



## USAG-KA Commander's Corner

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### COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Yokwe “Team Kwajalein” and all our visitors. Time is flying by and I am excited to be in the Holiday Season!

Many of you are preparing for travel off Island to celebrate the season with family and friends back home and I wish you all safe travels. For those of us remaining on island, there will be plenty of festive events scheduled to keep us busy and entertained (see a list of events on page 14). The holiday season officially kicked off this past weekend with our Tree Lighting Ceremonies on Roi-Namur and Kwajalein. The holiday spirit was definitely in the air while we enjoyed performances by our talented youth and professional musical guests (see photos and highlights on pages 3, 6, and 7). I tip my hat to Community Activity superstars, Kim Yarnes and Midori Hobbs, for making it all come together.

On another note, it was inspiring to see hundreds of people from our community attend the SSG Solomon Sam vessel dedication ceremony last week. We renamed one of our ferries after the only Marshallese Soldier who was killed in action in 2008 in Iraq. It was an honor to meet his parents, widow and children, and personally thank them for his service and sacrifice for our freedom. It was a day I will never forget. (You can read more about it and see photos from the ceremony on pages 4-5 of this issue).

I am encouraged by the constructive questions and suggestions we received recently through our garrison Facebook page and the Commander's Hotline. Many of you have brought up some good issues, some that I was not aware of. Thank you for taking the time to do that, and I hope it will continue so we can improve our community together. See our official Facebook address and other contact details on page 15.

Thank you for your service throughout the year and I wish you the best in 2016! Happy Holidays....and I'll see you around the island!

Kommol Tata!

Col. Mike Larsen

*(Note: Kommol Tata is Marshallese for Thank You)*