



## USAG-KA Commander's Corner

*(Published in the Kwajalein Hourglass Newspaper – Nov. 28, 2015)*

### COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Yokwe neighbors and members of “Team Kwajalein!” CSM Rawlings and I were off-Island for a couple of weeks for a Garrison Commanders’ Conference in San Antonio, Texas. It was a great opportunity to engage and discuss common issues and ideas with other garrison leaders, but we are both very happy to be back home with you all.

“HOME” – A simple word that means so much to each of us. This week is Thanksgiving, officially marking the beginning of the traditional holiday season for most Americans. While many of us will be eating turkey and watching football, I hope you have an opportunity to connect with your loved ones in person, online, or on the phone.

This time of year reminds us how far we live from friends and family in the United States, and around the world. I believe that it takes a special kind of person to be willing live in this type of circumstance. I want you to know how privileged I feel to be a part of this community. Moreover, I am grateful for your professionalism and sacrifice throughout the year. Everyone on this island contributes towards our national security through their support to the Space and Missile Defense Command, Missile Defense Agency, and the Air Force’s Space Fence and GPS missions.

From supply shortages to extreme weather situations, I know it is not easy living here. We have more than our share of challenges and hardships. The garrison team and I are working hard to rectify those issues, but we need your help. If you see someone doing something questionable or contrary to our policies and regulations, please say something. If you are not comfortable speaking up at that moment, then please send me a message through our official USAG Kwajalein Facebook page so we can address it. We will try to respond to all questions and comments within 24 hours, and I always welcome productive discourse and creative suggestions.

I invite the community to attend our Ferry Dedication ceremony on Dec. 4 at 10 a.m. We are re-naming one of our four ferries after a Marshallese native, Staff Sergeant Solomon Sam, who was killed in action in Iraq in 2008. He is the only Marshallese to have given the ultimate sacrifice during the Global War on

Terror. The ceremony will be held on Echo Pier and will include music, official speeches, and a maiden voyage of the new U.S. Army "SSG Solomon Sam" Ferry. I look forward to seeing you there.

Happy Thanksgiving....and I'll see you around the island.

Kommol Tata!

Col. Mike Larsen

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