

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
COAST GUARD

COMMANDER
COAST GUARD ACTIVITIES EUROPE

STATION
INFORMATION BOOK
ESTARTIT

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

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LETTER OF PROMULATION

1. This booklet is intended to provide detailers, processing centers, major commands and prospective crewmembers with a general guide as to the conditions that are to be found at Coast Guard Loran Station Estartit Spain. The information has been provided by the personnel at the station so as to make it as pertinent as possible.
2. Personnel in receipt of orders to LORSTA ESTARTIT should insure that a Navy Sponsor Notification Form (NAVPERS 1330/2) is sent to their new unit as soon as possible. Besides the specific information that will be provided by each unit through the sponsor program, additional information may be found in ACTEURINST 1300.2 series which is held by all district offices and major commands. This instruction is continually updated so as to provide the most recent information on each unit in Activities, Europe.
3. The importance of proper preparation and processing for an overseas assignment cannot be overemphasized. Personnel who are ill-suited or improperly prepared for their assignment may find the going quite rough when they arrive. On the other hand, personnel who take the time to prepare and have been processed appropriately will find their assignment a most rewarding experience.

L. W. GODDU, JR

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
LORAN C TRANSMITTING STATION

ESTARTIT SPAIN

CHAPTER I

GERENAL INFORMATION

A. Mission

Loran C transmitting station Estartit Spain is a member of the Mediterranean Loran C Chain and operates as the “Z” secondary station. The mission of this station is to transmit a usable navigation signal 24 hours a day every day of the year. With the present generation equipment we come very close to meeting this goal.

B. Chain of Command

The station is under the administrative control of Command, Coast Guard Activities, Europe located in London, UK while the Chain Operational Control Officer (COCO) is located at the master station of the chain at Simeri Crichi, Italy.

Other units of this command are Loran Transmitting Station Simeri Crichi, Italy, the Master Station; Loran Transmitting Kargabarum, Turkey, the “Y” secondary station; Loran Transmitting Station Lampedusa, Italy, the “X” secondary station; and Loran Monitor Stations at Rhodes Greece and Sardinia, Italy.

C. Location

LORSTA Estartit is located on a mountain overlooking the Mediterranean Sea, 35 kilometers (1KM = .6 mile) northeast of the city of Gerona in the region of Cataluna, Spain. It is a sea coast town and is 133 KM north of Spain’s industrial capital, Barcelona.

Estartit is a tourist center which thrives on its English, German and French visitors during the months of May through October. From a year average of 500, the population swells to 35,000 during these prime tourists months. This part of Spain is known as the Costa Brava, or Brave Coast, so named because of its rugged, rocky outline. However, there are numerous delightful interruptions of smooth sandy beaches along the entire length of this otherwise impenetrable boundary, forming some of the most beautiful resort areas in the world.

D. Nearby Communities

Estartit is surrounded by quaint little farm villages and tourist oriented sea coast towns. La Escala, to the north, still remains its fishing atmosphere which Estartit has lost. La Bisbal, to the west, is world famous for its clay pottery. Nearby Torroella de Montgri

offers housing, markets, and various shopping facilities to our married personnel. Serra de Daro boasts of freshly baked bread from an old-fashioned wood burning stove. Ampurias is the site of some interesting ruins dating back to the Roman occupation of this region. In short, there is enough to see and do in this area to keep a family or single man busy for an entire two year tour.

E. Climate Conditions

Climate conditions in Estartit are similar to those of mid-coastal areas of the Eastern United States. Temperatures below 32 degrees are rare and summer temperatures seldom exceed 95 degrees. However, on the station hill, the temperature usually stays below 85 degrees due to a constant cool breeze. In winter and early spring the weather is highlighted by an exceptionally strong (30-80 MPH) wind, known as the "Tramontana", which blows from the Pyrenees Mountains in the north and lasts for several days at a time, bringing cool air and clear weather.

F. Local Population

The vast majority of the people in Estartit are Catalans. The region of Cataluna once extended from the Ebro River through Andorra and France to Marseilles and was a powerful kingdom. The Catalans have their own language which they learn in the home, and are taught Castillian, the Spanish national language, when they enter school. The Catalan may appear to be a cold, reserved person at first, but after the initial reservations, they are warm likeable people.

The Spaniards, and especially the Catalans are proud of their country and of their heritage. They are very friendly, warm and receptive. The relationship between the station personnel and local inhabitants has always been very good. You can make many friends with the Spanish, especially if you take the time to learn their language. Begin now while you are in the States. You will not regret having done so.

It is an exciting experience to learn a new culture, way of life, language, and philosophy, but the American must realize he is the foreigner and must respect the customs and sensitivities of the host population.

G. History

The station was constructed in 1961-62 and commenced loran operations in October 1962 as an isolated command, (no dependants). In 1968, it was designated a non-restricted family station. Few major changes had transpired over the last twelve years until September 1974 when the new Loran Replacement Equipment (LRE) was installed, removing the requirement of maintaining a "live" loran timer room watch. The new equipment is more effective, reliable, and requires fewer maintenance personnel.

Electrical power is provided by three Caterpillar Model D397, 1200 RPM, 12 cylinder, 415 HP Diesel generators and rated at 250 KW. These generators produce 120/208 volt, three phase, 60 cycle AC current.

The Loran Transmitting Antenna Tower is 625 feet high and is visible for miles.

CHAPTER II

STATION DETAILS

A. Personnel Complement

Military:

LTJG	1	SS1	1	ET3	1
CWO2(ELEC)	1	EM2	1	MK3	1
ETC	1	HM2	1	FN	2
MKC	1	MK2	1	SN	4
ET1	1	SK2	1	TOTAL	20
MK1	1	ET2	1		

Civilian:

Interpreter/Clerk-typist	1
Assistant Cook	1
Laborers	2

B. Tour Status

Accompanied – Personnel who choose to and are entitled to have their dependants moved at government expense (E-4 with over 2 years service and above) serve a twenty-four month tour.

Unaccompanied – Personnel without dependants, or those who choose to serve without their dependants in Spain serve an eighteen month tour.

C. Operations

Loran Watch – Each of the four electronic technicians (ETC, ET1, ET2, and ET3) stands one full day of duty each fourth day. He is required to be on board for twenty-hours to troubleshoot any electronics problems and process message traffic.

Engineer of the Watch – The MK1, MK2, MK3 and EM2 act as the senior engineer on board during a twenty-four hour duty day every four days.

Officer of the Day – The MKC, SS1, HM2 and SK2 act as the Officer of the Day during a twenty-four hour period and are directly responsible to the Commanding Officer for the smooth operation of the station.

Command Duty Officer – The Commanding Officer and Senior Technical Officer act as the unit's CDO's.

Work Routine – The station work day is from 0800 to 1600 Monday through Friday with one hour break from 1200 to 1300 for dinner and sports.

D. Facilities

The station runs a commissary stocked through Torrejon AFB and is authorized to make sales to dependants and personnel receiving COMRATS. We stock a full line of canned, boxed, dry, frozen and chilled goods from Gold Medal flour to Chef-Boy-R-Dee frozen pizzas.

Each man is provided with his own room on base, complete with bed, desk and locker, and wall to wall shag carpeting. Food is excellent both in quality and quantity. A Subsistence Specialist provides hot meals Monday through Friday. On weekends and holidays an open galley is maintained. Personnel receiving Commuted Rations (COMRATS) must pay for any meals they eat on base. Meals are paid for at the end of each month.

A first or second Hospital Corpsman is assigned. The station Sick Bay has facilities for first aid and emergency treatments. There is a Spanish doctor in Torroella de Montgri, 10 minutes driving time from the station; a hospital in Gerona, 40 minutes driving time; and numerous clinics, hospitals and private in Barcelona, 2 hours away. Normally dependants shall have their medical care accomplished in Spanish facilities, subject to reimbursement by CHAMPUS. In rare instances when adequate medical treatment is not available from Spanish sources, dependants may be authorized to utilize the military facilities located at U.S. Air Force bases in Madrid and Zaragoza, Spain. Military members will normally travel to Torrejon Air Force Base Madrid (1 hour by air) or Zaragoza Air Force Base, Zaragoza (a seven hour auto trip). If you or any member of your family possess any medical of a recurring nature, notify this command and your present commanding officer so that it may be determined whether you will experience difficulties in obtaining treatment in Spain. Provide this information immediately upon receipt of your orders.

At the station, movies are scheduled nightly, with weekend matinees. We have a pool table, ping pong table, table soccer machine, air hockey game, full size basketball, tennis, and volleyball court, and a one wall handball court. There is a lounge with a fireplace and a reel to reel – cassette -8 track stereo set up. A pistol range and skeet shooting facilities are located to the north of the barracks. The station owns a 12 foot Miami Surfer with a 40 HP outboard motor which is utilized in the summer for water skiing, fishing and general recreation. The recreation locker contains fishing gear, water skis,

baseball equipment, tennis gear, basketballs, camping gear, etc. The station is also supplied with two radio/phonograph consoles and two TV sets. A station exchange and beer mess are also maintained.

Activity in the town of Estartit in the winter is practically non-existent. However, there are many larger towns nearby and Barcelona offers all the attractions of a large U.S. city. The summertime activities are endless. Sailboating, waterskiing, fishing, swimming, camping, bikini-watching, dancing and skin-diving are only a few. The cities of Figueras, Barcelona, and Gerona feature bullfights. Bus tours of the entire Costa Brava also originate in the Estartit.

Liberty is granted at 1600 and expires 0745. Weekends are free for all hands with the exception of the duty section. Regular annual leave may be taken at any time subject to existing manpower constraints. Leave within non-communist Europe may be granted by the CO. If a member of your family is ill or in need of assistance, the American Red Cross must verify that your presence is necessary before emergency leave can be granted. Before departing CONUS, advise your immediate family that in case of an emergency, they should request that the American Red Cross wire verification to the Red Cross representative at Torrejon Air Base Madrid Spain. This procedure will save valuable time.

We maintain an exchange stocked through Torrejon AFB and through a lively special order section which deals directly with distributors in the States. A good selection of sundry items are maintained at all times and any items stocked by the Torrejon exchange are available on a special order basis.

F. Personal

Mail – APO mail is received from Torrejon AFB via rail Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The mailing addresses are:

APO: YOUR NAME	INTERNATIONAL: YOUR NAME
USCG LORAN STATION ESTARTI	BASE AMERICANA
BOX 1	ESTARTIT, GERONA
APO NEW YORK 09401	SPAIN (ESPANA)

At present, APO letters arrive in 6-8 days from the eastern U.S. International Air Mail letters take 4 days. (Never send letters international surface or you will experience a 30 day delay!) APO parcel post is inexpensive and takes 2 to 3 weeks for delivery.

Pay records are maintained by the Commander, Coast Guard Activities, Europe, London. Paychecks are mailed every two weeks and are cashed through a local bank, payable in either dollars or pesetas.

Personnel purchasing items through the station commissary or general mess are required to pay by check, payable to the U.S. Coast Guard, in dollars. Free checking accounts are available for U.S. military, with no minimum deposit required, through:

The Northeastern Bank of Pennsylvania
PO Box 231
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18501

It is advisable to open a savings account in the U.S. prior to your transfer. The easiest way is by allotment.

Very few Spanish homes have telephones. However, phone calls to the States may be placed through the telephone company in Estartit. Emergency calls may be made from the States by calling the Station number:

Area Code (972) 758 148

Uniforms may be ordered, with difficulty, through Coast guard Supply Center Brooklyn. All personnel are required to report with a full sea bag of uniforms.

Civilian clothing may be purchased locally but is rather expensive. However, good quality, reasonable priced clothing may be purchased from catalogues through Sears Roebuck, J.C. Penny, etc. Civilian clothing must be worn at all times in Spain, except while on board U.S. Military bases.

Your dependants are entitled to free passports. We suggest that you fill out a DD Form 1056 for each dependant rather than for a family group. See your Personnel Officer for information concerning the execution of this form. Passports takes approximately 2 months to process. We suggest that active duty members contemplating extensive travel in Europe also procure a passport. The \$12.00 is well worth it to the traveler. If you plan to remain in Spain during your tour, your I.D. card is sufficient. Active duty members are not entitled to a no-fee passport.

Personnel entitled to a government sponsored "with dependants" tour (See COMDTINST 1300.2E) are also entitled to a Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) while searching for housing in Spain. This TLA helps to cover hotel and restaurant costs. More information will be provided upon your arrival.

A school is normally maintained at the station for grades kindergarten through eight and a dependant wife who is a certified teacher monitors the children's studies under the Calvert correspondence system. Personnel with school age children are requested to send the child's name, age and grade ASAP so that a course may be ordered. However, due to the difficulties in programming a dependant wife teacher, parents must be prepared to tutor their children themselves. Children in grades nine through twelve must board at the Zaragoza Air Force Base High School, located 250 miles from Estartit.

CHARTER III

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

A. Dealing With The Local Populace

The Spaniards in the Estartit area see very few Americans because our countrymen tend to vacation in the south of Spain. Therefore, the local people form their opinions of America and Americans from the image presented by Coast Guard personnel stationed here. Consequently, we all have the obligation of promoting a positive American image through our actions and relations with the local populations.

The station has many valuable contacts, both civilians and military, in the area. The Spanish National Police Force (La Guardia Civil) have been extremely helpful on numerous occasions. They maintain a night guard around the limits of the station, and maintain a command post in Estartit.

The American Committee for Liberty operates a radio station in nearby Pals, broadcasting information on the American way of life to Russia. The Radio station personnel and Coast Guard personnel enjoy a mutually helpful relationship.

B. Housing

Dependants live in Estartit and nearby town of Torroella de Montgri, in the same housing as the Spanish occupy. Spanish homes are very different from what Americans are used to. They are fabricated completely from brick, concrete and plaster. Central heating is unknown and portable space heaters, used extensively, are obtained on the Spanish market. Monthly rental fees for houses and apartments range from \$90.00 to \$140.00.

Electricity is 220 volt AC, 50 cycle. Transformers to step this down to 120 VAC, 50 cycles are available locally. The cycles can not be converted and electric motors in washing machines, stereo turntables, etc, therefore run more slowly. If you are fortunate enough to know of an electrical supply company in the States capable of providing you with a 220 VAC to 100 VAC step down transformer rated at 5000 watts, for \$100.00 or less, you will be ahead of the game. If not, buy smaller units when you arrive.

Butane gas is the only gas available in this area and is used in cooking and heating. Natural gas is not available. Convert all gas appliances to butane while in the States.

Kerosene is used as a fuel for gas oil heaters.

Municipal water is potable, although many personnel purchase bottled spring water for drinking and cooking.

Housing is more readily available from October to May. Our interpreter provides assistance in procuring housing. Housing is available within a 10 miles radius of the

base. Spanish houses do not usually have closets, but clothes cabinets are usually provided. Hot water heaters are usually of about 10 gallon capacity.

Furnished rentals are sparsely equipped by American standards. Stoves have two or three burners and an oven about 18" x 12" x 12". Refrigerators are 36" x 18" x 20" with a freezer capacity of half gallon containers of ice cream. Beds sag in the middle and do not have box springs. Sofas and arm chairs are not usually provided. (See paragraph V.D. entitled WHAT TO BRING)

C. Commercial Buying

Vegetables are extremely abundant on the Spanish market at amazingly low costs. Some people choose to purchase all of their food on the economy, but most personnel choose to divide their purchases between the commissary and the local market.

Gasoline is purchased from local gas stations with coupons purchased from the base exchange. The January 1, 1975 price was \$.70 per gallon.

There are many souvenir shops in Estartit and the surrounding locale, and visitors will no difficulty in finding remembrances to send home. Servicemen are subject to the same customs laws and regulations as other U.S. citizens aboard. Bonafide gifts to persons in the United States may be imported free of duty provided the aggregate value of articles received by any one person in one day is less than ten (\$10) dollars. No Alcoholic beverages, perfume containing alcohol, or tobacco products may be sent as gifts. 60 Stat. 242, as amended (5-0 USC APP 801), exempts from duty and tax the personnel and household effects of any person in the Armed Services who returns to the United States upon termination of a tour duty of a period greater than 140 days outside the customs territory of the United States. There is no specific limit as to the quantities or value of personal or household effects which may be imported. Articles may not be imported under the statute for resale, or for any person other than the member of members of his immediate family who have resided overseas with him. However, household effects allowed free entry may be subsequently used as gifts to others. These regulations in no way affect the provisions of the Joint Travel Regulations which forbid the shipping of wine, liquor, animals or birds as household effects or personal goods.

D. Transportation Facilities

Local transportation is accomplished by privately owned vehicle, taxi, or bus. There are several trains daily between Barcelona and Flassa, the nearest train station. Train service is also available to Madrid and to all points in Europe. There is a round trip flight between Madrid and Gerona on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Barcelona Airport provides service to all parts of the world.

E. Regulations Peculiar to Spain

Spanish laws governing the importation of Privately Owned Vehicles (POV) into Spain required that the vehicle be registered to the individual in the country of assignment prior to a PCS transfer. For example, an individual assigned within CONUS could bring a used car or purchase a new vehicle, register it with a U.S. registration, and subsequently ship the car to Spain for his tour of duty. Likewise a person assigned to Germany, with a vehicle registered with U.S. Forces in Germany plates, could drive this vehicle into Spain for subsequent registration there as a member of U.S. forces in Spain. An individual assigned to CONUS or Japan (for example) could not order a car for pick-up in France or Germany, register it with temporary tourist plates, and then drive the car into Spain for registration with U.S. Forces in Spain for his tour of duty there. Neither could a member assigned in Europe drive a vehicle registered with temporary tourists plates into Spain and then register the car with plates authorized for members of U.S. Forces in Spain.

The policy further requires that vehicles of foreign manufacture which are purchased by U.S. Forces assigned to Spain be obtained through an authorized dealer. Thus you may purchase an automobile in Spain and register it as a member of the U.S. Forces with tax-free status as long as you purchase the vehicle from an authorized dealer. However, the dealers are authorized to charge a "transaction fee" which is not regulated and varies from dealer to dealer. One station member paid \$238.00 for the privilege of purchasing a five-year old vehicle. Personnel who bring a vehicle into Spain in violation of the above instructions will not be authorized to register the vehicle in Spain.

Firearms are strictly controlled in Spain. Hand guns are not allowed. If a military member ships a hand gun with his household goods, he must turn it in to the station armory and cannot remove it from the station. He may, however, use it on the station range. Hunting rifles may be used off station subject to Spanish licenses and permits. Hunting is limited to fowl and small game so high-powered rifles are discouraged. In any event, write to the CO requesting permission, prior to shipping any firearms.

CHAPTER IV

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

A. Routing to Estartit

You should book passage from New York to Barcelona via TWA (preferred) or Iberia Airlines, category "Z", utilizing a government travel request (GTR) obtained from your personnel or supply officer. Although you will probably change planes in Madrid, do not go to Torrejon AFB unless directed by this command. Spanish I.D. Cards and driving licenses can be processed through the station upon your arrival. At the Barcelona Airport, if you have not done so in CONUS, change \$50.00 to pesetas. If a porter assists you tip him 20 pesetas. Take a taxi to the train station. Say: "Vaga a la estacion de los trens para Flassa, Espana, por favor". (Vay-yah ah lah eh-stay-syohn day los trehns pah-ra Flah-sah Es-pan-ya pour fah-vor) The cab fare is approximately 350 pesetas. At the train station, procure first class seats (270 pesetas) to Flassa, usually available at windows 12 or 14. Say "Quiero un billette primera clase para Flassa, por favor". (Keyeh-roh oon

bee-lyeh-the pree-meh-rah klah-she pah-rah Flah-sah pour fah-vor). We will send you a current train schedule. The ride lasts for two hours and the last train leaves at 1830. If you encounter difficulties, telephone the station at 972 758 148. When your train reaches Gerona, Flassa is only 10 minutes away. There should be two more momentary stops, but after Gerona, be alert for the Flassa sign. At Flassa, take a taxi to Base American, Estartit. WELCOME TO ESTARTIT.

B. Temporary Lodgings

If accompanied by dependants, you will normally stay in a hotel or tourists apartment until permanent housing can be found. The hotel and restaurant bills are partially defrayed by a Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) as provided for by paragraph M4303 of the Joint Travel Regulations (JTR). See paragraph II.F of this pamphlet.

CHAPTER V

GENERAL ADVICE

A. Language Training

If possible, attempt to learn Spanish utilizing the facilities located in the area of your present duty station. The BERLITZ course is excellent, but expensive. Check with your District Off-Duty Education Program Officer and your local Veteran's Administration office to determine whether funds are available to cover the cost of instruction.

B. What To Bring

Government Driver's License, DR, for passenger vehicles and pick-up trucks (military members).

International Driver's License available at any American Automobile Association (AAA) for a fee of \$3.00 (military member and dependant)

GROSSETS' SPANISH PHRASE BOOK AND DICTIONARY FOR TRAVELERS (\$1.25) or any comparable phrase book.

Private vehicles are highly desirable. Service facilities and parts for American autos are not available locally. However, you will be able to order parts through the Torrejon Exchange Garage, Sear and Roebuck and J.C. Whitney. Used autos in Spain are relatively expensive because they are considered a luxury and are therefore heavily taxed, so if you purchase a vehicle on the Spanish market, you will pay this tax.

However, you may purchase a vehicle through the Torrejon New car Sales, tax-free. As a general rule, if you have a large American car which requires frequent repair, and you are able to sell it in the States without too great a financial loss, then sell it. If you decide

to ship an American vehicle, have it serviced completely, and ship extra low cost, rapid wear parts such as air filters, oil filters, extra headlight, etc. It would be best to write to your sponsor so that he can give you advice and compare prices of vehicles available at Torrejon.

Due to the European custom of shopping daily and not stocking up on foods, Spanish refrigerators are very small. If you have a refrigerator freezer, bring it. Likewise, European stoves are small, usually having only two burners and a tiny oven. If you have a gas range or can purchase a used one, convert it use butane gas, and bring it. The same advice applies to a clothes dryer. Do not ship an electric stove or dryer because the Spanish wiring cannot handle either. An American washer is nice to have although you probably be limited to cold water washes due to the absence of large hot water heaters. Do not go out and buy a new machine. Bring what you have or obtain a used washer. There are two machines at the station for use of all hands. Record players can be adapted locally and small appliances such as vacuums, can openers, power tools, etc. can be operated with no problem using transformers.

Appliances which operate at 115 volts with stateside 60 Hz, must be operated at 100 volts with Spanish 50 Hz to prevent overheating and permanent damage. Therefore, if you obtain a transformer with a voltage regulator capable of stepping down 220-240 volts to 100 volts, bring it. One possible source of supply is the ACME Electric Corp, Cuba, NY.

If you can obtain an inexpensive kerosene space heater, bring it.

Unless you have some irreplaceable pieces of furniture which could be damaged, bring all of your household goods with the previously noted exceptions. If you so desire, your goods may be put into storage in CONUS at government expense. When shipping household goods, address then as follows:

YOUR NAME
BASE AMERICAN
U.S. COAST GUARD LORAN STATION
ESTARTIT, GERONA, SPAIN (ESPANA)

All GBL's and other paperwork should be sent to:

TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT OFFICER
ZARAGOZA AIR FORCE BASE
APO NEW YORK 09286

A copy of all paperwork should be sent to this unit to facilitate tracer action.

TV sets will receive the picture from the local Spanish station but must be converted to receive the sound. Conversion costs \$40.00. SONY TV sets for use in CONUS and Spain are available for \$130.00