

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

Commanding Officer  
USCG LORSTA  
Navy 824, Box 21  
c/o FPO, San Francisco, Calif.



20 June 1956  
A7

From: Commanding Officer, USCG Loran Transmitting Station, Kwajalein, m.i.  
To: Commandant  
Via: Commander 14th Coast Guard District

Subj: Overseas Loran Station Survey.

Ref: (a) Commandant's ltr dtd 22 May 1956.

In accordance with reference (a), the following information is submitted.

1. (a) THE COST OF LIVING, ENLISTED AND COMMISSIONED.

The cost of living at this station is very low. There are no dependents authorized and all personnel live aboard this unit. We have a commuted ration mess and for the commissioned officer attached there are other dining facilities available. The only expenditures that a man has to make out here are those for small personal items such as soap, toothpaste and other such notions. The Naval Station has just about every facility available that is necessary for routine living. There are exchanges, shoe repair shops, cleaners, commissary, barber shop and so on. Prices at the exchange are a little higher than at stateside exchanges but other costs on the island of Kwajalein are low. For example, haircuts are \$.15. At the present time, the Naval Station is trying to have a regular ship's store authorized instead of the exchange and this in the future will cut costs.

On Ebeye Island where our station is located there are two trading companies which carry personnel wants such as soap etc. Prices in these stores are quite high though. There is no need to deal with these stores though as Kwajalein is so convenient.

2. (b) RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

On Ebeye the recreational facilities are only what we happen to set up for ourselves. We have a pool on the weather side of the island which was blasted out of the coral and is protected from the open sea. There are some old quonset foundations around the station which are in good enough condition to serve as basketball court, tennis court and volley ball court. If a person enjoys fishing he should bring his gear with him as there is a great amount of fishing done out here. Deep sea fishing also. Photography is another past time which is popular and this station has a darkroom fully equipped to develop and enlarge pictures. In the evening, movies serve to entertain. We pick up a supply of eight movies from Kwajalein every Tuesday and so we are able to have a movie every night. There is an outside screen in the lee of the buildings and so movie time goes on, rain or not, every night.

Kwajalein has numerous recreational facilities but on the whole the personnel at this station do not spend much time there except for a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. A couple of men usually go over one of those days to pick up hobby supplies at the hobby shop or to make a phone call from one of the two ham stations. There is an officer's club and about three enlisted clubs over there and they are the only places where there is distinction.

## 2. (b) RECREATIONAL FACILITIES (CONTINUED)

There are monthly parties at all these clubs and the personnel from this station are more than welcome to attend if they desire. The Commanding Officer of the Naval Station in fact has extended an invitation for the personnel from our unit to use all Naval recreational facilities. On Kwajalein there are movies, swimming pools, library, a special services building, telephone building, 2 ham stations, snack bars and clubs. There are a few hobbies carried on at this station quite regularly and they include, leather work, model building and shell hunting.

## 3. (c) FACILITIES, COST OF LIVING FOR DEPENDENTS

Dependents are not authorized at this unit. At one time they were authorized and facilities were available on Kwajalein for quarters. Kwajalein is still in the process of building more quarters for dependents and if dependents were authorized at this station, it probably could be arranged to get quarters on Kwajalein. There are numerous facilities on Kwajalein for dependents living needs. Primary school, hospital facilities, commissary and all other facilities that you would find in a small housing project in the states.

## 4. (d) CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

The climate in this area is ideal. The Marshall Islands are far enough South to be out of the tropical storm belt. The average frequency of tropical cyclones here is 0.2. The differences between the seasons in this area are very slight. The annual mean temperature is 80 with only a one or two degree variation in the mean, from month to month. Winter brings stronger northeast winds and more rainfall. It rains just about 3 out of every 5 days. Except in this area last year there was a dry season during the months of October thru January. This area may experience a very dry season during that time about once every seven years. It is necessary for us to maintain hot lockers to keep clothes, cameras, delicate instruments and so on in due to the fact that humidity and the salt air causes a great amount of corrosion and mildew.

## 5. (e) DESCRIPTION

The station is located on the Southern tip of Ebeye Island, a small island about three miles north of Kwajalein, from which island the atoll takes its name. Kwajalein is the largest atoll in the world. It lies in The Ralik or western chain of the Marshall Islands. The Marshalls are part of the Pacific Trust Territory governed by the United States under a mandate from the United Nations. The Trust Territory is now under the control of the Department of the Interior, which took over from the Navy 1 July 1951.

Ebeye Island is of trapezoidal shape, about one mile long in a North South direction and ranging to 250 yards in width. Its geographical position is as follows; 8 46' 30" N., 167 44' 30" E. This station occupies the complete Southern tip of Ebeye, an area of approximately 13 acres. Land for the station is leased from the Marshallese through an agreement originally made by the Navy Department. Boundaries for the station consist of a fence line to the North and the ocean and lagoon to the east, south and west.

To the North of the station is the native village housing some 1200 native among which about 250 to 300 work for the Navy on Kwajalein. In addition some of the natives work for two trading companies which are located on Ebeye.

5. (e) DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

There are no other military installations presently on this island with the exception of an unmanned seaplane ramp which is used only in case an emergency necessitates beaching of Navy seaplanes or for occasional stops by Trans ocean airlines flights.

At this station the following six concrete block type buildings are incorporated into the station plant:

a. POWER SIGNAL BUILDING	BOS'N STORES	BARRACKS
Timer room	Paint locker	Crew's berthing cubicles
Transmitter room	Bos'n stores	First aid locker
Spare parts room		Crew's head
Electronics shop		Main hot locker
Head-Darkroom		Laundry
Garage		Isolation room
Station Office		Chief's quarters, including head
Engine room		

PUMP HOUSE

GENERAL STORES BUILDING

CO's quarters (Living room, kitchenette, bedroom head)  
Damage control shop  
General storeroom

GALLEY

Dry stores locker  
Rec deck  
Walk in reefers (2)  
Head

In addition to the above buildings there are three ten thousand gallon fresh water storage tanks and 2 four thousand gallon diesel fuel storage tanks.

6. (f) There is no use and no place for private cars while attached to this station.

7. (g) MAIL AND SUPPLIES

Mail comes to this station almost daily. It takes airmail about 4 or 5 days to get here from the west coast and about 6 days for it from the east coast. Once in a while we may go two or three days without mail but as a rule the mail is very dependable. Supplies mostly come from Kwajalein. Food, GSK items, fuel can be obtained very rapidly from Kwajalein. Supply wise this station is ideal since the Navy has so many facilities that can be depended upon.

8. (h) MEDICAL FACILITIES

ON EBEYE there is a native hospital with two stateside trained native doctors who are very competent and handy in case of an emergency. There is a complete hospital on Kwajalein equipped to handle all types of cases. If it becomes necessary for us to get hospital treatment the Naval station can be

8. (h) MEDICAL FACILITIES

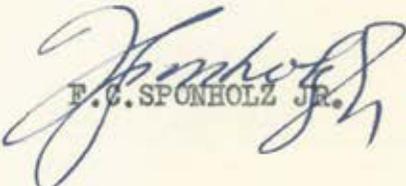
called and there will be a crash boat here within twelve minutes. Medically this station is very well off.

9. (i) ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

For an isolated station I believe that this is one of the best ones that could be assigned. The climate is ideal, supplies are handy, mail is good and we are not bothered by any wildlife such as snakes or rodents. There are mosquitos at the other end of the island where vegetation is thicker but very few up here. The only thing that is in great numbers, is ants. The natives in the village present no problem. They are very quiet and very honest. We have no security problem. Our relations with the Navy on Kwajalein are very good and in any type of emergency they are quick and willing to give us aid. The Commanding officer of this unit should feel free at any time to have frequent discussions with the Commanding Officer of the Naval Station as he can be helpful with any problems that might arise.

One disadvantage is caused by the climate and that is the constant fight against rust and corrosion. Delicate gear must be carefully stored to prevent quick breakdown. Officers should buy their tropical uniforms before they come out here due to the fact that Kwajalein with its large complement soon runs out of common sizes. This is particularly true in the case of shoes and uniform shorts. For the enlisted man there is a good small store on Kwajalein that keeps pretty well stocked. Other than these few things there are not really too many disadvantages to this station.

10. Photographs of the station are being taken and will be forwarded via the district very soon. I have already received the film from the district for this specific purpose.

  
F. C. SPOHNHOLZ JR.

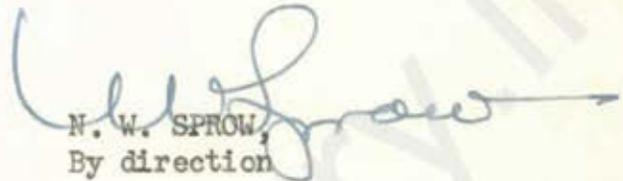
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27 June 1956  
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FIRST ENDORSEMENT to CO, CGLTS, Kwajalein, M.I., Ltr dtd 6-20-56, #7.

From: Commander, 14th CG District  
To: Commandant (PO)

Subj: Overseas Loran Station Survey

1. Forwarded.

  
N. W. SPROW,  
By direction