

# LORAN STATION ANGISSOQ

## 1967 General Information Book

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# **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**LORAN STATION**

**ANGISSOQ**



**COMMANDER  
COAST GUARD ACTIVITIES EUROPE  
LONDON, ENGLAND**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
U.S. COAST GUARD**

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Address reply to:

Commander  
Coast Guard  
Activities Europe  
Box 50  
FPO, New York  
N.Y., 09510

1 July 1967

LETTER OF PROMULGATION

1. This publication was written for the general enlightenment of interested personnel and to provide relevant information for Commanding Officers and Liaison Officers or enlisted men preparing for assignment to this Loran station.
2. In addition to operational and military responsibilities particular to this station, information of a more general nature is included. Men assigned to this station must adjust to native customs and attitudes. A picture is given of the people unique to this area, the topography of the surrounding country, the prevailing climatic conditions and the available recreational facilities. Familiarization with these aspects will enable the prospective relief to prepare himself for his new surroundings.
3. This publication was compiled from information submitted by men actually engaged in active duty on the Loran station. Very few alterations have been necessary, and perhaps one of the values of this publication is to be gained through the tone and manner of expression of the author, who, in many cases, is found to be interesting, informative and imaginative. The insights offered are based on first-hand experience and should prove valuable to an American living in a foreign country.
4. It is requested that errors and omissions noted, as well as suggestions for improvement, be addressed to Commander, Coast Guard Activities, Europe, Box 50, FPO, New York, N.Y., 09510.

R. E. HAMMOND  
CAPTAIN, U.S. COAST GUARD  
COMMANDER, COAST GUARD ACTIVITIES, EUROPE

U.S. COAST GUARD LORAN STATION  
ANGISSOQ, GREENLAND

Chapter I - General Information

1. Geographic Location

The island of Angissoq is about 50 miles west northwest of Cape Farewell the most southern tip of Greenland, and about 10 miles from the mainland. It is the largest island of the Kitsiquit Group and is about 10 miles across. The name Angissoq literally means large island, and since there are several Angissoqs located along the coast of Greenland, this Angissoq is further identified by carrying additional geographic description, namely Angissoq/Nanortalik. Nanortalik is the closest town and about 10 miles north of Angissoq.

2. Topography

Angissoq is primarily a very hilly and rugged island. There are very few flat spots and these are very small. What dirt there is, is formed by erosion and granite and is really a fine sand or gravel. Vegetation consists of lichen and moss, and some small blue berries that grow very close to the ground. There are no trees on Angissoq except at Christmas time.

3. Weather

The weather on Angissoq is a combination of much of the weather that is found in different northern sections of the United States, generally cold. Temperatures in the winter are not really cold, but there is an almost constant wind that makes it seem much colder than it really is. The prevailing winds are from the southeast and northwest. A wind from the southeast brings generally warm air that has passed over the Gulf Stream Current. The temperature is above average at these times, but still not warm. A northwest wind is somewhat colder and seems much colder than it really is. There are icebergs and floe ice around Angissoq all year, but it is not of such magnitude so as to hinder travel in and out of the island most of the year. About February the thickly concentrated polar ice has worked its way around Cape Farewell and to Angissoq. Then, depending upon the force and direction of the wind, this ice can move into Angissoq's harbor and close off transportation.

4. Nearby Community

The nearest town is Nanortalik. Nanortalik has three general type stores at which you can buy almost everything except dress clothes. Nanortalik also has a small hospital and a doctor. There is also a dentist. The doctor is free, but the dentist must be paid unless you have been in Greenland for a period of three years. The Danish Lighthouse Service has a house in town for station personnel to stay in when they go to town for R & R or on official business.

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E. Nearby Military Facilities

There are no really close military facilities to Angissoq. The Liaison Officer, however, has been accorded the privilege of using the exchange facilities at the U. S. Air Force Base at Sondrestrom, Greenland. Articles can be ordered either by mail or by telegram. Since there are no dependents at Sondrestrom, the exchange contains stock primarily intended to satisfy the needs of single people on isolated duty and also souvenirs of Greenland.

F. Memorandum of Understanding

The government of Denmark and the United States have signed a written agreement which delineates the responsibility of each government concerning the operation and maintenance of the station. The agreement covers the training of personnel, manning requirements, supply support, funding arrangements, etc.

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### Chapter II - Operations

#### A. Loran

Angissoq functions as the MASTER station for Loran-C SL7 (commonly referred to as the North Atlantic Chain). Slave stations in this chain are:

W - SANDUR in Iceland

X - EJDE in Faroes Islands

Z - CAPE RACE in Canada

All of these stations are manned and operated by the Host Nation. Our monitor station at St. Anthony, Newfoundland is also Host Nation operated. A second monitor station is located on the U. S. Navy Base at Keflavik, Iceland, and is manned and operated by the Coast Guard. The operational control office for the North Atlantic chain is located at the Keflavik Monitor Station. The station is somewhat unusual in that it has a high power transmitter (AN/FPN-45, 3MW) and a 625 foot tower. The timers are AN/FPN-46 and the frequency standard is AN/URQ-11.

#### B. Communications

The station's primary means of communications is by single side-band voice and RATT. A secondary means of communications is the use of CW through the Royal Danish Navy or by commercial telegrams. The Loran watchstanders and technicians operate the SSB and RATT and the stations radioman operates the CW station. In the near future, land line teletype will be used for communications with the paired station at Sandur and the monitor station at Keflavik.

#### C. Vehicles and Boats

The station has two Dodge Power Wagons, three 50 c.c. motor bikes, a fork lift, and a tractor with a shovel or snow blower attachment for regular station work. There is a Land Rover and a little snow buggy for the technicians to use between the timer buildings and transmitter. The station has a 36 foot, ice reinforced boat for transportation between the station and Nanortalik.

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Chapter III - Personnel

A. Complement

Station leader  
Loran Engineer  
Machine Master  
Machine Chief  
5 technicians  
4 Scope watchstanders  
4 Engine watchstanders  
Carpenter  
Electrician  
Cook  
2 Handymen  
Radioman  
Boat Crew of 3  
7 Cleaning Girls  
Secretary for Station Leader

B. Administration of Host Nation Personnel

The station leader has direct control of the cook, handymen, his secretary, boat crew, and the radioman. The loran engineer is in charge of the technicians and the scope watchstanders. The machine master is in charge of all the engineering personnel. The senior handyman and the cook control the cleaning girls.

C. Relationship between Liaison Officer and Host Nation Personnel

As Liaison Officer Angissoq, most contact with the Danish people is in the timer building. There is close liaison with the loran engineer and all technicians and loran watchstanders. The station leader generally leaves the running of the station to his department heads and does not object to direct liaison with them. Generally, informal talks are held with the station leader about three times a week or whenever something special comes up.

D. Medical Facilities Available

The station has a radioman-corpsman. In Nanortalik there is a doctor, a dentist, and a small hospital. Anything serious would either be dealt with by evacuation or by being sent to the hospital in Gothaab.

E. Educational Facilities Available to Liaison Officer

Any of the normal correspondence courses can be sent to Angissoq. The only thing is that it takes over two months to get lessons returned and there

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is no other officer to administer final examinations except when someone comes from London.

### F. Morale and Welfare

#### 1. Recreational Facilities

The only recreational facilities on the station are a pool table, and vintage movies that are shown on a twice a week schedule, when available.

#### 2. Mail Service

a. International mail comes direct to Angissoq. The cost is \$0.15 per half ounce from the U. S. and 1.40 DKR or about \$0.20 for 10 grams to the U. S.; Air Mail usually takes about 2 weeks with surface mail taking about 2 months.

b. APO mail is sent to COMCOGACTEUR and then forwarded to Angissoq by regular postal system.

#### 3. Other

Several of the Danes on the station own small boats for recreational purposes. The cod fishing and duck hunting are both very good in season. The cost of a foreign fishing and hunting license is 20 DKR or about \$3.00. There is also generally snow in the winter for skiing, and the station has skis and poles.

### G. Potable Water Supply and Sewage System

The station potable water comes from a natural spring and flows across part of the island to a storage dam. From the dam, water is pumped to two large storage tanks and then into the potable water system. The system itself is a constant flow system to prevent it from freezing. All the buildings that are used as quarters, plus the galley are connected to the sewage system. This system uses gravity flow to a small bay and is dumped as raw sewage. Buildings not used as quarters, but being occupied, such as the timer building and the two generator buildings, have chemical waterclosets.

## Chapter IV - Engineering

### A. General Engineering

#### 1. Power Plant and Electric System

The station has two generator buildings that are identical. Each building contains three seven cylinder engines that are made in Denmark. Each engine is connected to a 495 KVA generator. It is necessary to run two generators at a time. The six generators can be run in any combination using one in each building if necessary. However, two generators in the same building are always on the line at the same time because, if not, it would require a watchstander in each building to oil the engines.

#### 2. Fire Protection System

Angissoq has an installed fire alarm system in all buildings. There are heat sensing elements on the overheads and a manual circuit breaker in each building. The detectors activate a panel in the timer building so the watchstander can tell which area the fire is in. Each building has an audio alarm and there is a large siren on top of the mess hall for outdoors. The water main for firefighting purposes is a 2 inch pipe and there are outlets in each of the quarters but no outside fire hydrants. A portable pump must be started in order to pump water from the storage tanks and hoses laid from the tanks to the scene to fight any major fire.

#### 3. Heating System

All buildings except the two generator buildings, the timer building, and the transmitter building have electric heat. The transmitter building has no heat except the heat generated by the transmitters. The two generator buildings and the timer building use hot water heat which is the secondary cooling water for the generators.

#### 4. Ventilation System

All buildings that have electric heat have automatic ventilation systems installed that take air in and pass it by the electric element to warm it, and the air then passes on into the room. Other buildings must utilize open doors or windows for ventilation. The timer room itself has the standard screened room and air conditioner installed. The transmitter uses an elaborate mixing system in which some air is taken from the exhaust of the transmitters and mixed with air from outside. The amounts are controlled by thermostatically controlled louvers to allow proper amounts of hot exhaust air and cold outside air to mix.

#### 5. Fuel Oil System

From the harbor area fuel oil is pumped to four large storage tanks near the generator buildings. In the harbor area is a buried tank and a pump for gasoline.

#### 6. Refrigeration System

There is one walk-in freezer with a refrigerated room attached. The actual refrigeration units are made in Denmark. There are four units of which two are on the line and two are spare.

#### 7. Buildings

Existing buildings are of NATO far north design. All are heavily insulated and contain small windows. The buildings are all covered with sheet copper on the exterior so they need no paint. There are two duplexes for four families, one single unit for the station leader, three eight-man barracks, one seven-man barracks, a mess hall and recreation building, a stores building containing the freezer and a separate laundry, two generator buildings, timer building, harbor storage building, transmitter building, and an engineering building containing an auto workshop, an electrician's shop, and a carpenter's shop.

#### B. Electronic Engineering

The Loran C equipment consists of the Model AN/FPN-45 transmitter and the AN/FPN-46 timer-synchronizer. The antenna coupler of the Loran C transmitter has been modified to permit operation into a 625 foot antenna in lieu of the 1350 foot antenna for which it was designed. Communications equipment consists of dual installation of RCA Model SSB-1 Mark II Single Sideband transceivers with SBA-1000 Linear Power Amplifiers.

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### Chapter V - Comptroller

#### A. Messing Arrangements

Most meals except breakfast are eaten in a mess hall in the canteen building about 100 feet from the quarters. Normally breakfast for most of the married people on the station is eaten in the individual quarters. The canteen building also contains a recreation room, pool room, and a bar that is open on Saturday nights. The Liaison Officer has permission to obtain food and eat at home at all times if so desired.

#### B. Supply

##### 1. Host Nation Supply Support

Everything for the station except electronic spares are taken care of through the host nation supply system. Each department requests its own items via the station leader and material is shipped either by surface or air mail.

##### 2. Electronic Supply Support

All electronic spares are ordered from the CG Supply Center, Brooklyn. Supply on the station is handled jointly by the Liaison Officer and the Loran Engineer. Light weight shipments are usually sent Air Parcel Post direct in the international postal system. Heavier shipments are sent air freight to the Danish Lighthouse Service to be transhipped to Angissoq.

#### C. Liaison Officer Pay System

The Liaison Officer's pay record is held by COMCOGACTEUR. He is paid by check mailed in the amount and currency desired. The total amount must be requested in either Danish or U. S. currency. The two may not be mixed in any one month.

#### D. Transportation

##### 1. Air

Travel to Angissoq is via Copenhagen, Denmark. MATS travel, originating from McGuire Air Force Base, is available in both prop and jet craft. If flying commercial from the U. S., it will be by some U. S. owned airline and will either terminate in Frankfurt or Copenhagen.

##### 2. Ship

If travelling by MATS from the U. S., the termination port in Europe will probably be Bremerhaven, Germany. Then a journey to Copenhagen in order to catch another ship to Greenland.

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3. Travel in and Around Angissoq

Travel between Angissoq and Nanortalik for shopping or medical care is by means of the station's 36 foot, ice-strengthened boat, the "Lommen" (A greenland seabird). Travel time to Nanortalik is about one and one half hours.

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### Chapter VI - Administration

#### A. Required Reports

All normal logs and operational reports are prepared by the station leader and reviewed by the Liaison Officer for submission to COMCOGACTEUR.

### Chapter VII - Hints for Prospective Liaison Officers

#### A. Mail and Telegrams

Letter mail and parcel post is received and sent through the Nanortalik Post Office. Air Mail and air parcel post delivery time, to and from the U. S., usually takes from one to two weeks during the summer months, and two to three weeks during the rest of the year. Surface mail and parcel post usually takes about two months from the U. S. Telegrams can be sent and received through the station's radio facility on Angissoq. There is no long distance telephone service on Angissoq. The mailing address is:

Liaison Officer (or your name)  
Angissoq Loran Station  
Nanortalik, Greenland

#### B. Quarters

1. A two bedroom duplex apartment is furnished for the CG Liaison Officer. This apartment was originally intended for family living. However, continued problems encountered by dependents in adapting to life at Angissoq have resulted in the station being classified as "restricted" for the Coast Guard Liaison Officer. This apartment is completely furnished, and the Liaison Officer should bring only desired personal effects to his new assignment at Angissoq. Be sure that any items in your shipment that you desire to be held in Copenhagen for your use there, be so marked. Mark other items for through shipment to Angissoq so they will be on hand when you arrive.

#### C. Other General Information

##### 1. Electrical Power

The station is wired for 220 V. 50 CPS. There are two transformers in the quarters which supply 110 V. 50 CPS - one transformer is 2000 watts the other 250 watts. Select any electrical equipment to be taken to Angissoq accordingly.







