

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

Commanding Officer
USCG LORSTA
%624th AC&W Sqd Det 1
APO 235, S. F. Calif.



19 July 1956
A7
Serial 013

RECEIVED
JUL 30 1956
COMDR, FAR EAST SECT

From: Commanding Officer, USCG LORSTA MIYAKO JIMA
To: Commandant (PO-2)
Via: (1) Commander, 14th Coast Guard District (e)
(2) Commander, Far East Section

Ref: (a) COMDT ltr dtd 22 May 1956, file A7
(b) CCGD14 (p) ltr dtd 8 June 1956, file A7
(c) COMFESEC ltr dtd 22 June 1956, file J12, Ser.270

1. In accordance with reference (a) and (b), the enclosed survey is submitted.
2. Pursuant to the request contained in reference (c), the enclosed roll of film with a list of exposures is forwarded to CCGD14 (e).

J. W. Duenzl
J. W. DUENZL

Encl: (1) Survey
Copy to:
CCGD14 (e)
COMFESEC
file
(2) One roll of exposed Kodachrome
CCGD14 (e)
(3) List of Exposures
CCGD14 (e)
file

30 July 1956
A7

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to CO's CGLORSTA MIYAKO JIMA ltr A7 dtd 19 July 1956

From: Commander, Far East Section
To: Commandant (PO-2)
Via: Commander, 14th CG District (e)

1. Forwarded with enclosures.

W. K. Thompson, Jr.
W. K. THOMPSON, JR.

POA

P
2 August 1956
A7

1956 AUG 6 PM 2:39

SECOND ENDORSEMENT to CO, CGLORSTA MIYAKO JIMA Ltr A7 dtd 7-19-56

From: Commander, 14th CG District
To: Commandant (PO2)

Subj: Overseas Loran Station Survey on CGLORSTA MIYAKO JIMA; forward-
ing of

1. Forwarded.


N. W. SPROW,
By direction

Enclosures:
As listed in basic letter.

12:09

SURVEY REPORT ON USCG LORSTA
MIYAKO JIMA

ADDRESS

USCG LORSTA, % 624 AC&W Sqd, Det 1, APO 235, San Fransico, California

LOCATION

Miyako Jima is approximately one hundred sixty miles southwest of Okinawa and is the third largest island of the Ryukyus group. The station is on a cliff at the southeast tip of the island, sixteen miles from the largest town, Hirara. There is a small village called BORA about one mile from the station.

CLIMATE

The climate here is the same as that of the Gulf Coast. It is in the typhoon region averaging about two per year. There is a rainy season in the spring with some rainfall almost every day. Between rains it becomes extremely arid and dusty. The temperature ranges from about fifty in the winter to over one hundred in the summer.

UNIFORMS

Dress kahki is used from March until October, Blue Baker from October to March, and Blue Able is worn in Tokyo in January. Cotton kahkis are worn most of the time on Miyako. Five sets are recommended. Shorts and short sleeved shirts are nice for the summer months. Do not bring many civilian clothes as they are infrequently worn on Miyako but are worn on trips to Tokyo and Okinawa for promotion exams and logistics. A light raincoat is a necessity on Miyako. As clothes mildew rapidly here, a plastic clothes bag is recommended.

PERSONNEL

The personnel allowance for this station effective 1 March 1956 is as follows: 1 Officer, 1 BMC, ET1, ET2, 2 ET3's, EN1, EN3, FN, SN, RM2, HM1, and CS1. At present the complement is as follows: 1 Officer, 1 BMC 1 ETC, 1 HMC, 1 ET1, 1 ET2, 1 FN, 1 BM3, 1 RM2, 1 DC3, 2 SN, and 1 CS2. An SN should replace the DC3 when he rotates. The RM2 is a qualified watch stander.

LOGISTICS

General stores are received from the Navy at Yokosuka, Japan, and the Coast Guard at Honolulu. Fuel and Commissary supplies are received from the Army at Okinawa. A weekly logistics vessel arrives at Hirara on Tuesdays and brings most of the supplies. Personnel are flown in. Ten movies every two weeks arrive by plane. Long range planning is required for ordering supplies as it takes about two months for shipments from Yokosuka and Honolulu, one month from Okinawa. Clothing may be purchased at the Naval Air Facility on Okinawa by personnel on Logistics and Medical trips.

MEDICAL

A Hospitalman is attached to the unit and the Air Force has a contract doctor. The facilities at either place are at best not to good. For treatment beyond facilities here personnel are sent to the hospital at Okinawa. Emergency cases are flown to Okinawa by Air Sea Rescue planes from Okinawa. Medical supplies are ordered from the Army at Okinawa.

MONEY

The local currency is Okinawa (Class B) Yen, exchange rate of one hundred twenty to the dollar. Military Payment Certificates are used throughout the Far East Section. Pay is received in MPC from the Air Force once a month. A checking account is recommended for officers as mess bills have to be paid monthly to the district at Honolulu and money orders cannot be purchased locally.

RECREATION AND MAIL

Mail is received via the Air Force detachment here and goes out the same way. Usually the mail plane arrives twice a week, weather permitting. Average time for Air Mail between the station and the states is one week. Packages run from three to four weeks. Registered mail will be brought in but registered outgoing mail has to be taken to Okinawa to be registered. The station has a large REC DECK which contains a pool table and motion picture facilities. There is a small workshop, a darkroom, a combination tennis, volleyball and basketball court, and equipment for leather work, football, softball, horseshoes, hunting and fishing, as well as skin diving. There are also quite a few beaches on the island. The Air Force Detachment provides competition for sports. Movies are also traded with the Air Force when the supply slows down periodically. There is a large fenced in grass area used for touch football and archery. The station also runs a beer and soda mess for after working hours.

OTHER SERVICES

The Army maintains a Civil Administration Team for local government which includes one officer, one enlisted man and a civilian engineer. The Air Force has a radar site with 112 men and four officers. The Army is at Hirara and the Air Force is five miles this side of Hirara. There is a grass landing strip midway between the Army and Air Force units. There is a small exchange available at the Air Force site.

NATIVES

There are approximately seventy thousand natives on the island. Hirara having about thirty thousand. There is one three story building and a three hundred foot dock at Hirara with about twelve foot of water at low tide. The channel is not well marked. The island has numerous small villages, with the natives being principally farmers and fisherman. The big crop is sugar cane, with some rice, potatoes and a few vegetables. There is a leper colony and a TB Sanitorium at Hirara and the Japanese have a weather station at the Army Compound.

VEHICLES AND ROADS

The station has a jeep and a 2½ ton 6 X 6 cargo truck. The jeep is surveyed and a weapons carrier will replace it. It is recommended that you have a government operators permit for one or both vehicles. All roads are dirt except for the Air Force and Army areas. Personal vehicles are not recommended for use here.

GENERAL

This summer a permanent signal-power building replaced the equipment trailers. This greatly enhanced the station setup both in efficiency and overall appearance. The quarters are butler buildings, with the CO'S quarters, Office, CPO quarters, Sick Bay and Supervisors quarters in the first building, crews quarters, crews head and laundry in the second, Rec Deck and Commissary storeroom in the next and galley, mess deck and garage in the last two. Water is supplied from an underground well $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the station. Gasoline pumps are used to pump the water to a reservoir at the station. In the pump house at the station, the water is chlorinated and then pumped to the stations two 10,000 gallon storage tanks. The water supply is excellent and is probably the best water on the island. For power the station has four International Harvester PE-205-B's. The station has new FPN 30 Timers which were installed when the new building was constructed. A radio schedule is maintained with Sangley Point in the Philippines where COMPHISEC is located. This station is under COMFESEC but is a single master on rate 1L4 paired with Batan Island in Philippines which comes under COMPHISEC. Personnel coming to Miyako will come via Alameda, California., Honolulu., Tokyo and Okinawa. While at Okinawa you will become acquainted with the personnel that handle requisitions for commissary and fuel, and the finance office where pay records are kept. Close coordination with the station at Okinawa will greatly expedite the handling of supplies for this station.

COST OF LIVING

The cost of living for personnel attached to this station is very low. The only real expenses are chow which varies from \$30 to \$40 per month and laundry service which runs about \$4 per month. This also includes a houseboy. This is not a dependent station and one can save quite a large bit of his pay while out here.

DISADVANTAGES

The only main disadvantage of this station is the length of time it takes for supplies to reach the station. Otherwise there are no real disadvantages other than those predicated to all Loran Stations. As far as loran stations go, this is considered by myself and the crew to be as good as any. The morale is very high.