



U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll Reagan Test Site



Yokwe and Welcome

U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll (USAKA)

A Vital National Asset

Kwajalein Atoll is part of the Republic of the Marshall Islands in the west central Pacific Ocean. It lies 2,400 miles southwest of Honolulu, Hawaii.

Kwajalein is in the same general latitude as the southern Philippines and the same general longitude as New Zealand, approximately 3,200 miles to the south.

Kwajalein Atoll lies less than 700 miles north of the equator.

U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll (USAKA), home to Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll (RTS), operates as a subordinate command of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command. The USAKA commander is responsible for Kwajalein's and Roi-Namur's more than 2,400 residents, comprised of military personnel, Army civilians, contractor employees, tenants, and family members. The use of the Kwajalein Atoll as

a missile range is made possible through lease agreements negotiated with the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

RTS is a multi-billion-dollar facility with state-of-the-art instrumentation unmatched anywhere in the world. It offers space tracking and full-envelope strategic and tactical missile testing with the world's most sophisticated suite of radar, optics, telemetry, and scoring sensors.



Reagan Test Site

A World Class Test Facility

Mission: Reagan Test Site operates as a major range and test facility base, providing strategic National Missile Defense and Theater Missile Defense system testing, as well as sensor system research and development testing. RTS also conducts space operations in support of U.S. Space Command and NASA, including space object identification, space surveillance, and new foreign launch space tracking.



RTS History

At the end of World War II, Kwajalein was established as a U.S. Navy refueling, supply, and communications station. A brief flurry of activity supporting Korean War operations in the early 1950s and weapons testing a few years later was followed by declining activity that resulted in the station being scheduled for closure.

A new chapter in its history began in 1959, after Kwajalein was selected to be the test site for the NIKE-ZEUS anti-missile program at the then-U.S. Army Rocket and Guided Missile Agency. At about the same time, the island of Roi-Namur was chosen for the development of a center for the Advanced Research Project Agency (ARPA) of the Department of Defense. This program, designated Project PRESS (Pacific Range Electromagnetic Signature Studies), had related facilities in California, Hawaii, and Wake Island. Naval Station Kwajalein became Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kwajalein, with the Army and ARPA as tenant activities.

In July 1964, command of Kwajalein was transferred from the Navy to the Army as Kwajalein Test Site (KTS), assigned to the NIKE-X Project Office at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

When the SENTINEL Systems Organization was established in 1967, the resources and staff of the NIKE-X Project Office, including KTS, were transferred to the new SENTINEL Systems Command. At Kwajalein, successful launchings of the SPARTAN missile took place in March and May of 1968.

In April 1968, KTS was redesignated Kwajalein Missile Range (KMR). The following year, the SENTINEL Systems Command was redesignated SAFEGUARD Systems Command. Under this program, tests were conducted using SPRINT and SPARTAN missile systems.

In May 1974, the SAFEGUARD Systems Command was redesignated Ballistic Missile Defense Systems Command (BMDSC) under the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO). In July 1985, BMDSC was redesignated the U.S. Army Strategic Defense Command (USASDC). In May 1986, KMR was redesignated the United States Army Kwajalein Atoll (USAKA). This change reflected the USAKA commander's expanded role under the Compact of Free Association, a document that defines the special relationship between the U.S. and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the roles and responsibilities of each. As part of this change, the USAKA Range Command was established as a tenant command, responsible for range test operations. In March 1991, USAKA Range Command was redesignated Kwajalein Missile Range.

As a result of a 1999 resolution by the Republic of the Marshall Islands *Nitijela* (Congress) requesting a name change honoring President Ronald Reagan, the 106th U.S. Congress passed a bill designating the Kwajalein Missile Range as the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll. The name change became official on the Army's 226th birthday, June 15, 2001. For the sake of brevity, the Range is called the Reagan Test Site (RTS). The SMDC deputy commander is the national range commander for RTS.

Tenants

USAKA's tenants include the Missile Defense Agency, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, Global Positioning System, Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Aviation Administration, National Imaging and Mapping Agency, Job Corps, and Department of Energy.

Contractors

USAKA is a government-owned, contractor-operated (GOCO) installation. The Kwajalein community consists of a small contingent of military and government civilian personnel and their families and a large population of contractor personnel and their families. Two main areas supported by contractors are Kwajalein Logistics Support (KLS) and Integrated Range Engineering (IRE).

The KLS contract provides range and community support, including medical and dental care, religious services, schools, retail merchandising, housing, recreational activities, food services, newspaper, radio and TV, fire fighting, supply services, power plant and other facilities, and air, sea, and land transportation.

The IRE contract provides operation and maintenance of RTS instrumentation and the Kiernan Re-Entry Measurement Site (KREMS) radars. Range instrumenta-

tion includes radars, telemetry, photo-optics, and communications systems. KREMS, on Roi-Namur, is the most sophisticated and important U.S. research and development radar site, consisting of four one-of-a-kind instrumentation radars: TRADEX, ALCOR, ALTAIR, and MMW. These systems track missiles and space objects, collecting sophisticated data. For many years, KREMS has played a role in collecting data associated with intercontinental ballistic missile testing and space tracking. Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Lincoln Laboratory (MIT/LL) is the scientific advisor to the Range.

Other contractors at Kwajalein provide banking, weather, travel, and security services. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers oversees construction contractors.



So, You're Moving to Kwajalein Atoll

You Have Questions

The islands are . . . warm, sunny days, palm trees swaying in the trade winds, blue water, and white beaches . . . co-existing with state-of-the-art radars, optical tracking systems, communications systems, and instrumentation.

Although isolated, Kwajalein appears similar to many American communities, but there are some notable differences between our communities and stateside ones. Contractors manage the stores, restaurants, police and fire departments, hospital, schools, utilities, recreation, airport, and harbor. Traffic is far lighter than in most small towns. There are no privately owned automobiles; bicycles are the standard means of transportation.

Sunday, the first day of the weekend, is the primary day for religious observances, and Monday, the second day of the weekend, is a day for shopping, recreation, yard work, and patio sales.

What is the weather like?

Situated less than 700 miles north of the equator, Kwajalein Atoll has a tropical marine climate characterized by relatively high annual rainfall (averaging over 100 inches) and warm to hot, humid weather throughout the year. Temperatures vary little. Because of the low latitude, there are only slight seasonal variations in the altitude of the sun and amount of daylight and darkness. The resulting small variation in solar energy and the marine influence are the principal reasons for the very slight change in temperature — about two degrees Fahrenheit — between the coolest month and the warmest. The average daily temperature range is about 10 degrees, with highs of about 87 degrees in the early afternoon and lows of about 77 degrees in the early morning.



The rainy season extends from mid-May to mid-December. About 75 percent of the annual rainfall is recorded during this period. September, October, and November are the wettest months. Light easterly winds, almost constant cloudiness, and frequent moderate to heavy showers prevail during the wet season.

The dry, windy season extends from mid-December to mid-May and is characterized by frequent sunny days and some light showers of short duration. In this season, the trade winds are persistent, blowing almost continuously from the northeast at 15 to 20 knots.

Severe storms and damaging winds are uncommon in the vicinity of Kwajalein Atoll. However, weak depressions may form nearby during any season. Some of these intensify and eventually develop into typhoons, after moving away westward. These depressions can cause heavy rainfall at Kwajalein Atoll.

Will I need any immunizations or vaccines to go to Kwajalein Atoll?

It is recommended, but not required, that adults coming to Kwajalein Atoll receive a baseline TB skin test and a Hepatitis A vaccination. All adults should be current on standard immunizations and should make sure that their shot records are up-to-date.

For children up to five years of age, routine preschool vaccinations are recommended.

Students are required to have a baseline TB skin test, the Hepatitis B series and the chicken pox vaccination (or documentation of having had chicken pox) to enter the Kwajalein school system. Students should also be current on standard immunizations and have up-to-date shot records.

Standard immunizations and vaccinations, as well as a limited variety of others that may be required for vacation destinations, are available at Kwajalein Hospital.

Household Needs

Dishes, glassware, silverware, cooking utensils, and small appliances are not provided. Bring extra serving pieces for entertaining, and dinnerware, stemware, and silverware suitable for everyday use and entertaining. The usual linens should be brought: sheets, towels, blankets, bedspreads, tablecloths (check with your sponsor for size), and napkins. Bed pillows are not provided. Hampers, clocks, throw pillows, and an afghan are useful. Favorite knickknacks, pictures, photos, and personal decorations can be shipped from home (see checklist). If you sew, ship a sewing machine, patterns, buttons, zippers, thread, and other sewing notions, or bring a catalog that specializes in these items. There is a



small selection of fabric here, along with a limited supply of thread and zippers.

TV and video tapes, as well as music, are prime home entertainment. Stereos, VCRs, DVD players, and TVs are available through Macy's, but quantities and selection are often limited.

Houses and trailers receive interior rehab between tenants in addition to emergency and routine maintenance. The rehab usually includes interior painting, window washing, and appliance/floor cleaning.

Housing occupants are responsible for the care and upkeep of their yards. Self-Help has all the necessary tools available free to borrow. Lawn mowers are delivered and picked up, and garden tools are available. For home repair, Self-Help also lends small tools, such as hammers, wrenches, saws, and drills. Building materials and paint are sold at local retail outlets and patio sales, and plants can be purchased at Macy's West and at patio sales.

Household Shipment Checklist

Items you may want to consider including in your shipment:

Bathroom accessories (rugs, shower curtain, space-saver storage units)
Bathroom scale
Books
Can opener
Card table and chairs
*Child care items**
Clocks
Coffee maker
Cookbooks
Cookware
Computer
Computer desk
Cosmetics
Dishes (china and everyday, with

extra serving dishes)
Dishwasher (portable only)
Hamper
Hobby and craft materials
Linens: blankets (with air conditioning, they are necessary), sheets, towels, bedspreads, bed pillows, curtains, tablecloths, napkins
Mail-order catalogs
Microwave oven
Patterns and notions
Paintings and pictures
Patio furniture
Radio
Rugs: room-sized for old housing, throw rugs, area rugs

Sewing machine
Silverware
Stemware
Stereo system
TV
Toolbox
Vacuum cleaner
VCR
Wastebaskets

**Cribs are available on loan from Furniture Warehouse, but do bring a stroller (make certain it has a canopy or other covering to protect your baby from the intense tropical sun), playpens, door gates, and a supply of bottle liners.*

Getting Around, Banking, and Postal Services



Getting Around

Bicycles are the standard means of transportation on Kwajalein, because no private vehicles are permitted. Bicycles can be purchased new at Macy's West or used from departing residents. Adult tricycles are also available. The salt air causes continuous corrosion, making maintenance of complex bicycles difficult. If you want the convenience of a multi-speed bicycle, the best solution is a three-speed with a coaster brake. Spare parts and repair tools are available at Macy's West. Child carrier seats and trailers for adult bicycles are also sold at Macy's West.

Free bus service provides transportation to and from work sites. Vans transport groceries from the market to your home. Government vehicles, including golf carts, vans, and trucks, are used primarily for business and maintenance purposes. Vehicles can also be rented for personal use for a nominal fee.

Banking

A Bank of Guam branch provides banking services for the Kwajalein community. The bank is a member of the Federal Reserve System. Because checks require up to three weeks for processing at the Bank of Guam, many people keep their U.S. accounts open in addition to opening an account at Kwajalein. Those who don't have an account with the Bank of Guam can cash personal checks up to \$50 at the bank for a small charge. For larger amounts, customers must wait for the check to clear.

Kwajalein retail outlets accept checks for up to \$50 over the amount of purchase. Macy's and the Finance Office cash personal checks up to \$200.

Credit cards are accepted at many retail facilities on Kwaj. Checks

drawn on U.S. banks are accepted at all retail facilities. There is an automatic teller service on Kwajalein.

Post Office

New arrivals are issued a post office box. Postal boxes can be obtained for you in advance by your sponsor. If you will be living on Kwajalein, your address will be:

Your Name
P.O. Box xxx
APO AP 96555

Kwajalein receives and dispatches stateside mail via Air Mobility Command (AMC) military planes. Average transit time for letters and packages from the states is two to four weeks.

The rate for a one-ounce letter is the same as on the mainland. Information about international mail can be obtained from the post office.

Shopping for Groceries and Sundries

A grocery store (Surfway), convenience store (Ten-Ten), department store (Macy's), and



Shopping, Dining, and Other Retail Services

sporting goods/gardening/housewares store (Macy's West) are the island's principal retail facilities. Each facility carries a wide range of products, which are adequate for most needs. Island regulations require proper identification for shopping at any retail facility. Every resident 10 years of age and older is issued a badge, which serves as ID for shopping.

The Retail Office on island can special-order large-ticket items such as dishwashers and some types of furniture, including beds and rosewood furniture. AAFES, a military mail-order service catalog, is also available for use at the Retail Office.



Surfway

Surfway is a grocery store that stocks a variety of essentials and a limited selection of specialty items. Food prices are generally comparable to those in Hawaii. Discount brands are not available.

Because all food and supplies must be imported, it is not possible to stock as wide a variety of items as can be found in stateside markets.

Shortages occur from time to time, and island cooks soon grow accustomed to adapting their menus to what is available at Surfway. Considering the shipping distance involved, Surfway is remarkably well-stocked.

Dairy products, including fresh milk, are brought in from Hawaii. A surprisingly varied selection of fresh produce is flown in three times a week from California and Hawaii. Seasonal items, such as blueberries,

strawberries, and watermelon, are frequently available. Meats and fish are frozen; however, some thawed items are for sale daily in the chilled section. Cold cuts, cheeses, and other deli items are also available. Customers can order special cuts of meat. Frozen breads, rolls, bagels, and English muffins are available at Surfway, along with fresh bread and rolls baked locally.

Ten-Ten

Ten-Ten is open seven days a week. This full-service convenience store carries a variety of drugs, sundries, convenience groceries, and limited fresh produce, as well as wine, liquor, beer, tobacco, film, batteries, greeting cards, stationery, paperback books, magazines, newspapers, and other drugstore items.



Republic of the Marshall Islands

Our International Partner

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) consists of a double chain of 29 atolls and five islands with a total land area of 74 square miles. The RMI capital of Majuro is in the Ratak (Sunrise or Eastern) chain, and Kwajalein Atoll is in the Ralik (Sunset or Western) chain.

The USAKA commander serves as the representative of the U.S. commander, Pacific, to the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Kiribati.

As a visitor to Kwajalein, you may have a unique opportunity to become acquainted with the Marshallese people and their culture. Three miles north of Kwajalein Island is the island of Ebeye, home for more than 10,000 Marshallese nationals. Approximately 1,500 Marshallese are employed by our contractors in the areas of law enforcement, logistics support, and food services.

As you associate with Marshallese workers and familiarize yourself with Ebeye, you will learn that the people are typically friendly and cheerful. You'll be able to appreciate their handicraft and their culture, and you may even decide to learn their language.

History of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)

The history of the Marshall Islands records the successive influences of various peoples. It is thought that the islands were populated around 3,000 B.C. to 2,000 B.C. by migrations from the Philippines, Malaysia, New Guinea, and adjacent islands. During the past thousand years, an influx of Polynesians occurred.

Until the 16th century, the area had no contact with the Western world and developed its own culture, still evident today. Spanish explorers first "discovered" the Marshalls in 1526, but had little to do with these small coral islands. In the late 1700s, the Marshalls were "rediscovered" by various European voyagers, notably the English captains Gilbert and Marshall (for



whom the Marshall Islands were named). It was not until the 19th century, with the arrival of traders, whalers, and missionaries, that Western influences began to be felt. The development of the copra trade, together with awakening interest in the strategic importance of the islands, led to rivalries among the increasingly imperialistic nations of Europe.

By the end of the 19th century, Spain had surrendered her Micronesian claims to Germany. During World War I, the Japanese took control of Micronesia. The islands remained under Japanese domination until they were occupied by the U.S. toward the close of World War II. In January and February 1944, fierce battles were fought for Kwajalein, Roi-Namur, and other islands in the atoll. An interim military government assumed control.

Following the Japanese surrender in 1945, the islands remained under military administration until 1947, when they became part of the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI). By agreement with the United Nations, the U.S. assumed responsibility for the TTPI through the Department of the Interior. In 1969, negotiations began for a new political status for Micronesia.



In 1979, constitutional self-government in free association with the U.S. was established for the Marshall Islands.

RMI Today

In 1985, the U.S. ratified the Compact of Free Association, a document that defines the special relationship between our two countries. It was signed by President Reagan in January 1986 and ratified by the *Nitijela* (Congress) of the RMI in February 1986. On Oct. 21, 1986, the Compact of Free Association was put in place for a 15-year term, with provisions to be re-negoti-



ated at the end of that time. Those negotiations are currently underway.

The RMI became a member of the United Nations in 1991. A U.S. Embassy is located on Majuro. Periodically, an embassy official visits USAKA to provide passport and other notary services for U.S. citizens living here.

Educational Opportunities

Educational opportunities for students from the RMI have Kwajalein ties. Each year, the Guest Student Program offers five children from Ebeye the opportunity to attend Kwajalein schools, beginning in kindergarten and attending through 12th grade. The first group of these students graduated in the class of 1999 at Kwajalein High School. In another cooperative educational program, a number of Kwaj residents teach and volunteer at Marshallese primary and secondary schools and the College of the Marshall Islands.

The College of the Marshall Islands, with campuses at Majuro and Gugeegue (an island neighboring Kwajalein), is a fully accredited community college, offering two-year associate of arts and sciences degrees in a number of disciplines. Many of Kwajalein's professionals join CMI as part-time faculty members. CMI also partners with a Kwajalein contractor to provide short- and long-term training and educational opportunities to its students.

Job Corps, a U.S. federally sponsored jobs training program, has a site on Kwajalein. Job Corps has prepared more than 1,500 young Marshallese men and women to go on to job training in the states. The program provides an open-entry, open-exit educational environment, in which each student progresses at his or her own pace in a competency-based curriculum. The Job Corps Center plays an important role in USAKA's good neighbor policy with the RMI.

Kom Ruwainene (Welcome)

The Marshallese Cultural Center on Kwajalein was established in 1997. The center is designed to perpetuate Marshallese history and culture through sharing of crafts, art, songs, dance, photographs, artifacts, and displays. It is a living activities center where Marshallese and American people can come together to exchange ideas and thoughts that lead to a better understanding between the people of the two nations.



World War II at Kwajalein Atoll: Operation Flintlock



In one historic week, Jan. 29 to Feb. 4, 1944, with the most powerful invasion force ever assembled up to that time, American forces seized Kwajalein Atoll from Japan. The invasion of the Marshall Islands, code named Operation Flintlock, served as a model for future operations in the Pacific. The seizure of Kwajalein Atoll was the first capture of pre-war Japanese territory and pierced the Japanese defense perimeter, paving the road to Tokyo. It took strategic control of the Marshalls away from the Japanese and eliminated major naval and air bases. It severed Japanese lines of communication and shortened the Pacific campaign.

The task force that accompanied the 4th Marine Division and the 7th Infantry Division to Kwajalein Atoll was the largest in the Pacific, with an assemblage of carriers, battleships, cruisers, and destroyers. The major atoll islands of Kwajalein, Roi, and Namur were bombarded by ships, carrier-based planes, and land-based planes from the Gilbert Islands for days prior to troop landings.

The Battle for the Southern Atoll. The invasion of Kwajalein Island by the 7th Infantry Division was a near-perfect amphibious assault on beaches at the west end of Kwajalein on Feb. 1. The island was secured at dusk on Feb. 4, when the 32nd Regimental Combat Team surged across the last 150 yards of the island, overrunning the one remaining bunker (now known as Bunker Hill). American losses were 142 dead, 845 wounded, and two missing in action. The estimate of enemy losses was 4,938 dead and 206 taken prisoner.

The Battle for the Northern Atoll. The battle for Roi and Namur islands also began on Feb. 1. The islands were secured in 24 hours and 15 minutes of fierce fighting. The 4th Marine Division set three new records on its first operation: It became the first division to go directly into combat from the United States; it was first to capture Japanese-mandated territory in the Pacific; and it secured its objective in a shorter time than that of any other important operation since the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Battle casualties were 190 Marines killed and 547 wounded on the two islands. Japanese losses were 3,472 killed and 264 taken prisoner. Many bunkers and buildings remain as evidence of the Japanese time in Marshallese history.

