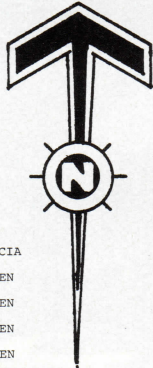
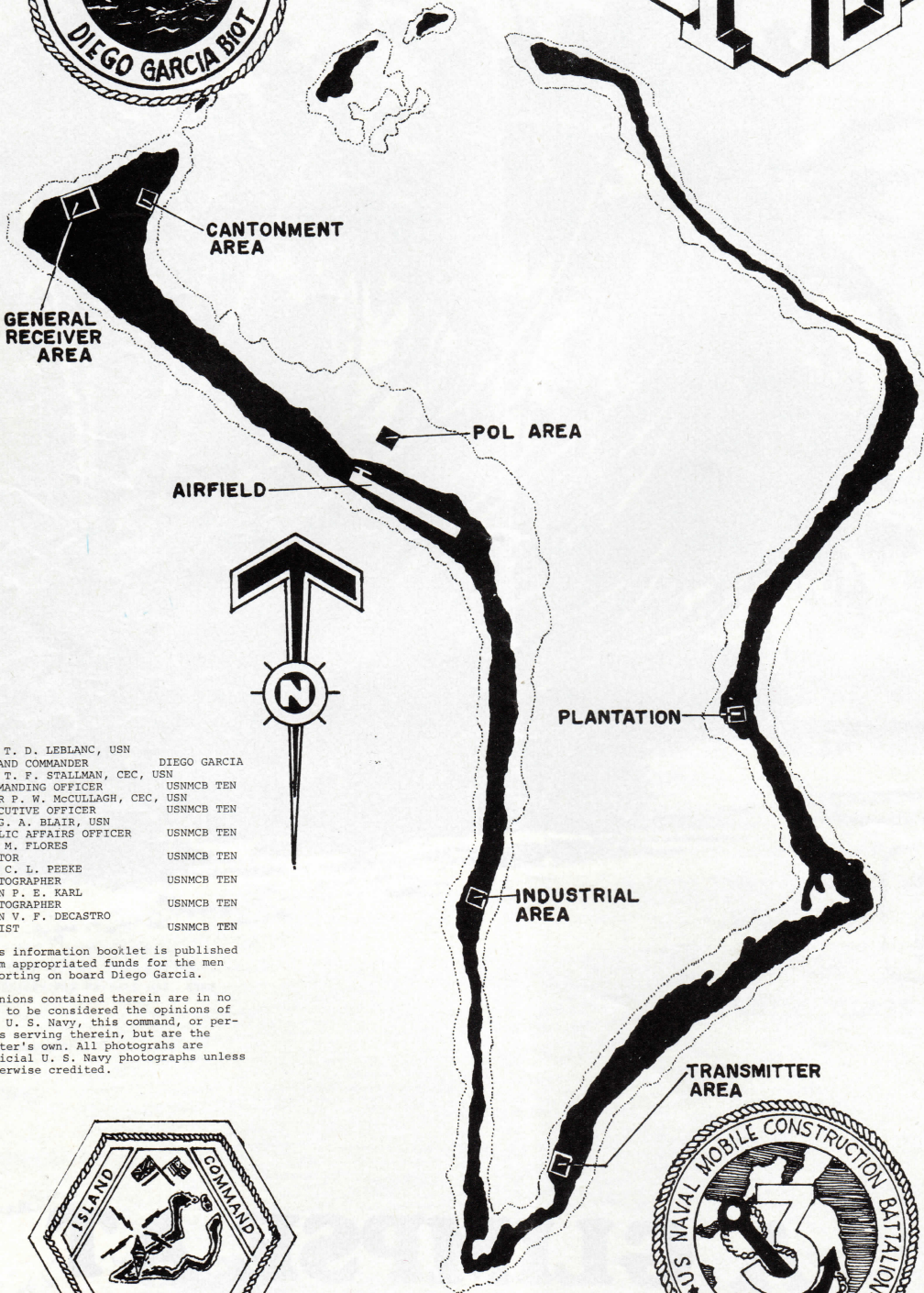
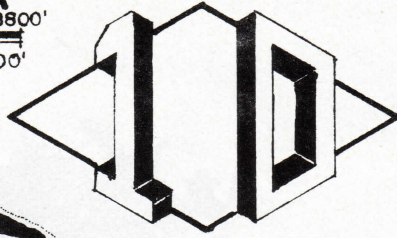


**A GLIMPSE AT  
DIEGO GARCIA**



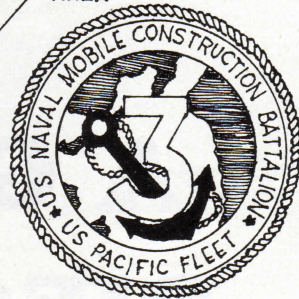
**DIEGO GARCIA**  
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 SCALE: 1" = 8800'



CDR T. D. LEBLANC, USN DIEGO GARCIA  
 ISLAND COMMANDER  
 CDR T. F. SPILLMAN, CEC, USN USNMCB TEN  
 COMMANDING OFFICER  
 LCDR P. W. McCULLAGH, CEC, USN USNMCB TEN  
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Opinions contained therein are in no way to be considered the opinions of the U. S. Navy, this command, or persons serving therein, but are the writer's own. All photographs are official U. S. Navy photographs unless otherwise credited.



# This is DG

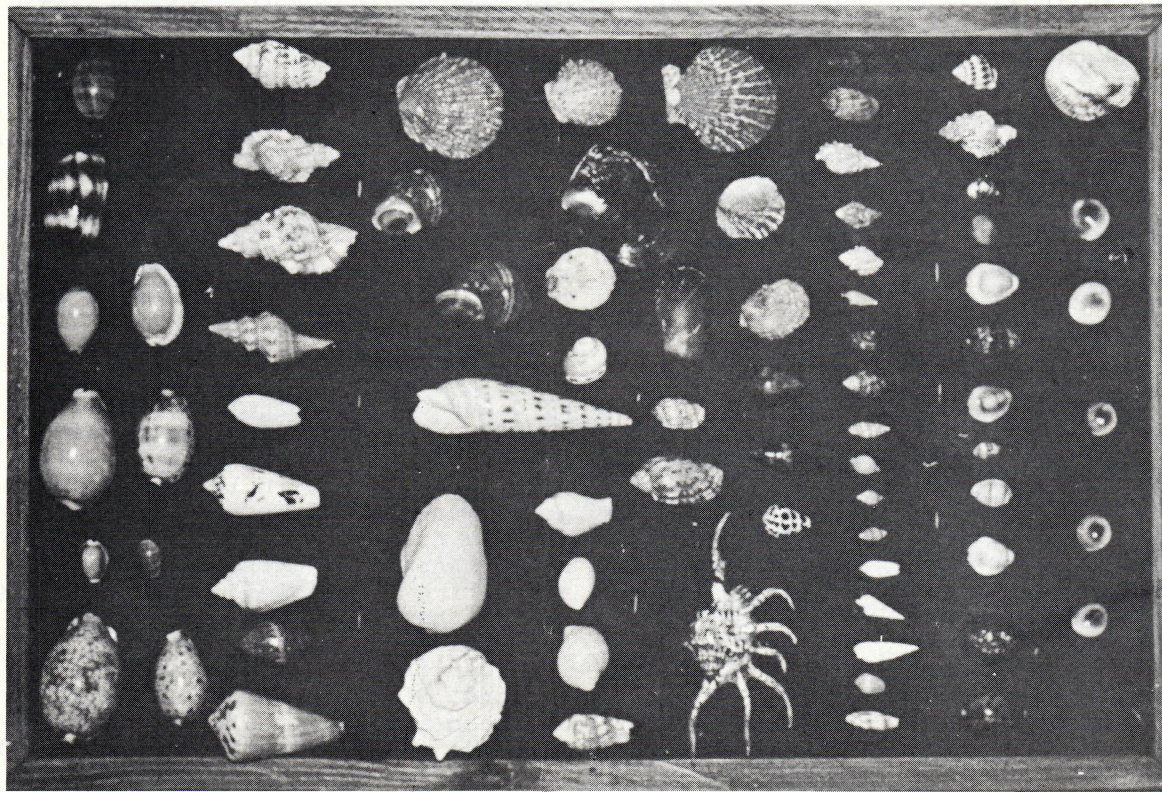
Diego Garcia is a tropical atoll located in the center of the Indian Ocean. India, almost 1,000 distant, is the nearest major land mass. The continental United States is approximately 10 times that distance - in either direction. Until 1972, only students of geography knew of the name, Diego Garcia. Today, because of its strategic location, it is a common topic in discussions of American military and foreign policy. There are over 1,000 servicemen stationed on DeeGee, the common nickname for Diego Garcia. This pamphlet is designed to inform the prospective resident serviceman of the various components, opportunities and general background associated with his future duty assignment.

## Shelling

The U.S.A. has football, Europe has soccer and Australia has tennis, but Diego Garcia has shelling.

A large variety of multicolored sea shells intrigues a sizeable group of interested collectors here on the island. The low tides make conditions extremely favorable for this popular hobby, making it possible for the enthusiastic hunters to walk out into the ocean. The shells are easily found clinging to the bottoms of coral rocks where the small crustaceans seek food.

If you are thinking seriously about collecting shells, you should bring: an extra pair of gloves and old boots (to protect your hands and feet from the sharp cutting coral), and a book on shells (in case you catch a rare species). Other equipment includes a metal rod to turn the rocks, and a bag to keep the shells in. Good hunting!



Collection of island shells.

# History of Diego Garcia

Diego Garcia has just begun to attract the attention of those interested in world affairs. Servicemen stationed on the island, plus their families and friends, formerly had the only insight into the tiny speck in the Indian Ocean. With the intention of educating the reader, the following paragraphs summarize the natural and historical aspects of Diego Garcia.

One of five major islands in the Chagos Archipelago, Diego Garcia sits approximately seven degrees below the equator and 160 miles south-east of the rest of the group; it is also the largest in the chain. The other islands making up the Chagos group are Peros Banhos, Salomon, Three Brothers and Six Islands. All but the last two were inhabited at one time or another.

Although the Chagos Archipelago was discovered in 1498 by Portuguese explorers, very little is known about the exact date in which Diego Garcia was discovered. However, it's name is believed to have been taken from the captain, or an artist, aboard one of those early voyages. The British first sailed into the waters of Diego Garcia in 1745, and again in 1755.

(This old English Manor gives a glimpse of early life on the island.)



Aerial view of East Point Plantation

Navigational dangers on the treacherous seas around Diego Garcia were vividly illustrated in a number of ship-wrecks off the jagged reefs.

The English first attempted a settlement on the island in 1786, for the purpose of establishing a supply station. Six shiploads of top soil were transported to the coral atoll from Bombay in the hopes of growing vegetables and cereals. The effort proved a failure and the disappointed expedition body withdrew.

French settlement began in the late 1780's when the Deput de la Faye authorized M. LeNormand to supply coconuts from Diego Garcia to the Ile de France, which is now Mauritius. Later, in 1793, his operation was stepped up to adding a factory for exporting copra and oil, rather than the entire coconut. With a starting force of 60 men, including slaves, he exported 1,350 gallons of oil via his two ships. By 1809, the island population had grown to 275 persons, 30 of which were lepers. It had been intended that the lepers make the islands in the atoll's mouth

their home, however, this was not adhered to. In 1810 Diego Garcia became British territory and in 1839, when problems arose due to the abolishing of slavery, discontent between slaves and lepers was cause for the first government agent to be established on the island. By 1861, the population totalled 417 men and 137 females. At this point, oil output was up to 66,000 gallons, annually. It is from this that the Chagos Archipelagos also acquired the title of 'the Oil Islands.'

Diego Garcia had brief notoriety during the early months of the First World War. The German ships, Bismark and Marie, anchored in the lagoon in 1899, and when war broke out, the German cruiser, Emden, found momentary sanctuary there from the pursuit of English warships. Not realizing that war had been declared, the inhabitants exchanged supplies and within a short time the German vessel was underway. On 9 Nov. 1914, however, the Emden was finally caught and destroyed at Cocos-Keeling.

The strategic value of the atoll again became apparent during WWII. After heavy British naval losses in the Indian Ocean, Diego became one of

a number of refueling and minor repair bases for naval craft and sea planes, defended by six inch guns. Both British and Indian troops manned the isolated outpost.

Formerly a dependency of Mauritius, this small, scattered belt of islands was transferred to the Seychelles in 1965, becoming a part of the newly created colony known as the British Indian Ocean Territory. The following year brought an agreement between the United Kingdom and the United States to use the atoll as a military defense facility.

The first battalion deployed to Diego Garcia in 1971. All civilian inhabitants were moved from the island shortly thereafter.

Diego Garcia, itself, is a crude horseshoe shaped atoll, roughly 37 miles in length from tip to tip. Its width ranges from over 1 1/2 miles to having the waves seemingly lap at either side of the road. A spacious lagoon seeps 12 miles into the back of the island. The island is teeming with dense flora and spiraling wisps of coconut trees which add to the aura of the island's raw beauty and uncivilized terrain, making it a virtual jungle paradise.



Aerial view of the Cantonment area, Diego Garcia.

# Operations Summary

## NCS

The Naval Communication Station at Diego Garcia is composed of several Departments: Admin, Harbor Operations, Public Works, Communications, Air Operations, Security Group, and Supply.

The Admin-Personnel Dept. handles command correspondence and personnel service records. The Admin Dept., Disbursing Office and Command Offices are housed in a newly constructed Admin building.

The Harbor Ops Dept. is responsible for maintaining and operating the Island Boats as well as anchoring and off-loading ships which periodically arrive at Diego Garcia with supplies.

The Public Works Dept. is responsible for the general upkeep and maintenance of the station buildings, vehicles and equipment. Public Works also provides the island with electrical power and sewage facilities.

The Communications Dept., along

with the Security Group, is the reason for the existence of the Command. They provide a vital communications link in support of ships at sea and the defense communications network.

The Air Operations Dept. is responsible for the operation of the airport, including cargo and passenger handling, and aircraft take-off and landing. Flight arrivals and departures are bi-weekly for both cargo and passengers, as well as the all-important mail.

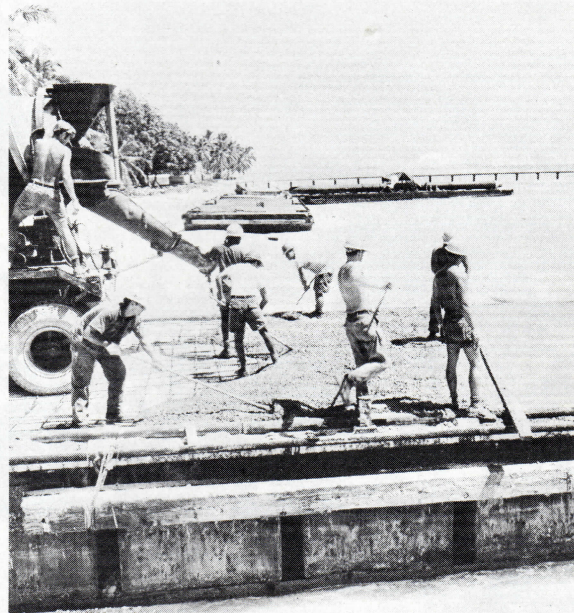
The Supply Dept. is responsible for supplying the COMSTA with whatever is physically required to operate and maintain the entire station.

The CO of the Communication Station, in addition to being CO of the COMSTA is also designated as the Island Commander. In this capacity, he is responsible for all activities and is senior to all commands on the island. NAVCOMSTA Diego Garcia was commissioned in March 1973.

## ROICC

The Resident Officer in Charge of Construction is responsible for the administration of all construction contracts on Diego Garcia. The most noteworthy contract is the dredging of a 2750' X 4600' turning basin and an 18,500 foot long entrance channel 750 feet wide which is being accomplished by the Retired Servicemen's Engineering Agency of Taiwan. The ROICC with an equipment specialist TAD from the Pacific Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command oversees this work which is valued at \$3,370,000 and will require 20 months to remove over 1.2 million cubic meters of material.

With regard to construction work by the Seabees, the ROICC is responsible for surveillance of the on-site Naval Construction Force Quality Control program and he is tasked with providing technical assistance as required. The ROICC has three experienced construction representatives in areas of electrical, mechanical and civil engineering to assist him in carrying out his duties and responsibilities.



Battalion personnel laying concrete in the final stages of construction of a causeway into the lagoon.

# NMCB's

Naval Mobile Construction Battalions are deployed to Diego Garcia for the purpose of constructing the facilities required to support the various naval operations on the island. The construction consists of an airfield, air operations buildings, communications receiver and transmitter facilities, industrial facilities, water, sewage and electrical utilities and an interconnecting road system. Seabees first arrived on Diego Garcia in March 1971.

Upon arrival, the first Seabees initially built their base camp. Using the proven Southeast Asia (SEA) hut, a Seabee camp was built which today consists of approximately 80 huts. Work then began on the clearing and building of an airfield. With aircraft landing capabilities installed the island quickly developed into a regular Seabee deployment site.

Since being tasked with the Diego Garcia Project, a number of Seabee battalions from both Gulfport, Mississippi and Port Hueneme, California have been deployed here. Often these battalions are augmented by details from various battalions deployed elsewhere around the globe. Each battalion works directly with Resident Officer in Charge of Construction (ROICC) on all projects until they are deemed acceptable by the Island Command.

Recently the construction projects proposed for Diego Garcia were expanded. Therefore, future deployments by battalions serving under Commander Construction Battalions, U.S. Pacific Fleet are anticipated.

## Navy Weather

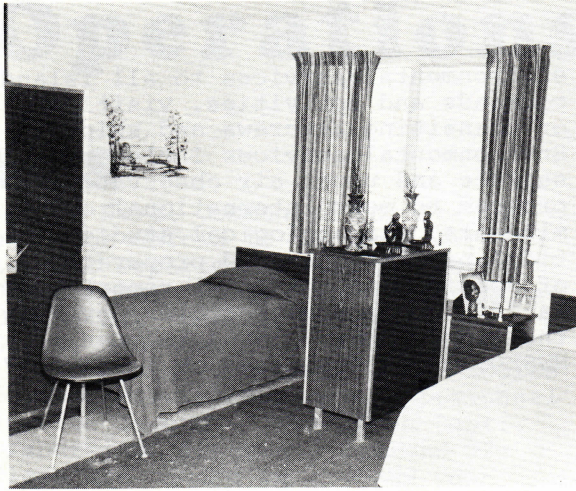
The U.S. Naval Weather Service Environmental Detachment, Diego Garcia, is an island tenant activity, staffed with an Officer in Charge and 10 Aerographers. The unit is attached to U.S. Naval Weather Service Facility, Yokosuka, Japan, and is assigned the mission of providing meteorological and oceanographic

environmental services to all island commands and activities, visiting or transiting aircrews and ships. Environmental services include the surface and upper air observation program to meet international commitments, climatological studies, tidal predictions, and preparation of special environmental reports for Pacific Command authorities covering the Indian Ocean. The detachment, NWSED, was established on 1 July 1974.

## British on Diego

Royal Navy Party 1002 is commanded by a LCDR in the Royal Navy. It is comprised of radio operators, technicians, and administration personnel. The Commanding Officer fills an additional role, in so much that he is also the British Government Representative for the Chagos Group of Islands. Therefore, he is the Justice of the Peace responsible for law and order. To assist him in these duties he has a Peace Officer, who normally works with the USN Security force.

All members of R.N. Party 1002 are totally integrated with the USN regarding work, being responsible to their respective Department-Heads. They have their own accommodations, which is run on the Royal Navy lines. The British are responsible to their own Commanding Officer for its state of cleanliness, etc. They have their own British club, which is operated on the lines of the old British pub and quite a number of USN personnel have been made members. The club is an old native dwelling house converted by R.N. Party as a spare time project. They have likewise built a boatyard in which native boats from the Plantation settlement are being restored. It is hoped that when Diego Garcia is completed this will become the main sailing center for NCS. A future project is restoration of the Meteorological Quarters on the Plantation, which will become the R&R center for all personnel serving on the island,



Room at the BEQ's where NCS and other permanent Navy personnel reside.

## At the Dentist's

The Dental Office provides routine dental care to meet the needs of military personnel assigned to either the construction battalion or the communications station. From a two-chair dental clinic, all phases of general dentistry are practiced, except the prosthetic replacement of teeth.

In the near future a second dental facility will open in the medical building. When operational, this new facility will include a prosthetic laboratory completing the services provided on the island.

## Uniforms and Civilian Attire

Uniform requirements differ between the battalion and other commands. Members of the battalion wear the green utility uniform, of which several sets may be shortened at the discretion of the battalion commander. NCS and other permanent personnel must have two sets of tropical whites, six sets of dungarees, for E-6 and below (Officers and E-7 and above wear tropical khaki long/short) and the necessary shoes, socks and underwear.

Civilian clothes are authorized and encouraged for off-duty use on the island as well as for R&R in Bangkok. Civies should be "wash and wear" for island use. No dry cleaning facilities are available on the island. Washing machines are in operation in the NCS BEQ's.

## Berthing

Permanent (NCS, etc.) personnel can expect the same rather austere quarters during the first few weeks on the island in which battalion personnel reside. The wooden Southeast Asia huts are cooled by ocean breeze or personal fans and house up to 14 men. After the initial break-in period, permanent personnel enjoy BEQ's which can be considered among the Navy's finest. These module style BEQ's feature 4 bedrooms and a living area. All living spaces are fully air-conditioned, decorated with modern furniture and equipped with private showers. Stereo and refrigerators are standard equipment for each module. Four E-4 and below share the same bedroom, while only three E-5 and above share the same bedroom.

## Legal Services

It is a good idea to attend to all personal matters before departing for Diego Garcia. Your present Legal Officer should be contacted if there are any changes or additions to be made to your legal papers, i.e. wills, powers of attorney, passports and visas, bills of sale, etc. The battalion and NCS both have appointed Legal Officers, but they are limited to issuing powers of attorney and a few basic forms as well as providing general counseling. Navy lawyers are occasionally available for detailed problems, but they are present only when courts-martial are scheduled every few months. Because of the time lapse in corresponding by mail and the scarcity of complete legal information, it is highly advisable to attend to all problems before reporting. This includes handling personal debts, or arranging for their discharge during your stay on the island.



## Reporting Info

The majority of personnel in transit to Diego Garcia fly MAC Channel Flights from Travis AFB, near San Francisco. The two routes are Travis-Anchorage-Yokota AFB, Japan-Clark AFB, Philippines for an overnight stop; or Travis Air Force Base-Hickam AFB, Hawaii-Anderson AFB, Guam-Clark AFB. Flights depart Clark AFB for Diego Garcia every Wednesday and Saturday, with an intermediate stop at U-Tapao AFB, Thailand. Normally passengers are flown from Clark on Saturdays only. Enlisted and Officer transit quarters are available at Clark. It is recommended that you carry camera, jewelry and other valuables on your person vice in your luggage while traveling. In the event of a delay in U-Tapao, Island representatives will meet the plane and assist you until the next departure.

## Recommended Items

Shower shoes  
Dress shoes  
Tennis shoes - numerous pair - enough to last the entire stint on Diego Garcia  
Sunglasses (prescription glasses not not available here)  
Fishing gear  
Swim wear  
Books on sea shells  
Snorkeling and diving gear  
Camera equipment  
Hobby items  
Athletic gear  
\*Note - privately owned motorized vehicles are not authorized.

## Consolidated Mess (open)

CMO maintains the four clubs (Officers', Chiefs', Petty Officers', and Enlisted Men's). The present hours of operation are 1800-2300, Monday-Friday and 1300-2400, Saturday and Sunday. In addition, the package store, the miniature golf course and the famous Diego Burger snack bar are operated by CMO.

## Miscellaneous Services

The Personnel Services Office provides assistance in making special orders through the Navy Exchange. Travelers checks and mailers for film developing in CONUS are also available. The Ship's Store is small, but maintains an adequate supply of personal items such as toiletries. In addition, loan and share withdrawal services through Navy Federal Credit Union, Washington, D.C. are available through the Ship's Store. The Chaplain's Office provides a flower ordering service.

## Military Affiliate Radio Station

The MARS Station is in good operating order and, propagation permitting, telephone patches via short wave radio can be placed on an appointment basis from 1900 until the band drops out daily to Port Hueneme, Ca.; Omaha, Neb.; or Gulfport, Miss. Calls go from these locations collect anywhere within the U.S. Continental limits. On each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, calls are placed to Hawaii from 0800 until the band drops out. Time can be saved if relatives and friends understand the procedure for receiving calls (saying OVER after each transmission). Diego Garcia is 10 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time. MARS grams are available, free of charge. They are normally transmitted via Japan and arrive at their stateside destination in 48-72 hours after initial transmission. The message is forwarded to the nearest amateur radio operator or MARS station to the destination in the states. If close enough for a toll free call, the message is relayed by telephone. In the event that there is no relay in the immediate area, the gram is mailed from the closest station. The Diego Garcia MARS station works with any other MARS station or amateur radio operator willing to assist.

# Food Services

The Enlisted General Mess, CPO Mess, and Officer's Wardroom are all controlled and operated by the on-site battalion. In the General Mess, the battalion provides all leadership positions such as Food Services Officer, Senior Commissaryman, Galley Captain, Chief MDMAA and both Watch Captains.

The battalion handles all accounting and records-keeping for the General Mess. All ordering, shipping, receiving, storage, and usage data are maintained by the battalion.

The General Mess is currently feeding 1,100 men per meal each day. In addition to regular breakfast, lunch and dinner, also provided are early breakfast, late breakfast, early lunch, early dinner, mid-rats, the chow truck for lunch, box lunches for flights and work crews and picnic/party rations. A complete night bake crew all baking needs, such as bread, pastries, desserts, early box lunches and early breakfast.



The CPO Mess feeds about 60-70 CPO's per meal. The Wardroom feeds between 70-80 people per meal, which includes visiting officers and dignitaries, civilian workers, foreign contract workers and permanent civilians. All accounting and paperwork is done by the battalion. Meals are purchased from the General Mess as instructed by NAVSUP P-486.

## Disbursing

Each major command on the island (NCS and battalion) provides its own disbursing office and separate accounts. The battalion office, however, is the island funding activity. This means the battalion disbursing officer makes the required money runs to pick up cash for both commands' paydays and collects all monies from all the island's outlets except ship's store which is run by NCS. The NCS office also provides all Transportation Requests and Travelers Check business.

## Service Facilities

The battalion has operational control of three service facilities which include laundry, barbershop, and tailorshop. The tailorshop is furnished by the battalion, which does all tailoring for the entire island. The battalion and NCS provide personnel for the barbershop. The barbershop cuts hair for everyone on the island. All supplies and records-keeping is done by the battalion.

The laundry runs two 8-hour shifts which wash and rough dries all greens and civilian clothing for battalion personnel. The battalion provides all manpower and supervision. One full-time SH1 supervises non-rated men who work TAD in the laundry for 60 days. Supplies are ordered and paid for by NCS. The laundry operates six days per week. Washing machines are provided for NCS personnel.

## Religious Services

"Chapel in the Palms" is the center of all religious activity on the island. The Chapel, a small but adequate facility seating about 50 worshipers, also houses office space for two Chaplains and a Chaplain's assistant. Protestant and Catholic worship services on Sunday form the main hub around which numerous other religious services are conducted throughout the week. A small religious library plus free hand out material is also part of the Chapel program. Both Protestant and Catholic coverage is provided by two full time Chaplains. The Catholic Chaplain is assigned to the Naval Communications Station while the Protestant Chaplain is assigned to the Seabee Battalion. Chaplains also act as Red Cross field directors, handling all Red Cross messages coming to the island.

Many men who come to the island find a peaceful tranquility about isolated duty that greatly enhances



their spiritual prospects. Others find isolation a frustrating experience which magnifies the ordinary problems of life. In either case, don't hesitate to ask the Chaplain for assistance.

## At the Doctor's

The Medical Department is comprised of two medical officers and hospital corpsmen, which serve the entire island population. A new medical building is being constructed, however, the opening date is still unknown. Sickcall hours are as follows: Battalion 0530-0600 and 1130-1200, NCS 0600-0630 and 1200-1230. Emergencies are seen at anytime.

Many of the nearly 1,000 sickcall visits each month are due to on the job and recreational injuries, therefore, compliance with safety regulations is stressed. All personnel are urged to wear shoes at all times to prevent coral cuts. This includes swimming since there are many razor clams in the water around the island. Wounds from shell and coral cuts are slow to heal in this climate.

Because of the remoteness of the island, you are encouraged to have any medical problems taken care of before departing for duty here. Also, if you wear glasses, bring two pair and be sure that a copy of the prescription is in your health record.

## U.S. Mail

The island post office is located in the quadrangle area of the Seabee camp. The present hours are Tuesday thru Saturday from 1000-1900 (hours may vary due to commitment requirements). All personnel are requested to ensure that they check in and out with the post office to ensure proper delivery of mail. All services normally offered at a civilian post office are offered except special delivery on incoming mail and C.O.D. Mail is received twice a week, normally WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY afternoons. Outgoing mail closes out at 2200 the same day as mail is received. Mail is transported to Bangkok via the island channel flight. It is then dispatched to San Francisco by AIR.

ISLAND ADDRESS:

Name/Rank/SSAN

Hut/Module No.

NCS

FPO San Francisco, Ca. 96685

BATTALION:

Name/Rank/SSAN

Dept./Company

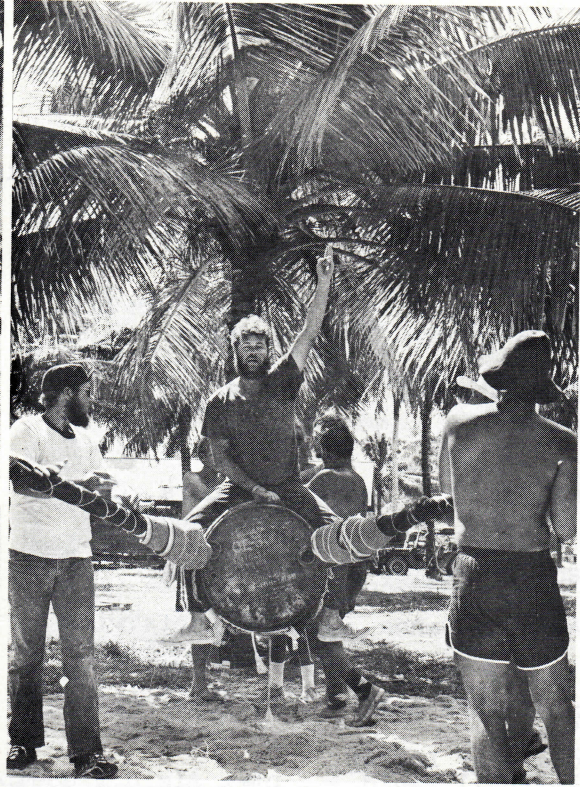
USNMCB

FPO San Francisco, Ca. 96601

# Special Services

Recreational service facilities are all undergoing expansion to meet the ever increasing demand for more variety and volume of service. The graph below will show both the present status and future plans of Island Recreational Services.

Facility/Activity	Present Status	Future Plans (estimated dates)
Models	Retail Outlet/ Minimal work space	Enlarged retail outlet; large 24-hour workshop (Jan. 1975)
Slot Cars	None	3 different tracks; retail outlet; work space (Mar.-Apr. 1975)
Electronics	None	Test equipment and work space; retail outlet for kits, spare parts, and tools; professional help (Feb.-Mar. 1975)
Carpentry	None	Complete work shop; retail outlet w/exotic hardwoods (early 1975)
Photo Lab	B&W, Slides, min-or retail sales, instruction	Enlarged retail outlet (Mar.-Apr. 1975) Color processing (Feb. 1976)
Leather Craft	Kits and bulk leather, instructions and tools	Enlarged retail outlet; classes; many types of bulk leather (Jan. 1975)
Sea Shell Jewelry	Sales of some materials	Increased retail sales; expanded retail outlet (Jan. 1975)
Macrame	None	Retail sales; work space; classes (Jan. 1975)
Bead Craft	None	Retail sales; work space (Jan. 1975)
Ceramics	None	Large kiln; materials; equipment; classes (Feb. 1976)
Painting	None	Classes; art supply sales (Feb. 1975)
Lapidary	None	Sales & work space; polishing, grinding and cutting equipment (Mar.-Apr. 1975)
Copper Enameling	None	Small kiln; material and supply sales (Feb. 1975)
Candle Making	None	Kits & supplies; work space (Feb. 1975)
Metal Craft	None	Materials; work space; molding, brazing and soldering equip. (Feb.-Mar. 1975)
<u>General Entertainment.</u>		
Music Band Room	Small music room; Combo equip. stage	More band equip. (Apr. 1975)
Tape Room	5 R/R decks, 3 cassette decks, 2 cartridge decks, turntable & tapes	More equip. and tapes



(con't)

Book Library	Paperbacks, periodicals & hardbacks	More facilities w/reading room (Apr. 1975)
Movie Theaters	Officers, Chiefs, PO1 and outdoor	Covered outdoor theater (Apr. 1975)
AFRTS	24-hour AM broadcasting	Closed-circuit TV; 18-hour FM broadcasting (Feb. 1976)
Film Library	None	Safety films; professional films to back up craft activities; movies for check-out (Feb. 1976)
Clubs	Officers, Chiefs, PO's and EM's	New air-conditioned facilities (Feb. 1976)
Bowling Alley	None	4 lane alley w/retail outlet (Apr. 1975)
Archery Range	4 targets with equip.	Improved facilities and equip.
Miniature Golf	18 hole	Expanded and improved (Feb. 1976)
<u>Gym/Gear Locker.</u> <u>Softball Field</u>	Dirt field & equip.	Two additional softball fields; one baseball field (Feb. 1976)
Basketball Court	Asphalt court & equip.	Indoor court in gym (Feb. 1976)
Handball/Paddleball Court	2 open-air, 4-wall courts & equip.	Enclosing and improving facilities
Tennis Courts	2 asphalt courts and equip.	Improve existing facilities
Volleyball Court	Several dirt courts & equip.	Indoor courts in gym (Feb. 1976)
Badminton Gear	Gear check-out	Indoor courts in gym (Feb. 1976)
Weight/Exercise Room	2 Universal gyms, bar and dumb-bells	Additional room and new equip. in gym (Feb. 1976)
<u>Water Sports.</u> <u>Sailing Locker</u>	13 sailboats and lessons	Small motorized fishing boats; canoes; row boats (Feb. 1976)
Fishing Barge & Gear Check-out	Trips when possible;	Increasing and updating equipment lots of gear
Swimming Area & Snorkeling Gear	Available at gear locker	Up-date equipment
Swimming Pool	None	Pool and related facilities (Feb. 1976)
Scuba Diving Club	Scuba club - no gear available; classes	No equip. - bring your own

# R&R

Rest and Relaxation periods in Thailand are available to personnel assigned to NCS and the battalion. Members of NCS are allowed two 6-day trips during the 12 month assignment while battalion personnel receive one 6-day respite during the eight-month deployment.

Thirty-seven seats are allocated to R&R passengers per week of which the battalion's share is 21 and NCS 16. R&R passengers fly in a 'Space Available' status. Participants are briefed prior to departure on numerous topics, including rules and regulations inherent to their visit to Thailand, tourism information, the exchange rate and searches to be conducted in both Thailand and Diego Garcia of persons and their belongings. Passengers depart every Sunday, usually aboard an Air Force C-141, and return the following Saturday. The plane lands at U-Tapao, Thailand after a flight of about five hours. All hands destined for Bangkok, at which most men take their R&R, are briefed by Island representatives in a conference room in one of the city's hotels. Men on R&R are allowed to travel throughout Thailand, but not to leave the country. The administration of R&R and leave differs between NCS and the on-site battalion and the policy affecting it is subject to revision.



## Climatological Summary

The island of Diego Garcia enjoys a typically tropical island climate with plenty of sunshine and balmy breezes and excellent visibility throughout the year. Its close proximity to the Equator prevents any serious threat of tropical cyclone activity. Temperatures are mild in comparison to continental temperatures at comparable latitudes as the trade winds keep an almost continual flow of air over the island. Maximum temperatures are 80 degrees to 88 degrees F. and minimums range from 75 to 78 degrees F. Recorded absolute maximum temperature is 93 degrees F. and absolute minimum is 72 degrees F. Some areas of the island where the foliage is thick and no breeze is possible have experienced temperatures to 117 degrees F. Rainfall occurs all year long in the form of showers with annual maximums occurring during the months of October and January when it generally averages better than 12" during the month. Prevailing winds are southeasterly 7 to 16 knots from April through December and Westerly 5 to 10 knots January through March. Squalls are occasionally experienced with gusts to 35 knots for brief periods. All in all, Diego Garcia has a beautiful climate.



Keep Diego Garcia Beautiful!

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