

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

Commanding Officer
LORSTA KAUAI, Box 68
Koloa, Kauai, T. H.



10 July 1956
A7
Serial: 139-56

From: Commanding Officer, LORSTA KAUAI
To: Commandant (PO-2)
Via: Commander, 14th Coast Guard District (p)

Subj: Overseas Loran Station Survey, LORSTA KAUAI; Report of

Ref: (a) Commandant ltr of 5-22-56, A7

1. As requested by reference (a), the following information is submitted concerning the subject station:

- (a) Cost of living: No distinction between officer and enlisted. Total cost per month approximately the same as in the mainland. Rents are very reasonable, average two bedroom island type house rents furnished for about \$60.00 a month. Food is the major expense for a family, prices average 10 to 20 percent higher than state side. Gasoline is also quite expensive, 35¢ for regular, and goes rather fast since there are no complete shopping facilities in the immediate area. Electricity much higher, average bill is 12 to 15 dollars a month. Other utilities are inexpensive. No heating bill at any time of the year. Civilian clothing inexpensive as usual attire is sport clothes and almost entirely cottons. No exchanges or commissaries on the island.
- (b) Recreational facilities: No distinction between officer and enlisted. Primary outdoor type such as tennis, swimming, skin-diving, golf and beach parties. The station is located very close to the best bathing beach on the island and there are picnic facilities available. Kauai is the only island of the group that offers trout and fresh water fishing to any extent; of course, there is good salt water fishing as well as wild pig, wild goat, dove and pheasant hunting. There are only three nite clubs on the island, so house parties are quite popular and rather frequent. Bridge and card parties are also popular. Several bowling alleys have opened recently and team bowling is becoming a major source of recreation. Station personnel may participate in sports with local organized teams such as softball. Available at the station are basketball, pool, table tennis, horseshoes and facilities for wood-working, leather craft and building of hi-fi sets and radios.
- (c) Facilities for dependents: Dependents are authorized at this station. Housing is available but very limited. No government housing or quarters at this station. Most rental property is furnished and to located an unfurnished house in this particular area is a task that may require several months. There is one four unit apartment building nearby that is suitable for families without children or one young child. A motel is located close

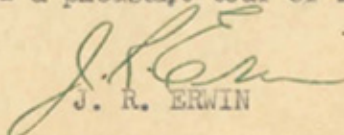
Paragraph 1(c) continued:

by which is available for temporary housing for dependents but the rates are high even by the week. Therefore, it is recommended that dependents remain in the states or in Honolulu until suitable housing is obtained. Typical house is of single wall construction, elevated two to three feet off the ground to eliminate insects and rooms generally smaller than in the states. Medicinal and dental facilities are good and are within a reasonable distance of the station, however, prices are slightly higher. A small but modern and complete hospital is located 15 miles from the station. Schools through junior high are reported to be average and are in the immediate area. The high schools are reported to be only fair and are some 15 miles from the area of the station; school busses do operate but have a limited route and there is a charge of about \$5.00 a month. Shopping facilities are rather complete but again some traveling will be involved. Lihue, the largest town on the island, is about 10,000 population and is the shopping center. It offers two department stores, a drug store, apparel shops and others necessary to support an average way of life. Clothing for dependents is no problem; island attire is definitely informal and relaxed. Children seldom wear shoes and women are rarely seen in hats, hose or gloves.

- (d) Climatic conditions: Average temperature 70 degrees with a moderate tradewind blowing almost constantly. Rainfall varies widely over the island but the station is located on the dry side of the island and has an estimated 50 inches of rainfall a year. The period from October or November to April is considered the rainy season for this island but does ^{not} mean a great deal for the station area. In the wetter areas, mildew can become a problem during the rainy season especially for such items as overstuffed furniture and woolen clothes. As a general rule, sweaters and light jackets are the heaviest clothing required. Temperature ranges from about 85 to 60 and the humidity is not excessive.
- (e) Description: LORSTA KAUAI is located at Makahuena Point which is the southeast tip of the island. It is at the edge of a moderate sized residential area and is some three miles from Koloa, the nearest town. Station consists of six concrete block buildings which are as follows: signal, power, garage, barracks, mess hall and commanding officers building. Power is received from commercial sources but the station maintains its own power plant for emergency use. Water is received from the county water main. With the present enlisted complement of 11 there are sufficient quarters for each man to have his own room. Personnel are subsisted by a commuted ration mess. Liberty is on a port and starboard basis with every other weekend off. A tour of duty is 18 months, but leave may be taken during this time. Compensatory absence does not accrue at this station. The immediate surroundings are residential, but the island in general is rural in nature.

Paragraph 1(f)

- (f) Private automobiles: For a man with dependents, a private automobile is a necessity. It is a definite asset to single personnel as well. There is no public transportation of any type on the island except U-Drive cars, and as pointed out in previous paragraphs most items are available on the island but well spread out. However, I would advise against bringing a new car to the island since the salt conditions and poor roads are extremely hard on them. The average tire life is somewhere around 12,000 miles. Many personnel acquire a car after reporting to the station, these are usually older cars whose appearance is poor but provide good transportation. The smaller cars, Hillmans and Austins, are ideal for transportation and economy but the cost and delay of spare parts is often unreasonable. Any car that is shipped to Kauai should be put in good mechanical shape before arrival since all parts and labor is higher here.
- (g) Mail and Supplies: Mail is received daily except Sunday, and requires about three days to come from the states via air mail. Supplies are readily available from the supply sources in Honolulu and are transported via barge which runs three times a week.
- (h) Medical facilities: Previously covered by paragraph(c) for dependents. Coast Guard personnel receive emergency and minor treatment from local private physicians at Coast Guard expense. Dental treatment is from a local contract dentist. In cases where there is sufficient time, major in-patient treatment is received from Tripler Army Hospital in Honolulu.
- (i) General comments: Kauai is the fourth largest island of the Hawaiian group and has an area of 555 sq. miles. It is located approximately 90 miles NW of Honolulu and is 40 minutes and \$10.00 from there. Its climate is sub-tropical with offers comfortable temperatures year around. The population is primarily Hawaiian, Oriental and Portuguese with these outnumbering the Americans about 40 to 1. However, these people are friendly, sincere and honest and readily accept Coast Guard personnel. The Coast Guard is the only active duty military organization on the island and we number about thirty. Other units are an 83 footer and two light stations. This station definitely offers more for married personnel, and is an excellent environment for children. Single personnel have a difficult time finding dates during the school year as ~~xxx~~ most of the American girls of college age attend the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. Those personnel who enjoy a relaxed, outdoor, and rural way of life combined with good climate and scenic surroundings will probably find LORSTA KAUAI a pleasant tour of loran duty.


J. R. ERWIN

P
16 July 1956
A7

POA

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to CO, CGLORSTA Kauai Ltr of 7-10-56, A7, Ser.No. 139-56.

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

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Subj: Overseas Loran Station Survey, LORSTA Kauai; Report of

1. Forwarded.


N. W. SPROW,
By direction

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