

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

Commanding Officer
USCG LORSTA, APO 187
San Francisco, Calif.



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From: Commanding Officer, Loran Transmitting Station, Eniwetok, M.I.
To: Commandant (PO-2)

Subj: Loran Station Survey

Ref: (a) Comd't (PO-2) ltr of 22 May 1956, A7

1. Eniwetok Loran Station is on the westernmost atoll of the Marshall Islands, about 2100 miles WSW from Honolulu. The atoll is a group of small, sandy islands, clustered in a roughly circular shape about 20 miles in diameter. Eniwetok Island, where the station is located, is the largest of the 38 islands in the atoll, being $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles long and, at the widest point, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile wide. There is very little vegetation on the island; most of it was destroyed during World War II. The area is consequently free of insect problems.
2. The weather at Eniwetok is tropical in nature, and usually very pleasant. Rainstorms are frequent, but of short duration. Temperature varies between 80 and 95 degrees, and the humidity ranges from 70 to 90 percent. There is an almost continual breeze, which helps keep the area comfortable. Due to the high humidity, leather rot, mildew, and rust are major problems. Anything of value must be kept in a hot locker or dehumidified space.
3. Station buildings, like most construction on the island, are all-aluminum, with double roofs for insulation. They are comfortable in even the warmest weather. The station has only a signal-power building, and a barracks-storage building. Complement is 8 men and 1 officer; no more are necessary, since the Army furnishes communication, medical, mess, and power facilities.
4. There are no natives on the island, but there is plenty of company. Army, Navy, and Air Force military personnel, and Atomic Energy Commission and civilian contractor personnel are all stationed in the area. Eniwetok Atoll is a part of a very large area called the Pacific Proving Ground, designated as a test site for nuclear weapons. There is, therefore, a large amount of interesting information concerning the area which is classified and cannot be released.
5. There are many recreation facilities available for all hands. Swimming is the most popular individual sport, but shell-hunting and fishing are close seconds. There are organized leagues in volleyball and basketball. Many men make model planes and ships, tool leather, or make shell lamps. Still others take advantage of the high school or college-level courses offered by the Army Information and Education Center, or study Coast Guard Institute correspondence courses. The Army maintains a small library, a radio station, and a very limited television station. Enlisted and officer clubs offer drinks, bingo games, and evening snacks. The two island theaters show movies nightly.

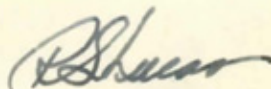
6. The cost of living is very low, for the only places a person can spend money are the Post Exchange and the clubs. Officers must also pay for their meals, but the cost is reasonable at .25 for breakfast and .40 each for lunch and dinner. There are no special uniforms to buy, since the Army furnishes shorts, shirts, and shoes for all hands.

7. Mail is delivered at least twice a week, and more often at times. Seven days is an average time for an air mail letter to travel from the East coast to Eniwetok. Supplies are furnished the station by Coast Guard ships, MSTS ships, and MATS aircraft. Usual elapsed time between order and receipt is 3 months.

8. Complete medical and dental facilities are available, furnished by the Army. There are also complete religious services and facilities.

9. It is recommended that personnel do not bring a complete sea bag, since the clothing will soon mildew and stain. One complete set of dress whites is necessary for enlisted men, and a dress kakhi uniform is needed by the commanding officer. These dress uniforms are worn only for inspections. The off-duty uniform consists of sport shirts and shorts, both of which can be purchased after arrival. There are no dry cleaning facilities available, but there is a laundry. A minimum of gear should be brought to this unit.

10. There are no dependents on Eniwetok, which is the only objection to duty here any of the men have. Other than being away from your family for a year, the duty is considered excellent, and a man that uses his spare time to advantage will not regret an assignment here.



R. S. LUCAS