



S M D C / A R S T R A T



**U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site Change of Command
LTG Formica Remarks – as Delivered
26 June 2012**

- Is this a Hooah day on Kwajalein Atoll or what?
- It's a great day to have a change of command – to continue a 200-year military tradition where we formally recognize the change of leadership.
- **Recognitions** -- Welcome to all of our special guests:
 - Ambassador Martha Campbell and her husband, Ambassador Arnie Campbell;
 - Mr. David Kabus, Minister of Health for the Republic of the Marshall Islands);
 - Acting Mayor Herrington Dribo;
 - COL Gaines' wife, Diane;
 - COL Boehm's wife Jerri, and children Cassandra and Jacob.
- Today marks a special day in the history of Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site.
- We mark the seamless passage of command from one commander to another.
- In doing so, we recognize the accomplishments of COL Joe Gaines – the 25th Commander of Kwajalein Atoll, joined by his wife Ms. Dianne Reed.
- And we welcome in the 26th Commander – COL Shannon Boehm, and his wife Jerri, daughter Cassie and son Jacob.
- Later today we'll say goodbye to Joe and his wife Diane, as he retires after nearly 26 years of service and completes his Army career.



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- Right now in this ceremony, it's about recognizing the transition of leadership from one commander to the next.
- Before I speak to Joe's tenure in command, I'd like to address two very important groups.
- 1) First and foremost – the government leaders and people of RMI. The US Army, and the Department of Defense, places great value in the strategic relationship we have with you here at Kwajalein – and we recognize the strategic importance of our very unique facilities here – for the capabilities they bring, for the strategic location, and for our special relationship with you.
- 2) Second, to the dedicated and talented workforce here on the island. Thank you for your service to our nation and for all that you do for us here at Kwaj.
 - Unique in organization as a government-owned, contractor-operated facility – this place is critical to our ability to provide space, missile defense and test capabilities to our Army and to USSTRATCOM.
 - We value what you do here – thank you.
- Now let me take a few minutes to highlight what COL Gaines and his team accomplished in the last 2 years:
 - Served as the senior military rep on Kwaj – working closely with Ambassador Campbell and the Embassy staff, and he has sustained an excellent relationship with the government officials and good people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.



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- He managed USAKA/RTS during a period of constrained resources and its full share of budget reductions;
- Led the installation thru a very complex decision process resulting in the Sec Army's direction to realign USAKA Base Operations to the Installation Mgt Command (IMCOM);
- USAKA/RTS executed the first ever successful test flight of the Advanced Hypersonic Weapon (AHW) on 17 Nov 11. Hooah!
- Completed 7 Air Force Global Strike Command Minuteman III Glory Trip mission tests as well as numerous NASA & MDA missions while in command of USAKA/RTS;
- Oversaw the transition to distributed Reagan Test Site operations between USAKA here on Kwajalein and in our operations center in Huntsville.
 - Just recently, we successfully used distributed operations to command and control, from Huntsville, the operational test Glory Trip (GT 203GM) operational test on 25 Feb 12;
 - And we conduct space operations from Huntsville routinely now.
- The Reagan Test Site is preparing to support the Missile Defense Agency's most complex missile test (FTI-01) in the history of the range, upcoming this fall.
- USAKA was selected by the Army as one of only 6 Net Zero installations in the Army; recognizing its energy efficiency while also setting goals for continued efficiency gains by 2020.



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- He also managed the installation's emergency preparedness, which many of you saw firsthand during the tsunami and the outbreak of dengue fever.
- And all along, you've made the right decisions to provide service and support while better aligning us with Army standards and processes – within an acceptable variance.
- Joe – on behalf of the men and women of SMDC, we thank you for your leadership and your service. Job well done. Hooah!
- Now, a few words to our new commander, COL Shannon Boehm, and his family.
- COL Boehm is the 26th in a long line of Kwajalein commanders; each bringing unique experiences and qualifications to the job.
- Shannon comes to us after serving much of his career in with the Special Forces, having just completed an assignment as the J3 for Special Operations Command-South (Homestead Air Reserve Base, FL).
- While this command will be different than anything he's ever done, he brings unique capabilities and experiences that will serve him well in command here at USAKA.
- After my first trip to Kwaj, I left here with the understanding that Kwaj and our operations here are unique. You'll learn that quickly.
- Most importantly, Kwajalein is a strategic asset for our nation, for U.S. Strategic Command, and for our Army.



SMDC / ARSTRAT



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- The missions executed here on Kwajalein Atoll are one-of-a-kind, and the people executing the mission are a talented and dedicated workforce.
- This next year, you will support some critically important missions – missile tests, rocket launches, space tracking;
- At the same time, we will transition garrison support activities to IMCOM.
- I ask you to sustain the strong relationship we have with our partners in the RMI government and to continue to work closely with the Ambassador and the Embassy staff.
- SMDC, and Kwaj, is about providing capabilities and public service.
- You are charged to carry out those two missions. We have full confidence that you and your wife, as the command team, will also take care of those with whom the Army has entrusted to your care: the Soldiers, Civilians, Contractors, and their families.
- Good luck and God speed.
- The Sun Never Sets on SMDC/ARSTRAT! Army Strong!