

AIR MAIL

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD



•27 June 1956
A7

USCG LORAN TRANSMITTING STATION
HELO POINT, P. O. BOX 97
KAIKAKAI, MOLOKAI, T. H.

From: Commanding Officer, CGLORSTA Molokai
To: Commandant (PC-2)
Via: (1) Commander, 14th Coast Guard District

Subj: Overseas Loran Station survey

Ref: (a) Commandant's ltr A7, PC-2, of 22 May 1956

1. This unit is located on the island of Molokai in the Hawaiian chain. Molokai itself is the least populated of the Islands. In general the public is extremely friendly toward all Coast Guardsmen. The island has only 3000 people. It is as civilized as most locations in the mainland. Some foods and supplies are not obtainable here in Molokai, but can be obtained in Honolulu. Most freight is carried by barges. These barges are operated by the Young Brothers Barge Co. All transportation between the Islands is accomplished by air. There are two airlines connecting Molokai with the surrounding islands. The employment situation on the island is critical. Ranching and work on two existing pineapple plantations are the major sources of employment for the residents.

2. This station is at present a twenty four month unit for married personnel with their dependents, and a eighteen month assignment if you are not married or do not have your dependents with you. It is considered as semi-isolated duty. For married personnel with dependents, this is considered to be an excellent station; however for single men the tour is long. The liberty facilities are poor, almost non-existent. All conduct Coast Guard personnel is considered to be that of "Haole" conduct (white man) for which here in Molokai there is a double standard.

3. The cost of living here is high; possibly 20 to 30% higher on food and manufactured products, than in the mainland. A car is almost a must for a man stationed here. Housing is hard to find. It is possible to find, however, and the rent is cheap; ranging from 25 to 75 dollars a month. All houses are unfurnished. Unfurnished here in Molokai means without, ice box, stove, or water-heater, as well as all furniture.

4. The climate here is nothing short of phenomenal. The temperature ranges from 70 to 80 degrees the year around. The west end of Molokai, where the loran station is located, is on a high cliff. There is very good skin diving and fishing in general. There is no beach. This unit has all of the normal recreational equipment including pool table, ping-pong, and amateur radio. A beer mess is authorized for the unit. All small stores and exchange supplies are purchased through the Coast Guard Base in Sand Island, Honolulu.

5. The station itself is located at Ilio Point, on the north-west tip of Molokai. It is located on a level area at 80 ft elevation. The sea is within one hundred yards of the station. The surrounding country is very dry. There is much sand, volcanic rock, and little if any vegetation. The station is approximately twenty five miles from the nearest town.

6. Air mail is received daily and surface mail is received three times a week. Barges from Honolulu arrive on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. These barges carry all the freight necessary for this station operation. Air freight is also used. There are two or three doctors here on the island. The hospital is small but very good. The station has a hospitalman assigned, and if needed a contract doctor is employed in town. In an emergency a man could be taken to the hospital from the station in 35 minutes.

7. Generally speaking for married people this duty should rate high. The schools are poor and a few of the comforts of a big city may be lacking; but it is felt that the friendliness of the people of Molokai more than make up for those deficiencies. Now duty at this unit for a single man is a different story. The tour is eighteen months which is long, the liberty facilities are very poor due to lack of places to frequent, and the code of conduct expected from "Haoles" (white men) which is very high. A trip to Honolulu for a man stationed here will cost nearly \$16.60 just for the plane fare. A well matured man can have a very good time of it here. He can save himself much money, complete any missing education, and in general keep himself very busy.

8. It is requested that Commander 14th Coast Guard District furnish photographs as requested in reference (a).


B. ROSE

LT Miller
CDR States

cmv

POA

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5 July 1956
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FIRST ENDORSEMENT ~~to CO~~, CGLORSTA Molokai Ltr of 27 June 1956, A7.

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

Subj: Overseas Loran Station Survey

1. Forwarded.

N. W. Sprow
N. W. SPROW,
By direction

Encl:
Photos (4)

www.loran-history.info