From: Commandant  
To: Commander, Twelfth Coast Guard District 

Subj: Status of Electronics Installations and Maintenance; comments concerning 

Ref: (a) COMDEWLINE presentation of current problems, undated, for 1961 District Commander's Conference 

1. Reference (a) presented certain electronics problems and discussed the need for improvement in coordination between the Commandant and District staffs. Comments will be made on each specific problem in the order listed in reference (a).

2. PROGNOSIS OF WEST COAST LORAN 

Problem: Pure curiosity of District and Area future work load and operational capability.

Comments: The convex configuration of the California coastline imposes a severe restriction on the fix service area obtainable from any long-range loran system. Section 5-9(d) and Figure 5-34 of CC-261, Loran System Engineering Manual, treat this matter. While fix coverage is admittedly poor in the San Francisco Bay area, the line of position coverage from rate 2 D 2 is excellent for the approaches thereto. The relatively small fix service area to be obtained by expansion of the Loran A system in this region is not considered justified.

Except for the station now planned for the U.S. - Mexico border area, no additional Loran-A stations are now being considered. Loran-C coverage along the west coast will be scheduled at a future date, and the Cape Mendocino property should be retained for this purpose. No Loran-B configurations are now planned.

3. RADIO BUOY STATION MONITORING 

Problem: Distance between transmitter and monitor being in excess of range of authorized class of radiobeacon causes monitor to report nonexistent deficiencies.
Comment: It is recognized that Radiobeacon Monitor Stations, under certain propagation conditions, can experience difficulty in adequately monitoring assigned Radiobeacon signals. This difficulty may be accentuated if the monitoring station is located near the outer extremity of the advertised range of a Radiobeacon. This is not a desirable condition. In such a case a District initiated recommendation would be in order to re-assign or establish an additional monitor at another Coast Guard unit which, properly selected, can properly monitor the Radiobeacon in question. The instructions contained in, and changes since issued to, Commandant (OAS) letter of 31 May 1944 regarding "Monitoring of Radiobeacons" should be followed when establishing or re-assigning Radiobeacon monitoring facilities.

4. DISTRICT RADIO STATION REHABILITATION OF OPERATING EQUIPMENT

Problem: Is District coordination and communication with E at fault and/or how can it be improved to eliminate continuing or repeated delays?

Comment: The lack of any systems engineering for many years in connection with all District primary and secondary radio stations has been a matter of increasing concern, and a program for standardization and improvement has been initiated. The San Francisco Radio project was submitted at a time when questions of present and future traffic requirements, frequency plans, and available antenna systems were being resolved. It was decided to incorporate all possible system improvements into the project, and unavoidable delays resulted. The lack of coordination described was produced by the lack of project status information passed to the District. In future liaison on this and other similar projects, closer coordination on the working level will be maintained both through correspondence and through on-the-spot visits by Commandant staff personnel.

4. DEXTER - STATE OF READINESS

Problem: What is Commandant's desires as to action by Commander, Twelfth Coast Guard District staff in uncompleted ShipAltes?

Comment: In general, the electronic equipments required for completion of the ShipAltes are available. Installation funds, however, must be scheduled dependent on the relative operational priority assigned. The letter referred to is now awaiting Commandant (ENS) action in this respect.

5. WPS CLASS VESSELS - REPLACEMENT PROGRAM OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Problem: Is there a program in the mill for replacement of the Infrared Transmitting and Searchlight Echo Ranging equipment presently installed on this class vessel?
Commandant to Commander, Twelfth Coast Guard District

Comment: Infrared equipment is scheduled directly by Bureau of Ships in accordance with the relative priorities assigned. No information is available concerning an expected allocation schedule. Replacement Echo Ranging equipment for WPB class vessels does not exist, and maintenance of existing units must be continued.

6. VORTAC and RATAR

Problem: What is the tentative scheduling for VORTAC and RATAR installations as related to the West Coast and Commander, Twelfth Coast Guard District?

Comment: VOR and RATAR are currently still under evaluation, and no plans for implementation have been developed. Tacan installations will be scheduled when installation funds and equipment become available.

7. HEADQUARTERS (IIE) EXCEPTIONS TO ELECTRONAUT

Problem: How can technical communications between Headquarters and the District be improved so as to increase efficiency of technical development of projects?

Comment: The comments contained in paragraph 3 above also apply to this problem. In cases where a major modification or system improvement is involved, an exchange of correspondence and/or a conference on the working level prior to Electronaut submission should eliminate most of the problem areas discussed. The Commandant also endeavors, through the Weekly Report of Activities and Engineer's Digest to keep the Districts informed concerning technical changes, advancements, and equipment availability.

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