

Russian-American LORAN-C Termination Remarks

Today's termination of the Russian-American Loran-C signal transmission by LORSTA ATTU marks the end of a longstanding service that has guided countless mariners and pilots throughout the North Pacific. In order to provide continuous Loran service over these 66 years, Coast Guardsmen stationed at ATTU have endured life at the Coast Guard's most remote station, in the harshest and most desolate environment.

Since its commissioning in 1944, Loran-A and Loran-C stations on ATTU have broadcast on 8 Loran chains and were credited by Admiral Chester Nimitz with playing a major role in the United States' victory over Japan.

ATTU was built in the winter of 1943. Due to the urgency of war, and the dire need of Loran in the Western Aleutians for the war effort, it was built under the harshest conditions of any Loran Site construction, ever. Construction occurred around the clock through winds that regularly reached 125 mph and snow accumulations of 12 feet. Several ships, boats and barges were lost at sea or crushed on the rocks during the frequent and sudden onset of storms. Scores of workers' lives were lost, including a Coast Guardsman. But just 3 weeks after the first load of cargo arrived at the station site, construction was completed. On-air testing commenced on 11 Feb 1944, barely 2 months after supplies first landed.

In 1961, construction was completed on the current Loran Station which broadcast both Loran-A and Loran-C.

Despite all its challenges, LORSTA ATTU has provided exemplary service to the Coast Guard, the United States and to Russia. LORSTA ATTU's legacy will continue on in history and in the hearts of countless Coasties who've worked so diligently to keep the signal alive for 66 years at the end of the world. On behalf of the Commanding Officer and everyone here at NAVCEN, thank you for your continued service and a job well done! Bravo Zulu and Semper Paratus!

I'll be out there to thank you personally in a few weeks. In the meantime, carry out remaining preparations for unit decommissioning and disestablishment.