

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

PO2

ADDRESS REPLY TO
LTS SPRUCE CAPE
BOX 41, NAVY 127
C/OPT. W. SEATTLE, WASH.

1956 JUN 25 PM 1 18

21 June 1956
PO-2

From: Commanding Officer, LorSta Spruce Cape
To: Commandant (PO-2)

Subj: Overseas Loran Station Survey; submission of for this unit

Ref: (a) Commandant ltr 5-22-56, A7; same subject

1. In accordance with reference (a), subject report is herewith submitted.


W.E. SMITH

cc: CCG17D(p)

www.loran-history.info

LORAN TRANSMITTING STATION SPRUCE CAPE
KODIAK, Alaska

LorSta Spruce Cape is scenically located about 3½ miles from the city of Kodiak, and about 10 miles from the U.S. Naval Station Kodiak. The station is approximately a square, surrounded on two sides by water, and on the other two sides by towering spruce trees. It is a former army station, and the Loran Station was built in 1951-52. The station buildings consist of two large quonset huts connected by a passageway. One of the quonsets contains the quarters, showers, head, DC locker, galley and recreation room, the other contains the engine room, the garage, and the Electronic Spaces. There are also three small quonset huts which are presently being used for storage spaces. The station has commercial electric power furnished by Kodiak Electric Association, with two gasoline driven emergency generators available in case of power failures. The station has its own water supply on the station, its own refrigeration plant, and the heating is forced circulation hot water. The personnel complement of the station is: 1 HML, 1 CS2, 1 ET1, 2 ET2, 1 ET3, 1 EN2, 1 DC2, 1 FN, and 2 SN. The station is in excellent condition materially and physically, and the quarters for the men are the finest to be had anywhere in the Coast Guard.

Recreational facilities available at the LorSta consist of: Pool, Ping-Pong, nightly movies, TV, (one channel from AFRS, Kodiak), darkroom equipment, hobby shop, volley ball, badminton, horseshoes, ice skating, and excellent fishing.

The Navy Station offers the following recreational facilities, and all are available to the men at LorSta Spruce Cape: nightly movies at the "Billiken" theatre, Bowling, (leagues and open bowling), U.S.O. shows at the "Billiken" about once a quarter, plays put on by the "Kodiactors", (an amateur theatrical group from ~~KXXK~~ Kodiak), roller skating, tennis courts, softball, basketball, fishing, ice skating, and excellent skiing facilities, (consisting of three tows, a chalet, free equipment and free instructions). There are also the following clubs: Officers', C.P.O.'s, and an Enlisted Man's Club; all of which have weekly parties, bingo's, and snack bars. There are leagues in the basketball and softball in which the Coast Guard units in area enter a team).

The U.S.O. located in the city of Kodiak has weekly tournaments in ping-pong, pinochle, scrabble, and canasta with the winners getting a free phone call to the "states". They also have free coffee and snacks available and try to fulfill their overall mission: "to provide a ~~KXXK~~ home away from home".

Photography in the Kodiak area is very popular and there are many beautiful sights to be captured by the "Kodak".

The Navy has cabins on Afognak Island and Cape Chiniak for families to use by the week during the summer months, at no cost other than the leave, and your food which you bring. Also after a man has been in Kodiak six months, he is eligible for a recreational trip to Anchorage and can take his dependents via Navy plane.

In addition to the above facilities there is also plenty of hunting and fishing in the area. It is impossible not to catch a fish during your stay in Kodiak. The Loran Station currently has three spinning rods and three casting rods with necessary accessories. A non-resident (less than a year in Alaska) fishing license costs \$3.00. Hunting is also popular; game include snowshoe rabbits, elk, and the epitome, the Kodiak bear which scale 8 feet and upwards. A non-resident's license costs \$50.00 though, and a non-resident must have a guide which is an additional expense, but after a man has been here the required year he may obtain a combination hunting and fishing license for \$2.00.

To sum up the recreation facilities and possibilities, there is plenty to do, if you'll just get out and do it!

There are three types of housing available to the married men who bring their dependents with them: Aleutian Homes Housing Project, Kodiak Apartments, and miscellaneous housing consisting of trailers, and other general housing in the Kodiak area. Base housing is not authorized for members from LorSta Spruce Cape.

ALEUTIAN HOMES PROJECT: - Two bedrooms without a garage - \$110.00 per month. Two bedrooms with a garage and automatic clothes drier - \$130.00 per month. Three bedrooms with a garage and washer and drier - \$150.00 per month. The houses are pre-fabs built in 1954 and are located in the City of Kodiak. Although they leave something to be desired, they are very satisfactory when compared to the other housing in the Kodiak area. They are unfurnished with the exception of gas stove and refrigerator. The heating is by oil heater, and the hot water heater is gas. There is adequate space in the houses, and the clothing closets and kitchen cabinets are adequate. The utilities run approximately: \$17.50 per month for gas, \$35.00 per month for oil, \$15.00 per month for electricity, and 7.50 per month for water and garbage removal. The landscaping around the houses is dirt and rocks, but grass can be grown by the occupants with a little luck and patience. A cost of living bonus of \$3.00 per day is currently being allowed for members who live in the Aleutian Homes. Housing of this type is currently readily available.

KODIAK APARTMENTS: - Small efficiency type apartments located in Kodiak. There are four types: \$80.00 per month - small apt. (1 room) with bath), \$90.00 per month - same as \$80.00 type except larger, \$110.00 - efficiency apt. plus bedroom and bath, and \$125.00 - same as \$110.00 except larger. All the apartments are furnished, and the only utility required of the occupant is the electric bill, which runs approximately \$10.00 - 12.00 per month. The stoves are electric. The availability of these apartments is very limited, with waiting lists generally several months. There is also a washer and drier located in the apartments on a first come first serve basis. A cost of living bonus of \$1.75 per day is currently being allowed for members who DO NOT live in the Aleutian Homes Project.

MISCELLANEOUS HOUSING: - Most is well below stateside standards, and prior to occupying such housing it must be approved by the Naval Station Housing Officer; No specific data is available other than an approximation on the rentals which run from \$60.00 to \$100.00 per month.

Real Estate is also available for purchase, but the cost is generally prohibitive. Homesteading outside the city limits is available for the ambitious, but ~~DEFENSIBILITY~~ again, prior to occupancy by military personnel, it must be inspected and approved.

The shopping facilities are limited in the Kodiak area. The Navy Station has a commissary which is adequate but very limited. Fresh vegetables are seldom available, and the milk and meats are frozen. Quite frequently the stocks of certain staples will be exhausted which necessitates procuring the items in town at extremely high prices. The Navy Station also has an exchange which operates a gas station, clothing store, laundry, dry cleaners, garage (for minor repairs), and general merchandise section. Here again, the stocks are limited in all cases, but on available items, the prices are about equal to stateside prices.

The city of Kodiak has two "department type" stores, a furniture store, two dress shops, a dry cleaners, three food markets, a bank, a shoe repair shop, two appliance stores, and a bank. The stocks are limited and prices high. There are also four garages in Kodiak, but major repairs are almost prohibitive due to the limited facilities, high cost, and ~~XXX~~ length of time to ~~XXX~~ obtain spare parts from the states.

Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Wards have excellent catalog service to Alaska, and by using the FPO address, shipping charges can be held to a minimum on parcel post orders.

The climate in Kodiak is wet. Rainfall is particularly heavy during the winter and spring. The winter of 1955-56 was extreme in that 140 inches of snow fell during the winter months. Normally, what little snow that is had, will be washed away by the frequent rains. The temperature rarely goes below zero in the winter, with the average being about 20. During the summer, the temperature does not go much above 80, and the average is about 65. The days are very short in the winter, with sunrise some where around 0830 and sunset around 1530. In the summer ~~IX~~ the converse is true, the sun rises around 0300 and doesn't set until around 2200. The wardrobe for Kodiak should stress fall clothing, with some sort of rain gear a must. Kodiak is not an ice box by any means, but then again it isn't PALM BEACH either.

A car is a must in Kodiak because there is only one bus line, and that is primarily a shuttle between the Navy Base and Kodiak. There is no transportation between the the city of Kodiak and the Loran Station other than private conveyance. The car you bring to Kodiak should be well built and in good condition. Only the roads on the Navy Station and the main streets of Kodiak are paved, hence the cars are subjected to abnormal wear. To bring an old "junk" to Kodiak to save wear and tear on a good car can prove to be false economy because, repairs here are expensive as has already been pointed out. There is a market here for used cars which is generally well above "state-side" prices. Cars can be shipped to Alaska, via MSTs. They should be delivered to Pier 91, Seattle, Wash. for shipment. The owner must present proof of ownership, or authority from the lien holder to ship to Alaska. Nothing except the following equipment may be left in the car during the shipment: spare wheel and tire, jack and ~~X~~ snow chains. The car must also be provided with a lockable type gas cap. It takes approximately one month to receive ~~X~~ the car after it is left at Pier 91. Household effects take approximately two weeks from Seattle to Kodiak and are currently being flown to Kodiak via "Westair", a commercial company.

Mail is received daily via PNA commercial lines, and takes about two days from the states via air mail. Regular mail takes about two to three weeks. There is no mail delivery in Kodiak. All mail can be picked up at the post office located in the city. Boxes are available for rent.

Supplies are available in limited amounts from the Navy Station in three or four days, and from Ketchikan Coast Guard Supply Depot in about a month or two depending on ships and R5D flights. All commissary supplies ~~XXXXXX~~ for the Loran Station are procured either at the Naval Station or locally in Kodiak.

Medical facilities for dependents are available at the Naval Station and are excellent. Dental facilities are also available but there are long waiting lists for routine work. Emergency dental work is done immediately. If possible have routine dental work done prior to departing the "states" for a convenience.

The city of Kodiak has a year round population of approximately 12,000. The primary industry of the city is fishing and canning. Salmon and King Crab, (which measure about 30" from claw tip to claw tip) are the main exports in this line. There are two newspapers, a daily and a weekly, and newspapers are received daily from Anchorage. There is a Catholic Parochial School and also a public school. Both are rated excellent. There is a Russian Orthodox Church, Baptist Church, Catholic Church, and Church of God in Kodiak, as well as a Catholic and Protestant Chapel located on the Naval Station. Limited employment is available for dependents in the various offices in the city, and also there are civil service positions available on the Naval Station. There are occasional openings for teachers in the public schools with the starting salary \$4,800.00 per annum.

In summation: LorSta Spruce Cape is an 18 month tour of duty, and can be a very pleasant one if the individual will accept the drawbacks such as high cost of living, limited shipping facilities, and poor roads. The advantages are: able to bring your family, excellent station condition, high morale due to the gratification at not being isolated and abundance of recreational facilities.

Compiled by: LTJG W.E. SMITH, USCG
Dated: 21 June 1956

ADDENDUM: All married men with dependents in the area receive \$1.35 per day for subsistence due to the high cost of living.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
COMMANDER
17TH COAST GUARD DISTRICT
P. O. BOX 2631
JUNEAU, ALASKA



P
22 August 1956
A7
Serial: 669-56

From: Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District
To: Commandant (PO-2)

Subj: Overseas Loran Station Survey

Ref: (a) Your ltr dtd 22 May 1956 file A7; same subject

1. Delay in complying with reference (a) was caused by the time required to obtain copies of the Loran Survey Reports. Most stations air-mailed reports directly to Headquarters with no copy being sent to this office.
2. The reports have been reviewed by this division and the operations division and are considered to be complete and accurate with the exception of one additional note for LORSTA, Ocean Cape and LORSTA Cape Sarichef as follows:

LORSTA Ocean Cape has movies with excellent supply of films as a member of the regular movie circuit and LORSTA Cape Sarichef is quite often subject to earth tremors.


G. A. PHILBRICK
By direction

*To be included
with Loran Surveys*

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