3262
22 April 1971

From: Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Loran Station Talampulan, R. P.
To: Commander, Fourteenth Coast Guard District (o)
Via: Commander, Coast Guard Section, Philippines

Subj: Excessive unusable service time; report concerning

Ref: (a) CG-222, CCGD14 Supp. C-17

1. In accordance with CG-22 App C, CCGD14-C-17 letter report is hereby
made discussing the sub-99.70 item 16 entry for rate 1L6 this month. It
is noted that report-worthy difficulties evolved only with 1L6 while 1L7
performance was fine. Lorsta Naulo P. and Lorsta Talampulan commanding
officers discussed the situation in mid-month to attempt to ease and
correct the mounting bad time record on that rate.

2. Some few specifics may be pointed out to account for certain chunks
of bad time. On 10 April the log here records 29.9 minutes of master
off-air. On 16 April electronics personnel here experienced a full
evening of difficult atmospherics aggravated by an instance of watchstander
error here in failure to maintain a full 120 volts on the loran power line,
the combination of which cost approximately 20 minutes. On 19 April an
additional 22.2 minutes is recorded lost due to master off-air. Communi-
cation with the master indicated they had transmitter difficulty.

3. The general heavy accumulation of bad time during the report period
was discussed and examined with electronics personnel - both USCG assigned,
and the Philippine Coast Guard loran trainees on board, who are currently
standing all loran watches. Results of these discussions may be summarized
as follows:

    a. Communications problems and slowness, both between watchstanders on
one station (as to passing on pertinent information to reliefs) and over
the radio between stations has most probably been the largest single
factor in impeding corrective action in each specific instance.

    b. With a preponderance of new watchstanders aboard, it is inevitable
that there will be more instances of the watchstander taking extra time
to assess an incident before realizing he must call an ET.

    c. New Watchstanders and station personnel have been found in general
to be a bit slow in responding on-the-double to in-loran warning signals
and the station ET horn.

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4. Extra instruction and extra watchstanders meetings have taken place
to lay practical emphasis on increased teamwork response. Increased
rigor is in evidence as witnessed by the improved record since the parti-
cularly bad period in mid-month. It is felt that communications familiarity
and watchstanding experience will cause the required performance level to
be met.

T. W. WRIGHT

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CGLORSTA CATANDUANES Report of Loran Station Operation
and Electronics Engineering for period 1 April 1971 to 23 April 1971 (CG-2899)

From: Commander, Coast Guard Section, Philippines
To: Commander, Fourteenth Coast Guard District (e)

1. All periods of unusual blink time are attributed directly to
inexperienced personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard who were on watch
when these occurrences happened. Although USCG senior technician was
aboard each station, they were not notified according to the existing
stations' instructions of bad time in progress. The Philippine Coast
Guard were slow to respond to system malfunctions.

2. Since the station has been reverted to the Philippine Government,
it is not possible to correct the USCG crew which was there. The USCG
Section Office has brought the problem of poor watchstanding to the
attention of HQ Philippine Coast Guard Stations with the action being
taken of sending combined parties of USCG and PCG personnel to the loran
stations in an effort to troubleshoot the suspected problems and work in
a coordinated effort to continue the integrity of the loran system. This
work is underway at this time and is expected to be a continuing require-
ment until 1974 when the U. S. Government reevaluates its agreement with
the Government of the Philippines.

                         S. J. STEPHANY