

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

LORAN-C STATION CAROLINA BEACH



CHANGE OF COMMAND
MAY 1, 2003



ORDER OF CEREMONY

OFFICIAL PARTY ARRIVES

NATIONAL ANTHEM

INVOCATION

Pastor Troy Knight

**First Baptist Church of Boiling Spring Lakes
Boiling Spring Lakes, NC**

REMARKS AND READING OF ORDERS

Senior Chief Petty Officer John G. Sauls

READING OF ORDERS

Chief Stacy Todd Rourk

RELIEF AND CHANGE OF COMMAND

Chief Stacy Todd Rourk relieves

Senior Chief Petty Officer John G. Sauls

REMARKS

Chief Stacy Todd Rourk

BENEDICTION

Pastor Troy Knight

**First Baptist Church of Boiling Spring Lakes
Boiling Spring Lakes, NC**

SENIOR CHIEF JOHN G. SAULS UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

John G. Sauls was born in Great Falls, MT and raised in Lake City, FL. He has served in the Coast Guard since 1982. After completing basic training at TRACEN Cape May, NJ, ETCS Sauls was assigned to the USCGC Dependable (WMEC-626) in Panama City, FL. In February 1984 he reported to Governor's Island, NY for Electronics Technician School. Upon completion he served at LORMONSTA Spruce Cape on Kodiak Island, AK. LORAN Station Malone, FL was his next assignment. After completion of an Associates Degree and employment with the U.S. Postal Service, he returned to the Coast Guard in 1989 where he served aboard the USCGC Seneca (WMEC-906) in Boston, MA. Then he returned to Panama City, FL to be supervisor of an Electronics Support Detachment. His next assignment took him to Buffalo, NY where he also served at an ESD. After making Chief, he reported to LORSTA Carolina Beach where he served as the Officer In Charge for 4 years. ETCS Sauls will be reporting to the Coast Guard Academy.

He is married to Cynthia of Wilmington, NC and has 2 pets: Jazz the long haired dachshund and Smokey the cat.

CHIEF STACY TODD ROURK UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Stacy Todd Rourk was born in Ocala, FL and raised in Miami, FL. He has served in the Coast Guard since 1987. After completing basic training at TRACEN Cape May, NJ, ETC Rourk was assigned to the USCGC Midgett (WHEC-726) in Alameda, CA. In July 1988 he reported to Governor's Island, NY for Electronics Technician School. Upon completion of A school, he served onboard the USCGC Escape (WMEC-6) located in Charleston, SC. In 1991 he reported to the Electronics Shop located at USCG Station Oak Island, which is located just across the river. Once his tour was up, he left for Portsmouth, VA where he was the independent duty ET aboard the USCGC Cowslip (WLB-277). His next assignment would take him where he is today. He reported aboard as Operations Petty Officer of LORAN Station Carolina Beach. In 1998 he left for a year of isolated duty at LORAN Station St Paul in Alaska. He then returned as Executive Petty Officer at LORSTA Carolina Beach until today. He has gladly accepted a Fleet-up to Officer In Charge of LORAN Station Carolina Beach.

He is accompanied by his wife Melissa Lamb Rourk of North Carolina and 3 children: Kelby (age 10), Brianna (age 8) and Noah (age 2).

THE CEREMONY

The change of command ceremony is a time-honored tradition which formally restates to the officers and men of the command the continuity of the authority of the command. It is a formal ritual conducted before the assembled company of the command. The ceremony represents more than just the relief of one commanding officer by another, it is the transfer of total responsibility, authority, and accountability for the unit and the accomplishment of it's assigned mission.

ABOUT THE LORAN STATION

Originally established and operated by the U.S. Air Force, all jurisdiction, custody and control of the 212 acre site was transferred by the Department of the Air Force to the Treasury Department on the June 16th, 1957. The Coast Guard operated the station as the Master for the East Coast LORAN-C Chain until September 1979. Operation as a dual-rated Secondary station for the Northeast U.S. and Southeast U.S. Chains began on October 1st, 1979. The reconfiguration expanded LORAN-C coverage into the Gulf of Mexico and improved coverage for the Northeastern and Central Atlantic coast of the U.S.

The LORAN transmitting antenna is a Top-loaded Inverted Pyramid (TIP) supported by four 625 foot guyed towers. This antenna configuration is unique in the U.S. Coast Guard and was constructed in 1967. The LORAN Operations building (which houses the timing and transmitting equipment) was completed in September 1987 and fulltime operations from this building commenced on October 27th, 1987 following installation and testing of the new LORAN equipment. The Administration and Generator building (formerly the Transmitter building) underwent reconstruction and was completed in May 1988. The Barracks had been transferred to the local Coast Guard Reserve Unit. The old Operations building (dating back to Air Force days) is being used by ESDD Southport personnel and is also used for storage.

On November 30th, 1988, the station compliment changed from 1 Officer and 10 Enlisted to just 4 Enlisted personnel. This change has been made possible by the installation of advanced LORAN equipment.

The Officer In Charge has the responsibility of station administration, finances and general maintenance of station grounds, buildings and equipment. He must insure that the mission of the station is accomplished by keeping the LORAN-C signal on air and in tolerance for the users.

LORAN STATION CREW

Engineering Petty Officer
Operations Petty Officer

MK1 Charles E. Bratcher
ET2 Roy T. Gray