

On behalf of the Operational Commander, CAPT Thiedeman, I am pleased to congratulate all present and past Loran Station Middletown personnel for 33 years of outstanding dedication and service. The Coast Guard has had a long and distinguished history of operating and maintaining Maritime Aids to Navigation. In 1943, spurred by urgent wartime needs, the first Loran Chain of transmitters was created and the task of operating and maintaining was given to the U.S. Coast Guard. This new system was classified and called the LRN Project; credit for the Loran name apparently goes to LCDR L.M. Harding in response to security concerns. The Loran-A system, as it was called provided all-weather coverage over 30% of the earth's surface. Post war expansion required a more accurate and longer range versions of Loran ultimately culminated in the creation of the Loran-C system of today, which became operational in 1957 and placed under the control of the U.S. Coast Guard in 1958. By 1974, the decision was made to phase out Loran-A and designate Loran-C as the primary navigation system for Alaska and the Coastal Confluence Zone of the United States. The Coast Guard operated 49 Loran-C stations worldwide, including those in Italy, Japan, Spain, Turkey, the Caroline and Mariana Islands, and Joint US Air Force and US Coast Guard Commando Lion operations in the Republic of South Korea.

Loran Station Middletown was commissioned in October of 1976 as part of the US West Coast Loran-C Chain. The U.S. signal was turned off on 08 Feb 2010.

Our Coast Guard men and women have done an excellent job operating and maintaining the signal for 67 years. These men and women who Stood the Loran Watch, fondly referring to themselves as "Loranimals", can be proud of their service to the mission. Today we are here to say: "Shipmates...the watch stands relieved."