



The Commanding Officer of
Coast Guard Loran Station Marcus Island
Announces the
Disestablishment of Loran Station Marcus Island and
Turnover to the
Japanese Maritime Safety Agency

A Ceremony will be held on
Thursday, the 30th of September 1993
at twelve-thirty o'clock

**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
LORAN STATION MARCUS ISLAND
DISESTABLISHMENT/TURNOVER PERSONNEL**

**Commanding Officer
LT. MICHAEL B. CHRISTIAN**

**Executive Officer/Senior Technical Officer
CWO2 ALAN C. HARADA**

Deck Department

BMC ALBERT E. COWDEN

HS1 ROBERT F. OSTER
SS1 STUART V. SPURGEON
SK2 DAVID S. MAY
SN BEN E. NORRIS
SN NATHAN M. COLEMAN
SA ERIC D. BARNES
SA DANIEL L. BITZER

Engineering Department

MKC JOHN W. BUCK

MK1 STANLEY E. SINEATH
EM1 GEORGE R. TURLINGTON
DC1 EDDY L. ARNOLD
MK2 DAVID C. OELSCHLAEGER
MK3 ROBIN A. YODER
MK3 GEORGE G. WIELAND
FN TIMOTHY W. REID
FA STEVEN J. SCHREIBER

Operations Department

ETC THOMAS J. ESKEW

ET1 MATTHEW J. BARBER
ET2 MICHAEL S. LOGAN
ET2 ROBERT A. THOMPSON
ET3 ROBERT D. MAULT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD



**Disestablishment
&
Turnover
Ceremony
of**

**United States Coast Guard
LORAN Station Marcus Island**

30 September 1993

United States Coast Guard LORAN Station MARCUS ISLAND

"The White Pearl Of The Pacific"

In 1864, CAPTAIN GELETT, commanding the Hawaiian mission vessel, MORNING STAR, announced the discovery of an island located at 24 - 18 North latitude and 153 - 58 East longitude and claimed it for the United States. However, in 1879, the Japanese government, despite protest from the United States, declared ownership and colonized the island. This and several subsequent attempts (1884 - 1909) proved fruitless as the scarcity of fresh water prevented the early settlers from establishing a farming type community, and thereby becoming self-supporting. A cemetery, which entombs the remains of some of the early pioneers, still exists on the island and speaks, in part, of the hardships these early settlers endured.

During the 1930's as Japan expanded its empire, Marcus Island again became important. This time as part of a far-flung defensive outpost structure. Sailors from the Japanese Imperial Navy with a labor force of 300 Japanese criminals constructed an elaborate system of underground bunkers and tunnels, a torpedo factory, and an airship. Portions of these still exist throughout the island.

Marcus Island was, for the most part, bypassed by American Forces during World War II. In March of 1942, one of many surprise air raids was made on Marcus by U.S. Navy carrier based aircraft, and diversionary sea bombardment was also carried out by the U.S. Navy. Additionally, Marcus Island was bombed on 9 October 1944 in a maneuver which Admiral Halsey "had conceived to bewilder the Japanese high command." Marcus, in the eastern part of the Nampo Shoto, was 825 miles from Saipan and with its well developed air base was an important staging point along the outer route from Japan to Saipan and the Marshall and Gilbert Islands. However, during the later portion of the war, forces labored to keep the airstrip in repair for planes which seldom appeared.

This was because Marcus was kept under constant surveillance by reconnaissance missions of two or three B-24's. Between September 1944 and July 1945, a total of 565 such missions were performed. The XXI Bomber Command dispatched a total of eighty-five, B-29's during the last six weeks of the war, something the 313th Bombardment Wing routinely did. The minute damage incurred speaks highly for the defensive preparations made by the Japanese. Over 4500 Japanese Imperial Army and Navy troops were removed from Marcus when hostilities ended.

After World War II, the Japanese were permitted to continue operation of a Weather and Radio Beacon Station on Marcus. It was in the 1950's that the United States defensive requirements called for establishment of a more accurate navigation system in the Western Pacific area. Marcus Island was selected to be used as a site for construction of a station in the new LORAN-C star chain complex. Work began during the spring of 1963, and concluded with commissioning ceremonies held on October 1963.

From November 1963 through August 1968 the Weather Station was operated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the Radio Beacon by the U.S. Coast Guard in conjunction with the LORAN-C Transmitting Station. On 26 June 1968 the island was returned to the administration of the Government of Japan, and since January 1969 the Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force and Japanese Meteorological Agency have maintained the Weather Station and Radio Beacon as joint tenants with the U.S. Coast Guard LORAN Station.

Program

*Arrival of the Official Party

Invocation
Chaplain Raymond Leurck
Major, U.S. Air Force

Remarks
Captain Richard C. Wigger
Commander
U.S. Coast Guard Section, Far East

Remarks and Reading of Orders
Lieutenant Michael B. Christian
Commanding Officer
LORAN Station Marcus Island

*The National Anthems

*Retire Colors

*Official Party Departs

*Guests Please Stand

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS FOR DISESTABLISHMENT/TURNOVER CEREMONY

* = TIMES PRIOR TO PLANE ARRIVAL PA = PLANE ARRIVAL
- = MINUTES AFTER PLANE ARRIVAL + = DURING CEREMONY

- *02HR PROJECT OFFICER MAKES FINAL CHECK OF SITE AND EQUIPMENT.
- *90MIN PERSONNEL RELEASED AS POSSIBLE TO CHANGE INTO UNIFORM
(DRESS TROPS FOR CREW, FULL DRESS WHITE FOR OFFICIAL
PARTY).
- *01HR PROJECT OFFICER HOLDS FINIAL BRIEFING.
- *15MIN FLIGHT QUARTERS FOR NECESSARY PERSONNEL. SHOULD BE NO
UNLOADING REQUIRED.
- PA GUESTS ARE GREETED BY CO/XO AND ESCORTED TO BOQ/MESS.
USHERS TO CEREMONY AREA.
- 15MIN FIRST CALL TO QUARTERS IS PIPED, CEREMONY PERSONNEL TAKE
POSITION, NON-VIP GUESTS SEATED, CREW STARTS TO MUSTER.
- 20MIN ALL HANDS TO MUSTER IS PIPED, DEPT. LEADS MUSTER
PERSONNEL, PREPARE REPORTS, PLACE RE...
AT PARADE REST.
- 25MIN OFFICIAL PARTY SPOUSES, SPECIAL GUESTS, AND VIPS NOT IN
OFFICIAL PARTY ESCORTED TO RESERVED SEATS BY ORDER OF
JUNIORITY.
- 30MIN

www.loran-history.info

+00MIN MC: "LADIES AND GENTLEMEN WE WOULD LIKE THANK YOU FOR JOINING US ON THIS OCCASION. THIS CEREMONY MARKS A HISTORIC EVENT FOR TWO MARITIME SERVICE AGENCIES. FIRST IS THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF A UNITED STATES COAST GUARD UNIT AND SECOND IS THE PASSING OF THE HELM OF LORAN STATION MARCUS ISLAND TO THE JAPANESE MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY, CHIBA LORAN NAVIGATION SYSTEM CENTER."

"AND NOW IF YOU WOULD PLEASE JOIN ME IN STANDING FOR THE ENTRANCE OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY AND REMAIN STANDING FOR THE INVOCATION."

BMC: "CREW, ATTENTION"

+01MIN OFFICIAL PARTY (JAPANESE AND AMERICAN) ESCORTED TO SEATS AND ANNOUNCED AS THEY TAKE POSITIONS IN FRONT OF CHAIRS AND REMAIN STANDING.

NOW ARRIVING, JMSA MEMBER, MR. YUTAKA WADA

NOW ARRIVING, THE PROSPECTIVE COMMANDING OFFICER OF JMSA LORAN STATION MARCUS ISLAND, CAPTAIN TERUMICHI SUEHIRO.

NOW ARRIVING, COMMANDING OFFICER COAST GUARD LORAN STATION MARCUS ISLAND, LIEUTENANT Michael B. Christian

NOW ARRIVING, COMMANDER COAST GUARD FAR EAST SECTION, CAPTAIN Richard C. Wigger

+06MIN MC: "Ladies and Gentlemen CHAPLAIN RAY LURCK from Yokota Air Force Base will now give the invocation."

INVOCATION

MC: "PLEASE BE SEATED."

BMC: "CREW, PARADE REST."

+11MIN MC: "LADIES AND GENTLEMEN THE COMMANDER OF COAST GUARD FAR EAST SECTION, CAPTAIN RICHARD C. WIGGER"

CAPT WIGGER: REMARKS

+16MIN MC: "LADIES AND GENTLEMEN THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF LORAN STATION MARCUS ISLAND, LIEUTENANT MICHAEL B. CHRISTIAN.

CO TAKES ROSTRUM

CO: REMARKS

+21MIN CO: "ATTENTION TO ORDERS: (crew comes to attention)

FROM: COMMANDANT

TO: COMMANDER, FOURTEENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT

SUBJ: DISESTABLISH AND TRANSFER LORAN STATION MARCUS ISLAND

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IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREEMENT DATED 2 JULY 1992,
BETWEEN UNITED STATES FORCES JAPAN AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN, DISESTABLISH AND TRANSFER THE
OPERATION OF UNITED STATES COAST GUARD LORAN
STATION MARCUS ISLAND TO THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN ON
OR ABOUT 1 OCTOBER 1993.

+22MIN CO: "REPORT"

BMC: "SIR, ALL DEPARTMENTS ARE READY FOR THE TRANSFER OF
LORAN-C OPERATIONS."

ON RECEIVING REPORT THE CO FACES CAPT WIGGER (WHO STANDS
AT THIS TIME) AND SALUTES.

CO: "SIR COAST GUARD LORAN STATION MARCUS ISLAND IS
PREPARED TO DISESTABLISH."

CAPT: "VERY WELL, THE UNIT IS DISESTABLISHED."

+23MIN CO: "ATTENTION, STRIKE EIGHT BELLS."

STRIKE: EIGHT BELLS THEN

PLAY: "SEMPER PARATUS"

+26MIN MC: "PLEASE RISE FOR THE RETIREMENT OF COLORS."

+27MIN CO: "RETIRE THE COLORS."

PLAY: JAPANESE THEN AMERICAN NATIONAL ANTHEMS

LOWER FLAGS DURING AMERICAN ANTHEM. HOLD SALUTES DURING
BOTH ANTHEMS AND UNTIL JAPANESE ENSIGN IS RAISED. CG
ENSIGN, JAPANESE ENSIGN AND NATIONAL ENSIGN LOWERED AT
SAME TIME. NATIONAL ENSIGN FORMALLY FOLDED THEN HELD
WITH CROSSED ARMS BY SN COLEMAN

+32MIN JMSA COAST GUARD RAISES JAPANESE NATIONAL ENSIGN AND
JMSA ENSIGN.

MC: "READY TWO" (drop salute)

MC: "LADIES AND GENTLEMEN PLEASE BE SEATED"

CG ENSIGN GIVEN TO BMC. HE COMES FORWARD TO PRESENT
ENSIGN TO CO.

+35MIN MC: "CHIEF PETTY OFFICER COWDEN, THE SENIOR ENLISTED
CREWMEMBER, WILL NOW PRESENT THE CG ENSIGN TO THE
COMMANDING OFFICER."

CO ACCEPTS AND PLACES CG ENSIGN IN ROSTRUM.

+37MIN CO FACES MC

CO: "SECURE THE WATCH."

MC: "AYE AYE, SIR" AND SALUTES.

SCPO: "CREW, PARADE REST."

CO: "LADIES AND GENTLEMEN IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF JMSA LORAN STATION MARCUS ISLAND, MR. TERUMICHI SUEHIRO."

+38MIN CO GIVES STATION KEYS TO JMSA PCO WHO MAKES REMARKS.

MC: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AS LT CHRISTIAN PASSES THE STATION KEYS TO THE JAPANESE MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY, WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH THE NEW COMMAND THE SAME SUCCESS THAT WE HAVE ENJOYED OVER THE PAST THIRTY YEARS.

NEW CO: REMARKS

MC: PLEASE STAND FOR THE DEPARTURE OF THE OFFICIAL PARTY.

+43MIN MC: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE JOIN US FOR A RECEPTION TO BE HELD POOL SIDE. THE ROAD IN FRONT OF THE STATION MAY BE USED FOR EASIER ACCESS TO THE POOL AREA.

BMC: DISMISS CREW FOR RECEPTION