

Mission Atlas Project

Johnston Atoll

SnapShot

Country Name: Johnston Atoll

Country Founded In: annexed in 1858

Population: There are no indigenous inhabitants. In past years, there was an average of about 1,100 military and civilian contractor personnel living on the island. By September 2001, the US army Chemical Activity Pacific departed and the population decreased significantly. By May 2005, all US government personnel had abandoned the island.

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 the Marshall Islands. Johnston Atoll is made up of four islands located on a coral reef platform. It consists of two natural islands, Johnston Island and Sand Island, and two artificial islands formed from coral dredging, North Island, or *Akau*, and East Island, or *Hikina*.

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. In past years, there was an average of about 1,100 military and civilian contractor personnel living on the island. By September 2001, the US Army Chemical Activity Pacific departed and the population decreased significantly. By May 2005, all US government personnel had abandoned the island.

Language: English was the primary language spoken on the island.

Society/ Culture: There are no indigenous inhabitants.

Government:

The laws of the US, where applicable apply. It is an unincorporated territory of the United States and is administered from Honolulu by Pacific Air Forces, Hickam Air Force Base, and the Fish and Wildlife Department.

Economy:

The United States mined the guano deposits until the 1880's. Guano is a substance composed mostly of seafowl excrement and is generally used as a fertilizer. The deposits were depleted around 1890.

Literacy:

Land/Geography:

Johnston Atoll is located in Oceania. It is an atoll in the North Pacific Ocean located about one third of the way from Honolulu to the Marshall Islands. The land is a total of 2.63 sq km and is about 4.7 times the size of The Mall in Washington D.C. The climate is tropical, but generally dry. Johnston Atoll is made up of four islands located on a coral reef platform. It consists of two natural islands, Johnston Island and Sand Island, and two artificial islands formed from coral dredging, North Island, or Akau, and East Island, or Hikina.

Brief History of the Midway Islands

The first western discovery of the Island was by Captain Joseph Pierpoint in 1796. He discovered the island when his ship, the American brig Sally ran aground. The official discovery of Johnston atoll, however, was on December 10, 1807. It was discovered by Captain James Johnston and the crew of the HMS Cornwallis and was annexed by the United States and the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1858.

The United States mined the guano deposits until the 1880's. Guano is a substance composed mostly of seafowl excrement and is generally used as a fertilizer. In 1926, Johnston Atoll and the Sand Islands were designated wildlife refuges by President Calvin Coolidge and it was put under the control of the US Department of Agriculture.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt handed control over to the United States Navy and an air station was established. During their control of the islands, the Navy

established a seaplane base, an air strip, and refueling facilities. On February 14, 1941, it was designated as a Naval Defensive Sea Area and Airspace Reservation.

In 1948, control of the island was handed over to the United States Air Force. The Air Force used the island for high altitude nuclear tests in the 1950's and 1960's and then it was used as a storage and disposal site for chemical weapons until 2000. By 1964, dredge and fill operations increased the size of Johnston Atoll from 46 acres to 596 acres, and created *Akau* and *Hikina* Islands.

Also during this time, it was a site for the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System or JACADS and was a launch site for sounding rockets and rockets used for nuclear tests related to the Starfish Prime project. More than four million pounds of chemical weapons are believed to have been destroyed on the island since 1990. Munitions destruction, cleanup, and closure of Johnston Atoll were completed by May of 2005.

In past years, there was an average of about 1,100 military and civilian contractor personnel living on the island. By September 2001, the US Army Chemical Activity Pacific departed and the population decreased significantly. By May 2005, all US government personnel had abandoned the island.

<http://www.guano.com/>

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

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johnston_Atoll

<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0113954.html>

http://www.pacificislandtravel.com/micronesia/about_destin/marshall_johnston

http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/facility/johnston_atoll.htm

Christian History

Non-Christian Religions

Atheism/ Non-religious

Christian cults and sects

Protestants/ Evangelicals/ Pentecostals

People Groups in the Midway Islands

There are no indigenous inhabitants. In past years, there was an average of about 1,100 military and civilian contractor personnel living on the island. By September 2001, the US army Chemical Activity Pacific departed and the population decreased significantly. By May 2005, all US government personnel had abandoned the island.

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelicals should remain concerned about the people who may work on these islands. No matter how few, they should be served as best possible.
2. Evangelicals should remain concerned about the chemical and other weapons that might be stored or destroyed from the standpoint of danger to the environment or population of the world.

Links

<http://www.guano.com>

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