

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

Commanding Officer
CGLORSTA, Wake Island
Central Pacific



22 June 1956
A7
Serial # 96

From: Commanding Officer, CGLORSTA, Wake Island, Central Pacific
To: Commandant (PO-2)
Subj: Overseas Loran Survey
Ref: (a) COMDT(PO-2) ltr dtd 5-22-56 to CO LTS, Wake Island

1. In accordance with reference (a) a survey of this station has been made. A written description of duty on Wake Island Loran Station is forwarded as enclosure (1) to this letter.

C. E. Mathieu

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Encl: (1) Survey CGLORSTA, Wake Island

The following are facts of living for men assigned to UGLORSTA, WAKE ISLAND.

1. Description:

WAKE is located in the South Pacific Ocean 167 degrees East 19 degrees North. It is a coral atoll and is in fact three small islands, Wilkes, Peale and Wake proper, set in the shape of the letter U. It is ten miles from the tip of Peale around to the tip of Wilkes. The open side of the U is toward the Northwest. The island is completely circled with a coral reef. Wake is semi-arid and completely covered with evidence of the heroic part she played in the last World War. There are approximately 700 people on Wake plus a constant flow of transients. The major organizations here are: CAA (which administrates), Pan American Airways, Standard Oil and Transocean Airlines.

2. Cost of Living:

The only necessary expenses are clothing and toilet articles. Clothing can be flown up from Kwajalein Naval Station. Toilet articles are available at moderate prices in the Transocean and Pan American exchanges. The Commanding Officer's expense for eating can be as small as \$55.00 per month (if he eats all meals at the CAA cafeteria). However it actually cost slightly over \$100.00 per month (if he eats out a couple evenings a week).

3. Recreation:

Station personnel have their choice of two movies nightly. These are the Coast Guard and CAA's outdoor movie. Enlisted personnel have access to two clubs which are open nightly. These are CAA and TAL owned. Beer, mixed drinks and package goods may be purchased here at prices which may be considered reasonable to those in the States. In addition the Commanding Officer is a member of the PAA Clipper Lounge. There are a limited number of sports available. A small golf course may be used by members of the golf club and their guests, membership is available to station personnel. This island also has facilities for swimming, fishing, skindiving, volleyball, pool, shuffleboard and ping pong. Bingo games are held twice weekly by CAA and PAA. The station has record players and radio receivers. Records are sent periodically by Commander, 14th Coast Guard District. Armed Forces Radio Station reception is good at all times plus reception from Honolulu, T.H.

4. Dependents:

Dependents are not authorized. The size of the island plus the cost of getting a vehicle to this unit makes it impracticable.

5. Climatic Conditions:

Temperature averages 80 degrees, rising slightly in the summer. It is warm enough for swimming and cool enough for comfortable sleeping the year round. Rainfall varies with the seasons averaging 41 inches annually. Humidity is high as would be expected on an island this size, but most of the time there are the prevailing trade-winds so the humidity does not cause much discomfort.

6. Frequency of Mail & Supplies:

This station is on a regularly traveled air-route. Mail is received daily and supplies via ship monthly.

7. Medical Facilities:

CAA has a dispensary with a staff of one MD and two RN's. Emergent cases are flown to Honolulu in a reasonably period of time with flights usually available.

8. Advantages & Disadvantages:

The main advantage is the civilian airlines and the accompanying facilities these organizations offer. Disadvantages are the three and one half miles from the Loran Office and Barracks to the Loran Signal Building, the use of the Barracks for transients, shortage of fresh water, the fact we are not an independent unit, but sharing our quarters with TAD Navy personnel from Kwajalein.