

# Hearability Test

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R390A



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Some Air Force assignments were better than others. I was fortunate to have all good ones, both permanent and temporary duty (TDY) ones.

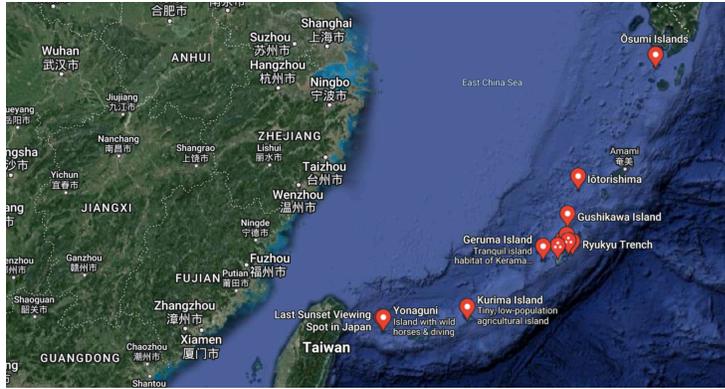
On my second tour at Onna Point in Okinawa, I was lucky to be selected for a special assignment which was to see what location could hear an elusive target that had been assigned to various units with no luck recovering that target.

A team was formed that consisted of an NCOIC, 4 operators, 2 maintenance men, a guard, a local cook, and a multi-service transportation and support team.

We were given a civilian clothing allowance, and the NCOIC took us to the Kadena Base Exchange. He told us to get two pairs of blue jeans, which we cut off to shorts, some plain T-shirts, tennis shoes, and underwear. The local cook made us sandals from old tire treads as we would be walking over some rough terrain.

Then we were off for southern Japan and a number of islands between Kyushu and Taiwan, the Ryukyu islands. The support team set us up on the islands, landing by amphibious vehicles – landing craft. We were successful in completing the task on the first or second try.

The NCOIC convinced higher headquarters that we should continue the test for a bit longer. We only worked a few hours a day and spent the rest of the time snorkeling and swimming and getting bronze tans. It was more like a vacation than work. Most of the islands were uninhabited.



## Ryukyu Islands

When we got to a populated island, Shima, the local cook, went into town for fresh fruit and vegetables. He returned with the supplies, including some local beverages and four fine young local ladies. What happened next is a closely guarded secret.

The whole operation was “off the books,” and only the successful completion of the assigned task was known outside of our little group. The side benefits were our own guarded memories.

Next up was back to work, where the elusive target was assigned and we reaped the results of our labor.

