

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

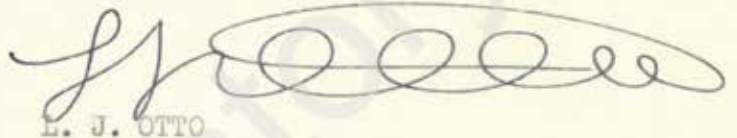
ADDRESS REPLY TO:
Commanding Officer
USCG Loran Transmitting Station,
Box 2, Hawi,
Hawaii, T. H.



2 July 1956
A7
Serial 186

From: Commanding Officer, U. S. Coast Guard Loran Transmitting Station,
HAWAII
To: Commandant (PO-2)
Subj: Overseas Loran Station Survey
Ref: (a) HQ ltr dtd 22 May 1956 PO2

1. Enclosed is the survey you have requested.



L. J. OTTO

Encl: (1) Narrative report of all aspects of being stationed at CGLORSTANAWAII
(2) Black and white photographs of station. (16) (with negatives)
(3) Picture postcards of surrounding country. (11)
(4) Road map of the Territory and City of Honolulu, TH.

Copy to: Commander, 14th CG District (p) - with enclosure (1), less enclosures
(2), (3), and (4).

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD LORAN TRANSMITTING STATION, HAWAII

Introduction. The United States Coast Guard Loran Transmitting Station, HAWAII, is located on the shore, two miles West of the North point of the Island of Hawaii, in the Territory of Hawaii. This point, Upolu, is responsible for the station's pseudonym.

In general this is probably the best Loran overseas duty, but as shore duty it is limited. New arrivals, not used to country living, must make a few adjustments in their way of life. The area is strictly rural, not as you would think rural is now on the mainland, but as it was five years ago. There are about 2500 people in the North Kohala District (see map); the main source of income for the local people is the Kohala Sugar Company, which is not a 'blue chip' stock. Total profit for 1955 was \$120,000 net, on a \$15 million investment. As none of the communities in the area are incorporated, this is considered a rural area, and has no local government. However, there are 'towns'; Hawi is situated around the Sugar company's main office; Kappau is located around the courthouse; Halaula is the community surrounding the Sugar Mill.

The cost of living is variable depending on several factors. For the Commanding Officer, I will list expenses per month:

Rent - 3 bedroom unfurnished house - \$50 - \$60, includes water.
Electricity or gas - \$20

Food - Family of 4 or 5 - \$180.00 (this can be reduced by eliminating a lot of luxury items.

Automobile - \$30.00

Mess Bill - \$15

Miscellaneous - church, cleaning, medical, \$50

•••••
Total \$345

I am not familiar too well with the enlisted cost of living, however, I think a PO2 with one child can barely ~~make~~ make out a living. As an example of how you can easily get in debt unless you change your stateside habits, I cite the case of a CS1, with two children. He was here 18 months and did not change his pattern of living. During the time he was here, he accumulated \$1200.00 debts. His saving factor was his reenlistment bonus, he received before leaving the Islands. As a general rule, anybody above a PO2, can have dependents here, and manage. The cost of living for commissioned officers is \$350 - \$400 per month, for enlisted \$225 - \$300 per month.

Recreation Facilities are lacking, except on the station itself. The Commanding Officer most probably will be invited to join the Social Club, a group including all the superintendents of the Sugar Company, and owners of a few businesses. The best part of the Social Club is the swimming pool which it operates from May through September. It also stages club dances and picnics. Otherwise, recreation is the same for all hands. The nearest beach is 36 miles - an hour's ride. There are three ball diamonds.

Fishing is very good - even off the station grounds. Kona is 80 miles down the coast. On very good days the crew goes spear fishing off the station. There are no public parks or playgrounds available.

Facilities. Cost of Living for Dependents is somewhat covered above but here is some more. There is adequate, but not luxurious housing available for dependents, but there are drawbacks to dependents here. If the dependent is willing to accept minor hardships to be with her husband, and if she can change her habits of living to conform with the Hawaiian way of life, it would be all right to have her here. She must realize it is rural living. There are no department stores, and the nearest 'dime' store is in Hilo, 100 miles away. There are general stores, who handle most everything. There is a dairy for milk, and garages to service automobiles, a bank, police station, courthouse, (the judge comes from Hilo monthly), three Grammar Schools, one High school, a bakery, two movies, and small churches of most faiths. There is a hospital, which is good. The doctor is competent.

For single men this is called semi-isolated duty. The town is five miles away over poor roads. By a little effort, he can save money here.

Climatic conditions are the real advantages. The temperature low is 55 night, winter, rainy; the high is 85 day, summer, sun-shiny. There is a rainy season, during the winter - it might rain about 1/3 of the time. The amounts of rainfall vary with the location so much, it is hard to tell a definite figure. I live on the windward side of the point, and get about 100" a year. The station gets about 40" per year. There is six miles difference. The trade wind is the blessing of the place. It always blows E to NE about 10 to 20 mph. It gives a nice pleasant effect with the high angle sun. The beach I mentioned earlier is another saving factor. It is at KAWAIHAE (See map). The annual rainfall is about 6". It can be storming every place on the island, but you'd never know it at KAWAIHAE. The weather is a great advantage. Summer clothes are always the rule. The kids run around in shorts and without shoes all the time. No house heat is necessary, just a few blankets. The mild climate is also suitable for growing domestic and exotic flowers and plants.

This STATION operates on rate 2L6, and is a single slave. Our electronics equipment includes AN/FPN 30 Timers, AN/FPA-2 Switchgear, T-325A transmitters T138A amplifiers, plus the ordinary radio equipment.

There are four buildings: Signal, Office and Messhall, Barracks, and Power Buildings. The Power Building includes a workshop. There are 18 acres of land comprising the station limits; it is bounded by the sea on the North and West and Sugar Cane fields on the South and East. We buy our power from Hilo Electric Company at a cost of about \$500.00 per month.

There are three International Harvester UD18 Diesel generators, *for emergency power.*

The complement includes:

1 LTJG			
1 BMC	1 ET1	1 EN1	1 CS1
3 SN	1 ET2	1 EN3	
	2 ET3	1 FN	

The black and white photographs enclosed are as follows:

- No. 1, 2, and 3 are a panoramic view of the station from the East, taken from about 100 yards in the Sugar Field.
- NO 4. is an electronic picture. it includes all important antennas and their relative height. The big tower has aircraft warning lights wich must be replaced occasionally.
- No. 5 is taken from the entrance and includes the barracks on the left and the power/ workshop on the right.
- No. 6 is taken toward the antenna field from the entrance toward the Signal Building.
- No. 7 is taken further west than number 6.
- No. 8 is a closeup of No. 7.
- No. 9 is taken of the Power/shop building. Notice the garage on the right.
- No. 10 is turned 45° left of No. 9. The shown building is the barracks. There is a porch on the leeward side, toward which all rooms open. It has 8 rooms, head, laundry, and sick bay. On the left is the office/messhall building.
- No. 11 is the messhall end of the office building. In 15 years the palms will bear coconuts.
- No. 12 is taken from the top of the water tank. The office building is on the left. Signal building is in the background.
- No. 13 and No. 12A, are two pictures of three structures: Office, Barracks and Power Building taken from the top of the water tanks.
- No. 14 is the Power Building looking North.
- No. 15 is the office and barracks building looking East.

Recreation is encouraged. There is a basketball, volleyball, and badminton court. There is a horseshoe pit.

The office Building includes CO's quarters, one room and head; recreation hall - pingpong table, pool table, movies and records; galley with reefers, storerooms and washroom; Mess Hall with TV.

The Power Building includes a garage, engineers' office, engineers storeroom, generator room; GSK stores, paint locker, and workshop.

The Signal Building includes all electronic gear, a head, and a spareparts and workshop room. We feed good food; there is at present two out of three liberty, and a beer mess, on the station, for off-duty personnel, authorized by the District Commander.

Our water is adequate and is purchased from the County of Hawaii. It comes to the station via a two mile right of way from the nearest community. Food is purchased in Hilo and locally.

The scenery of the surrounding country is breath-taking. To describe this part of this paper is inadequate in less than book-length. However, I have procured a road map of all the islands and of the city of Honolulu. On this island, lower right on the map, I have numbered a few scenic spots and included a picture postcard for each one. These are the main points of interest on the Island. Polali and Waipio valleys, (upper right on the map) are not included, but are surely worth while sights. Parker Ranch, the largest single-owner ranch in the world is on this Island. During the 1955 eruptions, a sight we were fortunate to witness, we were really impressed with the beauty and force of nature. They occurred in the Puna District (No. 3 & 4 on the map). It was 130 miles from the station. There is no danger of eruptions near the station. Although the roads are good to poor, a drive around the island is a must; the remainder of the pictures speak for themselves. This is the land of the Hula and Ukulele, both of which are not too difficult to learn.

An Automobile is a must. Roads are not the best. The access road to the station, about two miles long, is maintained by the Sugar Company, and during the winter is almost impassable because of the mud. Bring your car but not a very good one. There is regular standard procedure for shipment of automobiles from San Francisco, California to Honolulu. Plus or minus a few frills, it boils down to this: A letter request plus six copies of your orders, approved by Navy Pearl Harbor, and Coast Guard Honolulu, and San Francisco. When approved, you deliver to Oakland in person or by someone with your power of attorney; about three weeks later you pick up in Pearl Harbor. You can make arrangements with the Personnel Office of the district in Honolulu to accept the car for you and deliver it to the Special Services LST. This ship makes a bi-monthly trip to Hilo. You may then pick up your car in Hilo. This cost \$1 from Honolulu to Hilo.

Mail and Supplies

There is daily mail. All hands use the Post Office Box rented by the station. The address is Box 2, Hilo, Hawaii, T. H. Station supplies are sent weekly from the Supply Depot Sand Island. We make a bi-monthly run to Hilo to pick up supplies and do errands. Ordinarily you can expect about six weeks from requisition to delivery.

Medical facilities

There is a dispensary run by the Sugar Company and a hospital run by the County. There are two doctors here and they are very proficient. Their fees are moderate. At present we are negotiating a contract for Coastguardsmen, and for dependents when the law becomes effective. At present, Coastguardsmen get treatment, at no cost, of course, on an emergency basis, but dependents have a small fee to pay; I hope even this will be eliminated in the MEDICARE law. The hospital is not overstaffed, but it is up-to-date and has the usual facilities for maternity cases and baby care.

Advantages

1. It is shore duty and barring a few inconveniences, very delightful.
2. The weather is absolutely terrific - shorts and so forth are the rule, for lounging at home. Otherwise summer clothes all year round.
3. The local people are very friendly and helpful.

Disadvantages

1. Rural living
2. Higher cost of living
3. Scarce recreation facilities
4. Adequate but not deluxe housing
5. Poor shopping
6. Poor roads
7. No dependents medicare
8. 100 miles to nearest town.
9. Wet weather causes mold on most everything.
10. Termites are present.

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