

GENERAL INFORMATION

LORAN STATION

ESTARTIT



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

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



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Address reply to:

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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.

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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
LORAN TRANSMITTING STATION
ESTARTIT, SPAIN

Chapter I - General Information

A. Location

1. The site of the Coast Guard Loran Station, Estartit is located 87 miles north of Barcelona, Spain on a high promontory above the tourist town of Estartit. Accesses to the station are two mile paved road and a half mile path up the side of the hill. Right off the coast are the famous ISLAS MEDAS islands.

2. The town of Estartit is a little fishing village of 400 during the winter and a tourist resort of four to five thousand in the summer months.

3. The area of Spain is known as the Costa Brava (Rugged Coast), and it has become an extremely popular tourist attraction for Europeans of all nationalities. The beautiful blue Mediterranean water, the five mile long beach, the rugged country, and the simple, pastoral life of the Spaniards provide the main attraction.

B. Climate

Climatic conditions in Estartit are similar to those of mid-coastal areas of the Western United States. Temperatures of below 32 degrees are rare and summer temperatures rarely exceed 95 degrees. However, on the station hill, the temperature usually stays below 85 degrees with the cool breeze. In late winter and early spring the weather is highlighted by an exceptionally strong (60-80 MPH) wind that blows down from the Pyrenees Mountains in the North and lasts for more than a week at a time.

C. Environs

1. The native Spaniards are a proud people, proud of their country and of their heritage. Spanish history is a thing they revere and cherish. They are also very friendly, warm, and receptive. The relations between the station personnel and the local inhabitants has always been good.

2. Spain has generally lagged behind the rest of the European countries economically since the end of her Civil War, but recently great strides have been made. The influx of tourists has helped considerably. Throughout Spain contemporary construction and road building point to a surging economy.

D. Station History

1. Construction of the U. S. Coast Guard Loran Station in Estartit, Spain, was started in late February of 1961. It was built by two separate contractors: one from the United States and one well-known Spanish contractor.

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2. The first Coast Guard representative arrived on the scene in early March and was designated as Coast Guard Liaison Officer. The prospective Commanding Officer arrived in late April, and the remainder of the crew arrived between 1 June and 15 July 1961. All equipment was at the site by 2 July.

3. The station first began to transmit navigational signals in October of 1962. The period from 1961 to October 1962 had been spent conducting a Loran-C skywave monitoring program.

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Chapter II - Operations

A. Aids to Navigation

1. This station is a member of the Mediterranean Section Loran-C Chain and operates as the "Z" slave. Other units of this command are the LTS Simeri Crichi, Italy (Master); LTS Matratin, Libya ("X" Slave); LTS Targabarun, Turkey ("Y" Slave); LMS (Loran Monitor Station) Rhodes, Greece; and LMS Sardinia, Italy.

2. The primary mission of this station is to transmit a continuous usable navigational signal. All other activities are subordinated to this one goal.

B. Communications

1. Primary communications are by single-sideband radio to the Coast Guard Radio Station, Naples, and to the Loran Monitor Station, Sardinia.

2. The station has a local telephone, Gerona (pronounced HERONA) 308048.

3. APO mail is received from Torrejon Air Force Base, Madrid, via Spanish railways. The current APO mailing address is:

Commanding Officer
USCG Loran Station Estartit
APO New York 09417

At present, the faster incoming method is international mail, which takes about three days from the States (15¢ per letter). Outgoing APO mail is relatively fast, generally about three days to stateside. All correspondence should be via Air Mail, since surface mail takes about a month.

C. Other Coast Guard Functions

1. Proper performance of duty and military training of personnel.
2. Station maintenance to preserve condition of equipment, machinery and buildings.
3. Preservation of the health, welfare and morale of assigned personnel.

D. Vehicles and Boats

1. Three government vehicles (stake truck, pickup, and carryall) perform the necessary station transportation

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2. The station has an outboard motor boat and a sailboat for recreational purposes.
3. No private vehicles may be maintained by members of the station.

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Chapter III - Personnel

A. Assignment and Rotation

1. The normal tour of duty is one (1) year. Personnel desiring to extend for an additional year must submit a request within four months of arrival.

2. Five or six months before rotation, personnel submit rotation requests listing choices of districts. When orders are cut and district is assigned, members in grade E-5 and above submit "Straight-Line" transfer requests for specific units desired. In general, personnel transferred from isolated stations get one of their choices for transfer.

B. Compensatory Absence

1. Personnel at this station, being assigned to a restricted area duty station are granted no regular liberty or leave. Recreational absence granted for the local area does not qualify as liberty. Compensatory absence is accrued at the rate of 2½ days per month. This compensatory absence is normally granted upon detachment of the member and may be spent either in CONUS or in the non-Communist countries of Europe.

2. Persons desiring to take part of their accrued compensatory absence during their tour of duty may make a suitable request.

C. Emergency Leave

1. In order to qualify for Emergency Leave from this station it is necessary that:

a. The individual proceed to assist a member of his immediate family when no other adult member of the immediate family is available.

b. A bonafide need for the individual's presence be verified by the American Red Cross.

2. Personnel being transferred to this station should advise their immediate family to ask the American Red Cross to wire verification to Commander, Mediterranean Section, Naples, Italy. This procedure will save valuable time when processing Emergency Leave.

D. Medical

1. A first or second class Hospital Corpsman is generally assigned. Station sick bay has facilities for almost all first aid and emergency treatments.

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2. There is a local doctor in Torroella de Montgri, about five miles away, who takes care of serious emergency cases.

3. The Air Force hospital at Torrejon AFB, Madrid, takes serious hospital cases, dental work, physical examinations, etc.

E. Training and Education

1. There is adequate time to complete correspondence courses for advancement in rate and for personal improvement. Individual participation in self-education programs is supported and encouraged.

2. There is an active Training Program for all hands in general and departmental topics. Frequent drills keep the crew alert and functioning smoothly.

F. Morale

1. Generally speaking, morale is high. Mail arrives regularly by international and APO carrier. Movies are scheduled nightly, with weekend matinees. Food is excellent both in quality and quantity.

2. Each man has a private room with modern furniture and wall-to-wall carpeting.

G. Recreation

1. The station has a recreation court utilized for volleyball, basketball, handball, and tennis. The handball wall and horseshoe pit complete the recreation area. A pistol range and skeet shooting facilities are located to the north of the barracks. The station owns a 16 foot fiberglass boat with a 40 HP outboard motor which are utilized in the summer months for water skiing, fishing, and general recreation. A station sailboat has been purchased, and the afternoon breeze is usually excellent. The recreation locker is very complete, having fishing gear, water skis, baseball equipment, tennis gear, basketballs, etc. The Station is also supplied with two radio-phonograph consoles and two TV sets. The television reception is adequate with the **strongest** signal coming from Barcelona. The Air Force supplies the station with a revolving library of excellent reading material. A station exchange and beer mess are available. A ping-pong table and pool table complete the station recreation facilities.

2. Recreational absence activities in the town of Estartit in the winter are much reduced, consisting only of local **bars and restaurants**. However, the summertime activities are myriad. Sailboating, waterskiing, fishing, swimming, camping, bikini-watching, dances, and skin-diving are only a few. The nearby town of Torroella de Montgri has two movie theatres open year round, while the towns of Figueras and Gerona feature bullfights.

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Bus tours of the entire Costa Brava also originate in the Estartit area. Recreational absence is granted to the mature and responsible members of the crew. This absence is authorized for the Estartit area in the summer months. Special request absences to the bullfights in Gerona or Figueras, or for the local bus tours are granted, on a limited basis, to deserving individuals. The winter recreational absence is normally spent in Estartit, with weekend excursions to Barcelona being authorized.

H. Complement

1. The military complement of the station is as follows:

LTJG	1	EN2	1
RELE W-1	1	ET2	1
BMC	1	DC2	1
ENC	1	EN3	1
ET1	2	ET3	2
CS1	1	SN	4
EM1	1	FN	1
HMI	1	SK3	1
	<u>TOTAL</u>		<u>21</u>

2. The station also has a complement of three Spanish workers:

Mess Attendant	1
Laborers	2

3. The station organization consists of three departments: Deck, Engineering, and Operations.

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Chapter IV - Engineering

A. Electronics

1. Loran-C is a multipulse, hyperbolic navigation system operating at the center frequency within the 90 to 110 KC band. The primary advantages of a multipulsed operation are increased radiated power from each transmitting station and the ability to phase-code the pulses.

2. Equipment on board consists of the AN/FPN-38 Synchronizers and AN/FPN-39 Transmitters, both of Sperry design.

3. A live 24 hour watch is stood in the timer room, where the watch-stander has the opportunity to do his part in maintaining the reliability of the loran system.

4. The transmitters are located about a fifth of a mile from the Synchronizers and their operation is remotely controlled.

B. The Generating Plant

1. The station primary power units are three Caterpillar model D 397, 1200 RPM, 12 cylinder, 415 HP diesel generators, each with a capacity rating of 250 kilowatts. The Caterpillar self-regulated, constant-voltage generators produce 120/208 volt, three-phase, 60 cycle alternating current. The switch-board has a control panel for each generator and a distribution panel.

2. The station refrigeration units are:

- a. One Herrick double walk-in freezer
- b. One Herrick single walk-in normal temperature cooler
- c. Two Herrick reefer cabinets
- d. Two Timer Room Air Conditioners

C. Antenna Tower

1. The transmitting tower is a 625 foot, top-loaded vertically polarized antenna. 130 ground radials, twenty-four top loaders, and guy wires complete the antenna configuration.

2. Since the station is located on a high bluff, the tower is visible from the town and for miles around.

D. Fuel and Water

1. Diesel fuel is delivered to the pump house at the bottom of the hill by CAMPSA, the Spanish fuel company. Storage capacity at the base is 40,000 gallons.

2. Gasoline is purchased from local gas stations with coupons obtained through the Air Force Exchange. To supplement filling up at local stations there is a 500 gallon tank on base for storage.

3. Lube oil is procured by Commander, Mediterranean Section and delivered on the monthly logistics flights.

4. Water from the local supply is pumped to the station, and is softened and chlorinated for station use. Storage capacity is 30,000 gallons.

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Chapter V - Comptroller

A. Commissary

1. Commissary supplies are obtained mainly from the Air Force Base at Zaragoza, Spain. Additional support, mainly fresh milk, is received from Naples, Italy, via Coast Guard aircraft.

2. Fresh vegetables and fruit are purchased on the local market.

B. Pay

1. Pay records are maintained by the U. S. Navy in Naples, Italy..

2. Pay checks are mailed every two weeks.

C. Clothing

1. Small stores are ordered periodically from the U. S. Navy Base at Rota, Spain.

2. Civilian clothes may be purchased locally or ordered from Sears and Roebuck APO mail order catalogues.

D. Transportation

1. Transportation of mail, movies, and personnel is normally by Spanish Rail (RENFE), between Barcelona or Madrid and Flassa. Transportation between Madrid and Barcelona for personnel is by Iberia Air Lines.

2. Other transportation is by Government Vehicle.

E. Supplies

1. The lead time for normal requisitions is very long, sometimes six months to a year. Hence long-range planning is essential.

2. Emergency requisitions are normally filled within two weeks when delivery can be made by APO mail. Special log flights are sometimes necessary from Naples, Italy.

F. Imprest Fund

1. In order to buy materials on the local market with cash, a station imprest fund is maintained.

2. Purchases are obligated from normal subhead allocations, and payments are reimbursed by check from the Commandant.

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Chapter VI - Administration

A. Paperwork

1. The HMI normally does the station office paperwork. Each department does its own paperwork, assigning a responsible person.

2. The SK3 works for the Operations Department, keeping an accurate and complete electronics spare parts stockroom.

B. Discipline

1. Discipline is rarely a problem at a small station such as this. Recreational absence granted to deserving personnel is a highly cherished commodity.

C. Safety

1. Monthly meetings of the Safety Board discuss the problems of safety and their suggestions and recommendations are implemented, resulting in a low accident rate.

2. The most dangerous phase of the operation of the station is driving the large vehicles on the narrow, poorly maintained Spanish roads.

D. Relations with Local Military Commands and Civil Officials

1. The station has many valuable contacts, both civilian and military, in the area. The Spanish National Police Force (Guardia Civil) have been extremely helpful on different occasions. They maintain a night guard around the limits of the station, and they have a command post in Torroella de Montgri and a local post in Estartit.

2. The American Committee for Liberty operates a radio station in nearby Pals, broadcasting information on the American way of life to Russia. The radio station personnel and Coast Guard personnel enjoy a mutually helpful relationship.

3. The U. S. Air Force installations in Madrid, Zaragoza, and nearby Roses all provide capable assistance to the station.

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Chapter VII - Words of Wisdom for Reliefs

A. General

1. There are many souvenir shops in Estartit and the surrounding locale, and visitors will have no difficulty in finding remembrances to send home. Servicemen are subject to the same customs laws and regulations as other U. S. citizens abroad. Bonafide gifts to persons in the United States may be imported free of duty and internal revenue tax and without the preparation of an entry declaration provided the aggregate value of articles received by one person in one day is less than ten (\$10.00) dollars. If a gift of value more than \$10.00 is sent to a person in the United States it will be subject to duty, internal revenue tax, and entry requirements. No alcoholic beverages, perfume containing alcohol, or tobacco products may be sent as a gift.

2. 69 Stat. 242, as amended (50 USC APP 801), exempts from duty and tax the personal and household effects of any person in the Armed Services who returns to the United States upon termination of a tour of duty of a period greater than 140 days outside the customs territory of the United States. There is no specific limit as to the quantities or value of personal or household effects which may be imported under this statute except on alcoholic beverages and cigars. Section 54.2(c) limits the quantity of alcoholic beverage which may be imported duty free to one wine gallon, and the number of cigars to one hundred (100). Articles may not be imported under this statute for resale, or for any person other than the member or persons of his immediate family who have resided overseas with him. However, household effects allowed free entry may be subsequently used as gifts to others. These regulations in no way affect the provision of the Joint Travel Regulations which forbid the shipping of wine, liquor, animals, or birds as household effects or personal goods.

B. Advance Preparations

1. Take out a good allotment to any dependents, or to a savings or checking account. For paying bills stateside a checking account is highly desirable since money orders are difficult to obtain.

2. Appoint a responsible person (father, wife, brother) as power of attorney. This can be done easily by consulting your local legal officer.

3. It has been the station policy to encourage command members to mingle socially with the local population. Experience has shown that good community relations are easier to maintain when members of the U. S. Forces can communicate in the native tongue. Since very few of the Spaniards speak English it is necessary to strongly advise personnel assigned to this station to study some Spanish before their arrival.

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4. When shipping personal and household effects, address shipments to:

Commander, Mediterranean Section
U. S. Coast Guard
Box 43
FPO New York 09521
Mark for: Commanding Officer, LTS Estartit
For: LTJG Joe Bloe (1234) USCG, or
BLOE, J. (123-456) ENC, USCG

C. What to Bring

1. The wearing of civilian clothing is permitted and recommended when away from the station. Likewise travel aboard commercial airliner or in Spain should be in civilian clothes. For these reasons it is necessary for personnel to bring an adequate amount of tastefully selected civilian clothing to the station. Winter and summer clothing alike should be brought.

2. The Spanish monetary unit is known as the Peseta. The value of the peseta fluctuates daily on the world money market, but the approximate value is 60 pesetas to one American dollar. It is advised that personnel ordered to Spain purchase about \$20.00 worth of pesetas in CONUS prior to departure. This amount will handle necessary phone calls, taxi rides, food, and other incidentals.

3. A Spanish or International driver's license is required to drive government vehicles in Spain. Due to the delay in processing Spanish licenses after arrival, personnel are requested to obtain an International driver's permit from the AAA, 6 St. James Avenue, Boston, Mass. (or any other AAA office). The \$3.00 fee is reimbursable.

D. Directions Enroute

1. Personnel destined for this station normally fly MATS into Torrejon AFB, Madrid or commercial into Barcelona Airport. If you come to Madrid, you must take an Iberia Air Lines flight to Barcelona. From Barcelona, all personnel board the Spanish railroad (RENFE) for the trip to Flassa. Flassa is about 15 miles from the station. There you can try to call the station (308048) or take a taxi to the "Base Americana".

2. The proper uniform shall be worn at all times while aboard this station or other U. S. Military installations, or when travelling aboard a military aircraft or vessel, or when reporting into the Commander Mediterranean Section Office. However, all other travel in Spain shall be in civilian clothing.

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3. If you arrive at Madrid and you are not already booked through to Barcelona, take a taxi to Torrejon Air Force Base (BASE, AEREO, TORREJON DE ARDOZ). There call NAVY ATCO at extension 2806 or 2319 for assistance.
4. When you land in Barcelona your luggage should be checked through to the terminal, which is in the center of the city. If so, buy a ticket and board the special bus to the terminal where you can claim your luggage and get a taxi to the train station. If you pick up your luggage at the Airport then take a taxi from there to the train station.
5. At the train station, get a ticket to Flassa. The last train leaves about 6:30 P.M. If you have missed the last train, check into the Hotel Oriente. This is a reasonable hotel having an English-speaking staff and a good restaurant. (Tel. 221-4151)
6. Expect a two to three hour train ride to Flassa, and watch very closely for the stop, shortly after Gerona. When you get off the train, call the station or take a taxi. Some of the people in the restaurant speak English if you need any assistance. If you get as far as Flassa you have done well, and your trip is nearly over.
7. One last word of advice: Don't drink local water; buy bottled water, soft drinks or beer; don't eat fresh vegetables or fruits except in finer restaurants; have all meats cooked well done before eating; the VD rate is high in Barcelona, for your own protection...abstain.





