

# THE KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS



**USAG-KA Commander Col. Michael Larsen** meets with members of the RMI workforce at a town hall meeting at Roi-Namur's Tradewinds Theater, June 15.

 Nikki Maxwell

## THIS WEEK

### LARSEN LISTENS

AT USAG-KA TOWN HALLS - P 2-4

### KWAJ CARTOONS

CAPTURE ATOLL LIFE - P 5-6

### USAG-KA PROFILES

THE WASTEWATER PLANT CREW - P 9



# LARSEN HOLDS FINAL TOWN HALLS

ABOVE: USAG-KA Commander Col. Michael Larsen is joined by members of the Kwajalein RMI workforce at a town hall meeting in the Island Memorial Chapel, June 14.

NEWS / NIKKI MAXWELL, USAG-KA PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein** Atoll Commander Col. Michael Larsen held his final round of town hall meetings for USAG-KA, June 14 and 15. He has led the quarterly community meetings since taking command in July 2015.

On June 14, Larsen spoke with the Marshallese workforce at the Island Memorial Chapel on Kwajalein. He discussed the outcome of recent meetings with RMI officials before opening the floor for new business.

"You have great representation, and your leaders are working and fighting for you," Larsen said. He promised to review every permanent bar of Marshallese persons from USAG-KA to determine if they can be lifted.

He then explained that during a bilateral U.S.-RMI relations meeting, a decision was made to use the mid-atoll islands for burials and agriculture for Marshallese citizens.

Larsen also commented on big changes coming next spring. "In the coming months, you will hear more about the new contract. We're talking about base operations and how we will do a successful transition for our workforce and mission," Larsen said. "I hope there's no fear of change. Change is good, and we're going through this together as a team."

The first question from the audience addressed the status of a mechanized landing craft (LCM) being donated to Ebeye. "It needs to be dry-docked and repaired before that can happen," Larsen said. "First we need to do maintenance on our ferries. If the RMI government approves the expense, it will be about 10 months before we can work on the LCM."

The next question regarded whether the security gate near the Bank of the Marshall Islands can be open twice per month on paydays, making it easier for Marshallese workers to cash their checks.

"I don't want to overpromise, but that seems reasonable," Larsen said. "We will take a look at that from a security perspective, and let you know."

Another man asked when the next excess property sale will be held at the Defense Command Control Building (DCCB). Larsen explained that it will take some time to build up the excess inventory to allow for another sale. USAG-KA held the last sale just six months ago.

In closing, several members of the Marshallese audience stood and thanked Larsen for his service to the community by improving their access around the installation.

"For us, it is more relaxed here now [than in] previous years," said Dennis Joji. "Also, we appreciate your open door policy and commander's hotline."

Another man thanked Larsen, saying, "We have seen things change and benefited from you being here. We are grateful and privileged to have you here for the past two years."

Larsen thanked them for their kind words and said he is excited about what the whole community has accomplished together.

"We have lots of positive opportunities happening now," Larsen said. "I'm also excited about our strategic relationship together. Thank you for everything you do."

Later that evening Larsen met with the Kwajalein residents for their town hall gathering at the Kwajalein High School

U.S. Army photo by Nikki Maxwell

## THE KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS

The Kwajalein Hourglass is named for the insignia of the U.S. Army 7th Infantry Division, which liberated the island from the forces of Imperial Japan on Feb. 4, 1944.

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Multi-Purpose Room. He opened the event by showing a command video featuring Kwajalein and Roi-Namur historic footage and highlights of the command's modern day mission. He said it was important to remind the community of its military history and the role USAG-KA and its tenant commands play in national security.

He presented a brief slide highlighting the state of the garrison and announced the names of the first three new recreational B-Boats to arrive on USAG-KA this summer. From nearly 300 name suggestions submitted by the community, he chose to honor three residents of Kwajalein and Roi-Namur who have passed away since 2016: Jim Bennett, Bob Greene and Stan Edwards.

Before opening the floor to questions, Larsen publicly thanked numerous members of the community for donating their time and talents through the years on Kwajalein and Roi-Namur.

"What would we do without our amazing volunteers? They do so much for us, and impact our lives here every day," Larsen said. "Can you imagine a Fun Run without Bob and Jane Schollar? And look at how much Jim and Eleanor Talich have done to clean up and maintain the Memorial Garden. There are so many people who deserve our gratitude. When you see these people, and your neighbors who volunteer their time, please thank them."

He discussed the Echo Pier construction project that will be ongoing for several years and asked the community to use caution and avoid that area if possible. Larsen mentioned the exposed reef rock on Emon Beach. He said the Department of Public Works is working on a plan to replace the sand on the beach.

"Until then, please be careful this summer," he said.

He answered a commander's hotline question about the new historical photo markers recently placed around the installation. One of the markers was immediately relocated after being installed too close to hole five of the island's golf course.

"We will have a new pamphlet available soon at the library," said Community Services and Retail Manager Kim Yarnes.

The first question from the audience involved commercial airline alternatives for travel from Kwajalein. Larsen replied that USAG-KA is currently in discussion with Nauru Airlines, which is interested in adding Kwajalein to its Marshall Islands and Micronesia service area.

The next question addressed whether older teens on Kwajalein who receive a Marshallese driver's license can be allowed to take the USAG-KA driver's license test.

"Most of the teens who live here do not have U.S. driver's licenses, because they do not have residency in the states," said Nikki Maxwell.

"If the RMI license is acceptable for them to use in most U.S. states, can we look at making it acceptable for them to earn a USAG-KA license and drive a rented Quality of Life golf cart here."

Larsen said that was a good point and that he would consider all factors and err on the side of safety.

On the morning of June 15, the command team traveled to Roi-Namur to meet with the local Marshallese employees and the Roi-Namur U.S. resident workforce at the Tradewinds Theater.

"This is my final town hall here but not the last time I will see you," Larsen said in his opening remarks. "I will return here in July to say farewell to you on Enniburr."

The commander continued his comments by updating the audience on the decision to allow burials on islands in the mid-atoll corridor. Some meeting attendees asked for more infor-

mation about that process. Larsen said the decision had been made in early June and that details would soon be released.

As he did on Kwajalein, Larsen told the Marshallese citizens that they have a great ambassador in Washington, D.C. looking out for them.

"Your local reps are working hard for you," he said. "The questions they bring to us are always in your best interests. The bottom line is, we have had some very productive meetings."

Larsen recapped some questions from the previous town hall there and asked the crowd if things have improved since then. A few men replied that Larsen's recent decision to allow them to purchase \$20 in consumable goods per day from the Roi-Namur store to bring back to their home island each day has worked out well for them.

The first few questions involved the washers and dryers at the laundromat near the Roi-Namur dock area. The machines are used by Marshallese workers and family members who bring their laundry from Enniburr.

"Most of the [washing] machines are broken and we need more to get all of our clothes washed," one man said. Larsen explained that the machines are owned and maintained by AAFES and that they are doing the best they can with the harsh environmental effects on the machinery.

"My foreman is ordering the parts and will be here soon to repair and replace some of the washers," said Holly Elliott, general manager of AAFES on USAG-KA. "I know you need the machines and we are doing the best we can to keep them working for you."

That topic spurred a continuing discussion about the possibility for the Marshallese to bring their own portable washing machines from Enniburr to Roi-Namur each day to do laundry, then take it back to their island on the ferry. Enniburr does not have running water or electricity. Larsen applauded the suggestion and said he will approve a trial run for five machines to see how the process will work.

"Much of this will fall on our security team at the dock," Larsen said. "We are always open to considering new ideas, but we need to work out the logistics more on this one."



*Dennis Joji addresses Col. Larsen during the USAG-KA Town hall meeting for RMI employees on Kwajalein, June 14.*

U.S. Army photo by Nikki Maxwell



*Larsen meets with security personnel, Roi-Namur residents and attendees of the Roi-Namur Town hall meeting, July 15.*

While on the topic of laundry, an employee asked if there are washing machines on Roi-Namur just to wash industrial and chemicals off coveralls, safety vests and other outer work garments. Deputy Program Manager of KRS Community Support Services Brian Arrington said he would bring it back to KRS for discussion.

Also on the subject of washing, an employee said they need showers on Roi-Namur to wash lead and pesticides off before they go home to Enniburr.

"That is very reasonable and we will look at that and see what our options are here on Roi," Larsen replied. "That is another great question, thank you!"

The next few questions dealt with human resources issues. Two men asked how long employees stay in casual status before becoming eligible for permanent positions.

"The answer is, 'indefinitely,'" Arrington said. "Workers can apply for permanent positions anytime, and it's based on individual performance."

An employee asked if Wi-Fi could be installed at the marina. Larsen said most likely not but that the request was not impossible.

"We have the same questions at the Kwajalein dock. We are evaluating how we do Wi-Fi on Roi and Kwaj. This may change in six months."

The same worker asked if an employee from the Bank of the Marshall Islands can be allowed to fly from Kwajalein on the helicopter when the Metro flight is not available. This would allow employees to cash their paychecks, they said.

"We fixed this last year so that the bank employee will have a hard seat on the plane," Larsen said. "There was a maintenance issue with the flight this weekend, but we will look at bringing them up on another day to provide banking services for you."

He also explained that while he appre-

ciated the suggestion, bank employees are not authorized as passengers in the military helicopters.

Also touching on transportation issues, an employee asked why Enniburr residents are requested to leave the terminal area when they are waiting for a flight to arrive or depart.

"The terminal building is a place for official business, not to loiter," Larsen said. "We need your help in keeping it clear and safe for everyone."

The Roi-Namur resident town hall began immediately after the RMI workforce meeting. Larsen opened the discussion by answering a few Commander's Hotline questions he received earlier that week.

"I know many of you have questions about the chickens," Larsen said, referring to USAG-KA Pest Control's efforts to round up some of the wild fowl that overpopulate the island. Residents expressed concern about the chicken disposal, citing that the birds consume pesky insects and are friendly.

"It is necessary to cull the wild chickens here," Larsen said. "Believe me, we are disposing of them humanely. Please do not feed them." One resident asked if they can be given to Enniburr residents; however, Larsen noted that "we have no confirmation on the safety of their diet to offer them as a food source."

Then Larsen asked residents if the recent decision to allow RMI employees to purchase \$20 of consumables from AAFES per day has impacted their shopping habits. Many replied that the store needs more inventory in chips, sodas, snack foods and hygiene items.

Holly Elliott, the AAFES manager, said she is working to identify alternative storage locations for any additional inventory. One resident suggested a storage container be placed on Roi-Namur for dry items like sodas that do not require refrigeration. Elliot said the store is making a critical list of priority items that will always be

in stock for residents.

The next question touched on the base shuttle and the estimated time before it will be back on the road.

"We're waiting on a replacement engine which is covered under warranty," said Capt. Michael Fancher, the USAG-KA transportation officer. "It is on back order, which is causing the delay."

He said automotive would like to send an additional bus in the future to Roi to assist with transportation requirements.

A female resident asked if an additional women's bathroom could be created in the terminal building.

"The women's restroom there is always so crowded, there is only one stall, and sometimes the sink is misused," she said. "This causes many problems for us."

Tom Hutchinson responded to the question: "We are trying to solve this issue. We will know more soon about our options in the building."

Then a resident requested details about the upcoming contract change to take effect in April 2018, asking whether it will impact the garrison population, primarily through increases in the number of active duty and DoD civilian personnel on USAG-KA.

"At this time there is no plan to increase our active duty numbers," Larsen said. "The contract is splitting into three parts, and DynCorp is taking the logistics portion."

He said that lodging is going to be an issue: "We are taking a hard look at it. ... We are building 52 new homes on the Lagoon side of Kwajalein over the next few years to make more room for our workforce."

As he closed each of the four town hall meetings, Larsen remarked on the impression the Marshall Islands will leave on him and his family.

"I've lived around the world. My father served in the U.S. Army for 30 years, and I've lived [in] many beautiful places during my 25-year Army career," he said. "But this is by far the most beautiful place I've ever seen," Larsen said. "I will miss you all, and my family and I will always have Kwajalein Atoll in our hearts."



**Col. Larsen is scheduled to transfer command of USAG-KA to Col. James DeOre, in a ceremony at the Fixed Wing Hangar, July 11 at 3 p.m. The entire USAG-KA community is invited to the ceremony. More information will be announced in an upcoming Kwajalein Hourglass issue.**

# HOURGLASS INTERVIEWS

FEATURE/JESSICA DAMBRUCH

**Some of Kwajalein's** most memorable civic stories are preserved in the political cartoon artwork of local resident Sabrina Mumma. A regular contributor to the Kwajalein Hourglass for five years in the early 2000s, Mumma's "Buckminster and Friends" cartoons chronicled hot topics and stories of island life through the misadventures of three lop-eared rabbits and a crusty beach crab. Having recently completed a gallery exhibit inside the Sunrise Bakery, Mumma talks with the Kwajalein Hourglass about how her local artwork helped unite the Kwaj community.

**Hourglass:** I've been reading these cartoons online ever since the Hourglass went on the Internet. What media do you prefer?

**Sabrina Mumma:** I use primarily pen and ink, colored pencil, and watercolors. I hadn't done acrylic painting for a while, but lately I've enjoyed going to local painting classes. Of course the cartoons were done in black and white.

**HG:** Who or what inspired your style?

**SM:** I've been drawing since I was three. Growing up as an Air Force brat provided a lot of inspiration. When I was nine my father introduced me to Mad Magazine which was definitely our kind of humor. One of their cartoonists, Mort Drucker, used to illustrate a lot of the movie satires, and I would try to copy a section of it, learning a lot about pen and ink drawing as a result. Over the years, I've utilized that quite a bit. With the Buckminster cartoons there is not that degree of detail, but it helped me in getting the facial expressions and body language.

**HG:** Cartooning is serious business. How'd this get started?

**SM:** I've been cartooning for years, but when Col. Wrenn was here in 2000, he wanted cartoons in the paper in the spirit of Stars and Stripes. I responded to an Hourglass call for art submissions.

**HG:** Your characters are animals—bunnies and an angry beach crab. But you didn't just wake up and decide to draw rabbits. So how did you invent these characters with these extreme personalities?

**SM:** The rabbits—Buckminster, Lady Julia Addison of Winsome, and O'Neil—are based on bunnies that I used to have. Buckminster is named after Buckminster Fuller. After he died, I got Lady Julia, who was named after several people: Julia Morgan, the architect who designed Hearst Castle; Julia Childs; and a lady I knew in San Antonio named Julia Cauthorn. She was a force to be reckoned with and a classic, old fashioned Southern belle. My "Lady Julia" had a pedigree a mile and a half long and the attitude to go with it. O'Neil was named after my friend, the architect O'Neil Ford, who designed Trinity University in San Antonio. O'Neil was the only one of my rabbits that came from a pet store. When I picked him up he started licking my hand, which is uncharacteristic for a rabbit. When I went to pass him to my friend (who was the one looking for a rabbit), he kicked up a fit. Of course he ended up coming home with me.

**HG:** How did Lady Julia deal with the new little third wheel?

**SM:** Julia was not happy that there was another animal breathing her air—especially one from a pet store. She bit me every day for two weeks to let me know she was not happy with the interloper in her territory.



An original cartoon by Sabrina Mumma chronicling the challenges of PCS season for the Kwajalein and Roi-Namur.

**HG:** I'm almost afraid to ask about Kwaj-Krab. He seems cranky, on those Stray Dog Christmas Party invitations you send out each year.

**SM:** The crab is a character developed on Kwaj and is based on a little crab I encountered at Coral Sands. While I was relaxing one Sunday afternoon, he decided he was "crab enough" to try to haul me off to his crab-hole. By my ankle. I had to admire his persistence, and he first shows up in "Chapter One" where the bunnies are disrupted by a gang of crabs that want to steal their sandwiches. Over the years his personality has developed quite a bit more. He is definitely the smart aleck.

**HG:** What was the first Hourglass cartoon you submitted?

**SM:** When Col. Wrenn brought up the "cartoon in the paper" idea, the editor asked for submissions [examples of my work] so I sent in one called "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Plenty." I had a friend in Virginia who was lamenting how hard it was to maintain his vegetable garden because of the wildlife that came in and helped themselves. I had done this cartoon for him about what really happens in his garden at night. A group of rabbits are having a garden party, drumming on overturned baskets, eating and dancing.

**HG:** It's true. In Virginia, no garden is safe from rabbits. But these Kwaj cartoons talk about much more than gardening.

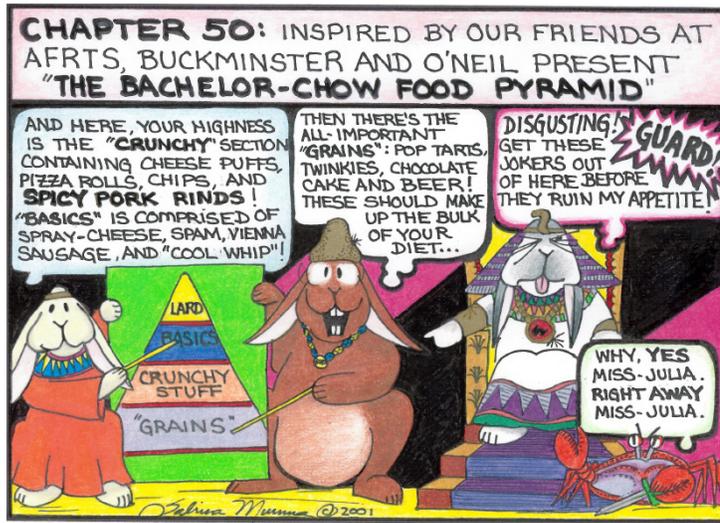
**SM:** By "Chapter Two," the cartoons were edgy enough that someone was quite upset. This was back when the skate park had just been built and when we still had the Pacific Barracks Quarters Building (PBQ), where the command headquarters is now. The bunnies are standing outside the PBQ and the scaffolding holding it up with the skate park in the background. O'Neil was all excited about the skate park, because it comes with a "frequent faller" card from the Kwajalein Hospital. The other ones are complaining, because we spent five figures on this skate park when we don't even have hot water in the PBQ. The clincher was a small sign up on the scaffolding stating the renovation would happen "any decade now."

**HG:** So you provided "construction criticism"—not constructive criticism.

**SM:** Well, someone at garrison command vented to the editor, who let the caller know that the cartoonist lived in the PBQ and hadn't had hot water for two weeks. The caller decided not to call me to complain and we got our hot water back.

**HG:** Did you make it your mission to chronicle current events,

RIGHT: No aspect of life on Kwaj, not even the vintage gems that are Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (now AFN) commercials, were safe from Mumma's cheerful satire. In this cartoon, Buckminster and his friends discuss the finer points of the bachelor diet.



island politics, initially? Or the island's reaction to them?

**SM:** All of [the cartoons] are based on something going on at the time, around the island. There was one that I did when Col. Stipe was here and gave us her gift to the community: the big voice on top of the water tower. All of us wanted to know if, since it was a gift, we could we return it and get something we really needed, like forklifts. A lot of people, especially shift workers, were upset about it. It was very loud and would wake us up in our BQ rooms at a quarter to six in the morning.

**HG:** How did you respond to this as the artist on the scene?

**SM:** Well, Col. Stipe also brought back Bingo Night, so there is a cartoon where Buckminster is up on top of the water tower, calling bingo numbers over the loud speaker. Everybody else is down below pleading for no karaoke.

**HG:** You actually helped diffuse some tension there.

**SM:** I did—and put a creative spin on it. People would say the cartoons kept them reading the Hourglass because they had something to do with their world. I found out from a mother that she had to be careful about getting the paper before her six year old daughter found it. The child would cut out the cartoons and scrapbook them. She was a big fan.

**HG:** Surely there were Roi Rats amongst your fans, too.

**SM:** Oh Yes. I met a group of Roi guys once at a Cajun shrimp boil party at the Ocean View Club years ago. We were eating at opposite ends of the table, and they were talking about the cartoons. A guy starts gushing about how he reads the Hourglass each week because the cartoons talk about things relevant to his life. Finally one of my friends just busts

out laughing and introduces me as the artist. The Roi Rat laughs and said he wanted a hug. So I got up and gave all the Roi fans hugs.

**HG:** How does it feel to know you tapped the zeitgeist—the spirit of the times—of the island? That you got it, and helped us get it, too?

**SM:** It is a marvelous feeling. It is something that in those five years I looked forward to doing every week.

**HG:** Once you've been here long enough to see how life on Kwaj works I think residents can understand the satire you've achieved. Where did your brand of humor come from? It feels like a cross between Monty Python, George Carlin and Mystery Science Theater 3000.

**SM:** I come by it very naturally. A dry sense of humor runs in the family. My grandmother had the ability to say the most outrageous things with a completely straight face. She looked like the stereotypical little grandma with a hairnet and the broach pinned on her floral dress, but she could find somebody gullible and tell the most outrageous tale with a straight face. We refer to humor as "a sense to the ridiculous." And I think that has a lot of bearing on it.

**HG:** So quite simply, don't take life so seriously: laugh. What other sense of the ridiculous are you proud of?

**SM:** I once solved a marital dispute.

**HG:** No way.

**SM:** I used to hide things in the drawings, and there was a couple who would examine the cartoons with a magnifying glass to search for something that wasn't immediately noticeable. They did this every week. One Saturday after work I got a phone call. They were trying to read what it said on a bike fender in a cartoon about "Ben-Hur Burley Races." They'd made a

bet, the wife guessed the answer correctly (Roman Ruin), she covers the phone and [tells her husband] "Ha! You're cooking dinner tonight!" I then had to confirm it with the husband.

**SM:** At one point in time they were going to close the Richardson Theater.

**HG:** I've never heard about this!

**SM:** There was a community outcry about that. [The theater] was actually closed for a short while. My cartoon had Buckminster performing standup comedy onstage at the Rich, and the rest of the characters in the audience. Kwaj-Krab has his claws up with a giant rubber band between them, and they're using it as a tomato launcher to try and hit Buckminster to get him to stop telling jokes. That was something that made people laugh because it spoke about the tradition of the theater and the USO performers like Bob Hope. This is the only place that we're aware of that you can sit outside like that and see a movie. It wasn't too much longer after that cartoon, that they began reconsidering where they could get the money to upgrade [the theater]. It's a very good feeling.

**HG:** Art lets you say and sometimes make things happen for the better.

**SM:** Yes—there was the beach cleanup cartoon. For a while there was a big problem with people not disposing of their trash at the beaches. I have a cartoon with Buckminster retreating from this giant monster fly and O'Neil looking on in terror. That's what happens when he doesn't bag his trash properly.

**HG:** Did you think folks would respond?

**SM:** I was hoping for response on that. Absolutely.

**HG:** You chronicle the big news here—the meaningful activity of daily life that become our Kwaj stories—with these cartoons.

**SM:** So many people don't know that we used to have cartoons in the paper. Then there are old timers who didn't know I did art other than the rabbits. Out here, of course, you would know what people were complaining or were concerned about. And to be able to take what people were upset about and spin it in a different way that made fun of it gave them comic relief. Sometimes it made people think of things a little differently. I'm glad the cartoons let us do that. Like [that first editor] said, "Cute fluffy little bunnies can get away with saying what we're all thinking"—without a window or aisle option.



# THE COLOR RUN RULES

*Kwajalein* will have its first-ever color run event on the Fourth of July. Before you run down to Emon Beach with your buddies, here are a few tips to ensure everyone has a safe and color-fun time.

## How Does a Color Run Work?

A course is laid out with color stations set up with colored powder that volunteers will throw on participants as they run, walk or skip by. Don't let your fitness level keep you from joining the fun. It is not a timed race. This running event is meant to give people a good time while getting the community together up and moving.

**1. Bring Your Friends.** Running is always more fun with your buddies. You will need someone to tell you if your teeth are blue with yellow spots at the end of the color run.

**2. Dress the Part.** White shirts are the standard uniform for any color run, but from there, get creative and make an awesome fashion statement. Tutus, headbands and crazy socks are all part of the approved dress code. Wear items that you want to get colorful. While the color powder washes out of most clothing, it can stain some materials. If you're worried about stains, 100 percent cotton clothing is recommended.

Remove excess powder from clothing before washing or applying water to help prevent stains, and then launder separately with a cold machine washing with stain remover. To set the color on an event souvenir, spray with white vinegar, air dry lying flat, and then set in the dryer on high for approximately 10 minutes.

Free T-shirts are available for participants while supplies last at the Community Activities desk in Grace Sherwood Library.

**3. Protect Your Gear.** It's OK to bring

your electronics, but be sure to protect them from the dust. A protective dust wrap is recommended.

## Safety Tips

•Never throw color in or towards someone's face. At the colors stations, the volunteers will always be aiming for shoulder height and below.

**1. Shut Your Mouth.** When you approach the color station, take a deep breath and close your mouth as you revel in the color explosion. As an extra precaution, consider using a bandana or dust mask. Although all the materials are food grade, inhaling large quantities of color powder is not recommended and may temporarily stain teeth. Anyone who has asthma, is allergic to any of the ingredients or who has any respiratory issues should exercise caution when participating in color powder events.

**2. Protect Your Eyes.** The easiest (and coolest) way to do this is to wear a rock-in' pair of shades, goggles or safety glasses. It can sting a little if you get it in your eyes. Helpful hint: Tuck some tissues in your pocket. These might come in handy to wipe your eyes or your nose.

**3. Cleaning Up.** Normal soap and water should remove color powder from skin and hair. Some color does tend to linger for a few days especially on blonde hair. To prevent staining, apply a moisturizer to skin and try coating your hair with a small amount of coconut or olive oil before the event.

**4. No Pets, Please.** The Color Run is not the day to dye your poodle purple. Pets are not allowed on the course. Leave Fluffy and Spot at home!

See you on Tuesday, July 4 at Emon Pavilion 3. The race starts at 5 p.m. Be there by 4:30 p.m. for some pre-race fun!



## DIVE SAFETY TIPS!

Always dive with a buddy. Never dive alone.

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

Wait 18-24 hours after doing multiple dives.

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

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

Each diver should have their own computer.

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

Do not ascend greater than 60 feet per minute.

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

Start the dive day with the deepest dive first.

Avoid making multiple deep dives on the same day.



# www.army.mil/kwajalein

Check out USAG-KA's new website for garrison and community news, links to each directorate and other helpful information. Have thoughts or suggestions? Send them to the USAG-KA Public Affairs Office at [Nikki.1.maxwell.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Nikki.1.maxwell.civ@mail.mil).



ABOVE: Community Activities Staff Phaylina Taganas, Thompson Tarwoj and Sotin Maie transform the Grace Sherwood Library into a safari adventure scene with decorations and crafts for the Summer Reading Program Kickoff Party, June 14.



U.S. Army photos by Jessica Dambruch

ABOVE LEFT: Col. Michael Larsen joins Jeanna and Jacob Larsen at the KYC Commodore's Ball, June 11; RIGHT: Crossing guard volunteers and security personnel celebrate a successful school year with a pizza party in early June at the Kwajalein Food Court.



U.S. Army photo by Nikki Maxwell

ABOVE: The USAG-KA Command, island staff and visitors celebrate the 242nd birthday of the U.S. Army, June 14.

# USAG-KA PROFILES WASTEWATER CREW

PROFILE / CARI DELLINGER

**Most of us don't** want to think about what happens to the water we use after it flushes or swirls down the drain. Thankfully, there's an important team at Kwajalein's wastewater treatment plant. Its job is to safely manage your wastewater—roughly 380,000 gallons a day—and take it through a series of treatments to protect human health and the environment. After learning more about their daily responsibilities, you will understand why it takes a dedicated and knowledgeable crew to handle this work.

The wastewater treatment crew consists of Dwight "Bo" Dearmon, Jenwor Subillie, Glenn Anej, Stanley Ivan, Helson Jarom, Charlie Land and Gus Vann. They have an impressive 98 years of combined experience working at the plant. That kind of commitment shows that this crew is passionate about what they do and that they enjoy educating the public about wastewater treatment. Bo Dearmon, the plant's wastewater supervisor, has worked around water most of his life. He also spent three years in Guantanamo, Cuba supervising the construction of the wastewater plant at GTMO detention camp. Dearmon's crew has high standards when it comes to their work.

"We want to achieve the best wastewater quality we can possibly do out here, for the environment, for the people. We have really good wastewater quality," he says.

Dearmon's crew also manages a primary wastewater plant on Roi-Namur and a septic tank on Meck. The team takes wastewater samples from different parts of the treatment process daily to determine what's happening in the water and to assess the overall health of the plant.

Wastewater Operator Charlie Land moved to Kwajalein from Afghanistan and likes the challenge working at the plant.

"I enjoy figuring out problems here," says Land. "It's mechanical and biological at the same time."

There are several steps in the treatment process that Land and his co-workers manage, and it all begins at the plant's intake facility, arguably the most fragrant place on Kwajalein.

Liquid Systems Manager and long-time Kwaj resident Stan Jazwinski is proud of this dedicated crew's recognition: "My first job on Kwaj 28 years ago was working at the wastewater plant, and Helson Jarom was here," he says.

Jazwinski is also supportive of the plant's focus on water reclamation. "Most waste water treatment plants in the states don't take their effluent. Basically they'll run it into a river. But for us, we treat it and that goes back out to the community as reclaimed water (non-potable). Most places in the states don't do that. There are a few states that have some reclaimed water use such as golf courses, but here, everybody on island has reclaimed water and our goal is to decrease the potable water



U.S. Army photo by Cari Dellinger

**FROM LEFT:** Jenwor Subillie, Charlie Land, Bo Dearmon and Stanley Ivan keep watch at the wastewater plant drying bed facility.

consumption."

With the help of pipes and pumps, raw wastewater arrives at the plant and takes an entire day to process before it is reclaimed as non-potable water or safely discharged into the lagoon. As wastewater flows in, a bar screen catches large solids and other obstructions which the crew must manually remove two to three times per day. The most unusual items sifted out have included money, small toys and aquarium fish.

As the water continues through the plant, bacteria get busy feeding on the wastewater during an aeration process. In another stage, scum and sludge are filtered out of the water and poured into six drying beds where it will take up to three weeks to dry before being taken to the landfill. Finally, the water is treated and disinfected to ensure it is safe for fish and humans. What water isn't reclaimed is discharged into the lagoon.

The next time you flush or run the faucet, remember there's a fascinating network flowing behind the scenes and a hard-working crew appreciative of your business. And according to Jazwinski, there are plenty of things you can do at home to make the crew's job easier.

"Our pumps have grinders to grind up solids and any kind of cloth or fabric will bind those pumps up. Please avoid putting baby wipes or cloth in the toilet. And properly dispose of cooking oil by putting it in the garbage. Every Thanksgiving, we have issues with our pumps. When in doubt about what can be flushed or put down the drain, please check with the environmental department."



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

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

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

# WEEKLY WEATHER OUTLOOK

RTS WEATHER STATION STAFF

**WEATHER DISCUSSION:** After a few rainy days this week, the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) has been pushed a little farther south for Saturday with some steady north-east trade winds in place. This effect will be short-lived. A surface trough will pass across the region Sunday and Monday, and then again. We can expect periods of rain and showers. The ITCZ will remain over the northern RMI into the foreseeable future. We can expect periods of showers for most of next week, resulting in average to above average accumulation totals. Lightning and short-term, localized gusts of wind from strong storms remain a threat to monitor for upcoming week.

**SATURDAY/SUNDAY/MONDAY FORECAST:** Fair weather Saturday with east-northeast winds at 12-17 knots, but overnight rain is likely. Occasional showers Sunday and Monday. Winds will be east-northeast, becoming southeastern at 7-12 knots.

**MID-WEEK FORECAST:** Scattered showers most of next week. Winds east-northeast and east southeast at 10-15 knots.

SUN-MOON-TIDES				
	SUNRISE SUNSET	MOONRISE MOONSET	HIGH TIDE	LOW TIDE
<b>SUNDAY</b>	6:33 a.m. 7:11 p.m.	7:22 a.m. 8:17 p.m.	4:51 a.m. 5.1' 5:19 p.m. 3.8'	11:18 a.m. -0.9' 11:11 p.m. -0.6'
<b>MONDAY</b>	6:33 a.m. 7:11 p.m.	8:24 a.m. 9:15 p.m.	5:33 a.m. 5.1' 6:02 p.m. 3.7'	12:02 p.m. -0.8' 11:54 p.m. -0.4'
<b>TUESDAY</b>	6:33 a.m. 7:11 p.m.	9:24 a.m. 10:10 p.m.	6:16 a.m. 4.8' 6:46 p.m. 3.5'	12:45 p.m. -0.6' -----
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	6:33 a.m. 7:11 p.m.	10:21 a.m. 11:00 p.m.	6:58 a.m. 4.4' 7:32 p.m. 3.3'	12:37 a.m. -0.1' 1:29 p.m. -0.3'
<b>THURSDAY</b>	6:34 a.m. 7:11 p.m.	11:14 a.m. 11:46 p.m.	7:42 a.m. 4.0' 8:21 p.m. 3.0'	1:22 a.m. 0.2' 2:14 p.m. 0.1'
<b>FRIDAY</b>	6:34 a.m. 7:11 p.m.	12:05 p.m. -----	8:29 a.m. 3.5' 9:20 p.m. 2.8'	2:12 a.m. 0.6' 3:04 p.m. 0.4'
<b>JULY 1</b>	6:34 a.m. 7:12 p.m.	12:53 p.m. 12:30 a.m.	9:26 a.m. 3.0' 10:34 p.m. 2.7'	3:13 a.m. 1.0' 4:03 p.m. 0.7'

**Commander's Hotline**  
 Have something the USAG-KA commander should know about?  
**Call the Commander's Hotline at 51098 today!**

**iWATCH ARMY**  
 iREPORT i KEEP US SAFE  
**SEE SOMETHING – SAY SOMETHING**

<b>REPORTING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY</b>	<b>WHO TO REPORT TO</b>
-Date and time activity occurred	Local law Enforcement and Security
-Where and what type of activity occurred	*911
-Physical description of the people involved	*5-4445/4443
-Description of modes of transportation	*usarmy.bucholz.311-sg-cmd.mbx.usag-pmo@mail
-Describe what you saw or heard	
-Provide pictures if you took any	

**SHARP**  
 U.S. ARMY SEXUAL HARASSMENT/ASSAULT RESPONSE & PREVENTION  
 Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Contact Information  
 CW3 Dave Casbarra  
 SHARP Victim Advocate  
 Work: 805 355 3421 • Home: 805 355 1731  
 USAG-KA SHARP Pager: 805 355 3243/3242/3241/0100  
 USAG-KA SHARP VA Local Help Line: 805 355 2758  
 DOD SAFE Helpline: 877 995 5247

*Captain Louis S. Zamperini Dining Facility* \*MENU CURRENT AS OF JUNE 21

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	July 1
<b>LUNCH</b>						
<b>Sunday</b>						
Egg Drop Soup	Hungarian Goulash	Chicken Tandoori	Sausage & Peppers	Swiss Steak Jardiniere	Beef or Chicken Tacos	Italian Chicken
Herb Baked Chicken	Cajun Roasted Chicken	Indian Beef Curry	Japanese Style Chicken	Baked Zucchini	Turkey Enchiladas	Sweet & Spicy Meatballs
Beef Pastitsio	Quiche Lorraine	Vegetarian Stir-Fry	Baked Zucchini	Potato Romanoff	Refried Beans	Pasta Aglio e Olio
<b>DINNER</b>						
<b>Sunday</b>						
Old Fashioned Pot Roast	Kwaj Fried Chicken	Hawaiian Apple Pork Chops	Steak Night	Beef Teriyaki	Hamburger Bonanza	Beef Pad Thai
Chicken Florentine	Baked Meatloaf	Huli Huli Chicken	Roasted Chicken	Chicken Veggie Stir-Fry	Pork Pot Roast	BBQ Garlic Chicken
Brown Rice	Vegetarian Spaghetti	Oriental Fried Rice	Vegetarian Pasta	Sesame Noodles	Fish Du Jour	Coconut Rice

# COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS

## HELP WANTED

Visit USAJOBS.GOV to search and apply for USAG-KA vacancies and other federal positions. KRS and Chugach listings for on-Island jobs are posted at: Kwajalein, Roi-Namur and Ebeye Dock Security Checkpoint locations; outside the United Travel Office; in the Roi Terminal/Post Office; at Human Resources in Bldg. 700 and on the "Kwaj-web" site under Contractor Information>KRS> Human Resources>Job Opportunities. Listings for off-island contract positions are available at www.krsjv.com.

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

2017 Bi-Annual Golf Greens Fees and Locker Registration. June 1-30. Annual and Bi-Annual greens fees and locker registration now available for the golf course. Sign up now to ensure you will be golfing in 2017. For questions or registration information, please call Community Activities at 53331.

SOS Triathlon Challenge. Register June 13-30. Challenge will be held July 1-30. Join the SOS Triathlon Challenge and swim, bike, and run to the ultimate goal of completing Ironman distances over a four-week period of time. Prizes awarded for challenge completion. Questions, Contact Midori Hobbs at 53331.

Kwajalein Yacht Club Monthly Meeting. 6:30 p.m., Saturday, June 24, at the Yacht Club. Social

Hour begins at 5:30 p.m.; meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Please bring a side dish. Contact Ursula LaBrie 51951.

Open Mic Night. 8:30 p.m., Saturday, June 24, at the Vet's Hall. Featuring the Patio Jammers. Come join the fun and say farewell to some friends. Questions, call Jan Abrams.

Vet's Hall Karaoke. 8 p.m., Sunday, June 25, at the Vet's Hall. Come join the fun on the biggest dance floor on Kwaj. Questions, Call Jan Abrams or Mike Woundy.

The Larsen Family Farewell Party. 6 p.m., Sunday, June 25 at 241 Ocean Road. Please join us in bidding farewell to USAG-KA Commander Col. Michael Larsen and Jeanna Larsen. Please bring beverages and a dish to share.

Lunch Time at the Lanes. Monday, June 26, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Bowling Alley. Bring your lunch and come on out for some mid-day bowling! \$2 for shoes, \$2 per game. All ages welcome, 14 and younger requires adult supervision. Food and beverages permitted.

Island Orientation. 12:30-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 28, Building 365, CAC room 6. If you cannot attend, please send your primary or alternate in your stead. Safety will not be filling in for missing presenters. Please call ES&H at 51134 or 59817 so we can notify the other presenters to adjust his/her time slots.

Smells Like Fish Live Music Performance. 8:15 p.m., Saturday, July 1, at the Outrigger Bar & Grill on Roi. Special guest Keith Peacock on saxophone. Break music provided by special guest Dave Saunders.

Fourth of July Celebration at Emon. Schedule of Events: Beach Bar Opens 2 p.m., Baggo tournament 3 p.m., opening ceremony, food services, Beach Bar, snow cones, inflatables, carnival games and crafts 4 p.m., Ballistic Love LIVE 4:15 p.m., Color Run starts at Emon Pavilion 5 p.m., Ballistic Love live at 6 p.m. Questions? Call Community Activities 53331.

The Color Run. 5 p.m., Tuesday, July 4, Emon Pavilion. Kwajalein's first ever. Pre-register at the Community Activities Office to receive a FREE t-shirt. Limited t-shirts and sizes available. Pre-registration not required to participate in this awesome event! Questions? Call 53331.

The Family Pool will be closed in support of the 4th of July Beach Blast on Tuesday, July 4. Please join us at Emon Beach for the fun and festivities.

Please avoid using glass containers at the beach, but if you must, cover them up with a protective cover such as a koozie.

QOL Vehicle Use Restricted. Due to the recent increase in industrial traffic and large construction vehicles being used on Kwajalein, QOL cart usage is restricted during the workday, Tuesday-

Saturday 7 a.m.-5 p.m. to the residential/community areas. During the workday, QOL scooters can be used to travel as far as the golf course, softball fields, or Small boat marina, but should avoid traveling past those points. This will help clear the roads for industrial and official use and avoid potential accidents. Pedestrian traffic/bicycles can still access Camp Hamilton, Coral Sands and Glass Beach areas.

Save Energy! Use Your Appliances Wisely. Do your laundry efficiently by using the warm or cold water setting for washing your clothes. Always use cold water to rinse clothes. Use your dryer's automatic dry cycle rather than a timed cycle and clean the lint trap after each use. Conserve energy by running your dishwasher only when it is fully loaded. Turn off the dry cycle and air dry dishes instead.

E-Talk: Significant Impact Training. Some KRS activities have the potential to cause negative environmental impacts. KRS employees receive training to minimize or prevent these negative impacts.

Safely Speaking: Hand and Finger Safety - Pinch Points. A pinch point is when two objects come together and your hand could get caught between them. Pay attention to your work and keep your hands out of pinch points.

## Café Roi

\*MENU CURRENT AS OF JUNE 21

### LUNCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	July 1
Peking Style Chicken	Pepper Steak	Spaghetti	Stir-Fry Beef	Ground Beef Tacos	Hot Brown Turkey Sandwich	Island Style Shoyu Chicken
Indonesian Pork	Glazed Pork	Sausage & Peppers Sub	Chicken & Broccoli	Taquitos	Chicken Adobo	Kahlua Pork
Franconia Potatoes	Cheese Quiche	Garlic Bread	Rice Pilaf	Chicken Chimichangas	Black-Eyed Peas	Grilled Cheese

### DINNER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	July 1
Salisbury Steak	Pork Chops w/Gravy	Coconut Fried Chicken	Grilled Beef Steak	Fried Chicken	Mom's Beef Pot Roast	Hot Dogs
Herb Baked Fish	Chicken & Noodles	Roasted Pork	Baked Potato	Spaghetti	Fried Fish	Onion Rings
Pasta Primavera	Mashed Potatoes	Stir-Fry Vegetables	Corn on the Cob	Mashed Potatoes	Braised Cabbage	Chili Meatloaf

# HEY, MAN, DON'T MAIL THAT!

One could think of literally hundreds or thousands of items that should not be mailed through the U.S. Post Office. Ivory, medical waste, endangered animals and narcotics are a few obvious examples. Others, such as nail polish, rat poison and wine may not be so obvious. Below are some examples of prohibited items that should not be mailed through the Kwajalein Post Office. For a full accounting of country-wide prohibited items, visit [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com).



## REMINDER TO ALL: COCONUT CRABS OFF LIMITS

The *Environmental Standards* for U.S. Army Garrison-Kwajalein Atoll identify the coconut crab as a protected species. For this reason, USAG-KA residents and personnel should not touch, harass, injure or kill coconut crabs. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Kwajalein Range Services Environmental Office at 51134.

The coconut crab (*Birgus latro*), known locally as barulep, is a type of land-based hermit crab. Unlike other hermit crabs, the coconut crab does not make use of a shell beyond the juvenile stages of its life. It is this characteristic that allows the coconut crab to grow so large in size.

Despite their name, coconut crabs have a varied diet which includes other fresh fruits and even meats, usually smaller crabs or dead animals. They use their strong sense of smell to locate food when they emerge from their burrows to hunt at night and, typically, remain inside their burrows during the day to protect themselves from the heat.

Coconut crabs can be found on many of the small islands throughout the Pacific and Indian Oceans. The state of their population remains unknown. For this reason, some nations have given this species protected status.



This coconut crab, photographed by USAG-KA resident Art Bennis on Roi, is one of many on USAG-KA-maintained islands that are protected by environmental standards enforced by the Army and the R.M.I.

### UNITED CHECK-IN TIMES

Monday, United 155—**3:30-4:45 p.m.**  
 Tuesday, United 154—**11-11:30 a.m.**  
 Wednesday, United 155—**2:30-3:45 p.m.**  
 Thursday, United 154—**11:30 a.m.-Noon.**  
 Friday, United 155—**3:30-4:45 p.m.**  
 Saturday, United 154—**11-11:30 a.m.**

### ATI CHECK-IN TIMES

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

