

Chief of Staff

2 August 1951
OAN-1

Chief, Office of Operations

Loran Transmitting Station French Frigate Shoals; Continued
Operation of

1. Prior to the present international situation, it was planned to discontinue subject station when the Hawaiian Chain now under construction was placed in operation. This plan envisaged augmenting the latter by extending the chain westward to conform with the then current planning if and when conditions so indicated and funds were made available.
2. Commandant to Chief of Naval Operations letter of 17 November, 1948 file OAN-EEE (6010), 63, 815 committed the Coast Guard as follows:
"It is desired to point out that relocation of the Hawaiian Loran Chain as described above will not hinder any program for future westward expansion of loran coverage in the Hawaiian Islands should war or national emergency plans so require. Re-establishment of a loran station on French Frigate Shoal as a link in such a program could be accomplished with a minimum of effort and delay."
3. Military Air Transport Service Headquarters letter of 23 February, 1951 indicated that without subject station in operation, course line availability between Hickam Field and Midway Island will be practically non-existent and fix coverage between Hickam Field and Johnston Island will be inferior to present coverage. It was requested that Headquarters reconsider discontinuance of subject station as noted in paragraph 1.
4. Commandant's reply to Commander, MATS dated 22 March, 1951 indicated that installation of the new stations would be carried out and that in proceeding with the present plans, consideration would be given to the inclusion of one more rate to the westward of Makahuena Pt., Kauai, as a temporary measure, should the need continue to exist. This additional station would remain in operation only so long as additional coverage to the westward is required. It was further requested that the Commander MATS keep the Commandant informed from time to time during the next six months as to air navigation needs in this area.
5. The current revised plan for loran expansion includes the extension of the Hawaiian Chain under construction to the westward as a relatively high priority project. In order to partially meet the requirement of this plan and to satisfy the need expressed by MATS, it is now proposed to continue operation of subject station on a temporary basis in fulfillment of our commitment to CNO.

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6. It is therefore recommended that subject unit not be discontinued as originally planned, and that the necessary personnel billets be obtained from those being made available through transfer of Coast Guard Loran Transmitting Station, Fredericksdahl, Greenland to Denmark. Approval is requested.

/s/ R. J. MAURMAN
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