

# The COMMUNICATOR



December 1, 1970

MONTHLY PUBLICATION

## HELLO FROM THE CHIEF

It is gratifying to say "Hello" to all of you through our own Communicator. There have been many requests from communications personnel for a Communications Newsletter. Here it is - it's for all stations, all personnel! In order to succeed we need contributions. Don't worry about typing or form in your letters. Earl Inks will do all the work. You supply the news.

This has been an eventful year for the division. Our modernization program is making many changes, all for the better. Truk and Ponape are now on line with good teletype and voice circuits. Majuro will be completed by the end of December, Yap by the end of February, and Koror in another year. Along with circuit improvements, we have much better working conditions in the new stations.

I am proud of all of you for the manner in which you have kept our system going during the past few years of added demands and substantial traffic increases. Working under adverse conditions and with marginal equipment has meant added work for all. The new stations will mean better days for everyone.

The response to our training program has been very good. An important, and I am sure interesting, part of this program has been on-the-job training courses in Saipan, Hawaii and the United States. This training will continue and we are budgeting accordingly.

Our next issue is not due until January so I will take this opportunity to wish you and your families a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

## A MEMORABLE TRIP by Greg Sablan

The last issue of the Highlights carried a brief article on the successful completion of the course on Airport Advisory Service Procedures at the FAA Flight Service Station in Lihue, Hawaii by four of our communicators. Herewith is Greg Sablan's Official Report.

On the morning of October 3rd we boarded the Air Micronesia's proud bird bound for Honolulu. The trip was long and tired us most nearly to the point of exhaustion, but in spite of the thought of the monotonous flight to come, the anticipation of our visit to the island of paradise was considerably worth the hardships we were to encounter. Needless to say that the beautiful stewardess brought another consolation to this eventful trip.

Upon arrival in Honolulu at 1:AM, there was a slight confusion as to which hotel we are supposed to go to, as I was informed after getting off the aircraft that there was some changes made in our hotel accommodation and we are to wait until we get a confirmation from the people making the arrangements. It was about an hour later when we finally received word that we are to proceed to the Ala Moana hotel, which is approximately 10 miles away. Too exhausted to complain, I hailed one of the taxicabs and we got rolling. After checking in at the hotel, another surprise awaiting us was to find we had been assigned to one of the rooms in the EIGHTEENTH floor and we thought that was too high for comfort. But I managed enough energy and forced myself to the elevator's door.

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After finding the room I was assigned to, first thing I had in mind was to wash up and hit the sack and that was precisely what I did. But then, just as I was coming out of the shower room, I heard the telephone ringing, and that got me to wonder as to who in God's name will be calling for me here at this hour. A little fresher, I picked up the telephone and tried to be extra courteous, but I must have overdone it, 'cause I could hear my party on the line telling me to knock off the formalities and to get my cotton picking feet down to the lobby so we could go and paint the town.

With the excitement of getting to see downtown Waikiki, and those Hula girls, that alone made a new man and fully charged out of me. Yes sir, we did paint the town alright, as a matter of fact we even had breakfast BEFORE hitting the sack. There was indeed quite a sight to see.

Upon arrival in Kauai, we were met by Mr. Joseph Soares, the Facility Chief who at the same time, managed to introduce us to the personnel on watch at the Flight Service Station, then took us to the famous Tip Top Motel where we got checked in for the remainder of our stay in Lihue, Kauai. Being dark when we arrived at Kauai, all those tall "bushes" growing along the side of the road was another surprise to us the following morning when we went to the airport. The bushes turned out to be sugar cane, like Wow, I've never seen so much sugar cane in my life, it was just fantastic.

After checking in at the Flight Service Station at the airport we were again introduced to the staff who was on watch and a little briefing on our schedules as well as our

forthcoming training. Thereafter we were put to work.

I was never so shaken in my life, 'til that second day in the station, when the senior man had come up with a sudden stomach ache and told me to take the call from the Honolulu center about an inbound flight. I answered the call but the guy was speaking so fast I can't even make out what he was trying to tell me. The senior man must have read the expression on my face, 'cause in spite of the stomach ache he was laughing his head off. I immediately called back the Honolulu center and told the gent what I think of him and to take it easy for awhile and we were in the process of arguing when a moment later the chief of the station came running in and took the microphone away from me and told me that we're being taped and have to be careful of what we said.

With determination to find out who was the gent I had been talking to on the circuit, I went to the trouble of making arrangements to visit the center in Honolulu when we got back there.

Upon our return to Honolulu we did manage to get to the center and much to my regret met the gent I dealt with when I was in Kauai, 'cause he was 6 feet 5 inches and weighed about 250 pounds. Oh boy he was big! I learned one thing for sure and that's never argue with the other end of the line 'cause you never know what you are tangling with!

We managed to leave Honolulu safe and sound, but it was quite an experience to talk about for a long time to come.

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Editor's note

A WORD TO THE WISE IS SUFFICIENT.



## INCOMING & OUTGOING - by "Sal"

In this column, we'll try to keep you informed on some of the communications personnel "happenings." Hopefully, reports from the Districts will need the space in succeeding issues and will keep this "correspondent" from over-elaboration on headquarters-types. But for now, herewith recent personnel movements in headquarters.

Tomasa Camacho: Welcome Tommy! The most recent addition to our staff at the Headquarters Message Center comes direct from the Capitol Hill Snack Bar. Tommy was manager of the Snack Bar for the past six years. Our new Switchboard & Teletype operator was born in Angaur, Palau, raised in Yap and Saipan, and is married to Luis Camacho, the Print Shop honcho.

Luisa Kapileo: For the past year-and-a-half the bright spot in the Ops and Engineering office, Clerk-Secty, Receptionist, Assistant Engineering Operator, Lou resigned to take care of home affairs. We're sorry to see you leave us, Lou, we sure will miss you!

Margarita Demapan: Margie recently returned from extended leave on Guam where her 8-year old daughter is a MedRef at the Naval Hospital. Margie is back on duty now as our ichi ban Switchboard/Teletype operator and we join her in looking forward to when her daughter will be back in top shape.

In the technical side -  
Henry F. Saiske recently joined the maintenance section as an Electronics Technician Trainee. Henry is a graduate of the Guam Trade and Technical School and was selected as Electronics Tradesman of the Year in 1969. Originally from Palau, he completed Elementary, Intermediate, and High School in that District before taking up Electronics, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration in Guam. A very welcome addition to our professional crew of Technicians.

QUERY: Is there a shortage of available workers in Saipan? There are presently six vacancies in the Communications Division at headquarters. Any one interested in working with this division should be advised to contact any Branch or Section chief, or, telephone or visit Mr. Salazar at the headquarters communications office, phone #946.

The office of the Chief is looking for a Secretary - or Secretary Trainee. The pay grade available is B-4 to B-7 depending on experience and qualifications. Some of the qualifications we are looking for are: Adaptability to use of technical forms and terminology; good looks; willingness to learn; good looks; ability to deal with the public including Department Directors, Business Executives and other VIP's; good looks; some typing and filing experience would also be helpful.

If you eliminate the requirement for "good looks," the Ops & Engineering office also has an opening for a good Secretary or Clerk Typist.

KUP71, the Kagman Control Station, has openings for two operators - or - Operations Specialists. Some typing experience (20 wpm) would be helpful to any applicants for the TRAINEE grade which starts at B-5, but willingness to learn a challenging trade is the prime prerequisite. If you know any likely candidates residing in Saipan... Send 'em in!

The Headquarters Message Center is looking for two (2) more Switchboard/Teletype Operators or Trainees. These positions combine the operator duties of radio-teletypewriter-PBX Switchboard and are located in the "nerve-center" of the Trust Territory Administration, handling official messages and overseas phone calls to and from all departments.

...and that's "all clear" for this month.



## CERTIFICATION PROGRAM REPORT

By Homer L. Willess

The Communications Basic Certification program is progressing very well. 32 of the 65 Micronesian Radio Operators have completed all five phases of academic training, and practical training required for basic certification. Their certificates are being processed, and will be presented as soon as possible.

All operators at Ponape have qualified in all respects. Their certificates will be presented as part of the new station dedication ceremonies, tentatively scheduled to occur Saturday November 28. Our records indicate 5 of the 17 operators on the Kagman Relay/Control Station rolls are qualified to receive their certificates; of 10 at Majuro, 6 are qualified; all 9 at Palau are qualified; of 10 at Yap 2 are qualified.

This information is based on reports received from district stations as of November 17. Prompt reports will result in up-to-date information on your progress, so be sure your training report accompanies your monthly activity report.

Truk moved operations back to the renovated receiver/control building on September 13. New equipment - including more powerful transmitters, more sensitive receivers, combined frequency and space diversity reception using engineered directional hi-gain antennas - has enabled us to improve serviceability between Truk and Kagman from its previous approximate 50% to more than 98%; all this in the transition period, during which the many little problems associated with new commissioning have raised their ugly heads and promptly been decapitated. Truk may think they felt the biggest relief of all units, but I hasten to assure them that Kagman was just as much relieved as Truk was.

Ponape moved operations to the new station, in the former Page Communications site, Thursday November 5. As of this time they are still finding and killing "bugs" of the same kind Truk had.

Ponapes move to new quarters and putting new equipment in operation has improved communications about the same as we experienced when Truk moved. We are all anxiously awaiting for the other districts to join Truk and Ponape to complete the new communications system. When this is done, we will start adjusting our operating practices and procedures to make work easier for everyone.

We were able to send only four communications specialists to observe FAA operations at Lihue, Kauai Flight Service Station (FSS). FAA is converting the facility from an FSS to a Combined Station/Tower, but we did not know that in time to get more observers there. Lihue was the last pure FSS that FAA had in operation in the Pacific. Future observers will be sent to Guam, or Wake International Flight Service Stations (IFSS), when we are able to arrange more trips for that purpose. The four who went to Kauai, Kagman Assistant Station Chief Greg Saolan, RWO Gideon Omengebar, Kobler Supervisor Tobias Aguon, and Kobler Operator Felix Cepeda, all report good experiences on their trip to Kauai.

The following operators have met all qualification requirements for a basic Communications Operations Specialist Certificate:

### PALAU

Saburo Antonino  
Pedro Joseph  
Barnarda Kitalong  
Kuterbis Kutermalei  
Felix Kumaichi  
Gibens Ngirasmau  
Osiyar Spis  
Hirosak Telmetang  
Koichi West

### PONAPE

Walter Aldens  
Charlie Charley  
Lorenzo Ernest  
Kohlen Frederick  
Magoto Kishigawa  
Angkel Kusto  
Oshiro Masters  
Anes Septy  
Bernard Tipen  
Heinrich Weilbacher

### MARSHALLS

Lowa Joap  
Aluke Lakabung  
Aji Lanninbelik  
Wilson Mataili  
Albos Matauto  
Lesley Talley

### MARIANAS

Francisco Alfonso  
Tobias Aguon  
Felix Cepeda  
Gideon Omengebar  
Gregorio Sablan

### YAP

Javier Kubney  
Raphael Yoror



**KAGMAN REPERFORATORS  
ARE RUNNING AGAIN**

by Clyde Benge

As installation of the new rapid communication system progresses and new circuits are commissioned it becomes obvious that the impact on operations when the entire system is completed will be all pervasive. Even now, since Truk, and more recently Ponape, have entered the new system, operators at Kagman are beginning to look a little less frustrated, as no doubt the operators at Truk and Ponape are also. Pushing traffic through static over long distance radioteletype nets has almost become a way of life to operators at the relay station and district communication centers. QJH1, QSM, ZDK, INT QRK and QRK 0/0, not to mention QRM and QRN, are operating signals that have become almost permanent words in the vocabulary of operators striving to exchange message traffic over weak-contact circuits. The use of these signals may be rapidly coming to an end. If the circuit operation between Truk and Saipan is a portent of coming events, such words as "traffic backlogged," "unreadable," "ur off the air" (as well as a few others prohibited by Trust Territory and FCC regulations) should soon fall into antiquity. Message traffic is being exchanged in strings between the Saipan and Truk Stations now and necessity for the use of QSL (acknowledge receipt) for each message no longer exists. A simple channel check periodically establishes confirmation that all is well and no messages are missing. There are indications, however, that with the new era of "solid copy," there will also be a substantial increase in traffic volume. In fact, the traffic increase is running somewhat ahead of installation progress and the relay control station is still frequently backlogged during outage periods with those stations where the new equipment has not yet been turned on. And of course, as more solid copy comes into being, more rapid tape transfers can only be accomplished by the requirement for more Perfect format, including machine



Station Chief Clyde Benge;  
ARWO J. Villagomez & Oper. J. Muna  
Hard at work in the Kagman Relay  
and Control Station, Saipan

function signals for introduction into automatic tape relay equipments. These requirements will eventually reflect all the way back to message origination points within the districts of the Trust Territory if traffic is to be relayed from those points through the system to destination without having to re-cut tapes along the way. As an example of that, the reperforators at Kagman for Truk and Ponape have been turned on again due to those stations now being almost perfect copy. Tapes from Palau, Yap and Majuro still have to be re-cut in Saipan and our old Model 19 tapecutter continues at heavy duty. So the reperforators for those stations are turned off most of the time. Soon Majuro is to join the "solid copy" rapid communication service, at which time Kagman Control will be delighted to turn their reperforator on too. And then, as soon as Palau and Yap join in to the new -ystem, all of the reperforators will run again and old Model 19 can be retired to light duty. With the new era of rapid communication soon to come, airplanes will no longer arrive at their destinations before aeronautical messages announcing such planned arrivals. Circuits adjustments can be, even now, quickly completed by quick person-to-person pushbutton radiotelephone contacts between technicians and operators at Guam, Saipan, Ponape and Truk. Although automatic tape relay is not yet

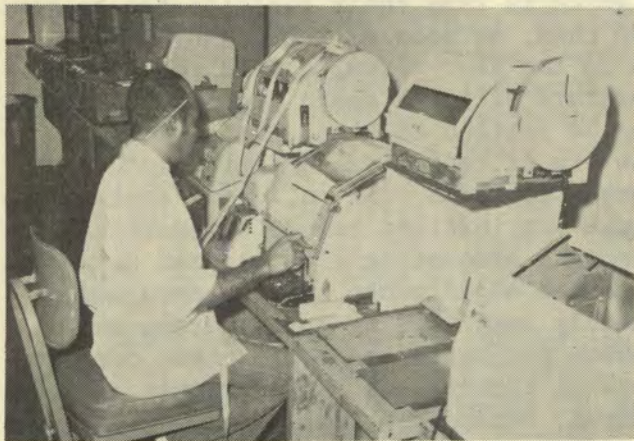
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## REPERFORATORS ARE RUNNING (continued)

a fact within the Trust Territory, the only delay for a large portion of our traffic in torn tape procedure consists of the time it takes to tear a tape off at an incoming position, taking two or three steps to re-insert the tape at an appropriate outgoing position and sending it on its way into the automatic tape relays outside the Territory or to its destination inside. With the completion of the new system, supervisors at Kagman where approximately 700 messages a day are sent and 600 received at this time, anticipate that 3,000 sent and 2,500 received could be handled just as easily. Here, however, is where the impact of rapid communications services will be felt the most by communications operations personnel throughout the network. The requirement for perfect message format for tape relay will stress the need for upgraded training all along the line. Upgraded training will emphasize the requirement for certification of operations specialists in additional skills not covered in the current basic certification series. These added skill requirements will mean more work for all concerned, but the end result of the new system, when completed, will be that everyone will be moving more traffic, with less effort.

And that's the way it looks from the Kagman Relay Control station. Here's to more solid copy!



FWO M. Torwal at Kagman Relay giving the old Model 19 a workout.



Inaugurating a new era in telephone communications in the Trust Territory communication system in Truk.

Left to right, Truk District Administrator Juan Sablan, Senator Andon Amaraich, Vice-Speaker Frank Nifon Truk District Legislator, Congressman Raymond Setik and Senator Tosiwo Nakayama

### TRUK OPENS A NEW ERA IN COMMUNICATION

"Hello Mr. High Commissioner ....." With these words, Juan Sablan, District Administrator for Truk, opened a new era in Trust Territory Communications. Mr. Sablan's conversation with High Commissioner Johnston marked the Official Inauguration of the first operational communication station in the new Trust Territory Communication System, and ended the first phase of construction and installation at Truk. Through the long and untiring efforts of FAA Design and Installation crews, private contractors and Trust Territory communications personnel, complete remodeling of existing buildings and the addition of new and highly sophisticated ISB radio equipment has been accomplished. Soon to follow will be an automatic telephone system and completion of the Commercial Overseas Service. Several commercial telephone calls have transpired between Truk, Saipan and Guam and will soon go to the United States. All who have had

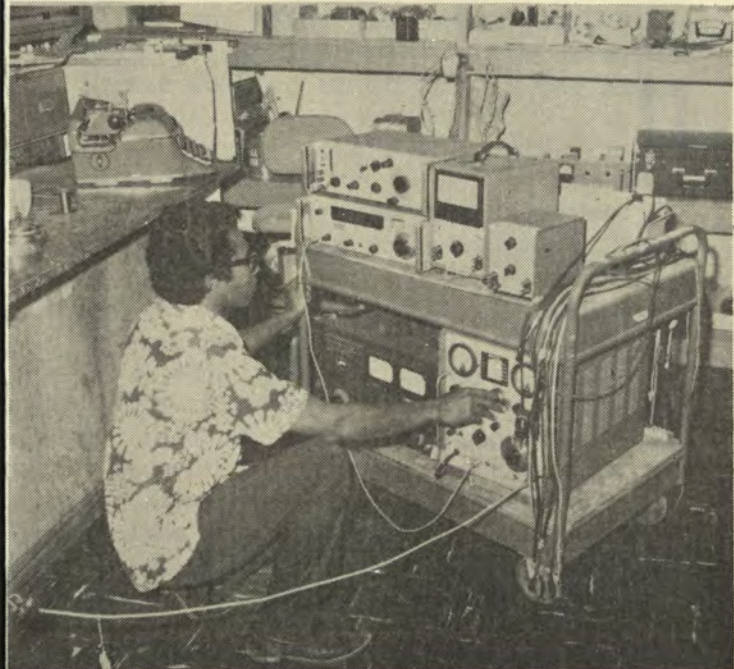
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the occasion to use the new system since inception, have high praise for the quality and reliability, a real "plus" from the "bad days."



Mr. Miguel Sablan of EMD Kagman Relay/Control Station, tuning the receivers



Mr. Benjamin Misech of EMD Kagman checking out testing equipment

As the first edition of "The Communicator" goes to press, we find we are lacking news from some of the districts. The response from Saipan and Truk was gratifying. We realize the other districts did not get the notification until a late date. We will assume, for this month, that this is the reason we didn't hear from you.

We want "The Communicator" to succeed as an interesting and newsworthy monthly publication. This can only be achieved with the help of all districts. This is your newspaper, so pitch in and let's get in some news from each station for our next edition. The more items the better and black and white pictures with a brief explanation are desirable. Don't forget the deadline is the 15th of each month. Introduce your personnel to everyone by word and snapshot. Let us know what is going on at your station, and don't neglect the humorous side - we can all use a good chuckle.

I wish to thank those who contributed to the first edition on such short notice and a special thanks to Mr. Salazar, without his help we would not have been able to go to press on time.

Have a Merry Christmas and see you in 1971.

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 Chief, Communications Div.  
 John E. Welch  
 Editor, Earl N. Inks



*And a  
Merry Christmas*

*to all*