

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

Commanding Officer
Navy 961, Box 19, USNS
FPO San Francisco, Calif.



A

22 June 1956
A7
Serial: 1962

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From: Commanding Officer, CGLORSTA Talampulan Island
To: COMMANDANT (PO- 2)
Via: (1) Commander, 14th Coast Guard District
(2) Commander, Philippine Section

RECEIVED

JUL 2 1956

COMMUNICATIONS

Subj: Overseas Loran Station Survey

Ref: (a) Commandant ltr A7 of 22 May 1956

(1) Enclosure (1) is forwarded in compliance with reference (a).

James C. Irwin
JAMES C. IRWIN

Encl: (1) Loran Station Survey

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

9 July 1956

From: Commander, Philippine Section
To: Commandant (PO-2)
Via: Commander, 14th CG District (p)

1. Forwarded.

J. A. Palmer
J. A. PALMER

P
16 July 1956
A7

SECOND ENDORSEMENT

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

1. Forwarded.

N. W. Sprock
N. W. SPROCK,
By direction

TALAMPULAN LORAN STATION

The island of Talampulan is situated approximately 150 miles South of Manila. To be more specific it is in the province of BUSUANGA in the Palawan Group of the Philippine Islands. Though the actual dimensions of the island appear small, approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long by $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide; one receives the impression of it being rather large. It is doubtful that in the course of a tour of duty many men have ever explored the whole island.

The station is constructed on the beach facing the China Sea. Buildings are about 20 yards from the shore. About fifty yards behind the station is a low ridge of mountains about 350 feet high.

Buildings are of the straight side quonset type construction; and very comfortable living for this type of climate. Though erected in 1946 they are still in good condition. Tentative plans are to rebuild station in one to three years from now. There are nine buildings on the station.

- (a) Commanding Officer's building and office
- (b) Crews' barracks
- (c) Recreation Hall
- (d) Distiller building
- (e) Galley
- (f) Storeroom
- (g) Garage
- (h) Engineroom
- (i) Loran building

It has never been necessary to restrict the use of fresh water. Ample fresh water is provided by a well located in the Distiller building.

The station has one Dodge Power Wagon and a D-4 Caterpillar tractor. Though climate conditions present a serious maintenance problem for these vehicles they can be with a continual preventative maintenance schedule kept in good condition. It is important that they are for due to coral reefs all supplies must be loaded at a point about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the station. A one lane dirt road over the mountain and along the beach is used. There is no air strip so all log flights must be water landings. The station has a 20' dinghy to transfer supplies to the beach.

The Loran building is unquestionably the hottest spot on the station. The older type timer, UE-1B units are still in use. Station acts as a double slave on rate 1L6 with Naulo Point and on 1L7 with Tarumpitao Point.

The cost of living can be very reasonable depending on each individual's taste. A commuted ration mess is operated which means the Commanding Officer must pay on the average between \$1.50 to \$1.70 a day depending on the daily ration value assigned for that month. Only other expense is what he may purchase through the canteen and pay for souvenirs. Enlisted men should have only the latter two expenses. Souvenirs which may be purchased are blow guns, spear guns, bolos, basket work, sport shirts made out of linen or pineapple fiber, canes, walking sticks and other handicraft pieces made out of mahogany.

The island can be a haven for any athletically inclined person. The only sports not available are ice skating, skiing, and tobogganing. There is a cement court on the station which serves very adequately for tennis, basketball, volley ball and badminton. Though though the number of personnel available is limited football and softball may be played. Swimming is the best and the beach, though lacking a few of the niceties, is better than Waikiki. There are excellent opportunities for skin diving. Fishing is also good. Also sea food is available in the form of shrimp and longgusta (lobster). For the arm chair athletes pool, ping pong, and movies are available about every day. Reception from Manila radio stations is good.

Several stations play popular US tunes throughout the day. During baseball season Armed Forces Radio broadcasts a major league game every evening. Due to Philippine government regulations it is not permissible to operate a ham radio station. There is also a dark room with an enlarger available. Hunting on the island is limited. There are a few wild chickens, hawks and eagles to be had. Deer, wild boar and alligators may be found on neighboring islands. The station owns an out-rigger canoe which can be used for occasional trips to nearby islands.

Being an isolated station dependents are not allowed so no further need be said. The same goes for automobiles.

Temperature averages between 85 degrees and 95 degrees throughout the year. Humidity is generally quite high. Rainy season is from June through November. Average rainfall at this time is about 13 inches per month. Dry season is December through May with an average rainfall of about 1 inch per month.

There are always at least two log flights a month with mail, movies, and supplies. Once personal mail leaves the station it takes an average of 6-8 days to reach its destination in the States. The Supply Ship USCGC NETTLE (WAK-169) arrives approximately once each quarter with supplies too heavy or bulky for the plane to deliver.

There is a Corpsman, Chief or First Class, assigned for medical assistance. He also acts as the Yeoman for the station. On the island of Culion, about twenty-five miles away, is a Philippine Public Health hospital which can be utilized for x-rays and emergency treatment should flying conditions prohibit a plane from rendering assistance when needed.

On this island there are between 100 and 125 natives. They live in a barrio (village) about a mile from the station. Though perhaps not civilized by U. S. standards, they are very friendly people who would gladly give any assistance if ever needed. Most of them understand English well enough to converse with you. There are many surrounding islands within 5-10 miles with many more natives equally friendly.

The main disadvantages are (1) the station is isolated (2) ETs are working with equipment which is starting to age. Being a double slave with more equipment, the maintenance problem is greater than some stations. (3) Situated so close to the water and coupled with the high humidity creates a large maintenance problem regarding the upkeep of buildings. Particularly so with a yard force of one or two men. (4) If one does not like warm climates, the heat could be rather unbearable at times.

During working hours there is more than enough work to keep all hands busy. With ample recreational facilities the problem of passing spare time is not serious. There is much to be gained in the way of experience and things to see should one be assigned to this unit.