

## OPCON LORAN DECOMMISSIONING TALKING POINTS

Distinguished Guests: CAPT Jesse (Karl) Moore, CAPT Bill Deal, CDR Lane Johnson, CDR Jay Boyer)  
Chief Sears and Crew of LORAN Station Kodiak  
Family and Friends of the Coast Guard

On this auspicious day, a day on which almost 5000 miles from here, a few short hours ago, the reign of authority was just passed to a new Commandant, I bid you all welcome.

- ? **INTRODUCTION:** ON BEHALF OF CAPTAIN THIEDEMAN, THE NAVIGATION CENTER COMMANDING OFFICER AND THE OPERATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE OVERALL LORAN SYSTEM, I AM PLEASED TO CONGRATULATE ALL PRESENT AND PAST LORAN STATION Kodiak & Narrow Cape PERSONNEL FOR 33 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING DEDICATION AND SERVICE.
- ? **MISSION:** LORAN STATION KODIAK, AK WAS THE SECONDARY STATION FOR BOTH THE NORTH PACIFIC (NORPAC) AND THE GULF OF ALASKA (GOA) LORAN CHAINS. THE STATION'S PRIMARY MISSION WAS TO PROVIDE reliable, dependable, and precise LORAN NAVIGATIONAL SERVICE TO MARINERS and aviators IN THE HARSHTEST OF ENVIRONMENTS, THE GULF OF ALASKA, AND THE BERING SEA.
- ? **NORPAC/GOA CHAINS:** THE NORPAC CHAIN IS COMPRISED OF THE COAST GUARD'S THREE TRULY ISOLATED DUTY STATIONS; LORSTA ATTU ISLAND, LORSTA ST PAUL AND LORSTA PORT CLARENCE. THE GOA CHAIN IS COMPRISED OF LORSTA TOK, WHICH IS DEEP INTO THE INTERIOR OF ALASKA, AND LORSTA SHOAL COVE IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA. KODIAK TRANSMITTED A 1 MEGA WATT SIGNAL WITH A COVERAGE AREA OF 2,500 square NAUTICAL MILES. LORAN RECEIVERS USED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TIME OF RECEPTION OF SYNCHRONIZED LORAN SIGNALS TO TRIANGULATE AN ACCURATE GEOGRAPHIC POSITION. NAVIGATORS USED THESE FIXES TO KEEP THEIR VESSELS AND CRAFTS OUT OF SHOALS AND OFF THE MOUNTAIN SIDES.
- ? **CO HISTORY:** IN 1976, CWO JOHN W. SIMPSON BECAME THE FIRST COMMANDING OFFICER OF LORAN STATION KODIAK AND WAS TO BE FOLLOWED BY OTHER CHIEF WARRANT OFFICERS UNTIL 2001 WHEN CHIEF RICHARD ISABELLE TOOK COMMAND AS THE FIRST OFFICER IN CHARGE. THIS LONG LINE CONCLUDES WITH THE CURRENT OFFICER IN CHARGE, CHIEF TOM SEARS. I must also note along with the demise of LORAN, the Coast Guard, sadly, loses the only remaining Non-Boatswain Mate OIC jobs.
- ? **LORAN HISTORY:** LORAN STATION KODIAK WAS CONSTRUCTED TO TAKE OVER THE TRANSMISSION OF THE SIGNAL FROM LORSTA SITKINAK ISLAND WHICH IS LOCATED SOUTHWEST OF KODIAK ISLAND. LORSTA SITKINAK WAS COMMISSIONED IN 1960 AND HAD TRANSMITTED THE SIGNAL UNTIL LORSTA KODIAK WAS ON AIR IN JULY OF 1977.

? **PERFORMANCE:** DURING THE PAST YEAR, LORSTA KODIAK ACHIEVED A 99.9% STATION AVAILABILITY, and 99.9% STATION PERFORMANCE. They ACHIEVED A SCORE OF EXCELLENT DURING THEIR previous Quality Assurance INSPECTION. Lorsta Kodiak was the first tall tower to prototype and switch over the tower aircraft warning lights from old incandescent bulbs to new Light Emitting Diode (LEDs), which held the promise of much greater longevity and therefore much savings in maintenance costs and visits. LORSTA KODIAK HAS BEEN A MAJOR PLAYER IN THE AUTOMATED LORAN SYSTEM (ALS) PROJECT and THEY WERE AMONG THE FIRST LORSTA'S TO BE FULLY UNMANNED FOR TRIAL PERIODS WHILE THE COAST GUARD WORKED OUT PLANS TO AUTOMATE and deman ALL the LORSTA'S. Gentlemen, The detailed ALS procedures manual you developed may yet be useful, when the government figures out that a backup for GPS may be necessary...

? **Support by ADCON and Kodiak Units:** As the operational commander's representative for the Loran mission, I also am obligated to acknowledge the contributions of the Administrative Commander and other local Kodiak CG units in assisting the Loran Station in achieving operational excellence. All District 17 Loran stations are extremely fortunate, as D17 HQ stands out, head and shoulders above all other districts, in the level of support and attention they provide to their Loran Stations. In addition, Lorsta Kodiak enjoyed the benefits of being located so near so many other CG Units, as well as the largest base in the entire Coast Guard. Thank you all for valuing and supporting the critical, yet virtually invisible, mission Loran Station Kodiak has now completed.

? **TERMINATION:** LORAN-C, AS A RESULT OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS IN THE LAST 20 YEARS, LIKE GPS, HAS BECOME AN ANTIQUATED SYSTEM NO LONGER REQUIRED BY THE ARMED FORCES, THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR OR THE NATION'S SECURITY INTERESTS, AND IS USED ONLY BY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION. AS A RESULT, AT 2000Z 08 FEBRUARY 2010 ALL U.S. LORAN-C SIGNAL TRANSMISSIONS TERMINATED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DHS APPROPRIATIONS ACT.

? **STOOD THE WATCH:** LORAN Station Kodiak! PRIOR TO TERMINATION, YOU STOOD THE WATCH. YOU PERFORMED YOUR DUTY WHILE SERVING IN A LOCATION WHICH HAS THE HARSHEST OF CLIMATES ALL WHILE contributing to an overall 99.7% CHAIN AVAILABILITY. ALTHOUGH THE LORAN SIGNAL HAS CEASED, YOUR SERVICES are STILL NEEDED TO SUPPORT OTHER CRITICAL MISSION AREAS. THANK YOU, PAST AND PRESENT MEN AND WOMEN OF LORAN STATION KODIAK (and Narrow Cape) FOR THE HONOR, RESPECT, AND DEVOTION TO DUTY YOU DISPLAYED OVER 33 YEARS OF LORAN SERVICE.

? **BZ:** BRAVO ZULU TO ALL LORSTA KODIAK GUARDIANS ON A JOB WELL DONE!