

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

OFU
HL

Ser 767

DATE: 27 MAR 1961

TO : Chief, Office of Operations

FROM : Chief, Floating Units Division

SUBJECT: Report of Inter-Division Conference on Radiomarine Broadcasts of weather by Coast Guard Facilities; 11 March 1961

1. On 11 March an Inter-Division Conference was held in the Communications Division Conference Room for the purpose of discussing and establishing a uniform policy with respect to the routine broadcasting of weather information to the marine public in cooperation with the U. S. Weather Bureau. This conference was attended as follows:

CAPT W. B. MILLINGTON, Chief, Aids to Navigation Division
CAPT R. F. REA, Chief, Communications Division
CAPT E. V. CARLSON, Chief, Floating Units Division
CAPT L. E. BRUNNER, Chief Electronics Engineering Division
LCDR K. N. LANGENBECK, Communications Division
LCDR G. F. HEMPTON, Communications Division
LCDR R. P. DINSMORE, Floating Units Division

2. The matter of an increasing number of requests for Coast Guard broadcasts was discussed. This includes the Loran Stations in Alaska and in particular the Ocean Cape LTS of which several congressional and private inquiries are pending. It was noted that a total of ten Coast Guard stations and the Campeche Patrol vessel presently make regular, routine voice weather broadcasts. Nine of these ten stations are either primary or secondary radio stations; all have teletype communications and all but one have radiomen assigned. Surveys have shown that almost all Coast Guard broadcasts are used within the Coast Guard since the broadcasts are made on District working frequencies. The vast majority of the voice weather information received by the marine public is from "marine operator" broadcasts.

3. It was agreed that to make Coast Guard Broadcasts more effective the use of 2670 Kcs as a common broadcast frequency is considered expeditious. This is being implemented by the issuance of ALDIST 18.

4. It was agreed that Loran Stations as presently constituted do not have the facilities or personnel to meet the added workload or standards required for a program of public service broadcasts. It was further agreed that Loran Stations should not assume such an assignment unless the required additional facilities and personnel are provided prior to the inauguration of the broadcasts.

5. It was agreed to establish, subject to the approval of the Commandant, a uniform policy wherein certain basic requirements must be met before the Coast Guard agrees to the establishment of routine, scheduled, radiomarine broadcasts of weather information to the public. These requirements are outlined as follows:

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- (a) The broadcast shall not impose additional, undue cost or workload to the detriment of the present mission.
- (b) A suitable and adequate means of communications must exist between the U. S. Weather Bureau Office issuing the forecast and the broadcast station. This shall be defined generally as a teletype or equivalent written system which can absorb the added load.
- (c) Voice broadcasts shall be made by a petty officer qualified as a radiotelephone operator.

6. In the case of Loran Stations, and, in particular the Ocean Cape LTS, to meet the requirements of (a) and (c) above, it is estimated that radio transmitting equipment and associated facilities will cost \$30,000 and that the enlisted personnel allowance must be increased by one. No such added facilities are being programmed, planned or recommended. ~~Further, there exists no cost-effective means of transmitting information between the Weather Bureau Office and any new point of broadcast.~~ Therefore, the requirement of (b) above cannot be met. Presumably the responsibility for establishing a suitable means of transmitting information between the U. S. Weather Bureau office and any new point of broadcast lies with the Weather Bureau.

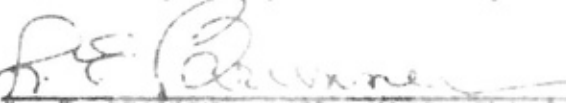
7. It is requested that the inter-office agreements set forth in this memorandum be approved as uniform policy in the determination of future cooperation with the U. S. Weather Bureau.


E. V. CARLSON

Referred for Approval:

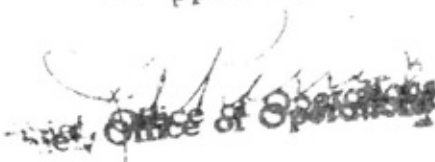

W. R. MILLINGTON, CAPT, USCG Chief, OAN


R. F. REA, CAPT, USCG Chief, OC


L. F. BRUNNER, CAPT, USCG Chief, SEE

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Chief, Office of Operations