

2/16/60 RW

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

TO : Commandant

DATE: 15 February 1960  
Ser: 0150OAN

FROM : Chief, Office of Operations

SUBJECT: Johnston Island

7-1 *[Signature]*  
7-9 *[Signature]*  
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1. Johnston Island is a part of the Pacific Missile Range complex and is managed by the U. S. Navy. Requirements for land have been generated by three agencies; (1) Army Ordnance Missile Command - Johnston Island for use as an IRBM launch area for the NIKE-ZEUS test program, (2) Defense Atomic Support Agency - Use of Army Ordnance Missile Command facilities and (3) U. S. Coast Guard - Sand Island as a LORAN-C site.

2. By SecTreas letter of 30 June 1959, the Department of Defense was requested to make Sand Island, Johnston, available to the Coast Guard for primary use as a LORAN-C site. At the request of the U. S. Navy the Coast Guard participated in a NIKE-ZEUS conference held at Pacific Missile Range Headquarters, Pt. Mugu, California on 11-13 August 1959. It developed at this conference that Army Ordnance Missile Command and Defense Atomic Support Agency had few requirements for Sand Island and that an acceptable solution to the problem of LORAN interference with the NIKE-ZEUS test operations could be found.

3. By letter of 10 December 1959, the Department of Defense approved the installation of the LORAN-C transmitting station on Sand Island and its operation on a non-interference basis with the NIKE-ZEUS program. This requirement for non-interference was also applied to the existing LORAN-A station on Johnston. As the LORAN stations fulfill requirements in support of military operations under the operational authority of the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, the authority to shut down the LORAN-A and C transmitters was vested in him.

4. A consolidated LORAN A-C station is planned for Sand Island. Except for the temporary LORAN-C station monitor, all Coast Guard personnel will be quartered at Sand Island. Elimination of the LORAN-A station on Johnston proper was considered necessary because of the problems attendant with split station operation, non-compatibility with the NIKE-ZEUS program and high future cost of commercial contract logistic support on Johnston Island. Construction of the combined LORAN station is scheduled to commence in June 1960 and a target on-air date of 1 January 1961 has been established.

*L. H. Morine*

L. H. MORINE  
Acting

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Authority NND 978245  
By MR NARA Date 7/16/11

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