



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

MAILING ADDRESS:

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5750
15 July 1981

From: Supervisor, Coast Guard Detachment Saipan
To : Commandant (G-EPA-2)

Subj: Article for Commandant's Bulletin

1. Loran-C Monitor Station Saipan was officially disestablished on 1 July 1981. A ceremony was held on 1 July 1981 which closed the Loran Station and established Coast Guard Detachment Saipan. It is desired that an article in the Commandant's Bulletin be published from the information provided in this letter.

2. Please contact this unit or Commander, Coast Guard Marianas Section should any additional information be desired.

J.D. Stieb
J.D. STIEB

Encl: (1) Closure Article by ETC B.C. Waldron
(2) Pictures of Closure ceremony
(3) Local News Release
(4) Local Newspaper article on closure

Copy: MARSEC (w/o enclosure 2)
FESEC "
CCGD14 DPA "



A navigational buoy outfitted with solar panels rests on a New London dock.

evaluation to lead-acid batteries for possible use with solar-powered short range aids-to-navigation. Three types of batteries — pure lead grid lead-antimony grid, and lead-calcium grid — were tested over a period of five years. The results indicate that all three types of batteries would be suitable for the proposed use. Constraints on voltage regulation and maintenance to ensure maximum useful lifetime are discussed for each of the three battery types.

Copies of these reports can be obtained from NTIS by specifying the following:

"Testing of Solar Photovoltaic Arrays for Utilization on Marine Aids to Navigation," report no. CG-D-10-81, accession no. AD A098-257, or "Evaluation of Solar Photovoltaic Energy Storage of Aids to Navigation," report no. CG-D-5-81, accession no. AD A096-476.

LORSTA Saipan shuts down

Ending 37 years of continuous operation Loran Station Saipan ceased transmission July 1. The station first began to transmit Loran-A signal in 1944.

Functions formerly performed by the 20 Coast Guardsmen at Saipan are now completely automated and monitored by four people at Yokota Air Base in Japan.

The smaller number of personnel needed to operate the Station makes a significant savings to the Coast Guard. Initial savings as a result of the installation of the new system is \$218,000. Annual recurring savings are expected to be around \$188,000.

The closing of Loran Station Saipan did not, however, bring to an end the Coast Guard presence on Saipan. Detachment Saipan was established at the same ceremony. The detachment still serves the commonwealth government, maritime industries, and the boating public in merchant marine safety, boating registration, boating safety, law enforcement, aids to navigation and marine environmental protection. A personal reminiscence of the station is on page 13.

Academy accepting applications

The Academy is now accepting and processing applications for appointment as Cadet, Class of 1986. The Academy tenders appointments solely on the basis of an annual nationwide competition. There are no congressional appointments and no quotas for any state, district or special category.

Competition for appointment as a cadet is based on the candidate's high school rank, performance on either the College Board's Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or the American College Testing Assessment (ACT), and leadership potential as demonstrated by participation in high school extracurricular activities, community affairs, and part-time employment.

Any man or woman, military or civilian, who



Final colors end the last military command on Saipan dating back to World War II.

Saipan: End of an era

by ETC B. C. Waldron, Loran Station Saipan

As the sun emerges from behind the clouds to the east, dispelling the last pink hue of sunrise, the remaining drops of an early morning shower trickle from surrounding palm trees. A luminous rainbow gliding out to sea with west bound clouds is the island's own way of saying "good morning" to the early riser. The first sign of activity is 20 men wandering to their particular areas to begin their assigned tasks. Already they show signs of the heat which will soon intensify into a sweltering mid-day sun.

Thus have the days begun at Loran Station Saipan since radiating its first Loran-A pulse on Nov. 27, 1944, only a few short months after the island was wrested from the Japanese in World War II.

Saipan is a small island, only 47 square miles in area. It is located about 110 miles north of Guam in the Northern Marianas, a chain of small islands which recently came to the attention of the world with the eruption of Mount Pagan. Saipan itself is of volcanic origin, rising six miles up from the deepest spot in the world's oceans, the Marianas Trench.

The history of the station begins during the final days of the battle for Saipan, one of the bloodiest in the Pacific campaign. By the time it was over, 3,144 Americans and 400 of the island inhabitants had lost their lives and 13,448 Americans had been wounded. Out of the 30,000 Japanese defenders, only about 600 survived to be repatriated. After the island was secured in mid-August 1944, site surveys were made in September and October 1944. The **Menkar** with construction material on board reached Saipan on Oct. 31, 1944. Work began five days later and the station was ready to go on the air Nov. 16 but there were as yet no other stations it could operate with. Not until Nov. 27, 1944, when the Cocos Island, Guam station was completed did Saipan begin Loran-A operations.

Built close to the airfields which were used by the B-29s that struck some of the first blows to the Japanese homeland, the station was

operated out of large moving vans with personnel quartered in tents. Enemy air raids were frequent and there was considerable damage from falling shrapnel from American anti-aircraft firing.

Today, with its blazing sun, miles of white sandy beaches, tropical island splendor, and warm friendly people, Saipan has become one of the most popular stops in the Pacific for Japanese tourists. Coast Guard people and their families can swim with the infinite number of brightly colored tropical fish and coral in the calm blue waters of the lagoon. Diving among the wide variety of war vehicles now standing a lonely, silent vigil beneath the coastal waters or exploring hidden jungle caves, many of which still contain rusting remnants of the equipment used by their wartime occupants, are only two of many activities enjoyed by the crew. One may also indulge in golf, tennis, water skiing, softball, sailing, basketball, bowling, hiking, camping, fishing and photography.

Towards evening, a breathtaking sunset gives way to a crisp, clear, star speckled sky and soothing balmy breezes. Now the crew becomes enveloped in Saipan's wide range of night-time activities. Perhaps a bar-b-que at the station beach hut or on any of the other beach facilities surrounding the island. For those who would rather get away, there are dozens of restaurants specializing in cuisines from all over the Pacific. The nightlife varies from the cool atmosphere of cocktail lounges to the fast, hot tempo of live disco bands.

But its the tough hot work under the relentless sun or the long, tedious, sometimes critically straining hours of Loran watches that dominate the lives of the men who work here. With the advent of Loran-C in the early sixties, Saipan became a monitor site, known throughout the Northwest Pacific as "Saipan Sam". The station controlled two baselines, Master-Whiskey, stations Iwo Jima and Marcus Island, and Master-Zulu, stations Iwo Jima and Yap. The Loran A/C station employed two separate

24 hour live watches; one for Loran-A and one for Loran-C.

The station has a tradition of excellent performance even through times of understaffing, a testimony to the sincere effort of crews, past and present. Aside from its primary Loran duties, the station has also been tasked with recording and reporting weather information for the Coastal Weather program, operation and maintenance of minor aids to navigation around the island and assisting the Joint Rescue Coordination Center on Guam during search and rescue operations. The station also helps Marine Safety Office Guam in environmental and inspection duties, and is active in boating safety and registration programs.

In addition, the people stationed in Saipan have participated in many community activities throughout the island. Station personnel have participated in official island ceremonies, given a helping hand for charities and fund raisers, and provided shelter to victims and voluntary clearing crews in the wake of destructive typhoons. Heroic actions taken by individuals have saved several lives over the years. Many people from the station have played an active role in organizing and serving with the island's Boy Scout program. These are just a few examples of station personnel's commitment to serving the people of Saipan.

On Dec. 31, 1977, Loran Station Saipan transmitted its last Loran pulse, and the station became Loran Monitor Station Saipan. All Loran watches were stood by ET's, 3rd class and above. Already plans were in the works that would eventually eliminate Loran duties on Saipan altogether.

Installation of two Austron 5000 receivers, a system designed to replace a 15 member station with a totally automated, remote site, was begun on Jan. 26. The system was set up so the baselines controlled by Saipan could now be controlled by Yokota Monitor, at Yokota Airbase in Japan. The new system receives the



FA Frank Magofna presents the last Coast Guard Ensign to fly over Loran Station Saipan to the island's mayor for display in the Saipan Historical Museum.

Loran signals, analyzes and then transmits the information over a data link from Guam to Japan.

By June 4, testing and correlation had been completed, and Loran Monitor Site Guam was ready to begin monitor operations. Gradually during the month of June, control responsibilities were transferred to Yokota Monitor and at 9:59 a.m. local time (2359Z) on the morning of June 30, the crew of Saipan Sam transmitted the final countdown. At 10 a.m. (0000Z) the main breaker was thrown and Loran operations at Saipan ceased.

The following evening, centered around colors, a brief but historic ceremony disestablished Loran Monitor Station Saipan.

The ceremony also established Detachment Saipan, a three member subsidiary of Marianas Section, Guam, which will carry out the non-Loran missions of the Coast Guard on Saipan.

The crewmembers past and present of Loran Station Saipan will always bear fond memories of the island and its people who hosted one of the most desirable Coast Guard stations in the Pacific.

Farewell Saipan ... you shall be missed.