

REPORT AND LOG OF RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY OF
 PONAPE, JUSAIE, KAPINGAMARANGI AND UPELANG
 FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW AND REHABILITATION OF EXISTING
 WEATHER AND RADSAFE STATIONS

April 7, 1957:

Take-off from Eniwetok at 1305.

Arrival at Kwajalein at 1545.

Party was composed of: William C. Bush, AEC
 J. S. Coe, H&M
 C. F. Dunlap, H&M

April 8, 1957:

Departed Kwajalein at 0430 hours.

Arrived Ponape at 0650 hours.

Mr. Hedges is not at Ponape; however, will return approximately 1800 hrs. Discussed general weather station reconnaissance mission with Dr. Mills, Asst. Distad, and Mr. John Benson, U. S. Weather Bureau representative at the Weather Station in Ponape. Benson had been advised of our visit and had arranged to accompany Bush, Coe and Dunlap on reconnaissance.

Due to availability of power and water on Ponape only, it was decided to site the station on Ponape Island as this would require only standby power and possible standby distillation facilities for emergency use.

Site #1 is at a location that affords a view of the harbor and is of ample size, but will require clearing and terracing. This site was formerly selected by the U. S. Weather Bureau in the event that the existing weather station is relocated. This site is acceptable by weather station standards, according to Mr. Benson. This site is on Government owned land.

Site #2 is acceptable for a weather station; however, it is on property owned by the Protestant Missionary and acquisition is doubtful.

Site #3 is at the site of former Japanese Airfield #1 and is at an elevation of approximately 300'. The area is sufficient; however, the existing road is an old Japanese military road and is now suitable only for jeep traffic. For any major construction in this area (of A.F. #1) a new road would have to be built and its construction would be difficult and expensive.

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April 9, 1957:

(Coe and Bush departed Ponape for Kapingamarangi at 07730).

General discussion of weather station site requirements, etc.

See notes by Coe and Bush for trip to Kapingamarangi.

(Coe and Bush arrived Ponape from Kapingamarangi at 1810 hours.)

Conferred with Mr. Hedges (Distad) from 0900 to 1030 hours.

Hedges advised that Site #1 would be unacceptable from the Trust Territories standpoint as this site is committed for future housing, and that site #2 could not be acquired as the Protestant Mission would not release this land, nor would they lease it for weather station use. Hedges also advised that it is a fact that Pomeroy, Page and the U. S. Army Communication forces will, within the next two (2) months start construction on a 2-1/2 million dollar communication relay station. This construction will involve the following items of interest at this time to weather station planning, estimating and construction:

1. An a.e. road will be constructed as the first item and construction on this road from the Airfield #1 to the town of Ponape will start within two months.
2. Pomeroy will establish messing and housing facilities in the town of Ponape for road and communication station construction. It is Mr. Hedges opinion that this housing and messing can be made available to H&M, as Trust Territory housing and messing is already utilized to capacity.
3. Water from existing system is available at Site #3 by running approximately 1000' of line or obtaining water from supply to Pomeroy camp and a permanent supply later on from the communication station, etc.
4. Power from Ponape is available; however, distribution would need to be extended to weather station site. The communication center will have an independent power supply and it is recommended that permanent weather station power be supplied from this source.
5. Pomeroy will establish complete concrete facilities and it is recommended that these be utilized for weather station construction.
6. It is also recommended that the weather station sewer system be tied into the communication center sewer, provided that the siting of the two facilities is such that this is practicable.

7. Since it is anticipated that the communication center construction will be well under way by the time that H&N start weather station construction, it is probable that Pomeroy equipment may be used by H&N and thus reduce materially the amount of construction that will be needed for the weather station construction.
8. IST cannot come into the beaching site (near Site #2) or to the dock; however, LCU's may come in at high tide to the beaching site or at any time to the dock, where cranes are available for off-loading. The lagoon is normally quite and it is believed that IST and LCU ramps may be "married" successfully; however, this should be checked with the Marine Department. Facilities at Ponape for lightering are virtually non-existent.
9. It is not intended that the airstrip will be rehabilitated or lengthened (now 2300 feet) and mail and personnel support will be by UP-1.
10. Local labor, principally unskilled, is available at prevailing rates.
11. Food can be obtained from the local commissary and this would be agreeable with the Distad to augment the local income; however, it is the consensus of opinion that prices would be considerably above the cost by our normal supply. This would probably not be a factor, however, as it is anticipated that messing during construction will be supplied by the Pomeroy mess hall.
12. Mr. Hedges stated that the Trust Territories will, in all probability, request that MSTC crews be restricted to the ship while in port in view of the experiences at Kusaie and Kapingamarangi during the previous weather station construction.
13. Hospital facilities are available at Ponape.
14. Trust Territories communication facilities are available.
15. Mr. Hedges concurred in a recommendation by the writer that AEC, Pomeroy, the High Commissioner, the Distad at Ponape and H&N representatives discuss the above items together in order that construction of the weather station utilize equipment and facilities of the communication station construction wherever this can be done economically. It must be borne in mind, however, that timing of certain phases of communication station construction must be firmed up as soon as possible in order that weather station construction can be well planned and executed without delay.
16. The communication station will probably have numerous radio towers approximately 300 ft. high and siting of the weather station must be such that balloon release path will safely clear all towers and guys.

April 10, 1957:

Departed Penape for Kusaie at 0835.

Arrived Kusaie at 1100 hours.

(See J. Coe's notes for weather station survey).

Departed Kusaie 1500 hours.

Arrived Kwajalein 1800 hours.

April 11, 1957:

Departed Kwajalein at 0945.

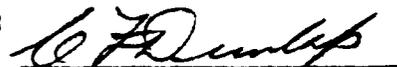
Arrived Ujelang at 1300 hours.

(See Joe Coe's notes for Radsafe Station, Ujelang)

Departed Ujelang at 1430 hours.

Arrived Eniwetok at 1600 hours.

Submitted by:


C. F. Dunlap
Resident Engineer, EPG
Holmes & Narver, Inc.

C. F. Dunlap/jm
12 April 1957