



USAG-KA Commander's Corner

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TOWN HALL SOLUTIONS

Yokwe “Team Kwajalein.” Thank you for attending or virtually participating in our recent round of Town Halls last week. The new, more complex issues we face together here in our highly unique overseas environment, are being tackled by myself and my staff. Some issues concern funding, while others involve exceptions to policy or rewriting local garrison regulations. Whatever the case may be, I appreciate your patience while we work through all the details.

I also want to say a special **THANK YOU** to the Kwajalein teenagers who participated in my first “Teen Town Hall.” Their constructive questions and well-crafted suggestions demonstrated a maturity that I find encouraging. I take their input very seriously, and learned a few things about our own policies that we can re-examine. Great job parents – you should be proud! You can read more about all of our recent Town Halls held on Roi-Namur and Kwajalein in this issue of the Hourglass. We will also continue to update the community on our progress as we work to resolve the questions raised last week.

I wanted to take a moment to highlight some recent changes to current policies and inform you of ones I am considering to change:

- Zamperini Dining Facility is open to families the entire weekend (Sundays and Mondays); this is subject to change if the DFAC management is unable to maintain this request logistically
- I am dedicated to making it easier for Private Organizations to exist; I am trying to identify ways to exempt low-risk organizations from certain requirements
- Curfew for High School graduates after graduation will be 2 a.m.
- We are looking into using cipher locks for the gymnasium and other fitness rooms for 24/7 access
- Roi-Namur residents will have a higher priority for “Space A” on the metro flights on Mondays
- I am considering authorizing the Ri-katak students more access to Kwajalein after school and on weekends
- We will execute public bid sales for excess equipment sometime this summer (look for future dates on the Roller and FB)

- We are in the process of modifying the contract for Non-appropriated Funds use; when this occurs we will have future success purchasing new B Boats and wood for sale in the Hobby Shop (as soon as we have an update, I'll make sure everyone knows)
- No change to Third Island Store operations
- No change to "Space A" travel for Marshallese citizens (they are still authorized)

This week we had the privilege of hosting a visit by Lieutenant General David Mann, commander of U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) and Army Strategic Command (ARSTRAT). LTG Mann continues to be a tremendous advocate for every Atoll resident. He truly understands how important quality of life is within the Atoll and the impact it has on the mission. During his brief time here, he held his own town halls on Roi-Namur and Kwajalein, discussing several tough issues with residents. You will see more in-depth information on this topic in next week's issue of The Hourglass.

In regards to the recent mission efforts, you can read all about this week's unarmed Minuteman III ICBM launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, and how it lit up the sky in Kwajalein. This specific mission is a great example of the U.S. dominance in space and missile defense. See more about that story on page 4.

In other news, I hope you've had a chance to see some of the coverage of USAG-KA featured on American Forces Network Pacific (AFN-P) this month. You can find links to all of the broadcasts on our official U.S. Army Garrison Kwajalein Atoll Facebook page. Feel free to share with family and friends, we have ensured from an OPSEC perspective it is safe to do so. Overall, it is a great way to tell the unique story of our island home to those who might not understand how important this place is to our nation.

Thanks for all you do to serve our country and improve our community. Enjoy your weekend, stay safe....and I'll see you around the island.

Kommol Tata!

Col. Mike Larsen