

Senior Coast Guard Officer, Philippines

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Loran-A Tower Inspection

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to give a preliminary report of the results of inspections of the Loran-A towers at Philippine Coast Guard Loran Stations Naulo Point and Batan.

a. Naulo Point. The tower is in generally excellent condition. Structurally all aspects of the tower are sound. It has been well preserved with NO-OX-ID and should be recoated only when the coating appears to be weathered to the extent that it is no longer effective, probably in two to three years. The electrical system for the tower lights is in fair condition. The surface of the isolation transformer has cracked and been patched. Although it is satisfactory now, further problems can be anticipated and replacement of the entire system should occur if the station is extended beyond 1980.

b. Batan. Serious problems exist with this tower. The most critical one is found above the second guy level where two bolts are very loose and severely corroded. This makes two diagonals effectively useless and the tower structurally weak. The bolts should be removed and replaced as soon as possible. The next most important problem concerns the ladder and safety rail. The rungs are wasted to the point where one failed completely when kicked. The clamps that hold the safety rail to the tower are deteriorated to the point where the rail should not be used. Because of the dangerous state of the ladder and rail, no one except a qualified tower technician should be allowed to climb the tower. This means that someone outside your staff should do the bolt replacement mentioned above. The Clark AB tower unit can probably do the job. Other problems include one broken ceramic insulator in a guy and badly corroded thimbles at the point where the second level guys attach to the tower.

2. A complete engineering report and evaluation will be forwarded when it is completed in the near future.

R. F. RILEY

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