

FROM: API

TO: CCGDONE (dcs)

Rough draft for guidance. Please add local details and submit your draft for approval prior to release.

The Commander of the First Coast Guard District announced today in Boston that the Coast Guard will expand its LORAN navigational assistance system into the Gulf of Maine. A new LORAN A station is being constructed at \_\_\_\_\_ and may be in service by 1 July 1971. It will be operated on a test basis for at least two years. If evaluation after this period proves conclusively that such service is worthwhile in the Gulf of Maine, operation of the station may be extended for an additional period of three to five years.

The evaluation test has been approved by the Secretary of Transportation as part of a National Plan for Navigation. The new station will bring LORAN assistance into a \_\_\_\_\_ square mile area previously served inadequately by the Coast Guard's world-wide LORAN network. It is anticipated that both commercial marine interests and recreational boatmen will benefit from the precise navigational guidance the new station will provide.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE  
COPY TO:

A/83

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

# Memorandum

ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

DATE:

DEC 22 1970

In reply refer to:

*Handwritten initials/signature*

SUBJECT: Electronic Navigation System

**RECEIVED**  
U. S. COAST GUARD HQ.

FROM : The Under Secretary

DEC 31 1970

*Handwritten initials/signature*

TO : Commandant  
United States Coast Guard

*Handwritten initials/signature*

TELECOMMUNICATIONS LIAISON DIVISION

I have reviewed your memorandum of 13 November and the justification provided for the installation of a minimum cost LORAN A station in the Gulf of Maine.

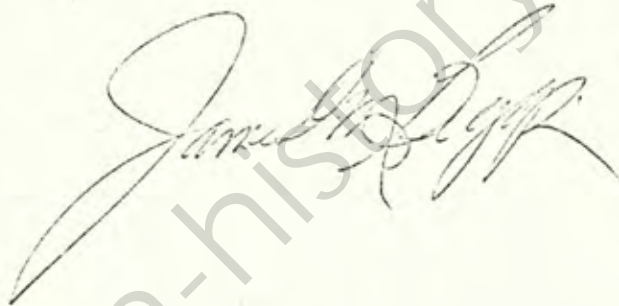
The concept of utilizing the Gulf of Maine as an area to conduct testing and evaluation of LORAN A for the coastal/confluence area and simultaneously provide service to a number of fishermen appears reasonable. In this regard I understand that the estimated installation costs of \$139,000 does not include the cost of the Government-furnished equipment which is of approximately the same value, and the annual operating costs will be approximately \$55,000 per year. In keeping with the concept in the National Plan for Navigation to utilize the calendar years 1971 and 1972 for an examination of the various systems to service the coastal/confluence area, I support your proposal to install this LORAN station and conduct tests through the end of 1972.

However, I am not convinced, at this point, that this station should be maintained for eight to ten years as you propose. Accordingly, I would appreciate your informing the potential users that this project will be carried out for test and evaluation purposes and will have a guaranteed lifetime of two years. This will ensure that the users are not misled as to our intentions. If the evaluation proves conclusively that the service in the Gulf of Maine is worthwhile, it may be possible to continue operating the station for probably an additional three years, or even five years. This remains to be resolved from an evaluation of our experience through the end of 1972.

In line with the objectives of the National Plan for Navigation, it would seem that the New England-New York area could be utilized as an effective test bed for evaluating the other competitive systems for the coastal/confluence area, specifically, LORAN C, DECCA, and Differential Omega. Accordingly, I would appreciate your taking all possible action to encourage meaningful tests of these systems on an equal basis during this period. Our ultimate goal is to have a system which achieves the accuracy desired by the greatest number of

users at the least possible cost to the Government and with the participation of the users in sharing costs. Concurrent with your evaluation I would like you to explore how the various navigation systems might be financed, at least in part by their users, both domestic and foreign.

I would appreciate receiving an interim report by January 15, 1972, on your test and evaluation of LORAN A in the Gulf of Maine, your program evaluating the competitive systems (LORAN C, DECCA, Differential Omega) for the coastal/confluence area, and your study of the possibilities of obtaining user participation in funding the various navigation systems under consideration.



www.loran-history.org

From: Commander, First Coast Guard District

To: Commandant (API)

Rough draft A/N release for clearance

COAST GUARD EXPANDING LORAN NAVIGATION SYSTEM

The Commander of the First Coast Guard District announced today in Boston that the Coast Guard is expanding its Long-Range Aids to Navigation System (LORAN) into the Gulf of Maine. As part of the Coast Guard's continuing efforts to provide effective and reliable aids to navigation, a new LORAN (A) Station is now under construction at Marshall Point, Port Clyde, Maine. The new station is expected to be in service by July 1, 1971.

The 128,000 watt station will be operated on a test basis for at least two years. If after this period tests prove conclusively that such service is worthwhile in the Gulf of Maine, operation of the station may be extended for additional period of three to five years. The evaluation test has been approved by the Secretary of Transportation as part of the National Plan for Navigation.

The new station will bring LORAN coverage into a 14,000 square mile area where no reliable coverage previously existed. The station, paired with the existing Nantucket LORAN Station, will operate on rate 1-H-4 and will cover the general area between Cape Cod and Nova Scotia.

It is anticipated that both commercial maritime interests and recreational boatsmen will benefit from the precise navigational guidance the new

OK'd by OAN 4/15/71

station will provide.

The Port Clyde facility will be the newest addition to the Coast Guard's ever expanding worldwide LORAN network.

Further details concerning availability of charts and the operational date will appear in the Local Notice to Mariners.

*MA*

[www.loran-history.info](http://www.loran-history.info)

First District

Capt Huns

Guidance on news re new  
HORAN A in Gulf of Maine

① check MoTH on current status

Has there been recent approval or  
new action at Secy level??

② Check ALA - is there political  
problem involved.

A/N - would like to see release. Beggs say  
go - 2 year trial period - end of which time  
will be evaluated to see if beneficial to continue.  
~~No political opposition~~ - all pro.

Target on air 1 July

1458 13 Nov  
Busy

ALA

Cong. Kyros of Maine desires service

? Beggs } memo to Comdt  
or Baker } Post new year

[LTJG PICKHOVEN (Hurlip)  
X 60990

Rec. 1/18/71  
called Pickhoven -  
advised copy of release  
from Boston braced  
to him - *[Signature]*

To: Chief, Public Information Division

From: Chief, Aids to Navigation Division

Subj: Press Release concerning new Gulf of Maine Loran-A station

Ref : (a) Draft, Proposed Release #72-70 dtd 19 October 1970  
(b) Under Secretary Beggs Memorandum to the Commandant  
of 22 December 1970

1. Reference (a) gave the Commandant authority to proceed with the Gulf of Maine Loran-A station to be located at Marshall Point, Maine.
2. CBU has released \$114K to devote to station construction. Construction should be completed and the station operational by 1 September 1971.
3. In approving the Gulf of Maine Loran-A Station, the Under Secretary expressed his desire that the potential users of the station be informed that its operation is only <sup>guaranteed</sup> ~~guaranteed~~ for two years. The impact of the station will be evaluated during the initial period and the decision whether to extend operation or not will be based on <sup>this</sup> ~~the~~ evaluation.

~~The~~ C1CGD(o) has verbally requested that their Public Information Branch be forwarded a copy <sup>of</sup> to the official press release to permit the widest possible dissemination locally.

<sup>is a draft</sup>  
The enclosed draft to aid you in the preparation of a suitable press release.

*[Signature]*

DRAFT

The U. S. Coast Guard is improving the Loran-A radionavigation coverage in the Gulf of Maine by the addition of Loran-A transmitting equipment at the Coast Guard Station, Marshall Point, Maine.

The new Loran-A rate will be <sup>e</sup>designated LH7, with the master station <sup>located</sup> at Nantucket Island, Mass., and the secondary <sup>located at</sup> at Marshall Point. The new equipment should be in operation by 1 September 1971.

The Coast Guard intends to operate the new equipment for a two year evaluation period. At the end of this period, if the evaluation proves conclusively that the service in the Gulf of Maine is worthwhile, its operation will(?) be extended.

<sup>new</sup> This increased radionavigation coverage will <sup>(probably)?</sup> provide positions of much greater accuracy to the mariner than were previously available. This is of special importance to the U. S. Commercial Fishing fleet operating on Georges Bank.

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\* A COMDTNOTE has been approved by Adm Bendee substituting the term secondary station for slave station.

BD