

Mission Atlas Project

Midway Islands

SnapShot

Country Name: Midway Islands

Country Founded In: 1867

Population: There are no indigenous inhabitants. As of July 2005, there were about 40 people staff members of the US Fish and Wildlife Service living there.

Government Type: the laws of the US, where applicable, apply

Geography: Located in Oceania. It is an atoll in the North Pacific Ocean located about one third of the way from Honolulu to Tokyo. The largest of the Midway Islands is Sand Island.

Number of People Groups: 0

Picture of Flag:



Religion Snapshot:

Government interaction with religion: the laws of the US, where applicable, apply

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/mq.html>

Basic Facts

Demographics:

There are no indigenous inhabitants. As of July 2005, there were about 40 people staff members of the US Fish and Wildlife Service living there.

Language:

English as in American English.

Society/ Culture:

There are no indigenous inhabitants. As of July 2005, there were about 40 people staff members of the US Fish and Wildlife Service living there. Before the islands were handed over by the navy, there were up to 2,000 people living there. Most people got

around the islands by bicycle. There was a bank, hospital, a school for grades 1-6, a school for grades 7-12, and a nursery and kindergarten.

In addition, there was a 6 lane bowling alley, softball diamonds, tennis courts, a gym, and a golf driving range. The island also had its own radio and television station.

There were Catholic and Protestant chaplains on the island and Jewish services were also held. As upkeep of the island facilities became more difficult, the civilian population and dependents were no longer allowed to live on the island, and the population of the island dropped to only a few hundred. Currently, there are only 40 people living there.

Government:

The laws of the US, where applicable apply.

Economy:

The economy of the Midway Islands is based on providing support services for the national wildlife activities that are located on the islands. All food and manufactured items are imported to the islands. There are no permanent crops and no arable land. The airfield is occasionally used by commercial airlines during emergencies for planes crossing the Pacific Ocean.

The Islands are managed by the national wildlife refuge and in the past has been open to the public for wildlife related activities, such as wildlife observation, snorkeling, photography, sport fishing, and SCUBA diving. It is currently temporarily closed.

Literacy:

Land/Geography:

The Midway Islands are located in Oceania. It is an atoll in the North Pacific Ocean located about one third of the way from Honolulu to Tokyo. The land is a total of 6.2 sq km and is about nine times the size of The Mall in Washington D.C. The Midway Islands are made up of Eastern Island, Sand Island, and Spit Island. The land is subtropical with prevailing easterly winds.

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/mq.html>

Brief History of the Midway Islands

The island was first officially discovered by Captain N.C Brooks on July 5, 1859. He initially named the islands, the “Middle Brooks Islands.” Although Brooks kept his discovery a secret, rumors of the islands made it back to the U.S. and shortly after, the government sent Captain William Reynolds to check out this new discovery. The islands were renamed “Sand” and “Eastern.” In 1867, the United States took formal possession of the Midways Islands; however, the islands remained uninhabited until 1903.

The first residents came with the laying of the trans-Pacific cable by the Commercial Pacific Cable Company. The undersea telegraph passed through the islands. In 1903, Teddy Roosevelt sent its first worldwide cable message. From 1935-1947, the islands were used as a refueling stop for flights crossing the Pacific Ocean. During this time, residents built a 45 room hotel, the Gooneyville Lodge, on Sand Island. Plants, topsoil, horses, cows, and poultry were imported. Grass was brought in from California and ironwood trees were brought from Australia. In 1941, Midway was officially commissioned as a Naval Air Station.

In 1942, the defeat of the Japanese fleet off Midway was one of the most important battles of World War II. During the fight for Midway, First Lieutenant George H. Cannon refused to leave his post and was killed as the US Marines defeated the Japanese. This defeat took away Japan's naval superiority and became a turning point for the allied forces. The islands served as a naval station until 1993.

On October 31, 1996, ordered by presidential executive order, the US Navy turned jurisdiction and control of the Midway Islands over to the Fish and Wildlife Service of the US Department of the Interior. From 1996-2001, the islands were open to the public, however, they are now temporarily closed. Since the islands closure, more than 5,000 visitors have visited the island mostly via cruise ships.

The islands are now being used to restore the population of Laysan ducks, or the "gooney birds." The islands are a good fit for the ducks, as there are no rats or other predators that would hinder the repopulation of the ducks. Midway is also home to endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals, green sea turtles, and spinner dolphins.

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/mq.html>
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2004/Oct/13/In/In24p.html>
<http://www.world66.com/australiaandpacific/midwayislands>
<http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/events/wwii-pac/midway/midway.htm>
<http://www.midwayisland.com/webeditorial.html>
<http://www.fws.gov/midway/refuge/visit.html>
<http://www.neseabirds.com/Midway/links.htm>

Christian History

Non-Christian Religions

During the naval occupation of the Island, Jewish services were held.

Atheism/ Non-religious

Christian cults and sects

During the naval occupation of the Island, there were Catholic chaplains on the island who held regular services.

Protestants/ Evangelicals/ Pentecostals

During the naval occupation of the Island, there were Protestant chaplains on the island who held regular services.

People Groups in the Midway Islands

There are no indigenous inhabitants. As of July 2005, there were about 40 people staff members of the US Fish and Wildlife Service living there.

Missiological Implications

1. Christians can only work under Ecotourism platforms and seek to minister to the US Fish and Wildlife Service persons who live on the islands
2. Christians could relate as Chaplin to the US Fish and Wildlife Service people living there

Pictures



Links

<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/print/mq.html>
<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2004/Oct/13/In/In24p.html>
<http://www.world66.com/australiaandpacific/midwayislands>
<http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/events/wwii-pac/midway/midway.htm>
<http://www.midwayisland.com/webeditorial.html>
<http://www.neseabirds.com/Midway/links.htm>
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<http://www.friendsofmidway.org/>
<http://www.oceanic-society.org/>
<http://midway.fws.gov/intro/default.htm> <http://www.fishdive.com/>