



USAG-KA Commander's Corner

(Published in the Kwajalein Hourglass Newspaper - Oct 17, 2015)

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Yokwe neighbors and members of "Team Kwajalein!" We had a very eventful couple of weeks since my last column, and I continue to be impressed with how our community "weathers" things together.

On Oct. 7, we had an excellent example of that concept when approximately 875 of our Marshallese friends and co-workers were stranded here on Kwajalein for the first time that can be recalled. The generosity of people donating food, blankets, pillows and dry clothes to help feed and give comfort to these men, women and children for the night speaks volumes about the character of our people in this island. The way you all came together to help each other made me very proud to count myself as a part of this community. I invite you to read more about how KRS and other organizations supported this emergency mission on pages 4-5 of this Hourglass issue.

Earlier this week we hosted the commander of U.S. Strategic Command (STRATCOM) here on island. Admiral Cecil Haney is an advocate of our unique missions here and I appreciate him taking the time to see firsthand the accomplishments and professionalism of the entire island team. Please see our official Garrison Facebook page for photos from that visit. The story will be in the next issue of The Hourglass.

On Fri., Oct. 16 I'll execute my first Town Hall on Roi-Namur for our U.S. and RMI workforce. My first session of Kwajalein Town Halls are scheduled for Tues., Oct. 20. Time and location details are on page 11. I look forward to tackling any concerns that get highlighted during the Town Hall series. I challenge you to feel free to remark on whatever you want, I promise it will be an open and honest discourse.

We recently began publishing the 'Hero of the Week' in the Hourglass. In this issue, we are profiling two heroes – a husband and wife team who have positively impacted the community for years – Bob and Jane Sholar. Read about their volunteer efforts on page 6. If you want to recommend someone for Hero of the Week, contact the Hourglass Editor Jordan Vinson so we can continue to publicize worthy contributors to our community.

My new Public Affairs Officer, Nikki Maxwell, has injected positive new energy into our official USAG-KA Facebook page. My goal is to make that site a venue for useful command information and community

updates. If you have a question or comment, you can post it there (or Private Message) anytime and we will respond. Please “Like” and share our page with your friends and families to help get the word out.

Take care, and I’ll see you around the island.

Kommol Tata!

Col. Mike Larsen

(Note: Kommol Tata is Marshallese for Thank You)