



*Decommissioning
Ceremony
United States
Coast Guard
Loran-C Station
Havre, Montana, June 4th, 2010*

Loran-C Station Havre History

In the early 1960's, Congress authorized the operation of a network of navigation stations known as Loran-C (Long Range Navigation). The system was designed to replace an aging and less accurate aid to navigation system. Loran-C was capable of providing accurate position fixing within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. Loran-C systems were used by civilian and military vessels and aircraft.

Loran Station Havre was part of the joint Federal Aviation Administration and Coast Guard effort to provide Loran-C in the National Airspace System, resulting in Loran-C coverage throughout the mid part of the United States. Mid-continent Loran-C was envisioned by the Coast Guard in the early 1970's. Loran Station Havre's signal was designed to enhance flight safety, provide en-route navigation information and provide for non-precision approaches to airports throughout the mid-continent area not previously covered by electronic navigation services.

The Coast Guard Loran station at Havre, Montana, was built in 1990 by Coleman Construction Company of Spokane, Washington. The station began transmitting its prescribed signal on January 29th, 1991. When the station started operation, it covered gaps in the Loran-C coverage in the mid-continent and was used to free up crowded air traffic lanes by allowing aircraft to fly more direct routes.

For more than 19 years, Loran-C Station Havre transmitted a signal at 100 kHz, at a radiated output power of 400 kilowatts. Station Havre operated as the master station for the Northern Central United States (M-8290). The coverage area for this chain stretched across most of the northern-central United States and parts of southern Canada.

Order of Events

Arrival of Official Party *

Chief Petty Officer Rebecca L. Ruch
Officer in Charge
Coast Guard Loran Station Havre

Commander Marc F. Sanders
Navigation Center Alexandria

Commander Daryl R. Peloquin
Thirteenth District Waterways

National Anthem *

Invocation *

Chaplain John Chapman, U. S. Navy (Retired)

Welcome and Introductions *

ET1 Billie R. Bunting

Remarks

Commander Marc F. Sanders, Navigation Center
Commander Daryl R. Peloquin, Thirteenth District Waterways

Remarks and Reading orders

ETC Rebecca L. Ruch, Officer in Charge
Loran Station Havre

Strike Colors

Benediction *

Chaplain John Chapman, U. S. Navy (Retired)

Departure of Official Party *

* Denotes segments of the ceremony when guests and official party remain standing.

The Ceremony

Each Coast Guard unit holds two unique ceremonies during the course of its existence. The commissioning ceremony; bearing the promise of a bright future and the decommissioning ceremony, signifying the end of an era, honoring all of the men and women who have given their time and their energy to fulfill the mission. This decommissioning ceremony is a solemn occasion on which we pause to reflect upon the rich heritage of the Loran-C mission and the Guardians that have dutifully stood the watch for over 60 years.

Loran-C Station Havre Decommissioning Crew

Electronics Technician First Class

Billie R. Bunting

Executive Petty Officer

Next Assignment: Pellissippi State Technical Community College
Knoxville, TN

Machinery Technician First Class

Jason J. Fitzgerald

Engineering Petty Officer

Next Assignment: USCGC GASCONADE (WLR-75401)
Omaha, NE

Electronics Technician Second Class

Randall W. Painter

Operations Petty Officer

Next Assignment: USCG Communications Station Honolulu, HI

Storekeeper Second Class

Justin E. German

Supply Petty Officer

Next Assignment: USCGC SENECA (WMEC-906)
Boston, MA

Coast Guard Loran-C Station Havre Officers in Charge

ETC Terry Boutwell	1991-1994
ETC Joel A. Gustafson	1994-1999
ETI Bradley S. Lantz	1999
ETC Greg L. Hejl	1999-2002
ETC David D. Denny	2002-2007
ETC Craig C. Brinkmeyer	2007-2008
ETC Rebecca L. Ruch	2008-2010

OIC Biography

Electronics Technician Chief
Rebecca L. Ruch
United States Coast Guard

ETC Ruch is originally from Atwater, CA and is a graduate of Atwater High School.

She enlisted in the U. S. Coast Guard in August 1991. Her previous assignments include tours at: Station Atlantic City, NJ, ET 'A' school in Petaluma, CA, EECEN Wildwood, NJ, ELC Baltimore, MD, Loran-C Station St. Paul Island, AK, Loran-C Station Seneca, NY, USCGC WILLOW home ported in Newport, RI and Loran-C Station Havre, MT.

ETC Ruch and her husband Darren Hansen were married in December 1987. They have one son, Calvin, 21 years old.

After departure from Loran Station Havre, she will report to USCGC FORWARD (WMEC-911), home-ported in Portsmouth, VA.

www.loran-history.info

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

