

GENERAL INFORMATION

LORAN MONITOR STATION

KEFLAVIK



**COMMANDER
COAST GUARD ACTIVITIES EUROPE
LONDON, ENGLAND**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
U.S. COAST GUARD**



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

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LETTER OF PROMULGATION

1. This publication was written for the general enlightenment of interested personnel and to provide relevant information for Commanding Officers and Liaison Officers or enlisted men preparing for assignment to this Loran station.
2. In addition to operational and military responsibilities particular to this station, information of a more general nature is included. Men assigned to this station must adjust to native customs and attitudes. A picture is given of the people unique to this area, the topography of the surrounding country, the prevailing climatic conditions and the available recreational facilities. Familiarization with these aspects will enable the prospective relief to prepare himself for his new surroundings.
3. This publication was compiled from information submitted by men actually engaged in active duty on the Loran station. Very few alterations have been necessary, and perhaps one of the values of this publication is to be gained through the tone and manner of expression of the author, who, in many cases, is found to be interesting, informative and imaginative. The insights offered are based on first-hand experience and should prove valuable to an American living in a foreign country.
4. It is requested that errors and omissions noted, as well as suggestions for improvement, be addressed to Commander, Coast Guard Activities, Europe, Box 50, FPO, New York, N.Y., 09510.

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USCG LORAN MONITOR STATION
KEFLAVIK, ICELAND

Chapter I - General Information

A. Geographic Location

Iceland, "The Land of Frost and Fire", is located some 2300 miles northeast of New York City. It is a mountainous, volcanic island situated between Greenland and Europe. Approximately 40,000 square miles in size, it is comparable in size to the state of Ohio. (41,000 square miles).

B. Topography

A land of extreme contrasts, Iceland displays hot springs, geysers, volcanos, and icy glaciers as intimate neighbors. There are high barren, rocky mountains dipping into beautiful green, grassy valleys. Keflavik, where the international airport, the Loran Monitor Station, and the U. S. Naval Stations are located, unfortunately is perhaps the least attractive part of the island.

C. Weather

Although Iceland lies very near the Arctic Circle, the island is warmed by the Gulf Stream and enjoys a mean yearly temperature of 40 degrees Fahrenheit. However, the country is subject to rapid weather changes and high velocity winds. These winds are quite frigid in the winter, originating over the Greenland icecap. Gusts of 100 miles per hour have been recorded during some of these storms but generally the winter months experience winds of 25 to 60 miles per hour. It is not rare for the weather to change from rain to snow and be capped off by sunshine in the course of a winter day.

Days shorten in winter until there remain as little as four hours of daylight in December and January. During the summer months of June, July and August, on the other hand, there is no darkness. The sun then retreats well after midnight only far enough below the horizon to establish dusk for a short while and rises again. Summer temperatures average in the 50's and occasionally rise as high as 70 degrees. There is frequent rain throughout the year.

D. Nearby Civilian Civilization

Reykjavik, the capital city of Iceland, whose population is 76,000 of Iceland's 183,000 inhabitants, is located 35 miles from Keflavik. It is the seat of the government and the Parliament and is a modern metropolis. Further, Reykjavik has the most important harbor of the country and is a flourishing center of trade and industry. Reykjavik is the only capital in the world heated with water from hot springs found in the city itself and its immediate vicinity. Therefore, the city is completely free from smoke and soot. Almost all new buildings are of reinforced concrete

Keflavik, Iceland

while earlier, wood and corrugated iron were the most important materials. The mean temperature in Reykjavik in January is about 30 degrees F., while in July it is about 52 degrees F.

E. Military Civilization

The loran monitor station is located within the confines of the U. S. Naval Station Keflavik. The naval station comprises the largest number of the military personnel stationed here in Iceland. Other services in Iceland include the Army, Air Force and Marines. The loran monitor station is a tenant activity of the Naval Station and in this regard, many of the services and facilities available to Naval station personnel are utilized by Coast Guard personnel. Life therefore for Coast Guard is equivalent to life on any other large military base.

F. Epitome of Navy - Coast Guard Agreement Concerning the USCG Loran Monitor Station Keflavik

This agreement delineates the specific support services which the U.S. Naval Station Keflavik, Iceland will provide the Loran Monitor Station. The support provided the Monitor Station in this agreement covers the areas of public works, supply/comptroller, quartering/messing, medical/dental, mortuary services, postal services, purchasing and contracting service, exchange/commissary facilities, special services, legal, security, clubs, religion, fire protection, dependent schooling, and disaster recovery. This agreement is re-negotiated on an as required basis and reviewed annually at the commencement of the fiscal year.

Keflavik, Iceland

Chapter II - Operations

A. Loran

The Loran Monitor Station Keflavik is unique in that operational control of two Loran-C chains is exercised from there. The two chains are the Norwegian Sea and North Atlantic, comprising seven transmitting and three monitor stations. The station monitors and controls synchronization of the SL7-MX and SL7-MW baselines.

B. Communications

The station is responsible for handling a great amount of operational and administrative traffic to, from and between various stations. It is linked by leased line teletype via the Icecan Cable to Angissoq and the Scotice Cable to Ejde. The transmitting station at Sandur is included on this cable link. The station is connected via landline teletype to the Naval communications station providing connection to U. S. military circuits. Single-side band voice and RATT are used for communications with those stations not connected via cable or military circuits and as secondary means to those connected.

C. Vehicles

Keflavik Monitor Station has presently assigned two 8 passenger carryall-type vehicles. Maintenance for these vehicles is provided through the Public Works Department of the U. S. Naval Station on a reimbursable basis. Personnel coming to Iceland should have a valid government drivers license in their possession. A 2½ ton truck license is preferred, but in any case a passenger vehicles license is required since the station vehicles are used for watch relief purposes. Iceland is one of the few countries which still have left hand drive on their roads. Arrangement can be made locally after arrival for examination and endorsement of your present drivers license for driving in Iceland.

Reykjavik, Iceland

Chapter III - Personnel

A. Complement

The authorized officer complement is one each LCDR, LT and RELE. The authorized enlisted complement is five ET's, two ETN's, two RM's one YN and two SN's.

B. Administration of Personnel Records

All personnel records for the monitor station are retained and maintained by the station itself. Copies of all transactions must be forwarded to COMCOGACTEUR.

C. Medical/Dental Facilities

Routine and emergency medical and surgical care is provided for Coast Guard personnel and their dependents by the medical department of the Naval Station. Complete dental care is given to Coast Guard personnel by the dental department of the Naval Station. Dependents are given routine treatment on an as-available basis. It is suggested that all dental work required by dependents be completed prior to their departure for Iceland. Also, the American Red Cross has a field Director assigned to the Naval Station to assist in emergency situations which might arise.

D. Training and Education

In addition to the usual correspondence courses available through the CG Institute and USAFI, the University of Maryland offers a limited number of resident courses on the Naval Station. These courses are evening courses but since the majority of personnel at the station are on a watchstanding schedule only a few personnel can take full advantage of this program.

E. Morale and Welfare

1. Outdoor Recreational Facilities - Fishing is good in Iceland. The defense force maintains a fishing camp at Hvalfjordur, more commonly known as "Whale Bay", which is open daily from mid-May through mid-September. The camp includes two large, well-stocked trout lakes and is approximately 100 miles from the station. Outboard motor boats, sleeping accommodations and a mess hall are available. Fishing gear may be obtained from the Naval Station. Salmon fishing in Iceland is excellent, the season opens in mid-June and runs through September. Permits to fish in the better salmon streams, however, are quite expensive. In contrast to fishing, hunting is not one of Iceland's attractions to the sportsman. The Arctic Fox is the only native wild animal, although some reindeer live in the eastern highlands. These deer may be hunted, but strict controls and the exorbitant cost of getting to the area reduces the pleasure of the sport. Wild geese and ptarmigan, a grouse sized game bird, may be hunted for a short period in the fall.

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2. Indoor Recreational Facilities - Indoor facilities include, the base theatre, auto hobby shop, bowling and several clubs which offer meals, refreshments, weekly games, movies, bands and combos plus other scheduled entertainment for the pleasure of members, dependents and guests. USO shows appear frequently. The Viking Service club houses such facilities as billiards, pool, ping-pong, shuffleboard, darts, chess, checkers and playing cards in addition to the hobby sales store. The Naval Station library is also available and has a selection of about 14,000 books and subscribes to some 80 magazines and 8 major U. S. newspapers. A new field house is also available for the sportsminded.

3. Mail - Complete mail service is offered through the local Navy Fleet Post Office. Mail service to and from Iceland is daily with some exceptions, and normally the letter service is prompt. All mail between Keflavik and the U. S. is conveyed by air between New York City and Iceland. Money orders are not sold at the base post office, however, the American Express Company banking facility provides money order service for the station.

4. Exchange and Commissary - The exchange stocks items usually found in stateside exchanges. The Navy exchange also operates the laundry and dry cleaning facility, tailor shop, radio and TV repair shop, launderette, barber shops, clothing store, snack bars, service station and watch and shoe repairs. The Naval Station commissary store is modern, usually well-stocked and conveniently located near the Navy Exchange. Considering relative remoteness of Iceland and the necessity of importing practically all foodstuffs, a fairly wide selection of goods is available although temporary shortages occur from time to time. Prices in the exchange and Commissary are similar to most prices elsewhere in the U. S.

5. Religious Services and Chapel Activities - A comprehensive program of religious services and activities are scheduled and activities are scheduled for members of all faiths in the Naval station chapel and chapel annex.

6. Other Services or Facilities - The Naval Station has a Navy band which performs for official functions; weekly concerts are offered regularly. The station publishes a weekly newspaper which features articles concerning various commands and local activities. Radio and TV service are offered through the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service. The radio station broadcasts 24 hours daily while the TV station operates on Channel 8 from the early to the late evening hours. Most of the more popular programs from the three major stateside networks are telecast.

F. Tour of Duty

The tour of duty at the Ceran Monitor Station is 12 months for unaccompanied personnel and for all personnel with dependents brought here at government expense the tour is 24 months.

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G. Uniforms and Civilian Clothing

Appropriate military uniform is worn by all Coast Guard personnel when on duty. Civilian clothing may be worn by all personnel on station during off-duty hours. The clubs on the Naval station require dress uniform or proper civilian attire- suits or sports coat and tie - after 1800 hours daily. Chief petty officers, pay grade E-7 and above, and military members with dependents are authorized to wear civilian clothing off station. All unauthorized personnel of pay grade E-6 and below must wear the uniform when off the Naval Station, except when engaged in sports and recreation such as fishing, picnicing, hiking, etc. Complete winter uniforms are required in Iceland. For officers and pay grades E-7,8, and 9, the summer uniform is optional during the warmer season, although most men wear the winter service uniform year round. Civilian clothing appropriate for the Icelandic climate are those worn in the spring, autumn, and winter conditions in the north-eastern U. S. Good, warm, serviceable rainwear is a must.

H. Messing and Berthing Facilities

Unaccompanied personnel are quartered in the Naval Station barracks located approximately 1/2 mile from the Loran Monitor Station. These barracks are divided into rooms housing three men. Each room includes its own wash basin and many are tastefully decorated by their occupants. Unaccompanied personnel make use of the Naval Station messing facilities unless they are on a watchstanding schedule in which case they are placed on commuted rations if they so desire. Accompanied personnel live with their dependents in the recently constructed Coast Guard housing which is located approximately 1/2 mile from the Loran Monitor Station. Accompanied personnel are also placed on commuted rations if they so desire. A kitchenette is available in the monitor station for those men desiring to sample their own cooking talents, however, most men prefer to eat most of their meals at the Navy mess hall or at one of the several snack bars which are available.

Keflavik, Iceland

Chapter IV - Engineering

A. General Engineering

1. Operations Building - The Loran Monitor Station operations building consists of a single building which is 64' X 20'. This building was originally an existing abandoned Armco type building located on the Naval Station approximately 3/4 miles from the monitor site. The building was moved to its present location in September 1963 and placed on a concrete foundation. It was completely stripped and rebuilt both inside and out by the Icelandic Prime Contractor under the supervision of the Navy Resident Officer in Charge of Construction, Keflavik. The building spaces consist of an operations room (20' X 20') at the south end, a dayroom/kitchenette (approx 14' X 20') at the north end, and in between, the other spaces include an office, electronic storage room, heater room, MG room, utility closet, and head.

2. Utilities and Heating - All utilities for the operations building are tied into the existing services on the Naval Station. This includes water, electricity, sewerage, and telephone service. The building is furnished with a 220 volt single phase electrical service. Building heat is provided by one oil burner heating unit. Hot water is provided by an electric hot water heater.

3. Family Housing - The Coast Guard has provided eight three bedroom units of housing for Monitor Station personnel accompanied by dependents. The enlisted housing was constructed in 1964. The building is a two story dwelling with two units located at ground level and two units at the second level. Prefabricated houses were constructed for officers in 1967. All units are furnished and laundry facilities are provided.

B. Electronic Engineering

The major electronic equipment presently installed includes 4 - AN/SPN-30 Loran-C receivers, 3 - AN/USH-8 recorders, 2 - SSB-1 transceivers, 2 - SBA-1000 amplifiers, and 1 - R-390 receiver. Power for the loran receivers is supplied by three 115V/50 cy to 115V/400 cy motorgenerators. Due to the close proximity of the high power double pulsed master station at Sandur, cross-rate blankers are provided for both of the SL7 receivers and the SL3 receivers. Special filters are also provided to eliminate interfering signals from nearby Navy communications transmitters.

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Chapter V - Comptroller

A. Commissary

As there is no general mess at the loran monitor station no requirement exists for a station commissary.

B. Requisitions

1. Electronic Material - Weekly routine requisitions for electronic repair parts and supplies are ordered direct from the CG Supply Center, Brooklyn on forms prepared by the station itself for this purpose. Emergency post shipments are utilized whenever possible since this is the fastest, simplest, and most economical method for shipment to Keflavik. Although other than electronic items may be requisitioned from the Supply Center, the Naval Station stocks many of the generally used office, housekeeping and maintenance items required.

2. General Material - General usage material is requisitioned from the Naval Station Supply Department. Many items are available locally either in their Serv-Mart or from their local warehouses. Those requisitioned items not available locally are further processed by the Supply Department for procurement from the U. S.

3. Commercial Purchases - Items not available through the Naval Supply System can be obtained thru the Supply Department Purchasing Branch. Requisitions for commercial purchases are submitted to the purchase branch for processing, who in turn write the contract for the commercial purchase from the source which was recommended.

C. Pay

Pay records for the personnel of the Loran Monitor Station are maintained by the Disbursing Branch of the Naval Station Comptroller Department. At present pay is disbursed on the bi-weekly system. Travel claims and vouchers are also processed by the disbursing branch.

D. Transportation

Transportation of materials to Keflavik from the U. S. can be made either by surface or air. Surface transportation from New York to Reykjavik is provided by MSTs. The length of time required to receive surface shipments varies from 4 to 6 weeks depending on ship schedules and handling delays. Air transportation of materials to Keflavik can be made either MATS or commercial. MATS flights leave McGuire AFB, New Jersey at least once each week. Two commercial airlines provide service from New York City direct to Keflavik. Loftleider Airlines has approximately 5 flights weekly while Pan American Airlines has one flight weekly.

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As previously mentioned, shipment of materials which meet the requirements for Air Parcel Post mailing should be used whenever possible. The method is both expeditious and economical and additional delays through Icelandic customs are not experienced since the FPO address is used.

Chapter VI - Administration

A. Reports and Logs

Reports to higher authority, as required, are prepared on a daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, semiannually, and annual basis. Reports required are listed in current publications and directives. The loran watchstander maintains the loran and radio logs and recorder charts. The daily work/maintenance log, equipment history and field change cards, failure report cards, stock inventory cards are the responsibility of maintenance personnel.

B. Official Correspondence

The major portion of correspondence to and from the Loran Monitor Station exists with COMCOGACTEUR. A lesser volume of correspondence is maintained with the Commandant.

C. Station Orders

Station orders are published and posted as required.

D. Safety

A fire warden for this station is designated. He conducts periodic checks of the monitor station and the housing area for any fire hazards which may exist. In addition, the Naval Station Fire Department provides a representative on a monthly basis and also performs a fire safety inspection of the monitor station. This station has a safety board which meet monthly for the purpose of exposing and eliminating any other safety hazards which may exist. Fire drills and group safety instructions are held regularly.

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Chapter VII - Hints for Personnel Ordered to Loran Monitor Station Keflavik

A. Mailing Address

Your new mailing address will be: JOE E. DOE, ET1-S2
 USCG Loran Monitor Station
 Box 38, FPO New York 09571

B. General

Insure that your military clothing requirements are complete, particularly those items which are Coast Guard clothing items only. There is a small stores on the Naval Station, however, they are sometimes out of stock on some items and they do not stock CG items. A government drivers license should be obtained prior to leaving the U. S. They can be obtained locally through the Naval Station but often times there are delays involved due to the limited number which can attend the driving school. The station vehicles are used for watch relief and since the weather can be inclement a person can be inconvenienced by not having a government drivers license. Although no passports are required for military personnel to enter or leave Iceland, it is a necessity for dependents to have one. If your orders state that you should have a passport you should of course obtain one.

C. If You Plan to Bring Your Dependents

1. Area Clearance - Advance entry approval must be obtained from Commander Iceland Defense Force before dependents travel to Iceland. This approval is best obtained by a message request originated by your present command. The message should be addressed to Commander, IDF and information to COMCOGACTEUR and Loran Monitor Station Keflavik. Since you can not bring your dependents to Iceland until housing is ensured, Commander IDF will determine from this unit if quarters in the Coast Guard Housing will be available for you.

2. Concurrent Travel - If your orders so state, and if you have been granted area clearance for your dependents, travel arrangements can then be made for you to travel from the U. S. to Iceland with your dependents.

3. Travel to Iceland - There are not MSTS passenger ships between the U. S. and Iceland. All military and dependent travel is done by air. MATS flights leaving Mc Guire AFB, Wrightstown, New Jersey schedule passenger flights direct to Keflavik generally once each week during the winter months and twice each week during the summer months. For personnel bringing their dependents this is probably the most convenient means since lodging is usually available at Mc Guire AFB prior to departure of the flight. If commercial travel is utilized, suggest to the persons arranging your travel to route you direct from New York City to Keflavik on either of the two

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airlines, Loftleider or PAA, which fly direct to Iceland.

4. Schools - An elementary and a complete high school are available to all dependents of military personnel. Free bus transportation is provided for students. The high school is accredited by the North Central Association and all teachers are fully qualified. Kindergarden is usually available each year but the cost is paid for by the sponsor, usual charges are \$15/month per child.

5. Family Quarters - The CG family housing is for Coast Guard personnel only, This housing is at this time the most recently constructed housing on the Naval Station. The general description of the housing was given previously. The housing is completely furnished and the usual items for housekeeping should be brought. All cooking utensils should be brought. Electric kitchen aids should also be brought and in top working condition as there are no small appliance repair facilities. A freezer and/or portable dishwasher should be brought if you have them. Do not bring large items of furniture as these will have to be stored and no storage facilities for these items are available. Do not bring washers or dryers as they are furnished as well as refridgerators and stoves. Linens should be brought as well as any other personnel items and items of a decorative nature. A more complete recommended listing of things to bring can be obtained by writing to the CO after you receive your orders.

6. Private Autos - A car is a great convenience to have in Iceland. Although the facilities on the Naval Station are fairly well centralized, the inclement weather is the most important reason for having a car aboard. If you have been authorized to ship your car it should be turned into the port of embarkation as specified on your shipping orders. This point of embarkation is generally NSC, Bayonne, N. J. Persons departing from Mc Guire AFB, N. J. may drive their cars to Mc Guire and have them delivered to the port by special drivers for a reasonable fee. The usual waiting period for cars arriving from the U. S. is about one month from the date of delivery to the shipping port. No Icelandic import tax is imposed on cars carried by U. S. ships at government expense. If a lien exists on the car, permission of the lien holder must be obtained before shipment overseas. In order to derive the greatest personal pleasure from your tour of duty in Iceland, it is recommended that a car, preferably a good, sound older car or one of the "jeep" variety be brought. Replacement parts for minor problems should also be shipped. Most roads on the island are unpaved and are of lava and rock gravel composition. The frequent inclement weather and lack of garage facilities result in accelerated deterioration of automobiles. Repairs are difficult due to lack of parts and trained mechanics. There are no

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good facilities in Iceland to repair or maintain an automatic transmission. A limited number of parts are available through the Navy Exchange, and to a lesser degree, in Keflavik and Reykjavik. Icelandic law requires chains on the driving wheels or four snow tires when there is snow and ice on the roads. Mud flaps are also required and there are periodic vehicle inspections. It is advisable to have your car in top mechanical condition before shipping it to Iceland. Liability insurance is required on all vehicles in Iceland and the prices range anywhere from approximately \$90 to \$160 per year for this coverage. In the past few years these insurance rates have been fluctuating frequently and are generally on the increase. Your present stateside insurance will not be valid in Iceland.

7. Shipment of Household Effects - When shipping your HHE to Keflavik it is well to ship them approximately 6 weeks before your expected arrival. This is the approximate time that it takes for them to get to Iceland. A limited number of housekeeping items are available for your use should you arrive and occupy government quarters prior to the arrival of your HHE, but any prolonged duration without your HHE would be inconvenient. Your application for shipment of HHE would be processed thru normal channels and the shipment addressed to:

Receiving Officer
U. S. Naval Station
Keflavik, Iceland
(M/F USCG Loran Monitor Station Keflavik)
HHE for : DOE, JOE E. (000-000) ET1, USCG

8. Interim Period - After your arrival in Keflavik with your dependents it will be approximately 10 days until the man you are relieving departs. Since it will be his quarters you will eventually be occupying, you will be temporarily quartered in the Hotel Annex of the U. S. Naval Station with your dependents. It is therefore recommended that if there are any special items you may require, particularly for infants or small children, that you bring them with you on the plane.

9. Other Information - Specific questions you may have may be directed to the CO. Personnel bringing their dependents to Keflavik are encouraged to write the CO for any changes to the above information which may have taken place.