

LARRY COCHRUN

USCGC KUKUI (WAK-186)

Larry served on board KUKUI from about June of 1967 to June of 1968. The KUKUI supplied and had construction projects at LORAN stations throughout the western Pacific but never transited or worked in South Vietnamese waters while Larry was aboard.

The closest the KUKUI came to the Vietnam theatre while Larry was assigned was in picking up cargo in Honolulu to be delivered to South Vietnam with Subic Bay, Philippines as a stop on the way.

Just before arriving in Subic Bay, KUKUI received a message from Coast Guard Headquarters to simply drop off the cargo there as the Navy was going to use a vessel more equipped for warfare to make the final delivery to Vietnam.

The crew was disappointed at not being able to finish the delivery themselves.

January 25, 2019 – Larry Cochrun E-mail to Bill Carr

We did a lot of construction on some of the LORAN stations in the Philippines and visited a couple of others. The basic project outline was to increase the refrigeration capacity and add additional fuel storage. That reduced the number of resupply trips by USCG vessels. I really do not recall the formal names of the stations. One was near Catanduanes, Philippines and another was way up north near Bosco.

A lot of my people (DCs and engineers) worked ashore, but I normally stayed aboard the ship..

At Catanduanes there was a landing beach at the nearest town. We wanted to land our equipment and material in the nearest town and take it to the station by road. We observed that the tallest structure near the beach was the local Catholic church.

I was "nominated" to go to the church and seek permission to install a light high on the church to aid our navigation. So, I went ashore to see the parish priest with a couple of Tagalog speakers (stewards from the KUKUI. The priest also spoke Spanish, but my command of that language at the time was poor, except some swear words.

We met the priest and obtained his permission. He gave me some brochures that were in Spanish about the history of the Catholic church in the Philippines.

One of the stewards whispered, "Give him a donation!" I was lucky to have some local currency in my work clothes. That finally "sealed the deal."

I also met the police chief in Bosco and bought him a drink. I was on a USCG Public Relations mission! Ha! Ha!

January 23, 2019 – Larry Cochrun E-mail to Bill Carr

Ralph Anderson was CO of the LOARAN station at French Frigate Shoals. I do not recall, that it was named Marcus Islan. Heck, as a "snipe, I never looked at a chart. We went there on the KUKUI to re-guy the tower. I worked ashore so I did visit with him a bit. The next time I saw him was in Alameda in 1996 at Roger Rfe's change of command as District Commander.

Darvy Cohan's ship tied up at Sand Island in Honolulu. I did see him a few times. I used to go over to the small "Officer's Lounge" on base for a beer and that's where I saw him the first time.

Golden Journeys Booklet - 2015

My short career in the Coast Guard included the USCGC KUKUI (WAK-186) as damage control assistant and assistant engineering officer.

Dear CDR & Mrs. Hest,

I hope this finds you all well. I'll be with my family during the holidays because they are coming to Hawaii for two weeks. I'm looking forward to seeing them again.

I've only made one trip to French Frigate Shoals in the five months I've been aboard KUAUI. As well as being DCA, I also have all auxiliary machinery which includes construction equipment. This is new to me and quite different than an icebreaker.

We are leaving on a four or five month "Uls Pau" in early February. Most of our work will take place in the Philippines. We are scheduled to take cargo to Con Son (is the war zone) but it is not final. I'll probably be in charge of the construction work at one of the Philippine stations.

Approximately one-third of the engineers in '65 have to be transferred ashore, so I anticipate going to MIO or ENE early next fiscal year.

My big hope is being picked for P.G. training in Nav. Eng.

Well, best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely,
James P. Hest -



Cockrum 68

United States Coast Guard

21 Dec 1968

Dear Capt. High,

I want to thank you for your concern about my being passed over. You were correct on how it happened. I couldn't get along with Capt. K.L. Moser, C.O. of the Kukui, and I received marginal fitness reports. I had no idea I would or really could be passed over until it happened.

I haven't given up on the Coast Guard, I would really like to stay with it. I have been applying to colleges for acceptance for an electrical engineering degree, though. I'm going to see what Merchant Marine Inspection is all about before I decide. I will definitely not resign my commission prior to the next board meeting.

Best wishes for the holidays and the future.

Sincerely,

Larry A. Cochran