

# **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**LORAN MONITOR STATION**

**RHODES**



**COMMANDER  
COAST GUARD ACTIVITIES EUROPE  
LONDON, ENGLAND**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
U.S. COAST GUARD**



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Address reply to:

Commander  
Coast Guard  
Activities Europe  
Box 50  
FPO, New York  
N.Y., 09510  
1 July 1967

LETTER OF PROMULGATION

1. This publication was written for the general enlightenment of interested personnel and to provide relevant information for Commanding Officers and Liaison Officers or enlisted men preparing for assignment to this Loran station.
2. In addition to operational and military responsibilities particular to this station, information of a more general nature is included. Men assigned to this station must adjust to native customs and attitudes. A picture is given of the people unique to this area, the topography of the surrounding country, the prevailing climatic conditions and the available recreational facilities. Familiarization with these aspects will enable the prospective relief to prepare himself for his new surroundings.
3. This publication was compiled from information submitted by men actually engaged in active duty on the Loran station. Very few alterations have been necessary, and perhaps one of the values of this publication is to be gained through the tone and manner of expression of the author, who, in many cases, is found to be interesting, informative and imaginative. The insights offered are based on first-hand experience and should prove valuable to an American living in a foreign country.
4. It is requested that errors and omissions noted, as well as suggestions for improvement, be addressed to Commander, Coast Guard Activities, Europe, Box 50, FPO, New York, N.Y., 09510.

R. E. HAMMOND  
CAPTAIN, U.S. COAST GUARD  
COMMANDER, COAST GUARD ACTIVITIES, EUROPE

## Table of Contents

## Page

Chapter I General Information	1
Chapter II Operations	2
Chapter III Personnel	3
Chapter IV Engineering	5
Chapter V Comptroller	6
Chapter VI Administration	7
Chapter VII Words of Wisdom for Reliefs	8
Photographs	



USCG LORAN MONITOR STATION  
RHODES, GREECE

Chapter I - General Information

USCG Loran Monitor Station, Rhodes, Greece, commissioned 15 April 1959 is located on the northern end of the Isle of Rhodes, Greece. About four miles from city of Rhodes, it is on the outskirts of the village of Trianta, facing the Aegean Sea and the Turkish mainland.

The history of Rhodes is most interesting and, together with the warm climate and abundance of beaches, accounts for the influx of upwards of 100,000 visitors each year. All types and varieties of fruits and vegetables are raised locally. Among the many exports are wines, olives, and their by-products, pottery, vegetables, citrus fruits, and marble. Main attractions on the island are the castle at Lindos, the site where the colossus of Rhodes once stood, the castle of the Knights of Saint John, many other old castles, the walled city, the marble and pottery factories the wine and ouzo factories, the many beautiful beaches, and just general sightseeing in locations filled with historical lore. Rhodes harbor is the scene of much activity each summer with many expensive yachts from all over the world arriving and departing. Local tourist boats make daily cruises to neighboring islands. Tourist buses filled with sightseers go to all the interesting spots on the island at nominal fees. It is quite difficult to obtain hotel accommodations without prior reservation despite the many hotels being built each year.

Although Greek is the generally spoken language, most of the island's inhabitants can converse in both Italian or English. The official rate of exchange is 29.85 drachmae to one U. S. dollar. Everyday transactions are usually made at a 30 to 1 rate.

Requirements by the local government for all permanent type residents on the island are a Greek identification card and an International Drivers License if one cares to drive any type of motor vehicle. These requirements apply mainly to the American personnel and their dependents stationed on the island.

Rhodes

Chapter II - Operations

The purpose of this station is to provide an accurate and reliable check on the performance of the Loran-C chain in the Eastern Mediterranean. A constant watch is kept on the electronic equipment that receives the proper signals from the three transmitting stations. Two AN/SPN-30 Loran-C receivers are used for this purpose.

Communications between stations of the chain are conducted on two frequencies utilizing single-sideband equipment. All attached personnel are fully trained as competent watchstanders and are instructed in proper voice communication procedures. When necessary, telephone communication is conducted with the local Voice of America sites.

No boats are attached to this unit. Vehicles attached are a Volkswagon Vanibus and a Dodge Stake Truck. The vehicles are maintained by a local garage. Gasoline is obtained by the use of coupons, books of which may be purchased at the local Voice of America office. Cost of gasoline is approximately \$8.50 for 30 Imperial gallons.



## Rhodes, Greece

### Chapter III - Personnel

Complement authorized for the unit is one CHRELE, four Electronics Technicians, and three seamen. Tour of duty is 18 months for single men and 24 months for those personnel having their dependents residing locally. Many personnel have extended their tours resulting in a wealth of experience insofar as required duties are concerned.

Since Rhodes is not termed restricted duty compensatory absence is not authorized while attached. Emergency leave may be granted subject to approval by higher authority. Regular leave is granted by the Commanding Officer depending upon the workload and available personnel.

Military medical facilities are not available locally. The nearest military medical facility is at the Air Force Base in Athens. Flying time is approximately one and one-half hours with one flight each day scheduled during the winter months. Cost of a round trip ticket is about \$32.00. A local hospital is available and both doctors and dentists are in abundance.

An American school is available for grades one through eight and is currently being supervised by the American School of Athens. Students of high school age must make arrangements for schooling in another country.

A commissary is run by a community of about twenty-five American families which include personnel of this unit. Supplies are limited in both quantity variety and a twenty percent markup is levied to meet the high cost of transportation and handling between AFEX Athens and Rhodes.

A continuous training and education program is conducted with station personnel being responsible for giving instructions and lectures weekly.

There are two addresses that will deliver mail to either the station or to personnel attached. These addresses are:

USCG Loran Monitor Station  
c/o American Embassy (VOAR)  
APO 223, New York, N.Y. 09223

or: USCG Loran Monitor Station  
Sirinella, Trianta, Rhodes  
Dodecanese, Greece

A daily mail run is made by this unit to the VOA receiving site at Koskinou village, about twelve miles away. No facilities other than mailing of letters are available. For stamps, money orders, insured, registered, or packaged mail, a note of instructions with money enclosed must be sent to the APO post office in Athens. Mail arriving through the local international post office must be delivered by the local postman and packages arriving via this method must be cleared through customs.

Rhodes, Greece

Morale has always been high as is evidenced by the high rate of tour extensions which are requested. This despite the fact that recreational facilities are limited. TV, bowling, golf, and sports events are not available. Swimming, snorkling, sightseeing, some hunting and fishing, and boating are available. Soccer is the national sport and games are played at least weekly in the local stadium. Movies are available at many local theatres in addition to the Navy Sea Prints, thirty of which are received each month.



## Rhodes, Greece

### Chapter IV - Engineering

Electronic equipment on hand, which must be maintained continuously, consists of loran receivers, SSB transmitters and receivers, test equipment, recording equipment, radisc equipment, portable transmitter-receivers. A preventive maintenance schedule is set up and requires continuous over-seeing. Commercial power input to the station consists of 380/220 volt three phase, 50 cycles. In the case of commercial power failure which occurs quite frequently, an emergency diesel engine generator plant is available. This is a permanently mounted plant 12.5 KVA 120/240 volt Continental engine which may be started remotely from the watchroom. Another identical plant is available and is trailer mounted for use when monitoring from other sites on the island.

Two 35 foot whip antennas are mounted on the station building roof for use with the Loran-C receivers. Two other 35 foot whip antennas are mounted in locations adjacent to the station building. These are for use with the SSB equipment. The latter two sites are leased from their respective landowners. Fuels used on the station are Diesel for the emergency plants and kerosene for the three stoves used during the winter months. Diesel fuel is procured locally and transported in 50 gallon drums using station vehicles. Kerosene is delivered to the station. Water is obtained from a well on the station property. This water is not considered potable and drinking water is obtained in five gallon carboys from Rhodes each day.



1  
Rhodes, Greece

Chapter V - Comptroller

Personnel attached to LMS Rhodes enjoy subsistence and quarters allowance as no facilities are available on board. Pay records are maintained by the Navy in Naples, Italy and checks are mailed every other Wednesday from Commander, Mediterranean Section Office in Naples.

While off the station civilian clothing is worn although a complete seabag is a requisite of all personnel attached. Quarterly clothing inspections and monthly personnel inspections are held. Small store clothing may be obtained by submitted request to COMMEDSEC.

Funds for the operation of the station are allotted each quarter under subheads 42 and 43. Procedures for obtaining additional emergency funds and for reporting of expenditures are outlined in distributed Section directives. The paper work associated with logistics and supply is a unit responsibility and function. Routine requisitions are submitted to either CG Supply Center, NSC Bayonne, or GSA via COMMEDSEC. Normal expected time of delivery is eight to twelve weeks and close attention must be paid to the on hand supply level of all items. An Imprest Fund is in effect for this unit and used for local purchases not to exceed \$100.00. Authorized Imprest Fund is \$750.00, with the fund cashier generally being the senior enlisted man on the station. This fund is used for payment of rent, utilities, medical and other services, and locally obtained supplies.

Rhodes, Greece

Chapter VI - Administration

Health records and service records of attached personnel are retained on board. The Commanding Officer makes all required entries. All necessary reports and letters are handled by the Commanding Officer. An average of 180 letters per fiscal year are written. A **general knowledge of** current instructions and publications is required due to the varied administrative workload. All required blank forms are retained on board.

A unit punishment book is maintained and necessary entries made. The Senior enlisted man on board is the Officer-in-Charge during absence of the Commanding Officer and, as such, is authorized to administer non-judicial punishment. Due to the high state of station morale discipline problems are rarely encountered.

A station safety board, consisting of five members meet monthly to discuss safety factors concerning the station. It is endeavored to keep all hands safety conscious throughout the day, every day.

This unit has little contact with any local military commands or civil officials. Any problems encountered requiring local permission are resolved through mutual acquaintances. Very little misunderstanding is encountered due to the constant program of stressing compliance with local regulations. Deep friendships have been the case between station personnel and the natives.



Chapter VII - Words of Wisdom for Reliefs

Upon receiving orders to report to Rhodes for duty one should pay particular attention to the following items:

- Obtain an International Drivers License prior to departing the U. S.
- Open a checking account in a stateside bank.
- Have any 60 cycle utilities converted to 50 cycles.
- Bring any special medicines required for any members of your family
- All household goods used stateside may be utilized on Rhodes.
- Portable wardrobes, a 220 volt to 115 volt transformer, and portable kerosene heaters are usually a must.

Housing available range from two bedrooms for about \$80.00 to three and sometimes four bedroom from anywhere about \$100 up. Few furnished apartments are available. Pets may be brought but close attention must be paid as the local police poison all stray dogs (and sometimes those tied) during the summer months. Roads on the island are good but it is not recommended that a new car be brought. Parts for American cars are difficult to obtain. Buses run regularly and cost little. Olympic Airlines has one scheduled flight to Athens each day in the winter and three each day during the summer.





