

**OLD Reunion Hall Table for:  
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**On 12/31/07 Nik Nahikian** said:

Happy New Year: I have written up my recollections of my tour here and posted it at: [loran-history.info](http://loran-history.info). Look under the loran tales section. Nik Nahikian

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**On 09/13/07 CDR John A. Wcislo, USCG** said:

I paid another visit to Estaca during my annual visit to Galicia, and the place continues to deteriorate. Plans are now for the base buildings to be razed and the site leveled, followed by construction of a scenic overlook. There are now restrictions on coastal development, i.e., the land strip up to 500 meters from the high-water mark, so any other use of the property would probably not be allowed. While in Viveiro I saw Victor - he was carrying a bonito (tuna) home! Victor is in his late 70s and looks fit. I encourage everyone to visit the Estaca website at [www.estaca.net](http://www.estaca.net), as there have been some notable Coast Guard additions. I also met the webmaster, Rob Putman, this summer in Viveiro and got to thank him personally for all his efforts. We also talked about eventually having a commemorative plaque placed at the Estaca site, once it has finally been torn down. Let me know your thoughts on the idea!

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**On 03/26/07 Phil Platter** said:

Were you ever stationed at LORSTA Carolina Beach? Checkout 'Reunion News' for 6/2/07 reunion

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**On 02/13/07 Nik Nahikian** said:

I was at "Estaca" from Aug 67 to Aug 68 This was an interesting year for me. My first isolated (restricted) assignment and a return to Spain after I had spent 1959 – 1962 in the Air Force acting as an adviser/instructor to the Spanish Air Force near Calatayud, Spain. When I reported aboard the CO was Ltjg O'Niell who was relieved by Ltjg Picone. EN1 'Red'Jarrett was the XPO, his replacement was EN1 J.V. Crowder. ET1 Bob Paul was senior tech and when he rotated in Mar '68 yours truly became the senior tech. When I departed ET2 R.A. Fisher took my place. For much of the time there we operated only part time, probably 12 hours a day, if I recall it was from 2000 hrs until 0800. This because the slave station (manned by the French Navy) was not wanting to transmit 24/7 and there was no use in having a master station on air all by its lonesome, During my tour I did about 80% of the mail runs to El Ferrol and about 60% of the log trips to La Caruna. The north coast of Spain was far more beautiful than the interior where I was stationed before.

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**On 01/10/07 Julie Rems** said:

I want to share with you all that I am Mike Rems' daughter. He just returned from vacationing in Vivero with my mom. Shortly afterwards he died from a massive heart attack during his vacation in Texas visiting his sister and brother in law. We will have funeral services this Saturday, January 13, 2007. My cousin opened a blog site honoring him: [www.myunclemike.blogspot.com](http://www.myunclemike.blogspot.com) Thanks for establishing Fred's Place. My father did enjoy it. Julie Rems-Smario

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**On 01/01/07 CAPT. R. S. Palmer (Ret)** said:

I was the first CO from 1960 to 1961 while the Station was being built. All the equipment and outfitting gear was stored in the Lighthouse on the ground floor. It was interesting to read CDR John A. Wcislo's comments on 09/16/99. When the Station was Commissioned, we could not go on the air. As Spain was not part of NATO, they would not change their fishing vessels radio frequency which just happened to be the same as the Loran freq.

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**On 12/18/06 Norm Scott** said:

Spent one year at Estaca de Vares 64-65. With Ralph Savery, Leon Katcharian, Hick, Willy, etc Anyone out there that can

remember??? Would love to hear from someone. I am in South Carolina now. (864) 449-1066

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**On 05/20/06 Seth Mogk** said:

It's great to catch up on news from the station and some of the people. I was an engineman there from July '75 to August '76. I have many great memories from that place! Keeping the plant up, dropping the load (once-don't mess with the on-line engine), painting the flatbed, fixing up the moral boat and using it, Ralph rolling the suburban, helping the corpsmen sew two guys up, and on and on. I'm the one who took the mascot Narc home after he became 'canina non grata' by running some goats off the cliff. He had a great life, accompanied me on many adventures (e.g. canoeing in Canada, hitch-hiking from PA to FL and back) and was my dog through my college years. I well remember Cdr Wcislo (then Lt), he was my third CO while there and definitely helped me out. My best to you and yours.

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**On 06/10/05 LT. Jon Neff** said:

I was the CG C.O. from 70-71. Married a girl from Ferrol, and now work for a Spanish NGO (humanitarian aid medical organization) and live in Malaga.

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**On 03/09/05 EGOBIA NWAGUY** said:

I don land here ooo please keep up the good work. we are the future of our generation. Guymen your bros they here.

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**On 12/21/04 Roland Perreault** said:

I was there from April 67 to April 68 and loved it. If anyone was there during this time please contact me. I would love to touch base about our pet dog 'snoopy' as well as the log flights to madrid, etc.

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**On 09/14/04 CDR John Wcislo (Ret.)** said:

Back again from another visit to Galicia. I visited Estaca this time and the site continues to deteriorate. One positive thing is that some local kids are keeping the racquetball court (built by the Air Force) in playable condition and using it now and then. While there, a group of Spanish teenagers was walking around the site and I told them a few stories about its history, which they genuinely seemed to enjoy hearing. Ex-CO Leon Katcharian was also in Viveiro on vacation and we saw each other. I urge everyone to visit Ex-Air Force crewmember Rob Putman's web site at [www.estaca.net](http://www.estaca.net) - lots of great photos, and Rob welcomes Coast Guard contributions.

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**On 02/19/04 Mike Rems** said:

I was back for a visit in Sep 02. Saw Victor and Antonio. Town is more beautiful now with the new one-way street and bridge. We spent a month in Galicia and had a blast.

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**On 02/17/04 H.G.JACK BARAJAS** said:

I too spend a wonderful tour of duty at Estaca, 71-72, EN1. CO at the time was LTJG Lake from Tyler, Tx. XPO was ET1/ETC Chapman, other crew members, ET1Herb Breiter, CS3 Kevin O'conner,EM3 Netherland, FN Anaya,EN2 Bill Miller ,ET3 Durrance(akaGroover),ET2 Lenz,and afew other crewmates that their names eludes me, this includes a redheaded HM3 and a Phillipino CS2 among others, what a great time we all had, I remember making the mail run to port of Bares, visiting the towns people like they were part of the family, just great people, stopping over at the local bar and drinking one for the road with the bar maid by the name of Candida, on the weekends take a taxi ride with Pepe or his brother Alfredo the El Ferrol and La Coruna and have a great time, Also remember making the 3 day log runs to Madrid to the Torrejon AFB and shop for a months worth of groceries and much needed goods. the cookouts at the Semoforo Base next to the Station. I guess we just took things for granted, never realizing how beautiful that area of Spain was and probably still is, always wanted to go back a visit, but too busy to do so, well I ended up spending 28 yrs with Charlie Gulf and retired in 93 as a CWO-4, into my second career working as a Supervising Maintenance Engineer with the City of

Wilmington, N.C. actually having a great time with my job. Would like to hear from any crew member that served at LORSTA Estaca De Vares, at any time frame.

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**On 09/26/03 Rob Putman** said:

I was stationed at Estaca de Bares (en Gallego) when the site closed down for good in 1991. I was half way through my second consecutive tour when it closed down. I married a girl from Viveiro in 1994. We go back at least once a year to visit family and friends. On my most recent trip, I met Greg Ziemer and he told me about your website. I also have created a web site with photos of Viveiro and other interesting things. If anyone would like to check it out, it is located at <http://home.comcast.net/~estaca/> I welcome any photos or stories that anyone would like to contribute. Recently, An oil tanker called the Prestige sank off the coast of Spain leaving its legacy along all of the coast of Galicia. After walking the beach of Abrela outside Escourido, I was left with black feet. The only way to remove the sludge was with gas soaked rags. I was in Viveiro and talked with Victor for a bit. It was the first time that I had seen him since 91 and he seemed to be doing well. He hadn't changed a bit. I can't wait to go back in December.

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**On 08/14/03 CDR John Wcislo (Ret.)** said:

Once again, I visited Galicia in Spain and have just returned. While at the Fiesta de Santiago in Viveiro I ran into one of our former workers, Antonio Lopez, Tony, and his wife. Tony was working for the Spanish Navy in O Ferrol (See my earlier comments) but is now retired and living in Villa de Vares. I also managed to drive out to the old base at Estaca, and nothing has changed, it continues to be a mess. However, the old semáforo station on top of the hill overlooking the base is a completely different story. It's now a hotel de naturaleza with five bedrooms, restaurant and bar. I got there just as it opened one morning and had a nice chat with the the management and staff. It is owned by the Town of Mañón but operated by a private company. They also have a spectacular web site at <http://www.semaforobares.com>. Check out the panorama shots and you can even spot the old base in the distance. It looks like a great place to stay and for sightseeing. As always the visit to Spain was terrific, despite the heat wave, which actually made it better for the beach, swimming, etc.

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**On 10/24/02 John Foley** said:

John Foley e-mail dkthomas2001@ [yahoo.com](mailto:dkthomas2001@yahoo.com) stationed EDV Spain 70-71 not to be confused with John Foley the e.t.

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**On 08/15/02 CDR John Wcislo (Ret.)** said:

I just got back from another trip to Viveiro. Dave Scebbi (1974-76) was also there visitng with his wife Lolita and two daughters and niece, and he and I paid a visit to the base. It's worse than ever - dilapidated, crumbling, a mess. Nevertheless we toured the ruins and reminisced a lot about the place. The good news is that the old semáforo station at the top of the hill overlooking the base has been completely restored and should be open by now as a bar-restaurant (what else?!), and a casa rural, a kind of small country inn. Dave and I drove up the widened access road and the place looks terrific, the view breathtaking. People still talk about the base being restored and used for something else (retirement home, drug rehabilitation center were two suggestions I heard), but nothing is in the works. We then went to visit Felix at his home in Villa de Vares, but he was not there. Back in Viveiro I saw Victoriano Paz, the ex-cook, and we had a good chat. Other ex-Estaca hands in town were Greg Ziemer (1974-1977), Bob Scarborough (1971) and Leon Katcharian (1964-5). As always, a good time was had by all!

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**On 08/01/01 CDR John Wcislo (Ret.)** said:

I just returned from a week in Viveiro (as it's now known, in Gallego). I ran into Victor Paz, the ex-cook from Estaca and we had a nice chat. Vic looks terrific - slimmer, tanned, etc., and he spends a lot of time doing errands for his family since his wife has been ill for some time. According to Victor, Tony from Bares is still working in O Ferrol for the Spanish Navy, and Felix is now retired and living in Bares. I told him about the website and said that I would post his greetings to all old Estaca hands. I never made it out to the old site but acquaintences have told me that it continues its deterioration.

Nothing yet has been decided as to its fate.

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**On 07/18/01 Bob Rowell** said:

I will always remember the Friday night's cookouts on the cliffs, and playing basketball in the league in Vivero. The great food over the hill in the port of Bares. The best crew I ever worked with. Thanks everybody.

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**On 07/17/01 Bob Rowell** said:

Like to hear from anybody that was at EDv from 1976 till close. It was a great station

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**On 05/08/01 Victor Perez** said:

I was stationed at Estaca from Nov 78 - Dec 80. I was part of the second wave of Air Force. I also married while there and she's from Foz. I hope you guys don't mind an Air Force member adding his comments to your site. I try to go there when in the area. They set up a bunch of wind generators near the lighthouse. The site is fenced in and has been abandoned for quite awhile now. I had the room as you go up the steps turn right past the bathroom and the last room on your right. It had black walls, red ceiling and green carpets. Since I worked shift I would put a piece of cardboard on the window and it was nice and dark for sleeping. We had a black Lab who started getting epileptic fits and would bark at his own shadow. I later moved down to Baquero next to Pepe's (the taxi driver) house. I own an apartment in Foz that we bought about three years ago. The roads in the area have improved tremendously compared to when we were there. I remember once that it was fogging that you couldn't see the garage/generator building from the window in the chow hall. Plus the wind there was crazy. But those were two of the best years that I had. The seafood was great, the wine nice and the women were pretty.

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**On 04/21/01 Ralph Savery** said:

I served with Lt Katcharian and he married a girl from Vivero (can't remember her name) and took her back to N.Y. Haven't heard about him since. My memory is shaded by too much vino.

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**On 04/21/01 Ralph Savery** said:

Spent 64 and 65 at Estaca

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**On 04/08/00 Geoff Taylor** said:

Some time in the mid Sixties I was in Vivero as an English teacher, working in my summer holidays with a Spanish family from Madrid who were on holiday there for a couple of weeks. I spent quite a few convivial evenings in the Casino there, drinking with the then C.O. Leon Z Katcharian, from New York, if I remember right, and some of the other guys. I've often wondered what became of him but never quite knew how to find out until now. Anybody help?

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**On 11/27/99 Mike Rems** said:

At Estaca in 1961, I met and married my wife of 36 years in Vivero. Actually, I wangled a 'swap' to Naples and we were married there. Robert 'Foxy' Reynard was to CO. It was a great tour of duty, in a great part of Spain. I have been back several times. Last time, the base was abandoned a rusty, crumbling group of buildings, with a fence around it to keep people out. Very sad if you remember it with the generators humming, and the Loran transmitters idling, ten lonely guys trying to 'make it real'. I was the radioman, assigned to communicate with France by morsecode. A unique assignment you will agree. I welcome [jerry302@comcast.net](mailto:jerry302@comcast.net) anyone who was there.

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**On 09/16/99 CDR John A. Wcislo** said:

As I mentioned earlier, I have been back to Estaca a number of times over the past twenty years, so I thought I'd provide an update for anybody who checks in at this table. Estaca is now abandoned, vandalized and crumbling into the ground.

More on its fate later. The Air Force ran Estaca as a communications site from 1978 until 1991. I was a central player in the transfer, coordinating all of the Air Force logistics and engineering needs before they moved in. I even had a mixed Air Force - Coast Guard crew for the last two months of LORAN operations (AF loved it - they could grow beards!). When we shut the signal off at midnight on January 1, 1978, we toasted with champagne and then headed down to Vivero to the discotheque to celebrate the New Year. An interesting detail is that I stayed on for about a month afterwards, helping the Air Force in the transition. Around January 20, two gentlemen from La Coruña showed up at the station, asking what had happened to the LORAN signal. Apparently the Spanish Government failed to notify the users of the closure. As a result the fishing fleet in Galicia had to float test their LORAN A receivers! You all may remember the three Gallegos that worked at the station - Felix, Tony and Victor. They're all still alive. Felix is living in Bares with his wife. His daughter, Maria Felix married an Air Force NCO back in 1981-82, and they are now stationed in Japan. We saw her two years ago in Covas. Victor is retired and I saw him around Vivero last summer. Tony took a job with the Spanish Navy in El Ferrol and does maintenance on the navy housing. When the Coast Guard left in 1978, we paid them all a severance, and then the Air Force re-hired them all plus 4 more civilians. The problem arose when the Air Force pulled out. The original three's seniority clock was zeroed out in 1978 when the transfer was made and they were paid the severance and re-hired. If that hadn't happened they all could have retired in 1991. That's why Tony had to go to work in El Ferrol. Felix went on disability for some reason and Victor managed to go on unemployment until he was eligible to retire. The Air Force expanded the site during their 13-year stay, adding bedrooms, a gymnasium, a wet bar, more garage space, etc. You know how those guys are; they always had the bucks to spend. The lighthouse up the road is now automated but has a single keeper, a woman with a bunch of mutts. She works for the Captain of the Port of El Ferrol. Regarding the base itself. About two years ago the Concello de Mañón, the municipal government that covers Bares, decided to ask the Spanish Ministry of Defense for the facility. Defense then had to notify all the original landowners because under Spanish law, they or their heirs have to be given the opportunity to buy the property back, at market prices. The family that owned the majority of the land is dragging their feet because of a political spat and because they would like to get in on whatever the property is used for, like to set up a bar or something. Nothing has been resolved to date. Two years ago I had a conversation with a reporter from the Voz de Galicia about the base and about possibly doing a story on it. She was real interested, but by the time she got the paper to follow up we had already left Spain. I'll try to post more news as it develops.

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**On 02/21/98 John E. Foley** said:

I served as the leading ET from July 73 through August 74. I was also the XPO. This was one of the best tours of my Coast Guard career which ended in retirement in 1992. I have not returned since I departed but hope to do so. I have wondered much about how Vic, Ma Ma, and the other Spanish workers might be. I miss those evenings in Bares and the taxi rides with Alfredo. I would like to hear from anyone who was there over the years. Anyone have any information about Herb Breiter? I relieved him in 73.

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[Go to top](#)