

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

PO2

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

Commanding Officer
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From: Commanding Officer, CGLORSTA MIHO
To: Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard (PO-2)

Subj: Overseas Loran Station Survey

Ref: (a) Urltr of 22 May 56; file A7; PO-2

1. In accordance with reference (a) the following information on USCG LORAN STATION MIHO, JAPAN is provided. This information is in topical form of the same order as referenced letter.

- a. COST OF LIVING.. The cost of living at MIHO depends on the individual entirely. Officers attached to this unit are more or less obligated to be a member of the Miho Air Force Base Officer's Club, with dues of \$5.00 per month. The enlisted man, if he so desires, may be a member of the Miho AF NCO Club, with dues of \$1.00 per month. The only other required expenses entailed are \$4.10 per month, for each man on the station, to pay the salaries of the laundry boy and the cleaning boy, also each man is required to put \$3.00 into the station beer and coke fund to give it working capital. The \$3.00 is returned to the individual on transfer.

This unit is an ideal place to buy tailor made clothes of the finest materials as well as souvenirs and items of interest as the prices here are much less than those of "Westernized" Tokyo, and the quality is the same.

- b. RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.. This unit has for itself a beautiful sandy beach, on the Japan Sea, which is utilized from about 1 June to 15 September. For other recreation, movies are shown nightly on the station and there are approximately 8 local movie theatres showing Japanese, American and European films. There are many station recreational facilities, such as basketball, football, softball with the local Japanese Army, and horseshoes as well as many "parlor" games. Cribbage and checker tournaments were held during the past winter.

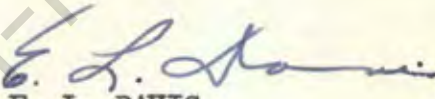
There is an almost complete Dark Room, where each person, with a little instruction can develop and enlarge his own film. For the photographer, this area is a delight to behold. Day trips can be made to Mt. Daisan, tallest mountain in 75 mile radius, and to Matsue, which boasts of its 600 year old castle and of its Cherry Festival. The area around the station is farming country and pictures of rice paddies, tobacco fields and "people" are there for the taking.

- c. FACILITIES.. There are no dependents authorized here and thus facilities are necessary only to meet the requirements of the crew. A very fine PX is on the local Air Force Base, where toilet articles, plus magazines, luggage, cameras, shoe repairs, photoprinting, almost anything may be purchased.
- d. CLIMATE.. The climate here would be classified as mild, although often very humid. The winter is mild, though 49 inches of snow fell in February, it did not stay as the temperature rarely goes below freezing. The winter days seemed cold because of the humidity and the usually strong, piercing northwest wind. The spring is beautiful, when it isn't raining. The summer is hot. Autumn is mild, but the rain starts again and you continue to have precipitation of some sort until June. The annual temperature ranges from about 20 degrees to about 100.
- e. STATION DESCRIPTION.. Loran Station MIHO was originally established as as part of the Elmo project in 1951, and has since been a double slave station, operating with masters at Niigata, Japan and Pusan, Korea.
The station is situated about 3 miles from Yonago, Japan, a city of 90,000 and about 10 miles from Miho AF Base, with numerous villages between. It has about 2½ acres of lawns around buildings, as well as many trees, flowers and shrubs which must be cared for. There are one or two men to a room in a barracks which boasts hardwood floors and a ceramic tiled head.
Recently a fish pond was built next to the flag pole with a rock garden around it. Also a regular garden of radishes, beans, cucumbers and watermelon is maintained.
- f. AUTOMOBILES.. Use of automobiles is not advised, as roads are very poor, and much time is spent keeping more rugged trucks in repair.
- g. MAIL.. Mail arrives at AF Base Post Office, which has complete facilities, on Mondays and Thursdays. Letters leaving on Mondays, by plane, can be received on the East Coast on Friday, if sent Air Mail.
Supply facilities are good. Food, including fresh vegetables and and a good grade of recombined milk, is received twice-weekly.
- h. MEDICAL FACILITIES.. Complete medical facilities are available at Miho AF Base, where 3 doctors and a dentist are assigned. If necessary men are air evacuated to larger hospitals at other bases.
The local Medical Officer (Air Force) inspects, and puts on limits the approved local Japanese eating places and cabarets.
- i. ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES??.. What is an advantage or disadvantage? Herein it the answers to this question are made by comparison with known conditions at other Loran Stations.
ADVANTAGES PECULIAR TO MIHO.. The climate is mild, not hot all year and then again not cold, it compares with that of Michigan or the other lake states.

- i. (cont) ADVANTAGES.. Here you do not get that closed in or lonely feeling which men at French Frigate and other South Pacific island station certainly must get. Sure you are away from your families, but with a large city near by, you can go shopping, maybe get lost in a crowd and forget yourself for a while. Here you get a chance to observe the Japanese people and enjoy their customs which you are often invited to join. There are many fine restaurants near by where you can sample and maybe learn to enjoy the Japanese dishes. All in all, this station may be considered one of the most desirable as far as Loran Stations go. DISADVANTAGES.. When members of the crew were asked to name disadvantages of this station, as compared to the duty at other known station conditions, there was no answer. It is deemed to be that as long as you have to spend a year on a Loran station, that most of the crew would rather spend it here than at other places they have been or know of.

The impression may be received from this report that we are happy here and satisfied with the tour we are spending at Miho, and that is true.

Some advise for personnel who may be coming to Miho, or to any other station in the Japan area, wait til you get here to buy your camera, clothes, etc. Cameras may be boughten at the local PX and at local stores for less than half what would be paid for them in the states, and where else can you buy that gray flannel (English material) for \$35.00, and tailor made, no less.


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cc: CCGD14
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