

**OLD Reunion Hall Table for:
LORSTA Iwo Jima**

On 12/26/07 Mark Poulson said:

June 1979 to June 1980. The longest year of my young life. MK2 at the time and learned to love rice, Sake, good friends and a whole lot of Kirin beer! MKC was Maynardo Kaeg, ET1 was Wayne Hankins, DC1 was Orin (The Grizz) Deihm. Explored Hospital Cave, the tar pits and Suribachi many times. Would love to go back and see it now, so many years after DECOMM. Would love to hear from some 79-80 'Iwo' coasties.

On 07/12/07 Don Majors said:

can i get a membership roster of usaf personnel serving on iwo 1956-1957 in air traffic control ?

On 07/04/07 bmcm c dunn said:

i STOPPED BY iWO ON MY WAY BACK TO THE STATES FROM A TOUR ON MATSUMAE LORAN, JAPAN. THIS WAAS JAN 61 ON A CG 130, SPENT THE DAY THERE. THEY WOULD NOT LET US DO ANY OFF STATION SIGHTSEEING. DO NOT REMEMBER ANY NAMES, BUT WE HAD A ET1m OLIVER HOAR TRANSFERED DOWN THERE. I BELIEVE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A NEAT STATION AS I AM A SPELUNKER AT HEART. C. DUNN, RETD 1980

On 04/19/07 ralph doxsey said:

I was stationed on iwo from april/92 to april/93

On 03/31/07 Phil Platter said:

Were you ever stationed at LORSTA Carolina Beach? Checkout 'Reunion News' for 6/2/07 reunion

On 02/27/07 D Nigbor said:

LT Col. George Lehman was at Iwo Jima... he was also a chaplain in the US Army. He was my great uncle and I would appreciate hearing from anyone who knew him or served with him during this time??

On 02/06/07 Bill Cantrell said:

Was stationed on Iwo from summer of 61 to summer of 62. Lots of memories. Loved it.

On 02/05/07 Randy McKay said:

I was just looking up USCG Iwo jima and found it on Google earth... A satellite photo of the old homestead, Its looking pretty decrepit now days but it is a pretty nifty picture, Check it out

On 02/05/07 Randy McKay said:

I was stationed on Iwo from Dec 73 to Dec 74, Loved it. A couple of years later I was able to stop by on a log flight out of Barbers point and sure enough, it hadn't changed much. I sure enjoyed my time there cave crawling and such, even went so far as to mail myself my Yamaha 360 dirt bike there and built it in my barracks room. Just the thing to get around the island in a hurry. Lots of memories from there are starting too fade but if all goes right, I may get 1 more chance to visit when I get my sailboat back together. I'm looking to get ahold of an ET that I knew there, Mike Rizzo...are you out there. or anyone else from those days.. Semper Paratus

On 01/16/07 Don Janicki said:

SORRY...its iwojimavets.org NOT dot com

On 01/09/07 Don Janicki said:

Iwo Jima Vets (all branches +) REUNION Sept 16-19 2007 Ramada Inn Kissimmee Fla iwojimavets.com

On 12/13/06 Jeff Sorge said:

1982-1983, Right out of boot. They told me I was going to Tokyo, they never told me it was an Island. I remember Howard Tank, George Lohr and my favorite drinker Bill Vanderberg. BMC Price spent a lot of time making me grow up!! Does anyone remember the dog sh_thead? Love to hear from some of the Coasties..

On 11/13/06 John McCulloch said:

Check out Google Earth for a new high resolution picture of Iwo.

<http://bbs.keyhole.com/ubb/download.php?Number=679701> Looks like Kitano Point is being taken over by the jungle.

John McCulloch, xET1, 1962-1963

On 11/03/06 John Hildebrandt said:

1985 - ET Hildebrandt says Hi - remember lots of island exploration, very large centipedes, beachcombing (the mall), 40th anniversary, overnite camping, biking, skateboarding, USO show, playing pool with my favorite stick, shipwrecked sailor with girlfriends on their way to Saipan, weekly beer delivery, weekly radio patches to the US, etc, island fever and an abrupt departure from the island, and of course LORSTA Ops, (The green smily face was always a good sign)

On 10/31/06 bill snyder said:

can someone please help me? my father died when i was 5. he told my aunt that he helped raised the flag on iwo jima. or at least she is sure he was one that made it to the top. his name is john william snyder, usmc. where can i search archives? [lease help, i just want to learn about my father. i have few surviving family and they also would like to know.

On 09/16/06 ET Don Janicki said:

Cmdr Hudson, I worked on them but never had any of the manuals...I'd REALLY like an old Loran A chart ! Don Janicki ex:ET 1 (Iwo Jima + Cape Hatteras)

On 08/24/06 LCDR Mark Hudson said:

If anyone out there has, or know of someone who has old tech manuals and schematics for the AN/FPN-30 Timer, AN/FPN-T325 Transmitter, and the AN/FPN-1700 Amplifier, please let me know. It seems as this piece of history has been lost forever if we don't find a copy of it and get it into the right hands for preservation.

On 08/11/06 Jim Demerin said:

Iwo Jima veteran, 1982-83, updating my e-mail address. i have group pics taken at the station flagpole when LT. Meyer was CO. i also have aerial pics of Iwo Jima taken by JN helicopter pilots. i was MKC. retired in 1990 as CWO2. now working for the City & County of San Francisco. also own a real estate office in Vallejo, CA.

On 07/26/06 John Cox said:

I was on Iwo from '72 to '73. I wonder if the Japanese antitank gun is still in front of the station? I miss Short, the lab mix who stood all my watches with me. She could fall asleep on the deck between two screaming Cat generators! I sent her a box of dog biscuits from Japan when I rotated back to the states. I just retired as a CWO4 this year.

On 06/29/06 David Bakley said:

I was on Iwo from 87' to 88', with BMC Birch, the greatest cooks Ray 'Baby Boy' Munez and Pat A. There was one weekend

that I can't remember after partying at the Japanese base otherwise great memories of a bunch of us strolling down to the beach during a typhoon, the cook bringing a 50. cal shell he found on the beach into the mess hall and the hours of fun cutting out 25 yards of jungle to keep us busy during those long hot days. I'm looking for aerial photos of the station as well as a photo of the bone burning ceremony. I would like to hear from you guys.

On 06/29/06 Daniel P McAndrews said:

Hey, Does anybody have any cave maps especially the ones under the main runway or the ones around Hospital Cave? Also any pictures of the area, Ship Wrecks, looking from atop Mt Suribachi towards the Coast Guard Base.

On 05/16/06 Gary Sisco said:

I was an ET3 on Iwo Jima '76 (mainly) and part of '77, also TAD 60, from Kamiseya, to begin with following the bust. (Fat lot of good that did! Yuck yuck.....) Ended up doing a full tour. Best crew I served with. An amazing year at an amazing place with a great crew, looking back on it. I remember the tour with fondness, now. Hell, I could do a year there now standing on my head and like every minute of it. I remember with much pleasure in particular Mickey 'Sam' Sampson, Paul Pizarro, 'Doc,' Dan Estep, Lee Norris, Rick Turner, Brett Nicholson who's already posted, Haines ditto, Fred Carslick, JJ, Hill Wuss, the guy who arrived with me TAD who's name I'm forgetting now and shouldn't be -- Loran-A guy. The station dogs, my feral kitten 'Fernt' with the broken leg, a guy from NC (seaman) whose name I can't recall but who also played guitar and was there because of the Loran-C diaspora when everyone was booted out of Thailand, my man Delaney who liked the station dogs as much as I did and who also played guitar. 'Ride the bicycle, boy! Ride the bicycle!' Sugar Bear (Rodney Keels). The skipper's hot pink short shorts. Hundred sheets (many) at the bar with the world's greatest view. An out of control bonfire atop Suribachi. Dink!! Debaucherie aplenty on the beach where the concrete barges were grounded. Half Moon beach the other side of Bloody Gorge from the station (my favorite place on the island). The seaman who was a swimmer and carved a Buddha for the Japanese monument out of Iwo sandstone. I still have a photo of it there; I'd bet a paycheck it's still there today. The 'rain forest.' The piece of a beer can someone made as a sail switch for the transmitter when there wasn't a spare. Great friends at the Japanese SDF base, especially my man Kawasaki, and the great drunken parties there that always featured Suntori gin and great food as well (imagine that!). The time the plane came and all it was hauling was a forklift and an empty mailbag -- no food, no beer!!! We ate cold cuts and canned food for a week, thanks a lot AF geniuses. I bet they never forgot the surly crew they had to deal with that day ... Even worse, the time the plane did bring 'beer' but only case after case after case of 'Champale,' which we nevertheless drank anyway, producing world record hangovers all around. Sneakin' up to the General's Bunker (which I've since learned really had been the Japanese General's bunker) to smoke Buddha, bust or no bust. 'Positive residue...' Coupla typhoons. Sea showers. Norris trapped in his spaces -- no one to relieve him because of the bust. He got the world's ugliest 'commendation' ribbon for it, I remember, during a later admiral's inspection. I'm sure he was impressed So was the admiral, likely, given the bunch of us. Oh, hell, I could go on and on. My favorite crew and favorite tour. I still have my survival knife, several surviving glass balls, a bunch of severely compromising photos of all concerned that would likely sell to them for big bucks today if only to keep them private Checkerboard moons. My brother idiotically lost my station zippo while drunk. He's never lived that down. I lost my station ball cap years ago while drunk. I've never lived that one down. CWO LaFlamme (sp?) who I'd love to hear from if anyone knows his whereabouts. We're both from VT originally. Oh, hell, I could go on for days. Once Iwo, always Iwo.

On 04/07/06 Stan Lehman said:

I was CO 10/72 to 12/73, between Tom Sheehan and Verne Bennett. CWO Don Bay was there until CWO 'CB' Hickey arrived (he passed away a little over a year ago). Was a very memorable 14 months with a great hardworking crew. October & November '73 were back-to-back perfect months for Loran-C operations, an unheard of accomplishment for the tube type transmitter. I still have about ten large glass fishing floats from the black sands. From Iwo I went to CG Institute/Oklahoma State, to 17th District Office (Juneau, AK) then Atlantic Area (NYC), last two in support of the Loran

program – I could not get out of Iwo so I Retired in '87. Was a Lt for Waukesha County (WI) Sheriff for >six years, then returned to Alaska where worked for State Dept of Labor and now USDOL.

On 03/07/06 Brian Lucas SN BM3 said:

While at Base Hono, being young and a little naive I traded my orders I had for Thailand for those that some received for Japan for further assignment. LORSTA Iwo Jima 1972-73. A lot of great memories, snorkling with white tipped sharks, getting caught and rescued in an undertow, by Chris Lui, Earth tremors while caving, close calls with the skorpions and mammoth centipedes. I stood radio and Loran A watches and mowed a lot of grass. Played basketball, table tennis, ran the movie projector, and drank a ton of Miller High Life! Got held over in Japan for about a week after my 53 weeks 1 day and 3 hours. We were observed loading up the trunk of some Japanese friends from Iwo, who took leave to party with us, Remember how they liked Johnny Walker, Jack Daniels, Playboys and Marlboros. Anyway, customs let us go, we got a Captains Mast, paid some taxes, never did hear what happened to those guys. Would like to hear from anyone who is of that era.

On 01/18/06 Charles Dunn, BMCM (RET) said:

I stopped in at Iwo onboard a CG 130 enroute to the states after a year on Matsumae LORSTA. We were only there for one day. I wanted to go on a short tour but no dice. Said we might step on something explosive. This was in 1961. I really felt sorry for these guys, This was even more isolated than Matsumae. We had a ET1 named Hoar, transferred from Matsumae to Iwo around mid 60. Anyone remember him?

On 12/30/05 Cliff Gray said:

Hi everyone, I roamed the black sands from late 77 to 78. I remember great times caving, hittin' the pool on the far side of Suribachi, parties at shipwreck beach, throwing ordinance into the fire, more parties with Tochi Hara at the Japanese base. Chillin' at the bunker after a hard days work at the transmitter building. Shay Bones and Shorty. Battle for the most primo stereo system: Bose VS. JBL. I remember when the EMs confiscated and hid Perillo's glass balls for a week. I remember the two mates that disappeared in the sun fish, never to be found, despite extensive SAR efforts. I remember it being one of the most life altering experiences I have had. Please feel free to E-mail me with your thoughts and memories. We belong to a very small club. peace Cliff

On 12/02/05 Amy Adams said:

I'm looking for anyone who would have served with my grandfather. His name was Donnie J Adams. He served with the same soldiers who raised the flag. He was shot shortly before so he was sent home before they raised the flag. I'm not sure of his rank or what platoon he served in. If anyone remembers him or can give me any information about where to look to find out more about him please do. He died when I was very young and I want to learn more about him. Thanks in advance.

On 11/29/05 Niall Hunt said:

I was on Iwo from 1966-67 (ET-1), and can honestly say that though it may not have been the finest year of my life, it was interesting!. I would like to contact anyone who was there at the same time!

On 10/20/05 EM.MIKE MARTIN said:

BACK IN 79 I VISITED IWO FOR ABOUT ONE WEEK. MYSELF AND CWO RUMLEY , WE WERE STATIONED ON MARCUS AT THE TIME. WE DID A LITTLE WORK AND A LOTTA ISLAND EXPLORING. YOU REALLY GET STRANGE FEELINGS STANDING ON INVASION BEACH. WHAT A GREAT PLACE TO SEE. I WILL NEVER FORGET THAT PLACE AND THE MEN THAT LOST THERE LIVES THERE.

On 09/10/05 rick martin said:

served on Iwo 81-82 what a good time and long year at the same time. wish now i could revisit. it was kinda surreal for me because my uncle was on the ground there for the battle. always felt like i was treading on hallowed ground. standing watch, mid shift, i could always sense a lot of spirits there. it was by far the experience's of the year i would like the least. all in all probably the most memorable year. i found myself that year.

On 09/08/05 John Douglas said:

I served on Iwo during 1977 -78, got to visit Marcus for an engine overhaul, did alot of cave crawling, had a lot of fun with the Japs and our crew, made E7 while there, very good times.

On 05/29/05 Joseph P. Brusina said:

I served on Iwo 1966-1967 I was EN2 Joseph Brusina would like to hear from anyone that was there same time

On 05/03/05 DCCS Bill Haines said:

DCCS HAINES 76-77. What a tour. We had great burn the witch parties. Great crew LT Mahar/Lt Legault, BMC WAre, MKC Bobby Winstead, Estep, Parks, RM Turner, we built first ham tower and got to call home. Was relieved by a good friend DC1 Joel Otterson, anyone know his wearabouts. Had some real sh.. happen over there. Typhoons, Fires, Gen sets going boom, water pipes leaking all over the place. Tower rehab. etc. etc also rehaed the rec rooms, remember an ET actually painting the HOBBIT scenes on carpet and hanging them up...Awesome stuff guys. We had some wicked parties and stuff. Had to do somthing to keep occupied. Figma room big thing back then. CWo Larry LAflamm, second or third time out there. whew cant imagine ..

On 02/22/05 Elaine Bieber said:

Does anyone remember a granite stone monument atop Mr. Suribachi that was dedicated in maybe 1945 or 46? Am trying to find out the date for a friend of mine who was there with Stars & Stripes recording the event. Have searched the web and can find no mention of that stone. Thanks for any info you might have.

On 02/17/05 Fritz Melsheimer said:

Chuck Kelley relieved me at Iwo--as I recall the dog's names were Falstaff and Nippon and they liked San Miguel beer --it sure was a fast 373 days

On 01/22/05 John McCulloch ET1 said:

On Iwo 1962-1963 during construction of new LORAN-C and replacement of -A equipment. Check out www.iwojimavets.com - lots of interesting stuff.

On 12/20/04 Donald Franklin said:

Is there anyone around from 1946 to 1948

On 12/13/04 Bob Posar said:

On Iwo Jima '60- 61'. Just wanted mention the webpage of the Black Pearl Vets. is now named www.iwojimavets.com check it out .

On 08/15/04 Brian Jordan said:

Served there from 9/81 to 9/82. Great year...good crew, made it into Tokyo a few times, saved some cash, and picked up first class. Plenty of terrific memories.

On 07/01/04 Howard Tankersley said:

I was there 6/82 to 4/83, right out of boot camp, went from there to ET school. Scrolling the site, I saw George Lohr's name. I remember him. Anyone else?

On 06/18/04 Paul Sherman said:

Hi again, all. I just to a quick glance at John Allen's photo's; great stuff. Also, if interested, there's an Iwo vet site (all branches) at: <http://www.geocities.com/blackpearlvet/> The site manager would love to get Coasties to visit and provide photos. Recently, I was at the VA hospital in Huntington, WV. The director has original WWII planning maps of Iwo. I have JPEGs if anyone's interested.

On 06/09/04 Mike Krueger said:

I was there 80-81 straight from boot. Had a great time. New Years eve party was the best/strangest ever. Made some good friends. Where are they now?

On 05/30/04 Roger Fairbanks said:

On Iwo from 8/67 - 8/68. LT Green was the CO. Still have some pictures somewhere. Was there when Iwo was given back to Japan. There was an ET1 LaFlamme (Frenchie), SN Greg Case, SK2 Munchie, BMC Johnson (looked like Elmer Fudd), others I have forgotten.

On 05/10/04 CWO4 Jon 'vK' von Kessel said:

New e-mail address posted. Made several trips to Iwo while on district (eee) staff (1971-1972 and 1978-1984). Was also CO of Kami Seya Loran Monitor as control station of the Hokkaido and Gesashi pairs (1975-1978). Beautiful view from atop the 1350-ft tower too. But, got scary when the clouds came in and covered the entire tower and area around it. Strange experience being atop the tower in the clouds.

On 03/06/04 john(wildman)furlani sa said:

Loran A watchstander 10/70-10/71. best place i've ever been on earth. I'd pioneer there with enough glas paine wire concrete. rat meat with hermit crab cakes, oranges, sugar cane. But I'm a woodchip boiler operator . Van, the cannon, the generators' fire, who did put that toilet out there. The knife, the sheet(fitted), USO or something to hide from, Kikui tar, foriegn ship out of lube oil, EN parties at the far bunker-yucca fire sticks,music, and enough stars blanket the night in white. Where are those mud pot, pits, sulfer pits today? i could use alot of that fresh air today. 25 cent beers too, cause that rat meat wasn't marinated long enough....Mini bikes,(sailboat!) million\$ hole blowing up?? We all had good ol days there, you just don't know it yet. Shark cooking in the bushes, 'eggs' in the air sometimes ,SSE wind. tunnel travels(2) were memorable, the dead - end one far and away the best. write me. Have patch from then,not of the flag-raising one, lost the hat though. Will try to get pictures from listings at this web.Two weeks tramping and camping on iwo would be so cool, water would be the hardest to do. My wife would let me go. I'd shuck the 25 yr old job too. Bring your own rat traps. John

On 02/26/04 Jon Siler said:

Hi friends! I was on Iwo March 1974-75. For Paul Sherman (Posting on 11-21-01), I was the Mushroom! It was great finding this site and I look forward to posting more later.

On 02/17/04 Bill Lussier said:

Hi y'all. I was one of the ones involved in the infamous bust. Spent several weeks at Yakota while the Japs tried to figure out what to do with us. Our counsel was a Lt. Head. I got to make a confession written in japanese at one of their prisons. Quite an experience for a 19 year old. The japs were to busy worrying about the Lockheed scandal to worry about a few

coasties, so they left it up to Hendrickson. They couldn't 'bust' us on anything so we got sent all over the place to finish our time. I got to go to Marcus for 11 weeks. Overall, Iwo was one of the best times I had in the CG. I would love to return some day.

On 02/06/04 Brett Nicholson said:

I was stationed on Iwo Sep-75 till Oct-76, wouldn't trade that time in my life for anything. Remember a lot and remember even more after reading everyone's writings. Caving, Dogs, fireplace, infamous bust, stories of previous island happenings, CO/XO's coming and going. The Iwo Jima Rat we painted on AF HC-130's....Installing a phone between CG and JSDF bases (radio rooms). Doc Mike Bolin, HM1. The bullet left for Lt. Mahar.....Anyone wishing to write, feel free to. Didn't know about any pool or the fact Iwo Jima, Volcano Is. had closed.....

On 01/02/04 John Allan said:

I have published pictures from my 1983-1984 tour on Iwo Jima at http://john-allan.fotopic.net/show_collection.php?id=92036 if any one is interested.

On 11/18/03 Ed Bryant said:

I was on Iwo Mar '67 - Mar '68. Arrived as ET2, and promoted to ET1. It was a great assignment. Would like to hear from any shipmates from that era.

On 06/20/03 Susie Smith-Greener said:

I'm looking for an old ET school friend, Tom Martin. He was on Iwo in 1979. Please let me know if you knew him, where he might have gone, etc. Thanx

On 03/25/03 John Wright said:

An updated email address. I've uploaded some pics already and plan to upload more from my year there Dec. 1968 to Dec. 1969.

On 12/27/02 Steve Mahan said:

I was a SNEW on my way to Hokkaido in 76 when I was shanghaied for a 60 day TAD hitch on Iwo due to the 'bust'.I remember riding the station bikes, the bunker on the hilltop, some good basketball and softball games, exploring, jogging, just having a good time. Names I remember are Dink Cogburn, Bart, Paul Sherman, and Jerry Carr (who was TAD and went on to Hokkaido with me).

On 12/21/02 Howard Mullen said:

Would like to hear from anyone stationed at Iwo 1950-1951

On 10/19/02 Tom Sheehan said:

CO 10/71 - 10/72. XO was Joe Anson for the first half and Don Bay for the remainder. BMC was Garland T. Boole. ETC was Ploof. EMC was Elmore. Doc was Lonnie Harding. I recall the 1st class were Charlie Greiner(EM1), Dundas (EN1), and Larry Bilski(ET1).The first cook was 'Pops' who had served several tours on Iwo. I recall Bill Philips as second in command of the galley, but I can't recall the name of the cook (short guy - big smile). Other people who come to mind (no special order) are Dutch Verbeck, John Cox, Valera the SK2, Elliot Griffin, Tom King and Gary Andrews. I also remember Matsuoka-San, our emmisary to the Japanese Base. I recall a lot more faces but can't put names to them. Animals were Boy-San, a husky mix who had been on Iwo for a long time when I got there in 71. Short, Slim and Gwen were pups. Boy-San had developed a taste for the indigenous rats and had learned to jump like a jackrabbit through the high grass to catch them. The other dogs soon followed. That sure impressed a USO troupe of young ladies from Brigham Young University who

had come down around Christmas to cheer us up. Between the wild eyed guys and springloaded dogs, they were convinced that the 'stories' were true. I remember a small earthquake which created a big sand shift on New Years day 1972. We spent the day bagging newly unearthed bleached bones, some still in uniform, for return to Japan. I have lots of fond memories of a great group of people and a year that went by quickly. Anyway, I came back to Connecticut, became a CPA, got into construction, operated a hotel at the Pittsburgh Airport for 10 years, sold it and came to Florida to retire. Retirement didn't become us, so we renovated an old apartment complex in Flagler Beach and opened a small hotel and market. Anyone interested can go to www.plazacaribehotel.com and look. I would enjoy hearing from anyone out there.

On 09/26/02 ron darrow said:

I was stationed on Iwo 91-92. the gens were changed out. Interesting place. Cwo2(ret)

On 07/30/02 Donald R, Franklin said:

I was stationed on Kangaku Iwo (a reef one mile and a half off of Iwo Jima). I was there from march 1947 to june 1948. My CO was Lt. Fagan.

On 05/02/02 Jeff Boardman said:

I took a few days leave from Marcus to visit Iwo Jima sometiime in 1978. I'm affraid the memories of my stay there are hazey at best. I lean towards it being more of a testament to your 'hospitality' than to the aging process. What I do remember however is standing a radio watch on Marcus when we got the report that one of your crew was listed as being lost at sea after taking out one of the sailing boats. The crew on Marcus hung by the radio while the SAR went until it was finally called of, man that really tore our crew up. That was really something.

On 04/14/02 Larry Mills said:

Great duty after Lt Melsheimer left and Chuck Kelly came in. After a tour with the BMC, Chuck allowed me to be a YN striker and so moved into the office. Soon the whole barracks moved into the office area. Remember that? Remember David burning a grasshopper in an ash tray and sitting there crying over it? Remember Falstaff and (shoot can't remember the other dog's name).Movies in the rec room. Great cookin' by Tom Brown. The 'milk' left something to be desired. The 'Wheel Club' and the pictures of ships on the wall that, when visitors left, became Playboy pinups--go figure. Cave exploring. Planting banana trees. Building the garage. Many memories. Come back to me, guys. Oh, yeah, and the Volcano's we used to get at the enlisted men's club. Man, they were powerful drinks.

On 04/05/02 Mike Dunn said:

Never was stationed on Iwo Jima, but in 1962 I spent a cold night trying to sleep in the wheel house of a Japanesse concret water barge (used for carrying fresh water during WWII) grounded on the beach. I was stationed on the CGC Kukui and we were unloading cargo for a tower to be built there. I was part of the crew on an LCM that was carrying the cargo from the ship to the beach. A typhoon came in and our Captain told us to secure the LCM's to the barge and stay on the island as the ship pulled up anchor and left us to ride out the storm. We were on the opposite side of the island from the loran station and could not get there, so we spent the night as waves broke over the barge all night. The next day tired, hungry and wet we made it to the station where we had the best meal of steaks, got a shower, but had to spend another night there where we sleep in the generator room and again did not get much sleep from the humming motors. We findly made it back to the ship on the third day.

On 03/06/02 Richard E. Jones said:

I was on Iwo Jima from July 1969 until July 1970. I was assigned right out of boot camp and was a firemen first class when I left. Looking at the responses I would say that we all had similar experences on the Island that smelled like sulfur. As I look back it was an OK place for a 17 year old to get a few beers and have a few laughs. Thanks

On 02/27/02 Steve Horton said:

On Iwo from '62-'63. Helped in constuction of C station and C tower. Witnessed tower collapse. Looking for others who were there, Chuck Kelly, Hank Enslee, Corky, Tom Brown,Dowty...

On 02/26/02 Don Janicki said:

Hey Iwo Vets ! Iwo Jima 'Black Pearl' Vets Club ! \$15 per yr....www.geocities.com/blackpearlvet/webpage This is for all branches of service..

On 02/18/02 Al Gollem said:

oops! It was 10/72 to 11/73.

On 02/18/02 Al Gollem said:

10/73 to 11/74 If I remember it correctly. I got there just after the 'projector' incident. Lt. Lehman was CO, I can see the XO's face I just can't remember his name right now. I was ET2 - Loran A. I just found this site minutes ago. Anyone remember... Matt, Blaine, Chris Ch, 'Budda', Meador, Chief Kuhn, Gramps, Chris L, Freddy S, Brad, Che(Dog), Slim(Dog) Gwen(Dog), the 'Wet Dump', 'truckin" onto the mess deck to freak out the 'command staff'. I could go on and on. I went back to Gov's Is. after Iwo and then got out. Graduated from Penn State and am now VP and part owner of a factory (small) that makes machinery. I often wish I could go to Iwo for just a few hours. We could have been on another planet back in those days - no VCR's, satellite dishes, just 16mm movies and the occasional Star Trek episode.

On 01/08/02 Don Janicki said:

Was on Iwo from 8-67 to 8-68..there for the return of the island to the Japs...only HAM for a long time(rember all those 'patches' for just a beer? Can't rember many names anymore. I sold the scooterto Nino ! I remember all the B&W 'fleet' movies ! We installed UTC while I was there! Arrived as ET2, made ET1 and for a while was the Sr ET (no chiefs)

On 12/08/01 Bill Phillips said:

I was on Iwo Jima Nov 71- Nov 72 as a CS3 and retired to Portland, Oregon in 1998 from USCGR. I enjoyed; motoring around the island on a honda 50 scooter, parties with at the Japanese Air Base, Jungle rules Volly Ball, exploring,caving,swimming and crawling around the cement ships and the MARS radio/telephone home projects that that EM1 Charley Greiner set up and the store that ET2 Dutch Verbeck set up. Interestingly enough about Iwo Jima ship mates, ET2 Quinten Muhley who was on Iwo at the same time,now lives about 2 miles from our home. FYI, There is an Iwo Jima organization called Black Pearl Vets that I joined and the plank owners are from USAF 1950's their web page is <http://www.geocities.com/blackpearlvet/webpage.html>

On 11/21/01 Paul Sherman said:

Was on Iwo from 5/75 - 5/76. Have lots of memories, unfortunately including two typhoons and the infamous bust. Still, I never regretted it. Would love to hear from others and track down some old friends...'Mushroom', Dan Estep, Dave Bishop, Bill Lussier and others.

On 08/31/01 Ron Inget said:

Decommed Iwo, April 93 to Sep 93. Had a great time. Ron where you at now?

On 07/27/01 Tom said:

I was there from 10/91-10/92 and enjoyed it. While most people did much of nothing on there off time, myself, Matt Rinehart & Kale Adam spent all our time in caves trying to see what we could find. Good times were had on Iwo... T. Byrd

(Cave Master) USCG Ret.

On 06/21/01 Ron May said:

I was on Iwo from June '68 thru about Aug '69 as ET1, got out 2-6-70. To John Wright - Don't exactly recall the name. Are you the one we used to call 'Stick'? Do you remember 'Nino' Martini, the scooter guy?

On 05/27/01 Jim Demerin said:

Reported to Iwo Jima as a 'boot' chief in Oct82. ETC Dexter Williams and I were initiated as CPO's at the station, and sworn in at the Marines' memorial atop Mount Suribachi. This is about as isolated as it gets. Number 3 genset 'ran away' and blew up while I was on mid-tour leave. Always anticipated weekly USAF C-130 arrival from Yokota AB Japan.

On 05/22/01 Bill(William) McKee said:

To Jim Woodle & Bob Barker: Howdy, I served there during that period as well (ET2, out as ETC). I remember Jhonny Johnson as CS1 though. Toussaints as 'DOC' and Madrid ad ETC. Do you keep in touch with any of the guys? My tour there was excellent, good experience and interesting, especially the typhoons. My Regards Gents Bill McKee.

On 04/05/01 CWO3 (MED) Tom Chapman said:

Was the HM1 who in early 1969 went TAD to Iwo from Lorsta Kwajalein when the station's HM1 was killed in an accident. I remember the CO was an ex-QM named Donnie Green and that the crew was, with only one or two exceptions, outstanding. Was only there a couple of months and names have faded. Do remember going up Surabachi the second day there and thinking ... okay, what the hell is there to do now. On Kwajalein there were women, excellent swimming & snorkeling in the lagoon and other amenities not available on Iwo. Still, enjoyed the couple of months I was there, and now the memory of being on an island so steeped in both horror and glory that most everyone has heard of but just a relative few of us have seen.

On 04/05/01 George Lohr said:

Damn, my mind is going (gone)...my tour was 7/82 to 7/83. Oh well, that was lots of beers ago..

On 04/04/01 George Lohr said:

I was a FA/FN on Iwo from 7/83 to 7/84. It was my first unit. Damn what a first unit it was. SS Milnarsky was my first impression and it just went (downhill?) from there. I loved the place. Pub ALPHA, Pub BRAVO, the Moroccan Bar, Bill Vanderberg, Bobby Burke, Blake York, BMC Price, Donny Cruz, Howard Tankersly, caving, drinking, softball, drinking, parties with the Japanese, drinking, Tachikowa, Yokota and the Air Force girl I met there. It was the best time. Sorry if I left out any names. I remember you all. Drop me a line sometime and we'll catch up.

On 02/21/01 Ed Bryant said:

I was here Mar 66 - Mar 67. Was ET1. Quite a stay. Don't remember many names but do remember the experience.

On 01/11/01 Verne Bennett said:

Was CO of IWO around 1974. Remember all the faces and many of names after all this time. Mostly good memories of the place. Could still write a book on all the happenings of my year out there. Still have some glass floats from the island. I retired as CDR in 91. Anyone out there from the 'class of 74?' I would like to hear from you..

On 09/14/00 BMC Hildreth said:

ET's quit your whining & get back to the T-Building Hugs & Kisses Boats

On 09/09/00 shakey said:

Bilski: I was on that plane on my way back to Tokyo where I was in charge of Iormonsta Fuchu and also did a lot '70%' visiting Far east stations for assistance or whatever. Gave me a few more unwanted days of cave crawling. Thanks AGAIN ScareAmerica. If memory serves me right didn't we have a wild night out in Shinjuku with guys from other stations? Shakey ETCM Ret

On 07/14/00 Alex. Legault, LCDR, RET said:

CO for eight months in 1976-77. Remember the rat problems and the wild cats running around. Also the joint parties with the Japanese self defense forces, the monument on top of Mt. Suribachi, the shifting land on the 'extinct' volcano the Iorsta was built on and the great crew. Got transferred to Marcus for the last four months of my tour.

On 06/24/00 John Wright said:

Was there Dec. 68 to Dec. 69. Lots of memories. Wild dogs, million dollar hole blowing up, three C-97's on the runway at once due to engine failure (the night we entertained about 100 guests). Mostly stood C watches as an ET3. Used to lose sleep just so I could unload cargo on Saturday morning and 'see' a woman (even if she was so big she filled the whole dam door on the DC-6 and did not speak english)! Our corpsman died from head injury after falling off the truck on the way back from the Japanese base and an evening of drinking. That really screwed up the crew for awhile. Let me know if you were there when I was. I'd love to hear from you.

On 06/13/00 LCDR H. M. Nguyen said:

Check out FEACT homepage: <http://www.uscg.mil/d14/units/feact/Feact.htm>. You'll find info on current and former units, and may find a lost shipmate.

On 06/03/00 Larry Bilski said:

Was There 6/71 to 11/71 as ET1. I remember when Van Herreghe (see 8/18/98 entry below) stuck the scare america plane with the fork lift. Was a great shot! Also remember installing new solid state power supplies in those huge transmitters..worked for a week without sleep. Great Crew, but lots of hard work!

On 06/01/00 Don Bay said:

I was CWO3 Elec. at IWO from 1972-1973

On 05/01/00 John Allan said:

On Iwo 7/83-7/84, ET2. A few years stopped on Iwo, for a half hour, on the way to Marcus (to work on new Loran transmitter there), place has changed alot since CG left. Antenna mast is gone, airport is built up, the hill with the air control tower is gone. JMSA replaced transmitter for Iwo at Nijima a few hundred miles north, did that installation also.

On 03/29/00 Dick Schnase said:

On Iwo as a new ET3 during 1950. Tho I hated being unable to go chase girls, etc., I did get to Tachikawa a couple times. All in all, I would't trade the experience. Randy Ross was the Skipper.

On 03/22/00 Rene C. Noriega said:

I was there from 12/81 to 12/82 as an MK3. Blake, talk to you soon!

On 03/22/00 Blake York said:

I was stationed on Iwo 2-82 2-83. I was a DC-2. Interested in talking to other Iwo vets Have a lot of memeroys's.

On 03/19/00 Daniel McAndrews said:

I was stationed on Iwo from Oct.77 to Mar.78. Helped tear out Ioran'A' wiring. Drank a lot of saki and eat sushi with the Japanese. I remember Mr. Toshe Hara. From the Japanese tower. He was my friend. told me alot about Japan and I taught him some english. This was my first station after boot camp(alpha114) Then I got lucky and went to Maui for my next 6months. I retired in 97 in Clearwater Florida. I still remember cave crawling and parting on the concrete boat. With the generator and a mile of extension cords for the stereo.

On 03/15/00 R. Ryan Hoff said:

Iwo was my first station in the CG in '93 through the closing and I'll tell you, the one of the weirdest things I found was that the rains had more water pressure than our showers did.

On 02/15/00 J.C. ARMSTRONG said:

I was stationed there from 88 to 89. Remeber alot more about Iwo than I thought I would. Some of the names I remember LT LaRochelle, CWO Morey, ET1 Coachman, EM2 Adams. just to name a few. Anyone whos still around drop me a line or two.

On 02/03/00 Timothy Carroll said:

I was station there form 91 to 92, helped the Jasdaf crew open many caves. love to chat with anyone that knows Iwo.

On 12/05/99 Bob Posar said:

I will never forget Iwo. I spent my year there 1960-61. Replaced all verticle antenna masts, and telephone pole guylines that the sulfur gas ate up. Built a stereo cabinet that set in the rec hall, and helped in building a fireplace for cook outs. Nice to meet all you guys that share the same experience.

On 11/26/99 Bryant 'Bry Baby' Brown said:

Hope moer guys from the 80-81 era log on

On 10/22/99 Nelson Warner said:

I arrived on Iwo Jima. as an ET-2, toward the end of May 1964 The tower had fallen earlier in the Spring, so we were a monitor station for LORAN-C and a dual master LORAN-A. Shortly after I arrived Jim Woodle became our CO, Max Hinkley was the XO. Later my old boot camp & ET school buddy Don Peace landed. George Weber, Mat Wilkinson, Rex King, Dennis Porter and many many others. A great crew and a great time. The transmitter building and the tower went up. We cut brush in the rain, explored the caves, walked the beaches and swam. I burned my feet on the black sand Today if I smell sulfur I'm back on Iwo. Left Iwo in May 65, got out in '66 as ET-1

On 08/30/99 John H Thiede said:

I was on IWO for the 77/78 tour, I can't say that I miss the bugs and smell of it but it is the must unforgetable time in my life. I loved the caving, beach and the incredible beach parties on the cement ships, and putting the canteer one two wheels overthe tower cable trench.

On 08/17/99 Rick Greenfield said:

I was on Iwo from '87 to '88. I was the ETC at the time. I spent a lot of time running on P road. I installed the first satellite dish (got NHK). I was there with BMC John Bunting, CWO Morey, MKC Oliver, ET1 Fowler, ET2 Ted Bateman, ET1 Rick Viens, etc.

On 08/02/99 John Cox said:

I was on Iwo from Feb'72 to Feb'73. Still have some glass balls I rescued off the beach after a couple of thphoons along with some Japanese Imperial Army items we found while cave crawling. I am now working as a locomotive engineer out of Seattle. I'll be coming up on 28 years in the CG both regular and reserve.

On 07/18/99 Mark Bessett, MKC (ret) said:

I was there Jun-Dec 93, was initiated and made MKC there, Anybody remember Christmas 93 when the majority of the crew sat around the pool and quaffed suds most of the day? As the 'boot' chief I got reamed for that by the C.O., what a great day!!

On 06/22/99 Gary W. Stockton said:

Been there done that from Aug 71 to Aug 72, still have glass fish net floats found on beaches, lots of photos. Living in Mobile, Alas a retired MKC, retired in 1990 and loving it.

On 06/13/99 Robert Swanson said:

I was there 1/73 to 2/74 as the BMC. ENC Snethen and ETC Kuhn were there I think the CO was Lt Lehman. WO Bay was there when I first got there and he left but can't remember the new XO's name. I remember some other faces but not the names. Still have my Wheel House card some where around the house. Like to hear from you guys. It was sure a different tour of duty.

On 05/23/99 Jim Allen said:

I was here on Iwo in 1965-1966 as a SN, Hopefully Ill never be here again.

On 04/05/99 HSC RAND WALLACE said:

Served 1985-86. Remember lots of drinking at the Japanese base,jungle-tromping, cave- crawling and sports. Now on JARVIS preparingto retire June 99. Any crew from that time, let me hear from you!

On 12/17/98 JON von KESSEL, CWO4, (Ret) said:

Made several trips to Iwo while on district (eee) staff (1971-1972 and 1978-1984). Was also CO of Kami Seya Loran Monitor as control station of the Hokkaido and Gesashi pairs (1975-1978). Beautiful view from atop the 1350-ft tower too. But, got scary when the clouds came in and covered the entire tower and area around it. Strange experience being atop the tower in the clouds.

On 11/12/98 Shawn Whaley said:

Just wanting to know if anyone from the 88-89 era is out there still, and to find out what you are up to??

On 10/11/98 Gene Oleson said:

A lot of great postings were lost as noted above. Come on an repost your stuff and maybe some old crew members lurking out there will chime in and rekindle the memories. Gene (ET2 on Iwo in 1961).

On 10/05/98 Orin Diehm DC1 Ret said:

Where is everyone from 1980-1981? Sure did have alot of fun. The CO was the greatest, anyone know where he is (Gabriel Kinney)? Where did the dogs get a new home to once they closed the place? Had a blast climbing the Loran tower.

On 08/18/98 David Van Herreweghe said:

I was on the island from 70-71 just drank alot at the Japanese base and stood engine watch . We also had quite a few

wild dogs. One memory was when I hit the Scare America plane with the forklift unloading it.

On 07/25/98 Jason Beck said:

I was stationed on Iwo from Feb93 thru decommissioning. Pub Alpha! Caving! Overfilling the swimming pool! Yakasoba! I don't miss any of it!

On 02/23/98 Donald Bay Lt Stash ws CO. Trans to Base St. Louis where I retired in

On 01/05/98 Bill Pasquina said:

RM2 in 1961 just before I got out. I remember the bunch of characters I was stationed with like it was yesterday. The Budha on the way back fm the AF Base. Misdirecting marines to Mount Suribachi. Looking forward to any change even the receipt of a Newsweek Mag. Arnold Beran was the skipper. Is he out there? The dogs stick in my mind. We had a monkey named Honcho. After one year, I was convinced -- I became a college boy as quickly as I could.

On 11/29/97 Bob Barker said:

Hi to Jim Woodle, I was a CS2 when you were CO and Max Hinkley was XO.. Larry Fowler was the CS1. I enjoyed my time on the island as much as possible, cave hunting etc. I stayed in and retired as a CWO4 (F&S).

On 11/28/97 Rich Garner said:

Served aboard 1972-1973. Certainly was a different tour of duty. Always looked forward to the weekly Scare America flights. I swear the navigator always looked like he was coming off an alcoholic binge. I enjoyed hiking around the island, gathering those glass balls on the beach after a storm. Anyone remember those dogs we had? Sure hated all those bugs and the biting centipedes. And the sometimes crazy parties the Japanese would host at times? Ugh, the saki hangovers! All in all, it was a good tour, even though I was glad when my FIGMO arrived.

On 11/24/97 Jim Woodle said:

Commanding Officer 1964-65. Assigned after tower collapse. Hosted 20th Anniversary of Flag Raising, February 19, 1965. Tower & Xmtr building rebuilt in 6 months. Created Iwo Jima Daylight Saving Time for CG portion of Island to frustrate local AF command. Good tour.

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