

WELCOME TO

KAGNEW
STATION

asmara

ethiopia



It is a sincere pleasure for me to welcome you to Kagnew Station. I hope your visit is an interesting and educational one.

This folder should provide you with much information, but should you have questions, feel free to ask your tour escort.

Should I not have the pleasure of meeting you in person, I extend my best regards.

KEENE N. WILSON
Colonel, US Army
Post Commander

WHAT IS KAGNEW STATION?

Kagnew Station is a major station in the global communications network maintained by the United States to provide rapid and effective communications for all departments of the United States Government. Rapid communications are universally recognized to be essential to the maintenance of peace, as is illustrated by the cooperation of the United States and the Soviet Union in establishing the "hot line" between Moscow and Washington in 1963.

The United States Government operates many communications stations in various parts of the world in order to permit it to participate more effectively in the search for a more assured means of preserving world peace. Some U.S. communications stations are operated by civilian agencies, while Kagnew Station is operated primarily by U.S. Army and Navy personnel. Although a military installation, Kagnew Station has no heavy weapons, no tanks, no combat aircraft, no organized combat units.

The mission of Kagnew Station is to provide U.S. communications within Africa and the Middle East and for linkage of this area to world-wide U.S. communications. Its location at Asmara is technologically advantageous because of the altitude of the Ethiopian highland plateau (2400 meters) and its proximity to the relatively interference-free equatorial belt.

The legal basis for Kagnew Station's existence in Ethiopia is a fully public agreement which was signed and entered into force on May 22, 1953. This agreement reflects the mutual interest of Ethiopia and the United States in the cause of world peace and their recognition of the important part which communications play in preserving peace.

THE HISTORY AND THE BACKGROUND

In 1942, following the defeat by Ethiopian and British forces of the Italian troops occupying Ethiopia, the first American communications facility was established at Asmara as part of the allied Ethiopian-American-British war effort against the Axis. The name Kagnew was deliberately chosen by the American Government to honor Ethiopia's distinguished military tradition in defense of its freedom. In 1896 'Kagnew' was the name of the charger of one of the leading Ethiopian commanders; galloping riderless toward the invading Italians, 'Kagnew' helped inspire the Ethiopian forces to their decisive victory at Adua. Similarly, in 1935,

'Kagnew' was the name of an Ethiopian airplane which carried out many heroic attacks on invading Italian air and ground forces. This distinguished name was also given to the elite Ethiopian army unit which won many honors in the United Nations forces fighting against aggression in Korea.

The first installations at Kagnew Station in 1942 occupied two small tracts of land, one in the heart of Asmara, which had previously been the site of an Italian Navy radio station. After the reunion of Eritrea and Ethiopia in 1952, an agreement was negotiated between the United States and Ethiopia providing for the continuation and enlargement of this American-operated radio station.

PERTINENT INFORMATION ABOUT KAGNEW

At the present time Kagnew Station leases a total of about 1,400 hectares of land from the Ethiopian Government. Only about 200 hectares covered by buildings or parking areas are used exclusively by Kagnew Station. The remaining land is open to continued use for agricultural and grazing purposes by their Ethiopian owners since the radio antenna towers on this land occupy little space and obstruct normal use only slightly. The United States Government pays the Ethiopian Government, which in turn pays the owners, about Eth. \$300,000 annually for the rental of these two types of land it leases.

Currently, approximately 1,700 military personnel are assigned to Kagnew Station. These men are accompanied by about 1,600 women and children of their families. There are now more than 1,150 Asmara residents employed by Kagnew Station. In addition to the permanent staff of Kagnew described above, there are employed temporarily as often as needed hundreds of contract workers from the local community as well as some from the United States for specific construction projects. There are also about 600 Ethiopians working for American families from Kagnew Station.

The large staff of Kagnew Station is the result of the 24-hour-a-day requirements of modern communications. When it is mid-day in the United States, it is early evening in Europe, after nightfall in Asmara and just before dawn in much of Asia. Therefore, the world-wide communications system of which Kagnew is a part operates around the clock, requiring at least three employees for every single communications position. In addition many of the service facilities at Kagnew Station, such as the radio and television

station, food and beverage stores, recreation clubs and sports facilities must also operate unusually long hours. The requirements of administration and other service facilities absorb additional manpower.

In addition to its regular communication functions, Kagnew Station serves as a relay link with the White House in Washington for the President of the United States whenever he is flying over the eastern Atlantic Ocean, Europe or Africa. Kagnew Station also carries out from time to time certain research projects in the field of space communications. It has taken part in communications between the earth and American satellites deep in space, relaying communications back and forth.

KAGNEW IN THE COMMUNITY

Great emphasis is placed on maintaining the long standing friendship between residents of Asmara and Kagnew Station. Americans participate in many friendly contacts with the people of Asmara. Social and civic clubs at Kagnew are in touch with similar community organizations; there is frequent joint athletic competition; veterinary and medical personnel assist local officials in sanitation work and hospital consultation and assistance, and Americans work as volunteer helpers in orphanages and hospitals. Asmara residents are frequent guests of Kagnew on tours of the post, at parties, for special events and in celebrating American holidays. American volunteers teach in local schools and assist in maintaining schools in several villages.

In addition to personal contact, Kagnew contributes a considerable amount to the local economy. Each year about Eth. \$11 million is spent by the U.S. Government and individuals at Kagnew. Businessmen, contractors, farmers, wholesale food merchants, owners of homes rented by more than 430 American families living in Asmara, public utilities, air lines and local employees of the U.S. military installation are among the recipients.

Americans are encouraged to learn more about the history, society and customs of their host country. They are also encouraged to learn the language. To this end, regular tours of the country are conducted and classes presented.

* Visitors to Kagnew Station are welcome. Guided tours *
* for interested groups may be arranged by calling the *
* Information Office, telephone Asmara 10800, extension *
* 2198. *

ITINERARY

FACULTY MEMBERS OF THE IMPERIAL GROUND FORCES COMMAND

GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE

19 AUGUST 1965

1030: GROUP WILL BE MET AT ASMARA AIRPORT(MILITARY SIDE)

1030-1045: TRAVEL TO TRACT "B"

1045-1145: BRIEFING AND TOUR AT TRACT "B"

1145-1155: TRAVEL TO KAGNEW STATION OFFICERS' OPEN MESS

1155-1315: LUNCH AT KAGNEW STATION OFFICERS' OPEN MESS

1315-1320: TRAVEL TO ARMED FORCES RADIO AND TELEVISION STATION

1320-1400: BRIEFING AND TOUR AT ARMED FORCES RADIO AND TELEVISION STATION

1400-1415: TRAVEL TO STONEHOUSE

1415-1500: BRIEFING AND TOUR AT STONEHOUSE

1500: TRAVEL TO DOWNTOWN HOTEL