

Commander, 14th Coast Guard District
1347 Kapiolani Blvd.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Public Information Office
Release No. 158-66

May 9, 1966
For Immediate Release

A radio system of navigation called Loran-C, which will permit a ship to determine its position accurately at long ranges from the transmitters, will soon be guiding ships carrying war supplies to Viet Nam.

The Coast Guard has announced that three Loran stations in Thailand and Viet Nam will swing into operation this fall to guide ships operating in the South China Sea.

An outgrowth of earlier pulsed-typed radio navigational systems, Loran-C achieves a greater range because it operates at a lower frequency and incorporates more sophisticated circuitry than did earlier systems. The new system also provides a ship with a more precise method of "position fixing" than did the earlier systems.

To use Loran in determining a position the navigator of a ship or plane carefully measures, on a Loran receiver, the difference in time between receiving synchronized signals from each of two or three stations in a group.

In the three-station group (Loran-C), the ship picks up a signal from the first station. The other two stations in the chain also pick up the signal and originate similar pulse beats after a closely controlled interval. The navigator then measures the time difference between the receipt of the pulses from the various stations and arrives at his position.

COPT. KINCAID
COPT. KINCAID
5331

Loran was developed in World War II by a committee of scientists commissioned to research and develop weapons of war. The first chain of stations began operation in 1942 to guide our ships plying the dangerous North Atlantic.

As the war expanded throughout the Pacific so did Loran. Millions of square miles of ocean were covered with the invisible guidelines emanating from stations in Hawaii, Alaska, the Carolines, Phoenix, Marshall and Admiralty Islands.

Because of its value to the enemy Loran was a closely guarded secret until 1945 when its use was made available to commerce. Today Loran is free and readily available to all mariners of all nations of the world. Receiving sets and charts are inexpensive and Loran has proved to be one of the most accurate navigational aids ever devised.

The U.S. Coast Guard operates over 60 Loran stations around the world. Over one-third of these are scattered throughout Hawaii, the Far East, and the islands of the Pacific.

The stations are for the most part located in isolated areas such as Yap Island, Angaur, Palau Islands or Cataduanes Island, Philippines. The Coast Guard crews range from 8 to 25 enlisted men under the command of a junior officer.

During World War II many of the Pacific stations were attacked by Japanese troops and the Coast Guardsmen and Marines stationed there had to fight for their lives.

---USCG---