

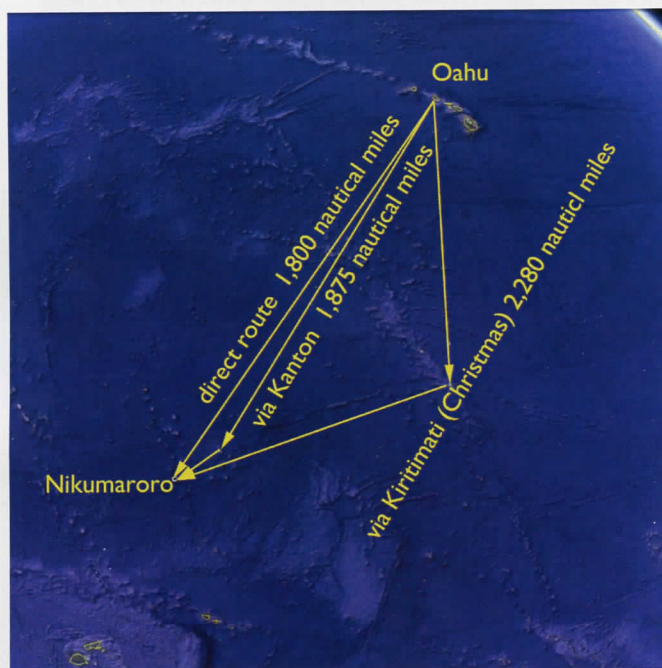
EXPEDITION LEADER RIC GILLESPIE'S PERSONAL JOURNAL (EXCERPTS).

Wednesday, June 27

Arrived in Honolulu and came directly to the ship. Tukabu's (Tukabu Teroroko, Director of PIPA) original plan to have a Customs representative from Christmas Island join us in Honolulu has been defeated by the fact that the weekly airline service between Christmas and Honolulu is on Tuesdays and we are scheduled to depart on Monday. The new plan is to have us make a 75 mile diversion to Kanton Island and pick up a Customs representative there. The diversion each way would cost us at least a day of search time.

Thursday, June 28

In Tarawa, Tukabu has learned that his plan to have us pick up a Customs officer at Kanton is not going to work. The Comptroller of Customs informs him that they don't actually have a Customs officer on Kanton. Clearance duties have been outsourced to the policeman on Kanton but he is not authorized to handle Survey & Salvage. Tukabu's new plan is to have us divert to Christmas Island – 480 nautical miles out of our way – to pick up a Customs officer. The diversion would eat up most of our search days but we can't go without a PIPA permit and a Customs officer.



Mark Smith is introduced to Wolfgang Burnside and Malcolm Griffiths of Submersible Systems Inc. (SSI) who are subcontracted to Phoenix for ROV operations. Mark and Wolfgang set up a test to prove the workflow from recording through offloading camera files and soon discover that the HD camera system as delivered does not work.



TIGHAR cameraman Mark Smith and ROV pilot Wolfgang Burnside with the High-Definition video camera. "Somehow we have to get this thing working." TIGHAR photo by L. Rubin.

The HD camera to be used on the expedition has been rented by Phoenix. Wolfgang has seen the manual but he had never seen the camera until he arrived in Hawaii. From reading the manual, Wolfgang knew he was going to have to splice a connector for the camera into the ROV tether. This will create a potential weak spot in the tether at depth but it's the only way to connect the camera. What Wolfgang didn't know was that there is a fundamental mismatch between the camera's capabilities and the ROV system with which it is to be used. The camera will not be controllable from the surface and it might not be possible to trigger HD recording at all. This is a major crisis. There is no point in conducting the expedition without an operational HD camera system. With departure scheduled for the morning of July 2, we have three days to get it working.