

OPCON LORAN DECOMMISSIONING TALKING POINTS

Distinguished Guests:
Officer in Charge and Crew of LORAN Station Attu
Family and Friends of the Coast Guard

- ? **INTRODUCTION:** ON BEHALF OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE COAST GUARD NAVIGATION CENTER AND THE OPERATIONAL COMMANDER FOR THE LORAN SYSTEM, CAPTAIN PARKER, I AM PLEASED TO CONGRATULATE ALL PRESENT AND PAST LORAN STATION ATTU PERSONNEL FOR OVER 66 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING DEDICATION AND SERVICE.
- ? **MISSION:** LORAN STATION ATTU, AK WAS THE SECONDARY STATION FOR BOTH THE NORTH PACIFIC (NORPAC) AND RUSSIAN-AMERICAN (RAC) LORAN CHAINS. THE STATION'S PRIMARY MISSION WAS TO PROVIDE LORAN RADIO-NAVIGATIONAL SERVICE TO MARINERS IN THE HARSHTEST OF ENVIRONMENTS, THE BERING SEA.
- ? **NORPAC/RAC CHAINS:** THE NORPAC CHAIN WAS COMPRISED OF THE COAST GUARD'S THREE TRULY ISOLATED DUTY STATIONS; LORSTA ST. PAUL ISLAND, LORSTA PORT CLARENCE AND LORSTA ATTU ISLAND. ATTU ALSO TRANSMITTED A RUSSIAN SIGNAL IN SUPPORT OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT WITH TWO RUSSIAN LORAN STATIONS; LORSTA PETROPAVLOVSK AND LORSTA ALEXANDROVSK. LORSTA ATTU TRANSMITTED A 625 KILO WATT SIGNAL WITH A COVERAGE AREA OF 2,500 NAUTICAL MILES AS A SECONDARY SIGNAL PROVIDER. LORAN RECEIVERS IN TURN USED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TIME OF RECEPTION OF SYNCHRONIZED LORAN SIGNALS IN TRIANGULATING A GEOGRAPHIC POSITION.
- ? **CO HISTORY:** IN 1943, ENS EDWIN L. DOSTER BECAME THE FIRST COMMANDING OFFICER OF LORAN STATION ATTU. IN THE SUMMER OF 1990 THE LINE OF CO'S CHANGED FROM OFFICERS TO CHIEF WARRANT OFFICERS WHEN CWO DAVE BILLING ASSUMED COMMAND. THIS LONG LINE CONCLUDES WITH THE CURRENT COMMANDING OFFICER, CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER JEFF ROSENBERG.
- ? **LORAN HISTORY:** ATTU ISLAND WAS TAKEN OVER BY THE JAPANESE IN JUNE OF 1942 AND RETURNED ONLY AFTER AN EPIC BATTLE IN MAY OF 1943, AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS DOUGLAS A. MUNRO WAS GIVING HIS LIFE AT THE BATTLE OF GUADALCANAL. LORSTA ATTU WAS ORIGINALLY COMMISSIONED IN 1943 DURING LORAN'S INFANCY. IN 1961 THE LORSTA WAS REBUILT ON THIS SITE AND THE OLD LORAN A BUILDINGS WERE VACATED. LORSTA ATTU BEGAN OPERATIONS FOR LORAN C IN 1961 AND TERMINATED LORAN A OPERATIONS IN 1979. ATTU HAS OPERATED A STRONG SIGNAL FOR THE LAST 66 YEARS UNTIL ITS TERMINATION.

- ? **PERFORMANCE**: LORSTA ATTU ACHIEVED A 99.6% STATION AVAILABILITY, 99.9% STATION PERFORMANCE DURING THE PAST YEAR AND ACHIEVED A SCORE OF EXCELLENT DURING THE PREVIOUS QA INSPECTION. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CHALLENGES OVER THE LAST YEAR AND ESPECIALLY WITH THE TRANSMITTER. DESPITE KNOWING THAT THE SIGNAL WOULD BE TERMINATED, THE CREW INVESTED AN ENOURMOUS AMOUNT OF MAN HOURS, TROUBLESHOOTING WITH LORAN SUPPORT UNIT TO RETURN THE TRANSMITTER TO FULLY OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY. THEY REFUSED TO LET THEIR EQUIPMENT TO BE SECURED LESS THAN FULLY OPERATIONAL; THIS IS A TESTIMENT TO THE DEDICATION OF THE CREW OF ATTU. IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND WHY THIS CREW HAS DONE SO WELL DURING OPEATIONAL INSPECTIONS.
- ? **TERMINATION**: LORAN-C HAS, AS A RESULT OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS IN THE LAST 20 YEARS, BECOME AN ANTIQUATED SYSTEM NO LONGER REQUIRED BY THE ARMED FORCES, THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR OR THE NATION'S SECURITY INTERESTS AND IS USED ONLY BY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION. AS A RESULT, AT 2000Z 08 FEBRUARY 2010 ALL U.S. LORAN-C SIGNAL TRANSMISSIONS TERMINATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DHS APPROPRIATIONS ACT.
- ? **STOOD THE WATCH**: PRIOR TO TERMINATION, YOU STOOD THE WATCH. YOU PERFORMED YOUR DUTY WHILE SERVING IN A LOCATION WHICH HAS THE HARSHTEST OF CLIMATES ALL WHILE MAINTAINING A 99.7% CHAIN AVAILABILITY. ALTHOUGH THE LORAN SIGNAL HAS CEASED, YOUR SERVICE IS STILL NEEDED TO SUPPORT OTHER CRITICAL MISSION AREAS. THANK YOU, PAST AND PRESENT MEN AND WOMEN OF LORAN STATION ATTU FOR THE HONOR, RESPECT, AND DEVOTION TO DUTY YOU DISPLAYED OVER 66 YEARS OF LORAN SERVICE.
- ? **BZ**: BRAVO ZULU TO ALL LORSTA ATTU GUARDIANS ON A JOB WELL DONE!