

United States Coast Guard

Subj: TRIP REPORT TO LORSTA HAVRE AND LORMONSITE  
GREAT FALLS

SSIC: 16562  
Date: 19 Oct 90

From: COCO NOCUS

To: Ptl

1. During the week of 27 August I visited the new Loran facilities at Havre and Great Falls. Accompanying me was CWO G. Soula of EMD Seattle (206)286-5623. The purpose of our visits were to show the flag and add our experiences to the current situation in hopes of solving or preventing problems. Mr Soula has a separate report of the specifics of his visit. Additionally I took many photographs to acquaint those desk-bound individuals of what a Havre looks like.

2. On 28 August we met with the prospective crew of LORSTA Havre: ETC Boutwell (perspective OIC), ET1 Montgomery, and MK1 Wood. We listened to their first tales of woe, typical start-up problems of any unit. During our initial meeting and subsequent tours of the station, housing, and nearby Air Force radar facility, we discussed the following items:

a. Station Address and Phone: Officer in Charge, USCG Loran Station, P.O. Box 1151, Havre, MT 59501; (406) 394-2366/7, Fax Unattended (406) 394-2368.

b. Housing: LORSTA personnel are housed in nearby (about 15 miles north of the LORSTA) Air Force housing. The Air Force has been very helpful as our people get settled. SK2 Foster arrived 4 October; the ET2 is expected in December 90.

c. Station (located about 25 miles north of town):

1) Tower: The tower is painted in alternating red and white sections and lighted with red obstruction beacons. The flashing beacons do not flash, I understand our contracting representative has set the lights in the standing condition to ensure the system lights are lit at night.

2) Security: Currently the building is locked. The access road is controlled by a large metal gate. The property is in a corner of (what appears to be) a one square mile field which is surrounded by a barbed wire fence. Cows roam this area and have obviously visited the station as we stepped gingerly! Station personnel do not know what arrangements exist for grazing rights, but cattle access to the receive antenna and the immediate vicinity of the building is unsatisfactory. A building security system is installed though not activated.

3) Fire Systems: Halon fire suppression systems are installed but not activated.

4) Beneficial Occupancy: At the time, LORSTA personnel did not know if they had permission for beneficial occupancy; in discussion with Mr Brong (COTR) of 29 Aug, they do.



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5) Outfitting: I made initial arrangements with LT Marsh (D13(oan), (206) 442-5864) for orders for ET1 Montgomery to visit Brooklyn to start the shipping process. Outfitting arrived 11-12 Oct.

6) The station does not have a phone credit card. As a start-up unit before phones are installed, station personnel must still make many phone calls. Since the phones arrived with the outfitting, this is no longer a problem.

7) POIC/D13 visit: LT Marsh arranged for ETC Boutwell to visit D13 to meet the folks and receive and other required training in September.

8) Communications: Incoming message traffic is currently received by D13(oan). To facilitate direct message delivery, we should install a computer message terminal and interface it to the USWC traffic net. In the interim, station outfitting includes admin standard terminals and modems (for E-mail, etc.). Further investigation revealed our original thoughts were not reasonable since EECEN has the comms equipment packed deep in their equipment vans. The terminals arrived with the outfitting, we'll have to wait to see what they hook up.

9) Fuel Tanks: Two 8000 gallon fuel tanks are housed in an underground vault. Ventilation fans and liquid sensors are installed. Additional piping, filters, and a pump are required to continuously circulate and filter the fuel in these tanks. Each generator also has a very small (<50 gal) day tank. The total capacity of 16K gals seems excessive and the resulting requirement to circulate and filter the fuel increases equipment maintenance (replacing filters and pump motors) to provide a virtual lifetime supply of fuel for these standby engines.

d. Nearby Military: The Air Force operates a radar site about 20 miles north of the LORSTA. This site is part of a complex bomber training circuit. The flight corridor passes about 6 miles north of the Loran tower. The radar controllers are aware of the tower as a significant flight hazard; I understand they have direct communications with the training flight aircraft. Site personnel anticipate a considerable increase in test flights if plans by other services to use the course solidify. LtCol Pierce commands the site, (406) 394-2254.

2. On 29 August I made some initial contacts to get things started for the LORSTA and met with Mr Dan Brong, the FD&CC West COTR for the MEP LORSTAs and LORMONSITES.

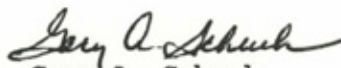
3. On 30 August CWO Soula and I met with Mr Kevin Neumann (406) 453-1429, one of the Great Falls FAA monsite technicians; the monsite phone number is (406) 452-0815 (mailing address is: AGTFN-SFO, 3015 Airport Lane, Room 120, Great Falls, MT 59404, ATTN: Chet Miller). Mr Neumann provided transportation to the monsite and we discussed various topics. The monsite hut appears to be two feet longer which provides more room behind the racks. Two air conditioners are installed however there is only one AC outlet; Atlantic Area

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has the spare AC as a deenergized standby. The monitor is running on the calibration chain; I've attached a copy of the notch filter rack notch assignments. We should not plan to certify this site until the comms lines are connected between LORSTA's Middletown and Havre and the multiplexing equipment is installed. Suggest monsite certification occur during the same trip as the Havre certification; it should extend the trip by 3-4 days.

4. I provided a complete set of LORSTA and Monsite photos to EMD Seattle during a recent trip. I discussed the photos with you during my visit of 18 Oct 90, I will label and retain these photos in our files. I can provide the negatives if you desire any particular prints.

  
Gary A. Schenk

Encl: (1) LORMONSITE Great Falls Notch Filter Assignments

Copy: EMD Seattle  
LORSTA Havre  
LORMONSITE Great Falls



# NOTCH FILTER CHASSIS

UNIT: LOR MONSIE GREAT FALLS MT  
 S/N: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE: 30 Aug 90

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 STAGE

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