

Correct Navigation Aid Big Job Of Small Loran Monitoring Sta

Proficiency and congeniality are the dual standards of the U.S. Coast Guard Loran Monitoring Station, the newest and smallest command at Keflavik Airport. Operating with a six-man complement, the monitoring facility accomplishes the task of maintaining the accuracy of navigation aids in its portion of the North Atlantic Loran-C complex.

The station was commissioned November 1, 1963. Its establishment brought the number of service branches represented at Keflavik to five. With the exception of a transmitter station at Sylt, Germany, it became the first Coast Guard facility in this area.

Five enlisted men and one officer man the small station. Commanding Officer is CWO Victor Loher, a graduate of Advanced Electronics Technology School, RCA Institute, New York. Enlisted in the command are Benton H. Johnson, ETCP; Edward H. McLees, ET1; Peter S. Hughes, ET2; James F. Doster, EM3; and James A. Jenkins, SA.

The Keflavik Loran Monitor Station is part of the North Atlantic Loran-C network, which is composed of transmitting stations located at Sylt; Bö, Norway; Jan Mayer Island; Faeroe Islands; and Sandur, Iceland. At present the monitor station is tied in with the Faeroes-Sandur portion of the Loran chain. However, it could also be used in conjunction with some of the other stations mentioned.

A brief description of the operation performed by the monitor

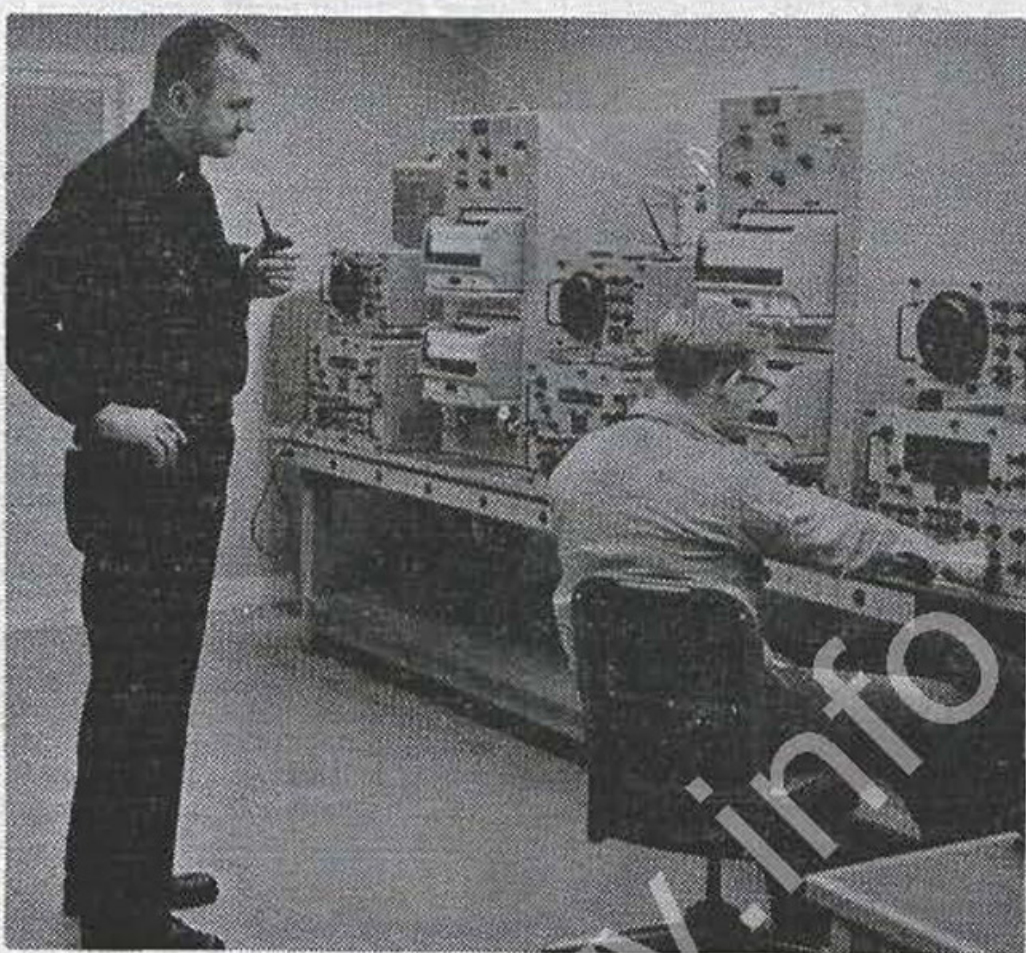


A FIFTEEN MINUTE AVERAGE of signal differences is taken by Chief Johnson. The recorder charts delay between signals from the Faeroes and Sandur transmitters.

station can be explained by first pointing out that Loran is a coined word derived from LONG Range Navigation.

LORAN-C navigation is utilized by ships and aircraft and provides an extremely accurate means of determining their position. Positions are determined by the measurement of accurately timed radio signals picked up by a Loran receiver located on the ship or aircraft.

These radio signals are originated at the transmitting stations. Technical factors involved require that timing be controlled at a remote station, rather than by



CHIEF JOHNSON locks a Loran receiver on the impulses from transmitters at Faeroes Islands and Sandur, while the Station Commander, Mr. Loher, looks on.

the transmitting stations themselves.

The Keflavik monitor station serves as the control station for the transmitting facilities in the Faeroe Islands, and at Sandur. Holding the time difference readings between these stations constant to within a few hundredths of a millionth of a second insures a near perfect accuracy over a large service area.

Slight variations in the observed timing by the monitoring station are radioed to the Sandur station where the necessary timing adjustments are made to correct the error, thereby insuring that the signals received by a navigator are precisely timed.

Equipment needs for this sort of operation are relatively few. Three Loran receivers are used for monitoring purposes. Single sideband voice radio gear is used for communications with the transmitter stations.

The commissioning date of the Loran facility posed a problem to the Naval Station. A suitable building to house the monitoring equipment had to be found, and on short notice. Through the negotiations of the Resident Officer in Charge of Construction, Lt. Cdr. Robert A. Litke, with the Icelandic Prime Contractor, a ready-made building in the Seaweed area was purchased and relocated. Laboring acceleratedly, a crew of Icelandic workers readied the building for equipment installation in the short time of approximately seven weeks.

Mr. Loher, station CO, has been associated with the Coast Guard since March 1945. Prior to his two years at the RCA Institute he was Officer-in-Charge of the Electrical Repairs Shop at the Coast Guard Supply Center Brooklyn, N.Y. He is a native of St. Petersburg, Florida, and is married to the former Miss Doris Rogers.

Chief Johnson, who hails from Kansas City, Missouri, has been a Coast Guardsman since July

1957. He graduated from Advanced Electronics School, Groton, Connecticut before coming to Keflavik.

Independence, Missouri is home for McLees. The first class Electronics Technician has spent the past eleven years in the Coast Guard. He also graduated from Advanced Electronics School before taking up local residence.

Hughes, from Ithaca, N. Y., joined the service in October 1961. He was stationed aboard the cutter Mendota before coming here.

Doster served on the Port Security Force at New Orleans, Louisiana as initial duty. The Moultrie, Georgian entered the Coast Guard in July of 1961.

Jenkins, a relative newcomer to the Coast Guard, joined January 1963 from Atlanta, Georgia. His first assignment was aboard the Miami Beach based cutter Hollyhock.

Monitoring is a tedious, unchanging job, however maintenance of equipment often offers welcome diversions.

Are the men of the station bored with their duties? Not at all. They are all very happy with their work and their surroundings.

It is a big task they handle, one for which the small crew at the Coast Guard Monitoring Station may rightfully be proud.

Navy Commissions 16th Polaris Sub

The Navy has commissioned the nuclear powered fleet ballistic missile submarine USS Woodrow Wilson at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

A Lafayette-class submarine, the Woodrow Wilson is 425 feet long, has a beam of 27 feet, nine inches, and displaces 7,000 tons.

There are a total of 41 fleet ballistic missile submarines programmed. Sixteen are commissioned (including the Woodrow Wilson), 10 of which are deployed, 10 launched but not commissioned and 15 are building or authorized.