

KWAJALEIN, MARSHALL ISLANDS - APO AP 96555

In "A Postal History/Cancellation Study of the U.S. Pacific Islands" Bob Murphy lists cancellations and All Purpose Date Stamps used at Kwajalein Post Office up to 1980. Addenda No. 1 further extends dates of use of some of these devices. Two further extensions are shown below.

Murphy Figure 1.7 extend to April 11 1984  
 Murphy Figure 1.12 extend to April 24 1984

According to Murphy in 1980 and my correspondence with a civilian worker on Kwajalein in late 1983 the Post Office was administered by Global Associates - a civilian contractor hired by the Department of Defence to provide utilities and other services for the base. The post office was operated as a branch of the Honolulu Hawaii Post Office and this status was reflected in wording of cancellations and APDS used. However mail was carried to and from the island by military transport under the instructions of the Military Postal services.

On May 2 1984 the Marshall Islands achieved postal independence and probably as a result the Kwajalein Post Office came under the control of the Army Postal Service. Datestamps and APDS were changed to reflect the new status. In 1991 Bernd Neuhaus received letters from the Postmaster and later a clerk at Kwajalein Post Office. The Postmaster signed herself "Betty Ann McCombe, SSG USA Postmaster" and the clerk "Specialist Eleece Pilarczyk SPC, USA, Postal Clerk". This suggests that in 1991 the Post Office was staffed by military personnel. This change may well have taken place on May 2 1984. Two different 4 Bar cancellations have been seen dated 2 May 1984, neither includes the APO number and can only be identified as Kwajalein from the printed return address on the envelopes. Illustration 2/4 has the "E" of SERVICE slightly below the third bar while illustration 2/5 has the "E" of SERVICE level with the fourth bar. Illustration 2/6 appears to be 2/4 with 96555 fitted below the date. These "ARMY POSTAL SERVICE" 4 bar cancellations are probably "relief" cancellations which can quickly be adapted for use at any APO by inserting the APO number below the date.

Illustration Number	Period Seen
2/4	May 2 1984 to ?
2/5	May 2 1984 to ?
2/6	August 16 1984 to December 18 1984
2/7	July 3 1984 to ?
(Murphy Figure 1.7 with APO No. added above the date)	
2/8	August 11 1984 to April 21 1988
2/9	February 27 1987 to ?
2/10	January 20 1988 to April 21 1988
(Possibly 2/4 distorted by use ?)	
2/11	30 August 1984 to 17 May 1991

In addition to 2/11 eight further very similar APDS are used at Kwajalein Post Office. Correspondence between Bernd Neuhaus and Post Office staff confirms that there are 6 APDS with the figures 1 to 6 following the APO number and one with the word "PARENT" similarly placed. Additionally a device exists with the word "COPE" following the APO number. This is believed to be the initials of Custodian of Postal Effects. The correspondence indicates that these APDS are used to identify the individual finance clerks (Counter Clerks!) "processing the piece of mail for postage". The writer goes on to say that possibly in a larger Post Office "PARENT" would identify the Head Clerk or Supervisor but that Kwajalein is a small facility with the clerks identified by "PARENT" and 1 thru 6 APDS. (No reports have been received of "5" being seen)

