

EEB

Via Chief of Staff
(1) Chief, Office of Operations
(2) Chief, Office of Personnel
Engineer-in-Chief

11 SEP 1958

Loran-B and Loran-C; comments regarding technical personnel for

1. Loran-C is an entirely new concept as far as Coast Guard Loran technical personnel are concerned. It incorporates the use of transistor circuits along with multi-pulsing techniques, phase coding, coherent detection and phase matching within the pulse utilizing phase resolvers, all of which are beyond the scope of regular Coast Guard technician training.
2. Loran-B operates on this new concept, but where Loran-C has an accuracy of 1000 feet, Loran-B has an expected accuracy of a few tens of feet. In the time domain this says that Loran-A operates to an accuracy of a few microseconds, Loran-C to a few tenths of microseconds and Loran-B to a few hundredths of microseconds. From a training standpoint this runs the gamut from blacksmith to watchmaker. The three systems have many things that are not in common and training or competency in one system does not, ipso facto, make a man capable for work in another. It should be clearly understood that the Coast Guard is pushing "State of art" right up to the unknown in implementing these systems and that there is no room for meandering.
3. The Navy is paying equipment manufacturers to train Coast Guard Loran-B and Loran-C technicians. The training of technicians who only have a few months to do or undermanning of the stations is not keeping good faith with the Navy who is paying for the programs. Further, such action is seriously tampering with vital national defense programs of the U. S. A recent visit to a Loran-C station on the East Coast of the U. S. disclosed that the Officer-in-Charge had been permitted to take Loran-C training for eight months under a Navy contract and at the end of that time had no knowledge of the system. Additionally, it was recently necessary to man the whole East Coast Loran-C chain with technical electronic engineering officers from Headquarters to keep these stations in operation. Such practice amply demonstrates the lack of appreciation of the problem at the District level.
4. It is strongly recommended that positive action be taken to assure that billets assigned to these programs be manned with bodies that are responsive, cooperative and capable of meeting the challenge of working at the "State of the art" technical level. The assignment of short timers, or old timers who are simply living out their time to retire should cease. As the monitor stations of this program are the check points of the over-all operation the same applies to the manning of these stations.
5. It is requested that a letter be directed to the First, Fifth, and Seventh CG Districts informing them of the importance of properly manning these top priority Loran-B and Loran-C programs. This letter should also direct attention to the cautions outlined in this memorandum.

E. H. THIELE

OAN
16 September 1958

FIRST ENDORSEMENT to Engineer-in-Chief Memo of 11 September 1958

To : Chief of Staff

Via : Chief, Office of Personnel

From: Chief, Office of Operations

Subj: Loran-B and Loran-C; comments regarding technical personnel for

1. This office endorses the basic concept of the memorandum and concurs that the Commanders, First, Fifth, and Seventh Coast Guard Districts must be informed of the importance of the LORAN-B and LORAN-C programs and manning levels. This office, however, cannot agree that the present situation amply demonstrates a lack of appreciation at the District level, since it must be recognized that the Districts have acute personnel problems.

2. The proposal contained in the basic memorandum attempts to solve the immediate situation, but does not answer the larger long-range personnel problem. As the LORAN-B and LORAN-C programs continually expand, it becomes more and more imperative that positive steps be taken to insure that an adequate number of well-trained technicians are available so that the Coast Guard can meet its commitments in implementing on a wide scale two high priority systems and still maintain other electronic equipment at a satisfactory level.

15/
L. H. MORINE

Acting

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16 September 1958

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2/25/58