

**CDR Walter H. Kozacko USN \*1909-1996\* W1NS - K4NS** - Skipper (1944) of U.S. Navy Radio NPM Pearl Harbor, T.H. The original Naval Radio Station was the first government station in the islands, which began operations on 1 Oct 1906 which was deactivated in 1916. An appropriations act in 1915 authorized \$400 thousand for construction of a high powered, long distance radio station at Pearl. In 1916, this new station (NPM) began operations at Hospital Point, Pearl. At 0230 on the morning of 20 Sept 1916, Capt Clark, the first commandant of the 14<sup>th</sup> Naval District, sent the following Msg, from NPM to the Naval radio Station, Long Beach, Calif. "Secretary of the Navy, WashDC. I have the honor to send you the first through message to WashDc., from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Radio Station, and can report satisfactory progress of the plant. George R. Clark Sends."



A congratulatory message from the Secretary of the Navy arrived 33 minutes later. During the years following WW1, the naval activities in the Pearl Harbor area continued to expand. It soon became obvious that the future expansion of the radio station facilities in the area would not be practical.

In 1933, a tract of land at Lualualei was set aside by the territory of Hawaii for use by the U.S. Navy. Seven self supporting steel towers were erected to a height of 610 feet at the new site for an antenna system for long wave radio transmitting. The site was officially activated in 1936 and by 1941 twelve transmitters were in operation. This group of stations would be CDR Kozacko's assignment.



Towards WW2 it became clear with the Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor a new receiver and control station was needed. A secluded spot at Wahiawa, some 20 miles north of Pearl, was chosen and purchased by the Navy for approximately one million dollars. Construction began on the 697.2 acres of land in 1940 and was scheduled to be completed in 1942. During that time, the station at Wahiawa was considered the most important of a number of Naval Radio and Air Stations being constructed as a part of a general expansion program. Our radio amateur CDR Kozacko USN was skipper during the formative War years. By chance I found Walt's QSL card going through K8CX collection in 2009 just before Thanksgiving.

Walt's enjoyment of CW on twenty and fifteen meters was noted and eventually after retirement Walt became K4NS in the period of the 80's located in Cape Coral, Fla., the last known residence where CDR Kozacko expired. Continued on page two.

December Seventh 1941, a few minutes before 0800, several squadrons of Japanese aircraft passed over the Lualualei Transmitter Site on their way to bomb Pearl Harbor. As the planes passed over the major Naval Radio Stations were strafed, but the casualties among the communications personnel were light. The radio stations themselves proved highly vulnerable to attack. Lualualei was located only 4 thousand yards from the shoreline and received its power over exposed land lines from the Hawaiian Electric Co., 22 miles away. Another site at Wailupe, also along the seacoast, was deemed unprotectable. The morning of 10 December the decision was made to have all of the equipment at Wailupe moved to the new site at Wahiawa.

This new receiving area was considered as having the best receiving area and best protected radio station on the island. Men worked day and night to transfer operations to Wahiawa and on 17 December 1941, the relocation was completed without the slightest interruption in communications service. This location became known as the Naval Radio Station, Wahiawa. To improve naval communications in the Pacific area, a Communications Security Unit (COMSEC) was established at Wahiawa in 1942 under management and control of the CNO. Their purpose was to assist in program of cryptographic security, message traffic control and message traffic analysis.

It became apparent after the war that the naval communication facilities in Hawaii could never revert to their small pre-war status, but would have to continue in the role of "big business." This means many consolidations and changes right up to 1997 when command renamed to NCTAMPAC. To us Navy Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific. The combined communication facilities comprise of 2,421 acres which is the worlds largest communications station. Reading also that my old outfit U.S.C.G. NMO is housed here too. W8SU 2009



Pictured the SHF Satellite facility at Wahiawa, on the Island of Oahu.

I have a feeling Walter (W1NS-K4NS) knows all about the changes and their mission accomplishments! Walt, ZUT!

Formed from material  
nctampac.navy.mil - QSL card from  
the K8CX collection.