

UPDATE (The invitation is posted below)

FEBRUARY 5, 2010

Good Morning All,

Here's the current status.

1) While south Jersey is about to get hit with a potential blizzard, it will be done by Saturday evening, which will give us plenty of time to clean up in advance of your arrival. We are only a short distance off the New Jersey Parkway, which gets priority plowing, so I'm confident we should have access to the base. We're made arrangements for the clearing of the base itself, so we're expecting access for the event to not be an issue.

2) We're up to about 40 or so of you scheduled to attend. Of those attending, I'd ask that you bring the following:

- Any photos, souvenirs, trinkets, etc. to share with everyone. Some of you were standing the watch before members of my crew were born, so I'd like them to be able to reach out to our history.

- Sea stories. I anticipate a member of the Coast Guard's Historian's Office staff to be here and I'm sure he'll want to collect some personal stories.

- A positive attitude. Remember, we're celebrating your professional service standing the watch, not the termination of the signal.

3) The address for the base is included below in the original email. Once you get to the main gate on Pacific avenue, follow the road as it winds to the right first. As you continue along, you pass a guard shack and then pass through a security gate. Continue on as the road again curves to the right and you pass through another security gate. The building we will gather at will be on your right. This is building C6. There will be parking around the building. If it is full, just beyond C6 is another building an more parking. You can park anywhere that is open and doesn't have a sign marking designated parking.

4) Here is the schedule of events:

1300 Gather in C6. We'll get everyone organized and supplied with name tags.

1315-1400. Opening ceremony. I'll have some remarks about the Coast Guard's involvement with loran over the years, we'll have a moment of silence for those who have crossed the bar, and then we'll introduce ourselves. I'd like each of you to introduce yourself and tell everyone where you were assigned. This will give a chance to break the ice and sway sea stories with the folks we don't know.

1400. Travel to the "T" (transmitter) building. It is a short walk, but we'll have a van for anyone who needs it.

1500 Signal termination.

1530 Food, conversation and sea stories.

5) Should anything change, I'll send out an email to everyone as early as possible, but I'm fully expecting to proceed with the celebration.

6) Call or email with questions.

Regards,

GMT

Loran Celebration at USCG LSU - February 8, 2010

From: CDR Gary Thomas

Good Morning,

As everyone knows by now, the Coast Guard will be terminating the Loran C signal transmission on February 8th, 2010 at 1500 EST. This marks the closure of a significant part of Coast Guard history, but more importantly, it marks the closure of the mission that Loranimals stood the watch executing.

With that in mind, the LSU will be hosting a celebration in conjunction with the signal termination. Please note that this is not a celebration of the termination. Rather, it is a celebration of the service that you and all your fellow Loranimals have provided to our nation in times of war and peace.

With that in mind, a few specifics:

Where: LSU. For those that don't know, we're on the last half of the old EECEN property in old Loran buildings - C1-C6.

When: February 8th, 2010 at 1300. We'll have a short gathering, then shift to the T buildings to bring the transmitters on air, in tolerance.

What: A celebration. Once the signal is terminated and the gear secured, we'll host a party/BBQ/Social/something.

Rules of engagement:

- 1) This will be a celebration, not a funeral. This is about your service, not the decision to terminate, not about Loran Recap, eLoran or anything else.
- 2) Having fun renewing friendships is the order of the day.
- 3) The "TO" is far from inclusive. Please forward the notice to Loranimals that aren't listed.
- 4) Stories will be told -- and this is important -- they must all start with "there I was," "you think that was bad," or "remember when..."

If you plan on attending, please send me an email with your intentions. I need to tally a list of folks for planning purposes.

I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

Regards,

GMT

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609) 602-2201 cellular
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email to MCPO Bill Dietz, USCG (ret)
Good Morning,

If you want to post this to your site, I'm good with that - it might give it more visibility.

Regards,

GMT

MCPO reply to CDR Thomas - The following is an understanding why things will occur as they will...

Good morning Commander,

Thank you for the LORAN celebration invitation however I must decline because of other commitments. I would like to take this opportunity to make some comments and suggestions on the activities planned. LORSTAs Carolina Beach and Nantucket would be the best candidates for signal termination with large screen monitors at LSU to display the termination of LORAN as we know it today.

The reasoning for this suggestion is:

LORAN Station Nantucket is the longest transmitting active site. This stations LORAN operation (LORAN A) commenced with on-air testing in July 1943 and declared operational December 1943. In the late summer of 1962, with the addition of LORAN C, became the largest transmitting station eventually 4 LORAN A and 2 LORAN C rates being transmitting. The site of the station is at the same location upon establishment. Some may argue that the LORAN C station is on the other side of the road and the original LORAN A site was turned over to the Town of Nantucket by congressional action.

LORAN Station Carolina Beach (aka Cape Fear) was part of the experimentation site for CYTAC which the equipment was used for LORAN C development. The station LORAN C operations began in Aug 1957 as the Master station of the US East Coast (Jupiter Inlet[1] and Martha's Vineyard[2] as secondaries). This chain was never declared operational using the CYTAC equipment; it was classified as experimental. However the station was never relocated. There were a few off-air periods, Sep 1958 because tower failure after a hurricane and in the sixties when the transmitting antenna was replaced and

Wildwood became the temporary Master until the return of Caroline Beach on air signal.

EECEN/LSU was established in 1948 to support Aids to Navigation. The original support unit for Aids to Navigation was location at Fenwick[3] Island, DE. The mission of these facilities was to support/test/develop/modify all electronics Aids to Navigation i.e. radar, racons, LORAN, etc.

Part of this responsibility was for EECEN Wildwood to assume a Secondary or Master position of the East Coast Chain when necessary however it was never meant to be an operational transmitting station. That honor belongs to those stations mentioned above.

I believe that the honor of signal termination should be given to LORSTA Carolina and Nantucket (9960) with the active crew the ones to throw the switch.

Respectfully,

MCPO William (Bill) C. Dietz, USCG (ret)

CDR Thomas's reply

Master Chief,

You're spot on with the history - as always, you've got me beat on the specific details.

We discussed something like this early on, but there were some operational constraints. We chose that time of day so that if there are any issues, more people would be available to respond. Additionally, NAVCEN's operational procedures were for the secondaries to go off air in sequence, followed by master, one chain at a time (CB is secondary for two different chains). Finally, we needed to move east to west. We constructed this process to reduce the risk of unintended consequences and that precluded anyone specific station going off air out of sequence.

As a result, given the operational T slot of LSU on the 9960 chain (the first to go) and the ability to bring the TTX on air at any point on her own, we decided that LSU's

transmission would be symbolic of everyone.

Having said that, you've made good points and I'll discuss with NAVCEN to see if we can fit it in. Either way, you information will be valuable to mention as we talk about the history of Loran in the Coast Guard when we do the shutdown ceremony.

Regards,

GMT

Also, forgot - Nantucket actually keeps transmitting for the Canadian East Coast chain until the Canadians are ready to secure their signal.

Regards,

GMT

Another element to consider, because I do understand your concern, is that it won't just be my folks turning on and off the gear - I'm going to incorporate the veterans who come here in helping alongside my folks.

Regards,

GMT

SHORT LIST OF THOSE WHO ARE ATTENDING

January 26, 2010

Good Afternoon All,

Couple of issues.

1) I'm trying to consolidate emails so that I can send one email instead of multiplies. I think I've added everyone from the various emails, but if you know of someone else who needs to be aware of the event, please let me know. My intent is to be as encompassing as possible. If you do not wish to receive further updates, let me know and I'll remove your email address.

2) For those on active duty, the uniform of the day will be ODUs. There is a chance to have some senior USCG officials

onboard for the event, so troops are, of course, always an option if you want.

3) We will gather at 1300, February 8th, 2010 at building C-6. The intent of the meeting is to introduce everyone to each other as we currently have Loran "A", Supply Center Brooklyn and various Loran "C" station Loranimals represented who might not know each other.

4) No later than 1430, we'll all gather in the Transmitter Buildings to prepare for the 1500 termination sequence to begin.

5) Weather permitting, we'll have a BBQ afterwards. We have indoor and outdoor accommodations, so we should be able to hold it. However, should something prevent that, we'll all gather at the Wildwood Crest or the "annex" outside the main gate

6) For those who haven't been here recently, please use the following address for Google Maps, MapQuest, your GPS, etc.:

12001 Pacific Avenue, Wildwood, NJ 08260

7) If you are coming from out of town and need lodging, here are some options:

Cape May: <http://www.capemaytimes.com/hotels/cape-may.htm>

Wildwood: <http://www.wildwoods.org/directory/Lodging>

There are a few guest cottages on TRACEN Cape May for those with an ID card. I am not sure of availability, but they may be contacted at:

http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/activeduty/MWR_Temporary_Quarters.asp

Note that there are no major chain hotels for 30 miles.

8) Please RSVP to me directly at this email address. I have the following confirmed individuals attending (weather permitting travel):

Chuck Teaney
George Hamilton
Dave Freeze

Doug Taggart
Bill Combatti
Joe Lukinich
LCDR Bob Manning
Pete Zalesny
Ken Madigan
Ron Darrow
Annie DeGeorge (Bill's widow)
Tom Gunther
LCDR Jim Betz
Brian Bensen
John Brown
Chris Stout
Chuck Schue
John Hartline
LT Daphne Rea
John J. Del Giorno
Jack Anastasia
Gary Westling

That should do it for now. Do not hesitate to call or email with problems, concerns, suggestions, whatever.

Regards,

GMT