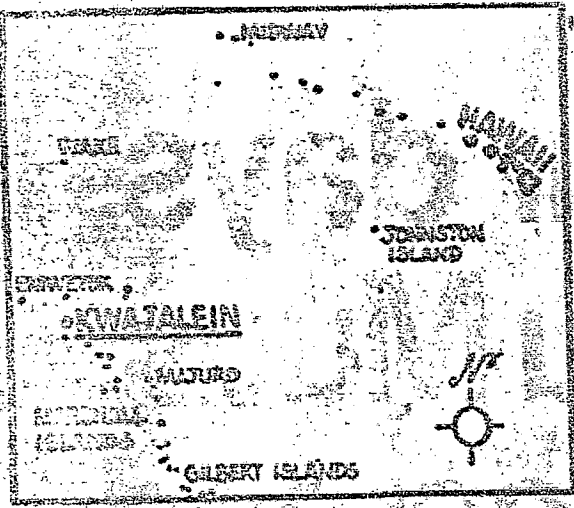


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# 'Investigation' on Kwajalein

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U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye is investigating complaints by a Hawaiian man about conditions on Kwajalein, an American missile base in the Marshall Islands 2,100 miles southwest of Hawaii.

James D. Laughhead, who worked on Kwajalein from October until January, alleged in correspondence with Inouye that living conditions for about 900 bachelors on the atoll are inadequate.

About half the 900 men living in the atoll's Pacific Bachelor Quarters, where Laughhead was housed, are from Hawaii. They work for Global Associates, the company which provides logistic support and housekeeping services for the Kwajalein Missile Range.

LAUGHHEAD SAID the quarters are inadequately ventilated, are infested with cockroaches, have no security guards to protect residents' personal effects and are the site of heavy drinking and gambling. He also said bachelor employees are improperly restricted to a small portion of Kwajalein, which is three miles long and half a mile wide.

A local spokesman for Global Associates said he knew of no one other than Laughhead who has complained about living conditions, but added that the company is conducting a "complete investigation" of the charges at Inouye's request.

A serious cockroach problem has developed because the men are allowed to cook in the barracks, Laughhead added. Laughhead also complained about having to live in rooms with two or three other men instead of in a private cubicle.

Kwajalein is operated by the Army's Safeguard Command at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Laughhead said that in December the Army conducted a gambling raid at the Pacific Barracks, but added that did not stop the games.

LAUGHHEAD SAID he wrote to Inouye about conditions on Kwajalein after officials of Global Associates would not discuss his complaints with him.

Global Associates is a joint venture of Atlas Corp. and the H. O. Smith Construction Co. Inouye asked Atlas Corp. to investigate Laughhead's charges. That investigation still is under way, although A. Ray Tyrrell, vice president of Atlas, has written Inouye a preliminary report.

(Tyrrell told Inouye he will furnish the senator with a complete report on the investigation as soon as it is completed.)