCH



*Employees on Roi-Namur clear marine debris and foliage from the roadside on Jan. 29, 2024.*

U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY JESSICA DAMBRUCH



*Heavy rock is moved to the sea wall on Roi-Namur Jan. 29, 2024, during clean-up operations following the island's inundation on Jan. 20.*

U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY JESSICA DAMBRUCH



*A Roi employee clears debris from a water tank on Jan. 29, 2024, following the inundation of the island.*

U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY JESSICA DAMBRUCH

# CLASSIFIEDS

The community wants to hear from you. Email announcements and advertisements to [kwajaleinhourglass@gov2x.com](mailto:kwajaleinhourglass@gov2x.com). Wednesdays by close of business. Ads received after deadline will be published in the next issue of The Kwajalein Hourglass.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CAC OFFICE.** Before your visit to the Common Access Card Office, ensure all paperwork is completed by your human resources representative before making an appointment. Bring two forms of government-issued IDs with you to your appointment. Walk-in appointments are welcome, but there may be a wait. CAC Office Hours, Bldg. 835, are Tuesday – Saturday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.; (Lunch: noon - 1 p.m.). Call 480-8496.

## DRIVER'S LICENSING CLASSES

Kwajalein Driver's Licensing classes meet Wednesdays, 9 a.m. – Classes for RMI Workforce; 1 p.m. – Classes for expat Workforce. Classes are in Bldg. 856 Rm. 101 Vehicle Maintenance Compound. Space is limited. Registration is encouraged. For more information, call 480-3376. To register, email [brian.arnett@vectrus.com](mailto:brian.arnett@vectrus.com) and [kaisha.wilson@vectrus.com](mailto:kaisha.wilson@vectrus.com).

Roi Driver's Licensing classes meet second Wednesdays in C-building. No registration needed. Class times are as follows: 9 a.m. – Classes for RMI Workforce; 1 p.m. – Classes for expat Workforce.

## EVENTS

Call 480-4198, visit the MWR Desk in the Grace Sherwood Library, Bldg. 805, and visit the Kwajalein Community Events Facebook page.

## Monthly Oceanview Club Nights

From 8 p.m. – midnight  
1st Saturday: Karaoke Night  
2nd Saturday: Salsa Night  
3rd Saturday: Country Night  
4th Saturday: R&B Night

**QUIZZO.** Monday, Feb. 12 at 8 p.m. at the Oceanview Club. Test your knowledge in this team trivia contest. Arrive early to register your team. Team sizes

## Help is here

With the events of the weekend on Roi-Namur the topic of discussion, if anyone needs to talk or if they need help, the Employment Assistance Program lead is Kenneth Thomas.

Contact him at [kenneth.thomas@internationalsosgs.us](mailto:kenneth.thomas@internationalsosgs.us) or call 480-5362.

Your discussion with him is strictly confidential.

No need to check-in at the Kwaj Clinic.



should not exceed available seating at each table. Those interested in hosting a Quizzo night should visit the MWR Desk at the Grace Sherwood Library or call 480-3133.

**CYS VARIETY SHOW Auditions.** Open to adults and students in grades 6 – 12 at the MP Room. Audition 2 is Saturday, Feb. 10, from 4 – 6 p.m. Participants must be able to attend the dress rehearsal on Saturday, March 16 from 4 – 7 p.m. and the Variety Show on Sunday, March 17, beginning at 6 p.m. Event sponsored by USAG-KA CYS.

**E-WARENESS:** Trimming and Removal of Vegetation. A vegetation trimming and removal permit is required for the following actions: complete removal of any established vegetation; and major trimming of vegetation, defined as greater than 20 percent of each plant/tree volume. Vegetation permits are obtained through the Environmental Department by calling 480-0722. Removal of root balls below six inches requires an approved Dig Permit from the Service Desk (480-3550).

Melim in "Vegetation Trimming & Removal" Ej aikuj wor/lon: Komakut jabdewot wut (i.e. wojke, ak mar); mwijmwij jen wut, kallikar an laplok jen 20% in wut kein kenono kaki ilon. Komakut wut jen okar in 6-inch mwilal lok ej aikuj wor an "Dig Permit". Kur lok Service Dest ilo (480-3550) non bok dig permit. Kur lok Environmental ilo (480-0722) non melele ko relaplok.

## FACILITIES & HOURS

**SALON WALK-INS.** Surfside Salon Walk-In Appointments are available on Fridays from 1:30 - 6 p.m.

**MILLICAN FAMILY POOL.** Closed for cleaning on Thursdays. Open noon to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays and Mondays.

**KWAJALEIN SMALL BOAT MARINA** hours of operation. 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Friday through Monday, and on holidays, excluding Thanksgiving and Christmas. Morning boat reservation times are from 7:30 a.m. – noon. Afternoon boat reservations are from 1 – 5 p.m.

**ARMA.** Log in to ArMa, the Army Maintenance Application, to report issues for all buildings maintained by the Department of Public Works. Contact Public Works at 480-3550.

For more information, please call 480-3364 or email Chief Gregory Collins at [gregory.collins@gov2x.com](mailto:gregory.collins@gov2x.com).

## FLIGHTS

\*\*Please note that all flights are subject to change.\*\* For the latest update on your flights on United, ATI or Air Marshall Islands:  
ATI: 480-2169; AMI: 480-3469;  
United: 480-4852 or 1-800-UNITED1;  
Air Terminal Services: 480-2660;  
Flight Information Recording: 480-3589

**UA Schedule Effective Now**  
Monday and Friday—UA 155 (HNL)  
Check-in 2 – 4:50 p.m.



# VARIETY SHOW AUDITIONS!

## Open to adults and 6th-12th graders

### AUDITION #1

Sat., Jan. 27  
4 - 6 P.M.

Location:  
**MP ROOM**

### AUDITION #2

Sat., Feb. 10  
4 - 6 P.M.

**Must be able to attend the DRESS REHEARSAL on Sat., March 16 from 4 - 7 p.m. & the VARIETY SHOW on Sun. March 17 starting at 6 P.M.**



Wednesday—UA 133 (HNL)  
Check-in 2 - 4:15 p.m.

Tuesday and Saturday—UA 154 (GUM)  
Check-in 10:45 - 11:15 a.m.

**FLYROI RESERVATIONS.** To schedule reservations and for correspondence related to flights, email LCVKwajalein-FlyRoi@wsp.com.

### HEALTH

**KWAJALEIN HOSPITAL WALK-IN CLINICS.** Available to the community now, 7:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Flu shots are also available on a walk-in or appointment basis, Tuesday through Saturday, from 1 - 4 p.m. The updated 2023-2024 formulation for the COVID-19 vaccine (monovalent vaccine based on the Omicron XBB.1.5 sub-lineage of SARS-CoV-2) is available for all ages (6mo+). On hand stock is limited and pre-registration is required to ensure availability of age specific dosage. To register call 480-2223 for additional questions.

**NOT FEELING WELL?** Call 480-2223 to make an appointment for a COVID-19 test, Tuesday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. If you are not feeling well, please wear a mask when you are around others in the community.

**VET SERVICES.** Pet owners must notify Kwaj Vet Services before vacation. A pet sitter authorization form for treatment is required prior to departing Kwaj. Reach Vet Services at 480-2017 Tuesday through

Saturday from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**EAP SERVICES.** The EAP provides mental health services on Kwajalein, Roi Namur and Meck which include but are not limited to the following:

- Psychological assessments
- Counseling
- Anxiety and depressive disorders
- Family distress
- Post-traumatic stress disorder assessment and counseling
- Job-and-work-related counseling
- Cross-cultural adjustment issues in counseling
- Crisis management consultation
- Conflict mediation/resolution
- Addiction counseling
- Consultation on violence in the workplace
- Crisis management for employees assigned to USAG-KA

EAP services are also available to the management structure to improve employee retention, performance improvement plans, workplace resilience, and the development of people management skills to build and maintain effective teams. Employee Assistance Program counselor (EAP) Kenneth Thomas MHS, LPC, LCADC, can be reached at kenneth.thomas@internationalsosgs.us or 480 - 5362.

**PET HEALTH.** January is weight loss awareness month. Start 2024 with your pet the healthy way. According to the



Contact the **USAG-KA Sexual Harassment/ Assault Response and Prevention Victim Advocate**

**Chief Warrant Officer 2 Nate Elkins**  
**SHARP Victim Advocate**  
**Work: 480-0660 or 480-3421**  
**USAG-KA SHARP Pager:**  
**808-580-3241**  
**DOD SAFE Helpline: 877-995-5247**

Association for Pet Obesity Prevention, 59.9 percent of cats and 55.8 percent of dogs in the United States were classified as overweight or obese. Animals that are obese are at an increased risk of experiencing diseases of the heart, lung, liver and/or gastrointestinal system.

They may also suffer arthritis, diabetes, decreased immune function and overall decreased quality of life. If an animal is too obese, they may not be fit for travel off island. A proper diet and exercise during cool times of the day are recommended. For more information, please contact Kwajalein Veterinary Services at 480-2017 and email KwajaleinVeterinary-Clinic@internationalsosgs.us.

**CHAPEL COUNSELING AVAILABLE.** For those who seek religious guidance, general counseling, and who may have questions related to family counseling, all are welcome to schedule an appointment with Ch. Mike Klein at the Island Memorial Chapel by calling 480-3505.

### JOBS

To apply for government employment opportunities on U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll and worldwide, visit [usajobs.gov](http://usajobs.gov).

ARKEI International is hiring. Send CVs and resume to christopher.fuents@arkel.com and jasper.gomez@arkel.com. Visit Arkel online at <http://arkel.com>. Call 480-1006 for more information.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGER. KFS LLC is accepting resumes for a Health and Safety Manager to support an upcoming Environmental Project on Kwajalein. Visit <https://honuservices.jobs.net/en-US/job/health-and-safety-manager/J3N1RL6KDG9RWPTYQDF> for additional information, including the full job description, qualifications, and resume submission instructions.

KIKAHA SOLUTIONS 30th Signal Battalion Network Enterprise Center, U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll is now partnered with Kikaha Solutions. Please visit [www.kikahasolutions.com](http://www.kikahasolutions.com) for more information and to submit applications. To navigate the site, click on "Careers," scroll down, and click on "search opportunities and apply." Enter job code 11326 and select search.

NAN, INC. seeks a project engineer, welder, welding inspector, quality control manager, and site safety and health officer. To apply, visit [www.nanhawaii.com](http://www.nanhawaii.com) and contact Clint Ueatari at 480-2632, 480-4995 or 480-4996.

PARSONS is now accepting applications for an office clerk, heavy equipment operator, quality control technicians, concrete finisher, general labor and masonry. Please visit the Parsons office to apply or apply online <http://parsons.com/careers>.

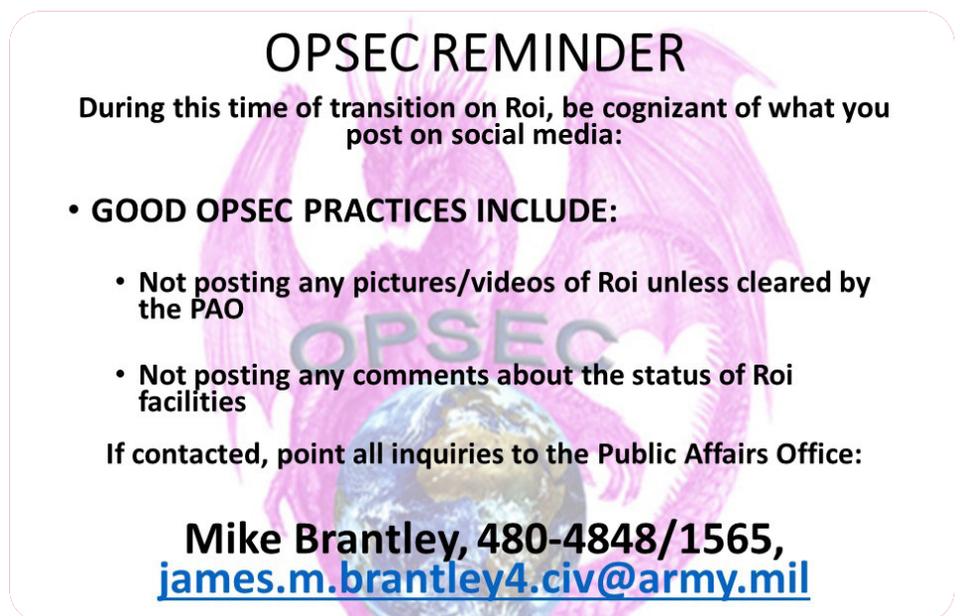
QUANTUM DYNAMICS, INC., is accepting resumes for positions on Kwajalein and Roi-Namur in the following areas: vehicle maintenance, transportation motor pool, movement control and custodial. Apply at <https://qdyncorp.com/home/careers/>. You may also visit the HR Office in Bldg. 700. Contact the Human Resources manager at 480-0782 or administrative assistant at 480-4916 for more information.

RGNEXT, LLC seeks qualified candidates to fill open positions on Kwaj and Roi in engineering, technical, COMSEC and other areas. To apply, visit [rgnext.com](http://rgnext.com).

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS WANTED. Kwajalein School System is now hiring substitute teachers. Qualifications: 4-year degree; confidentiality; love of working with children; favorable status for CNACI



**Valentine's Dinner**  
**Sunday, Feb. 18**  
**Vets Hall**  
**Doors open at 6:30 p.m.**  
**dinner service begins at 7 p.m.**  
**Four-course steak dinner**  
**Tickets sales open on Jan. 27**  
**Live Music by Band of the Year**  
**All proceeds benefit the Yokwe Yuk Welcome Club's Education Assistance Fund**



**OPSEC REMINDER**  
**During this time of transition on Roi, be cognizant of what you post on social media:**

- **GOOD OPSEC PRACTICES INCLUDE:**
  - **Not posting any pictures/videos of Roi unless cleared by the PAO**
  - **Not posting any comments about the status of Roi facilities**

**If contacted, point all inquiries to the Public Affairs Office:**

**Mike Brantley, 480-4848/1565,**  
**[james.m.brantley4.civ@army.mil](mailto:james.m.brantley4.civ@army.mil)**

(will receive background check after accepting offer). Send resumes to [uhrenp@kwajaleinschools.org](mailto:uhrenp@kwajaleinschools.org). For more information call 480-3601.

TRUESTONE is hiring for multiple positions. Contact Tribalco Human Resources at 480-4344 and visit <https://www.akima.com/careers/>. Visit [www.tribalco.com/careers.html](http://www.tribalco.com/careers.html).

TORCH TECHNOLOGIES seeks an MDA Support Analyst (Req#5588). The candidate will support the Missile Defense Agency on Kwajalein. This position is an on-island accompanied position with housing. Applicants must possess an active clearance. Please apply directly at

<https://torchtechnologies.hua.hrsmart.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/5588>  
For questions, email [dalia.kardaman@torchtechnologies.com](mailto:dalia.kardaman@torchtechnologies.com).

V2X JOBS. V2X has several opportunities for on-island hires: Harbor Controller I (35649), Logistics Analyst (32717), Inventory Associate (35067), and Bartender (32355). Apply online at [www.careers.vectrus.com](http://www.careers.vectrus.com) or stop by the HR office in building 700.

NEWCOMERS ISLAND ORIENTATION and Newcomer's Briefings occur in the REB, behind the Island Memorial Chapel. To register, email [KWAJ\\_OSO\\_Ops@Vectrus.com](mailto:KWAJ_OSO_Ops@Vectrus.com) or call

480-3511.

OPSEC. See something, say something. All employees on USAG-KA are required to receive annual Threat Awareness and Reporting Program training provided by KRO; Reporting: Report suspicious activities to the Kwajalein Resident Office at 480-9859/1293/8006 at Bldg. 1163.

POST OFFICE CLOSURES FOR 2024  
Feb. 19 – G. Washington Birthday;  
May 27 – Memorial Day.

PCS & VACATION TIPS. Customers must notify the post office before leaving for 30 days or PCS'ing. Per DOD 4525.6-M, mail is only allowed to be held for 30 days with or without prior notice. Mail is considered unclaimed on day 31 and will be returned to the sender. Email the post office to authorize pick up for your mail and packages. When PCS'ing, provide a forwarding address. Contact James Smith with questions at 480-3461 and james.e.smith2295@army.mil.

#### REGULATIONS

TOBACCO USE. USAG-KA Policy Memorandum 600-8 protects others from the negative impact of tobacco use. On US-AG-KA, smoking is permitted in designated smoking areas only. Smoking and cigarette butt receptacles must be at least 50 feet from the entrance of facilities.

VEGETATION. Per USAG-KA Regulation 420-1, vegetation may not be planted in the ground without approved permits. Residents may be asked to remove items if planted without approval. Do not place sprouted coconuts in yards.

DON'T TAKE CULTURAL ARTIFACTS. It is illegal to remove cultural resources from the atoll. This includes any protected species, unexploded ordnance, WWII-era artifacts and ancient Marshallese artifacts. These resources are protected under U.S. federal and RMI law. Do not remove these pieces of atoll history from Kwajalein. Contact the Kwajalein Archaeology Office at 480-8867.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT. If an emergency or disaster occurred, would you and your family be notified? 1) Visit the USAG-KA Emergency Management webpage, <https://home.army.mil/kwajalein/index.php/my-fort/EM>; 2) Click on "Mass Notification"; 3) Follow the registration instructions.

CANDLES and open flames are not per-

EXPIRED / UNUSED  
MEDICATION TAKE BACK  
RECEPTICLES LOCATED AT:

1. HOSPITAL PHARMACY  
BUSINESS HRS TO DROPOFF  
WITH PHARMACIST OR 24/7  
RECEPTICLE LOACTED IN  
FRONT OF PHARMACY

OR

2. 24/7 RECEPTICLE  
LOCATED AT BLDG. 803  
KWAJ POLICE / SECURITY  
DISPATCH

## Look Familiar?

Might be time to clean out  
the medicine cabinet



## Monthly tip from the USAG-KA Fire Prevention Office

### ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- Major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall outlet receptacle.
- Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to reduce the risk of shock.
- Test GFCIs monthly or according to the manufacturer's recommendation.
- Ensure electrical cords do not run across doorways or under carpets.
- Use lightbulbs with correct wattage as indicated on your light fixtures.

If you have frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breaker report it to: [PublicWorksServiceDesk@Vectrus.com](mailto:PublicWorksServiceDesk@Vectrus.com) or call 5-3550.

# Hobby Shop Workshop

## Handmade Citrus Juicer

Squeeze some time out of your schedule and join us at the shop to make a custom citrus juicer.

**Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.**

**Date: Feb. 22**  
**Time: 6-8 p.m.**  
**Members: \$10**  
**Non-members: \$15**  
**8 available spots**

Hobby Shop: Bldg. 815, Phone: 480-1700  
Hours: Wednesday & Thursday, 1 - 8 p.m., Friday, noon – 8 p.m., Saturday – Monday: 12-6 p.m.,

mitted in BQ rooms. The Kwajalein Fire Department thanks you for keeping your neighbors safe.

**RADIO**

**HAM SHACK** Amateur Radio Operators. All amateur operators will now be required to file for a Marshall Islands callsign. Please contact Lisa at V73ML1@gmail.com for an application and information.

**FM99 THE WAVE & 97.9 RO RAT RADIO.** Tune in 7 - 9 a.m., 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 4 - 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday for live broadcasting, music, and community updates.

**RF EQUIPMENT.** Bringing new Radio Frequency equipment or wireless devices on island? Please contact the NETCOM Spectrum Management Office. This may require three months' approval process. Report any interference problems ASAP. Home use of commercial electronics does not require approval. Call 480-4135.

**TAXI SERVICE**

Call 480-TAXI (8294) or 3341 to book your ride at least 24 hours in advance of your check-in time.

**WARDROBE FOR VISITING**

**EBEYE**

When visiting Ebeye in the Marshall Islands, it is advisable to dress modestly and respectfully, considering the local cultural norms and the warm tropical climate. Here are some general guidelines for both men and women prepared by Yolanie Korab.

**CLOTHING FOR MEN**

Opt for lightweight, breathable fabrics such as cotton or linen to stay comfortable in the warm and humid weather. Wear collared shirts or T-shirts that cover the shoulders. Avoid sleeveless shirts or tank tops, as they may be seen as inappropriate. Choose knee-length shorts or trousers. Avoid wearing excessively short shorts or swimwear in public.

**CLOTHING FOR WOMEN**

**DRESSES OR SKIRTS:** Women should wear knee-length or longer dresses, skirts, or sarongs, and not pants. Loose-fitting and lightweight fabrics are recommended. Select modest tops that cover the shoulders and avoid low necklines or revealing clothing. Hats or caps are useful for protecting yourself from the sun, especially during the hot daytime hours. Apply sunscreen, wear sunglasses, and carry a light shawl or umbrella for extra sun protection.

**FIBER ARTS WITH YOUR COMMUNITY HOBBY SHOP**

Gather your knitting needles, crochet hooks, embroidery supplies and meet up with other fiber art enthusiasts.

**Dates**  
Jan. 31, Feb. 28, March 6, and April 3

Not an instructional class. Kids 14 & under must be accompanied by adult.

Meet at the library any time from 4 - 7 p.m.

Contact the Hobby Shop for more information.  
Hobby Shop: Bldg. 815, Phone: 480-1700

Hours: Weds. & Thurs., 1 - 8 p.m.;  
Fri., Noon - 8 p.m.; Sat. - Mon., Noon - 6 p.m.;  
Tues. - Closed




**FAT TUESDAY**

**MARDI GRAS**

**TUESDAY, FEB. 13**  
at 7 P.M.

**OCEANVIEW CLUB**





**Keep Kwaj clean!**

- Litter detracts from the appearance of Kwaj – it harms the environment, attracting insects and rodents
- Much of the litter ends up in the water and harms marine life
- Bottles, cans, cigarette butts, paper and plastic are the most common
- We live, work and play here so please be responsible!
- Join together and pick up litter on Kwaj!





**Eye Exams, Dry Eyes, Eye Disease**  
**Glasses for all ages**  
**Contact Lenses (including multifocal)**  
**Safety Frames and Lenses**

Call 480-2224 to be added to the waitlist Feb. 6 -17, 2024

[www.kwajeyes.com](http://www.kwajeyes.com)

[drwtblack@aol.com](mailto:drwtblack@aol.com)

**Kwajalein**



**MIA Project**

**NEVER FORGET.**

<https://kwajaleinmiaproject.us/>

# ROI-NAMUR BOIL WATER NOTICE IS LIFTED

## PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT

The **boil water**—or bottled water—notice published on Jan. 24 for Roi-Namur has been lifted. The drinking water distribution system has been tested and re-tested twice to confirm there is no Total Coliforms and E. coli bacteria in the system. The water in the distribution system on Roi-Namur is safe for con-

sumption. Please share this information with all other people who drink the water on Roi-Namur, especially those who may not have received the notice directly. If you have any questions, please contact V2X Environmental at 480-0722.

Dren bwil (ak kein draak ko) ekar published ilo 24 January non Roi-Namur emoj an wallontak. Dren eo ilo water distribution system eo emoj teej e im

bar teej rou alen non kalik kare ke ejelok jonon Coliforms im E. Coli kij ilo system eo ar. Dren ilo distribution system eo ion Roi-Namur emon nan idraak.

Joiij jeer e melele in non jabdrewot armij ro rej idraak dren eo ion Roi-Namur, bareinwot jabdrewot eo ejanin jela/ron kin men in. Ne ewor am kajitok, joiij call e V2X Environmental ilo 480-0722.

## WEATHER AND TIDES

### // RTS WEATHER STATION

#### WEATHER DISCUSSION

The most significant weather feature for the central RMI this weekend will be elevated winds in the upper teens and low 20s from time to time out of the northeast.

Rather strong areas of subtropical high-pressure positioned generally to the north-northeast of the Marshall Islands, and lower pressure regions to the south of the RMI will keep a rather tight pressure gradient, producing these augmented wind speeds.

There is a slight chance that conditions with respect to the wind speeds, could trigger a Small Craft Advisory for a short period of time.

Shower coverage will start out isolated in nature for Saturday, as trade wind speed convergence lends a helping hand to the conditionally unstable elements of the lower atmosphere over the central RMI, but this factor will wane as the weekend progresses, dropping the atoll's shower chances to stray.

The thunderstorm risk will be quite minimal, as a result some wind shear in the mid-levels of the atmosphere and warm temperatures at those heights.

Looking toward to the workweek, starting on Tuesday, we will see the winds finally start coming down to a more normal mid-teen range, as the high-pressure areas to our north will not be orient-

|                    | SUNRISE<br>SUNSET      | MOONRISE<br>MOONSET      | HIGH TIDE                          | LOW TIDE                             |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>SATURDAY</b>    | 7:10 a.m.<br>6:56 p.m. | 12:31 a.m.<br>12:30 p.m. | 9:00 a.m. 2.9'<br>8:53 p.m. 2.3'   | 2:26 a.m. 0.7'<br>3:16 p.m. 1.2'     |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>      | 7:10 a.m.<br>6:56 p.m. | 1:21 a.m.<br>1:16 p.m.   | 10:25 a.m. 2.7'<br>11:00 p.m. 1.9' | 3:14 a.m. 1.0'<br>5:33 p.m. 1.4'     |
| <b>MONDAY</b>      | 7:10 a.m.<br>6:56 p.m. | 2:15 a.m.<br>2:06 p.m.   | 12:36 p.m. 2.9'<br>-----           | 5:03 a.m. 1.2'<br>8:00 p.m. 1.0'     |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>     | 7:10 a.m.<br>6:57 p.m. | 3:13 a.m.<br>3:03 p.m.   | 1:46 a.m. 2.1'<br>2:00 p.m. 3.4'   | 7:12 a.m. 1.0'<br>8:54 p.m. 0.4'     |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b>   | 7:09 a.m.<br>6:57 p.m. | 4:14 a.m.<br>4:05 p.m.   | 2:49 a.m. 2.5'<br>2:53 p.m. 4.0'   | 8:23 a.m. 0.6'<br>9:34 p.m. -0.1'    |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>    | 7:09 a.m.<br>6:57 p.m. | 5:17 a.m.<br>5:10 p.m.   | 3:31 a.m. 3.0'<br>3:36 p.m. 4.5'   | 9:12 a.m. 0.1'<br>10:10 p.m. -0.6'   |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>      | 7:09 a.m.<br>6:57 p.m. | 6:17 a.m.<br>6:14 p.m.   | 4:08 a.m. 3.5'<br>4:16 p.m. 5.0'   | 9:55 a.m. -0.4'<br>10:44 p.m. -0.9'  |
| <b>FEBRUARY 10</b> | 7:09 a.m.<br>6:58 p.m. | 7:13 a.m.<br>7:17 p.m.   | 4:44 a.m. 3.9'<br>4:54 p.m. 5.3'   | 10:34 a.m. -0.7'<br>11:19 p.m. -1.1' |

ed correctly to sustain the winds in the upper-teens to low 20s for the RMI.

As the winds lighten off, our area will enter a wind speed divergence situation, which hinders shower development, thus keeping only stray possible showers in the picture.

#### SATURDAY

Partly sunny with isolated showers in the morning, decreasing to stray showers in the afternoon. Winds NE-ENE at 17-22 knots with gusty winds possible near showers.

#### SUNDAY

Partly sunny with stray showers. Winds NE-ENE

at 16-21 knots with gusty winds possible near any showers.

#### MONDAY

Partly sunny with only stray possible showers. Winds NE-ENE at 15-20 knots with higher gusts near any showers.

#### NEXT WEEK

The workweek will see the winds finally come down to a more normal mid-teen range.

Shower coverage will also be in that more typical dry season trade wind inversion pattern of only stray possible showers for the first half of the workweek.

## MOVIE SHOWTIMES

Shows start at 7:30 p.m.

### RICHARDSON THEATER

Saturday, Feb. 3  
"Groundhog Day"  
(Pg) 101 Min.

Sunday, Feb. 4  
"Indiana Jones And The Temple Of Doom: (1984)  
(Pg) 118 Min.

Saturday, Feb. 10  
"Lightyear"  
(Pg) 100 Min.

Sunday, Feb. 11  
"Lyle, Lyle Crocodile"  
(Pg) 106 Min.

Saturday, Feb. 17  
"Madagascar"  
(Pg) 86 Min.

Sunday, Feb. 18  
"Minions: The Rise Of Gru"  
(Pg) 87 Min.

Saturday Feb. 24  
"Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie"  
(G) 86 Min.

Sunday Feb. 25  
"Ralph Breaks The Internet"  
(Pg) 112 Min.

### YUK THEATER

Saturday, Feb. 3  
"Mechanic: Resurrection"  
(R) 98 Min.

Sunday, Feb. 4  
"The Equalizer"  
(2014) R 132 Min.

Saturday, Feb. 10  
"The Menu"  
(R) 107 Min.

Sunday, Feb. 11  
"Love Again"  
(Pg-13) 104 Min.

Saturday, Feb. 17  
"The Nun II"  
(R) 110 Min.

Sunday, Feb. 18  
"Aquaman"  
(Pg-13) 143 Min.

Saturday, Feb. 24  
"Malignant"  
(R) 111 Min.

Sunday, Feb. 25  
"Barbie"  
(Pg-13) 114 Min.