



**Disestablishment
&
Turnover
Ceremony
of
United States Coast Guard
LORAN Station Iwo Jima
Iwo Jima, Japan**

29 September 1993

U.S. COAST GUARD LORAN STATION IWO JIMA HISTORY

Iwo Jima is an island located within the Nanpo Shoto Island chain and the Kazan Retto (Volcano Island) group, 660 NM from Tokyo. First sited in 1784 the central island of Iwo Jima was discovered by Captain Gore. He gave Iwo Jima its name, Sulfur Island. The islands were claimed for England and King George by Captain Beechey in 1827. The first settlers to the area were from the Sandwich Islands (present day Hawaii). Both England and America claimed the Island due to the need for a deep water port for the whaling fleets of the day.

Shortly after the U.S. invasion forces landed on Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945, the first LORAN A Station was established on tiny Kangoku Iwa (Prisoner Island), even as the battle continued on the main island. The station was relocated in 1949. The new station was built of quonset huts at Kitano Point, the northernmost point of the island. On September 25, 1955, Typhoon Louise destroyed 88 percent of Iwo Jima. Winds were estimated at 180 knots after wind equipment was blown down at 130 knots. In November 1955, the station was rebuilt in its present location and consisted of three concrete block buildings. In 1963, LORAN C was added to the station mission and additional concrete block buildings were erected. At the same time, modification of the existing buildings was accomplished. In March 1964, the 1,350-foot LORAN C tower collapsed, resulting in several deaths. Construction of the new tower and transmitter building was completed in late 1964. Today, Iwo Jima has the tallest LORAN tower in the world. In June 1968, the United States returned the island of Iwo Jima to Japan.

The island is 5.2 miles long in a northeast-southwest direction. From a maximum width of 2.6 miles, the island tapers to a width of less than 0.4 miles at Mt. Suribachi. The circumference of the island is about 12 miles. The highest point is Mt. Suribachi with an elevation of 568 feet.

During the 47-year history of Iwo Jima's three LORAN Station's, several generations of Coast Guardsmen have had the unique opportunity to be a part of this historic island. As we prepare to leave for the last time, the crew of LORAN Station Iwo Jima would like to thank the Japanese people for the proud tradition of friendship and camaraderie we have shared and wish the Japanese Maritime Safety Agency great success as they assume operation of the station.

Program

***Arrival of the Official Party**

***Invocation**

Chaplain Michael C. Whittington
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force

Inspection of Personnel

Remarks

Captain Richard C. Wigger
Commander
U.S. Coast Guard Section, Far East

Remarks and Reading of Orders

Lieutenant Markus D. Dausses
Commanding Officer
LORAN Station Iwo Jima

***The National Anthems**

***Retire Colors**

***Official Party Departs**

***Guests Please Stand**

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD LORAN STATION IWO JIMA DECOMMISSIONING CREW

**Commanding Officer
LT. MARKUS D. DAUSSES**

**Executive Officer/Senior Technical Officer
CWO3 CHARLES W. KNIGHT**

Deck Department

BMC CRAIG L. THOMAS

SS1 ROGER L. MILLER
DC1 REYNALDO HINOJOSA
SS3 ARO T. EBENHAHN
SN SEAN P. KEHOE
SA MICHAEL E. EARLEY
SA RUSSELL R. HOFF
SA ROBERT E. HARDGROVE
SA JOSE M. MENDOZA-RAMIREZ

Engineering Department

MKC LAWRENCE C. PAGEL

MK1 DONAVAN B. GREEN
EM1 RONALD P. INGET
MK3 DONALD G. MOORE
MK3 RUDOLPH E. MOODY
FN JASON C. BECK
FA BRADLEY S. LAWRY

Operations Department

ETC CLARENCE M. SHERIDAN

HS1 GERALD P. GERSTEL
ET1 SCOTT A. BARNES
SK2 ROBERT A. BALLERINI
ET2 BENJAMIN H. MILEHAM
ET3 STUART D. ROBERTSON III
ET3 BRYAN D. APPEL

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD