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18 July 1956  
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POA

SECOND ENDORSEMENT to CC, CGLORSTA Palau, C.I., Ltr of 7-1-56, A7,  
Serial: 111.

1956 JUL 20 PM 2 33  
From: Commander, 14th CG District  
To: Commandant (PO2)

Subj: Overseas Loran Station Survey, PALAU

1. Forwarded.

  
N. W. SPROW,  
By direction

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

CO, CGLORSTA  
USCG DEPOT, BOX 1  
NAVY 926, c/o F.P.O.  
San Francisco, Calif.



1 July 1956  
A7  
Serial: 111

From: Commanding Officer, USCG Loran Station, Palau, C.I.  
To: Commandant (PO-2)  
Via: (1) Commander, Marianas Section  
(2) Commander, 14th Coast Guard (p)

Subj: Overseas Loran Station Survey, PALAU

Ref: (a) COMDT (PO-2) ltr A7 dtd 22 May 1956

1. As directed by reference (a) the survey report for USCG Loran Station, Palau, C.I., is submitted as enclosure herewith.

*E. C. Farmer*  
E. C. FARMER

ENCL: Overseas Loran Station Survey PALAU

10 July 1956

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CO, CGLORSTA PALAU ltr dtd 7/1/56 file A7, Serial: 111

From: Commander, Marianas Section  
To: Commandant (PO-2)  
Via: Commander, 14th Coast Guard District (p)

1. Forwarded.

*A. J. Carpenter*  
A. J. CARPENTER

1.    COST OF LIVING:

Cost of living at the station is moderate to very little, depending upon the individual concerned. Expenses can be limited to such items as small stores clothing, canteen supplies (purchases ordered from Guam), and souvenirs of the locality. Souvenirs considered worth buying are few but, included in them are Micronesian "Monkeymen", wood carvings (Salad Sets) running from Seventy-five cents (\$.75) to five dollars (\$5.00), Palauan Storey Boards averaging about three dollars (\$3.00), and pandanus mat work running from about one dollar and twenty cents (\$1.20) for place mats, to thirty dollars (\$30.00) for large floor mats. Major canteen expences are beer, laundry soap, soft drinks, tobacco or cigarettes and film; these expences can run as high as twenty dollars (\$20.00) a month. Additional initial expences could be had in personal recreational gear, such as, skin diving gear and hobby equipment which the station cannot supply. Officers have the expence of meals added, which runs about forty-five dollars (\$45.00) a month.

2.    RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:

Recreation on Angaur Island (Location of LorSta) is strictly up to the initiative of the individual; there are no local commercial amusement facilities on the Island. The field of recreation includes the following:

- (a) PHOTOGRAPHY - darkroom facilities available; the Island is quite photographic; There are no facilities to develop color film, these are sent either to Honolulu (Kodak Company) for 35 mm film or to Guam for the developing of Kodacolor film.
- (b) SKIN DIVING - The coral reefs are particularly beautiful and abound with multi-colored marine life and growth. The reef is very close to shore line and the inboard waters run from four feet (4') to ten feet (10').
- (c) SWIMMING - Poor - There are no beaches suitable for swimming on Angaur; recreational swimming is done from a boat harbor that is well sheltered and has negligible contamination. Moray eels abound in the waters around the island but have not proved a hazard, so far, Shark and barracuda also frequent the waters. Swimming and Skin Diving are carried on with due caution.
- (d) SHELLING:- A wide variety of shells are available; the hazards of the reefs and sea life have been mentioned above.
- (e) BOONDOCKING - Considerable debris of the last war lie about the Island; general exploring in the jungle and caves is a popular activity to some personnel.
- (f) FISHING - Large game fish are available, but there is no station boat to fish from; men can go out with the natives in outriggers to fish or they can fish from the coral cliffs.
- (g) HARD BALL - SOFT BALL - BASKET BALL - Facilities are available on station for basketball; there is a cleared field suitable for baseball and softball games off the station grounds.
- (h) TENNIS - Facilities available off station, cement court, condition fair

U. S. C. G. LORAN STATION PALAU, C.I. SURVEY REPORT

- (i) MOVIES - Available on station every night; program selections are supplied from USN Motion Picture Exchange, Guam, M.I. Movies are shown on the recreation deck. Programs are received often enough to prevent the undesired repeat showings.
- (j) HOBBYCRAFT - leatherwork, ship, plane and car models; variety of activity depends on the individual; special interests require providing for, by the individual, prior to reporting to station.
- (k) HUNTING - recreational weapons are available to hunt large fruit bats and wild chickens.
- (l) NATIVE VILLAGE - Population approximately three hundred (300), personnel are invited to participate in coconut crab hunts, native feasts, parties and picnics. The natives are fairly well westernized, can converse in American, Japanese, Palauan, Spanish and some German. Their clothing has become westernized, they dress the same as you would find along the warmer areas of the Southern States. Their customs show a great deal of outside influence, Japanese customs are most prominent, ancient Palauan customs are reserved for more formal ceremonies, some American customs are also in evidence.

3. DEPENDENT FACILITIES:

There are no dependent facilities either for living on the Island or visiting and none are authorized.

4. CLIMATE:

The climate is that of the usual tropical Islands, rainfall is heavy - as much as fifteen (15) inches in a month; rain can be expected daily. The temperature remains in fairly constant ranges, between 72° and 90° year round. The humidity is very high and tends to make the heat seemingly unbearable for about six (6) hours every day; Angaur is below the normal typhoon paths and heavy or severe storms do not pass over the Island very often. Items of clothing that are not usually worn for prolonged periods of time must be kept in hot lockers to prevent the formation of molds which brings about rapid deterioration.

5. STATION DESCRIPTION:

The Coast Guard Station is situated on the Eastern side of Angaur Island which is the southern most major island in the Palau Chain, Western Caroline Islands. The Island is of coral formations and is best known for its Phosphate deposits. Angaur boasts of a seven thousand (7000) foot runway, in good condition and capable of handling large aircraft. The station is situated on approximately ten (10) acres of land and is fenced in on three (3) sides by a barbed wire fence, the rear of the station (the Sea side) is unfenced. The station grounds are fairly well covered with grass and other flora and requires periodic care to give the station a presentable appearance. The station buildings consist of one (1) cement block structure and houses the Loran Equipment and generators and five (5) Aluminum (Butler Type) structures that are utilized for living quarters (two buildings), a recreation building, a galley (mess deck combined) and a

5. STATION DESCRIPTION (Continued)

garage (storage area combined). A more detailed description of the buildings is as follows:

- (a) 1st Building - consists of four sections, the Commanding Officer's living quarters, the office with the CPO quarters separated from the office by a partition. The sickbay and the 1st class quarters.
- (b) 2nd Building - consists of five sections, the first being the Seaman's quarters, the Electronic Technicians quarters, the laundry room with a partitioned section that is used as a hot locker behind the laundry room, the crews head, and the Engineers quarters.
- (c) 3rd Building - consists of the darkroom (for photography) in one corner and the DC shop at the opposite end. The recreation deck contains the station library, the canteen supply storage area and a pool table. In the same building and partitioned off from the rest is the commissary storage area.
- (d) 4th Building - consists of two sections, the food preparation area and refrigerator section combined in one section and the mess deck which is partitioned off from the galley.
- (e) 5th Building - consists of two sections, the engineers work shop and the garage and storage area combined.
- (f) The signal power building that is set off from the rest of the group houses the loran equipment and supplies and the station generators (four - International Harvester) that supply the station and loran with electrical power.
- (g) WATER SUPPLY - Water is obtained from both rain catchment and a well. There is no record of there ever having been a water shortage due to the adequate supply facilities.

6. PRIVATE VEHICLES -

No private vehicles are allowed to be brought to Angaur. There is no particular use for them and the deterioration of them would create considerable personal expense in an area where parts are unobtainable.

7. LOGISTIC AND MAIL SUPPLIES:

Station logistics are provided by plane flight from Guam and tender trips from Hawaii and/or Guam. Planes average three (3) flights per month; tenders average four (4) trips a year. Mail and supplies are brought in by both planes and tenders.

8. MEDICAL FACILITIES:

There are no medical or dental facilities on Angaur other than the Sickbay that is maintained at this unit. There is a Class A hospital at Koror (some forty ~~40~~ Sea miles from Angaur) that is operated by the U. S. Trust Territory Commission, this is available for ~~xxx~~ emergency medical and dental care.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

The following are some of the less thought of items that are felt to be of some interest and therefore worth mentioning.

- (a) INSECTS - Angaur is well populated with various forms of insects, some of which are; flies, (small, medium and large), Gnats (which are most obnoxious, particularly during the early morning hours), Mosquitos (extremely thirsty, yet, not harmful to man from a malarial carrier standpoint) and, a multitude of nondescript grass hoppers, ants and moths and spiders.
- (b) REPTILES:- There are some snakes on Angaur; these are non-poisonous and average from 2 to 3 feet. There are no poisonous snakes on land however, there is a specie of coral snake that is harmful to man and dwells along the coral reefs; it is a very small and quite sluggish snake. It differs from our own specie of coral snake in that it lives entirely below the surface of the water and has little or no descriptive color markings. The island abounds with various sizes of lizards. The smaller ones more often seen; some monitor lizards have been observed in lengths up to 5 feet. Also worth mentioning are the large african snails, toads and land crabs of which there are literally thousands of each and the supply never appears to become exhausted.
- (c) PETS - The station has at present, three dogs and two monkeys.

10. ADVANTAGES and/or DISADVANTAGES:

These can be compiled into one grouping, in that, the advantage or disadvantage depends upon the individual, and the advantage to one might be a disadvantage to another:

- (a) Heat and moisture  
(b) Insects and "creatures"  
(c) Cultural background of the micronesians  
(d) Lack of commercial amusement facilities  
(e) Financial advantages and disadvantages  
(f) Limited canteen supplies  
(g) Lack of postal facilities (for mailing packages home)  
(h) Occasional delay of the plane schedule  
(i) The extremely limited supply of actually fresh food supplies.  
(j) The lack of the various religious services. The village does have a catholic church and a priest is available most of the time.