

FLASH

UNCLASSIFIED

INCOMING

U S COAST GUARD
HDQTRS TELECOMMUNICATIONS

PAGE 01

006271

15/1552Z

INFO: COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHIN (01)

COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON

(UNIT TOTAL: 006)

ACTION: G-TES (01) G-N (01) G-NRN (01) G-TGC (01)

G-WWM (01) SUPR (01)

----- 15/1552Z A0

(TOTAL COPIES: 007)

FLASH

Z 151552Z APR 86

FM COMCOGARD ACTEUR LONDON UK

TO COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC

DC//G-C/G-N/G-NRN/G-CPI/G-ODO/G-TGC//

CNO WASHINGTON DC

USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE//ECJ3//

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

NMCC WASHINGTON DC

INFO COMFAIRMED NAPLES IT

COMSIXTHFLT

NAS SIGONELLA IT

MARBKS SIGONELLA IT

COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL PALERMO

BT

UNCLAS //N05500//

SUBJ: EXPLOSIONS AT LORAN STATION LAMPEDUSA IT

1. AT 151510Z APR 86 LORSTA LAMPEDUSA RPTD TWO POSSIBLE ROCKET EXPLOSIONS NEAR STATION.
2. NO CASUALTIES RPTD, PERSONNEL EVACUATED BLDGS.
3. ITALIAN PARATROOPERS ON SCENE INVESTIGATING INCIDENT.
4. CINCUSNAVEUR AND CG FLAG PLOT NOTIFIED.
5. STATION ON AIR AS OF 1530Z.
6. WILL ADVISE WHEN MORE DETAILS KNOWN.

BT

G-TES (1) ... ACT FOR COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON (6)

14527 / 3/0123

720944/3230/105
CSN: RXOG0704

1 OF 1 M3 0334

RTD: 000-000/COPIES: 0007
105/15:52Z 151552Z APR 86
COMCOGARD ACTEUR LONDON UK

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Italy Takes Over U.S. Base

Coast Guard Navigation Site on Island Threatened by Libya

By Loren Jenkins

Washington Post Foreign Service

ROME, June 1—Italy, reacting to Libyan threats, has taken over command of the U.S. Coast Guard navigation station on the southernmost Italian island of Lampedusa that was the target of a Libyan missile attack April 15.

The Italian takeover of the communication station on the small rocky island, which is closer to North Africa than to Sicily, took place with little fanfare almost two weeks ago, according to Italian Defense Ministry sources. They confirmed the transfer this weekend after the island's mayor, Giovanni Fragapane, disclosed the change.

The two dozen U.S. Coast Guards currently on Lampedusa

will remain at the base and continue running the Loran (Long Range Aid to Navigation) station, sources said. But instead of operating under autonomous U.S. Coast Guard command, they will now be under Col. Alessio Pucciano, of the Italian Air Force's 135th Air Radar Squadron.

Italian government officials said the transfer of command was the result of "technical" changes in Italian Air Force radar and communications jurisdiction that was extended south to Lampedusa after the failed Libyan attack.

U.S. and Italian sources said privately, however, that the change had taken place in response to pressures from the island's 4,700 residents in the light of repeated Libyan threats to bomb and "destroy" the island so long as it remained

what Libya said was a base for U.S. "spying activities."

[In Washington, U.S. officials said an Italian military presence on Lampedusa was provided for in the joint U.S.-Italian agreement, Washington Post staff writer George C. Wilson reported. They said there was no dispute over the Italian military going to Lampedusa in line with contingency plans.

[The U.S. officials added that a small group of U.S. Marines had gone to Lampedusa shortly before the Libyan attack. If there had been a major Libyan attack, sources said, the Italian military would have sent reinforcements to protect the navigation site.

[Italy's military, U.S. sources said, wanted to reassert its rights and responsibilities on Lampedusa

From: NEWS Posted: Tue 15-Apr-86 14:04 EST Sys 97 (41)
Subject: COAST GUARD :coast guard telecommunications facility on the italian i

*1000 AP-Newsbrief,0205

14th AP Newsbrief

Here is the latest news from The Associated Press:

The Soviet Union says the U.S. raids on Libya have made it impossible for there to be a meeting next month between Secretary of State Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze. The meeting had been scheduled for Washington in mid-May to make plans for a second superpower summit between President Reagan and Soviet Leader Gorbachev.

The White House called the Soviet decision "a mistake."

Libya has struck back, but only weakly, for sweeping U.S. air raids. Italian officials say a Libyan motor launch fired on a Coast Guard telecommunications facility on the Italian island of Lampedusa in the Mediterranean this morning. A Coast Guard spokesman in Washington says at least two missiles were fired on the site, but landed in the water.

U.S. forces are combing the Mediterranean in hopes of finding the two-man crew of the American bomber lost in the Libyan raid.

The Air Force notified the families of the two crewmen that they had been officially listed as missing. The two were identified as Capt. Fernando L. Ribas-Dominicci, 33, of Puerto Rico, and Capt. Paul F. Lorence, 31, of San Francisco.

AP-NY-04-15-86 1402EST

End of Mail.

LAMPEDUSA REVISITED

At 9:35 a.m. EST Tuesday, April 15 two missiles exploded in the sea near the Italian island of Lampedusa, some 168 miles north of Libya. About 10:30 a.m. the first media query was received in the Media Relations Branch at BPA. A call to Flagplot verified the news: two "rockets" had landed offshore from LORSTA Lampedusa. There were no injuries and no damage to the station, which was continuing to operate normally. Soon the phones began to ring and the Media staff of Mr. Siems and Mr. Sandifer were joined by LT Birthisel and PACM Cipra of the Bulletin to answer the calls.

Over the next four hours more than 75 calls were answered, including many that were taped for radio use. In addition to the basic facts, the queries concerned the source of the explosions (we didn't have that information), the function of a Loran station, requests for photos and videotape, and questions about personnel and security measures (which we declined to discuss).

Looking back at what we did, what we learned, and what we would do differently, leads to the following conclusions:

1. The media were well served. We gave immediate response to all queries. This was facilitated by having all four spokespersons work in the same room and sharing information. These four were assisted by CAPT Greene, CDR Hoffman, Mr. Paugh from Audiovisual Branch, and representatives from Navigation and Defense Operations who came by to add information and guidance. Aerial photos of Lampedusa were copied and ready for pickup by late afternoon.
2. A key to our ability to respond promptly was in keeping control and making decisions in the Division. We were not delayed by having to get approval at higher levels before making any statement.
3. As a corollary to keeping control, CAPT Greene coordinated our response with all concerned: the Deputy in G-B (who contacted the State Department Liaison in Coast Guard), DOD Public Affairs, OST Public Affairs, White House Press Secretary's Office (who called us), Port and Environmental Safety Division and Readiness Division. By 1 p.m., while still fielding calls, Mr. Siems prepared a page of Q&A's which we telefaxed to the above public affairs offices.

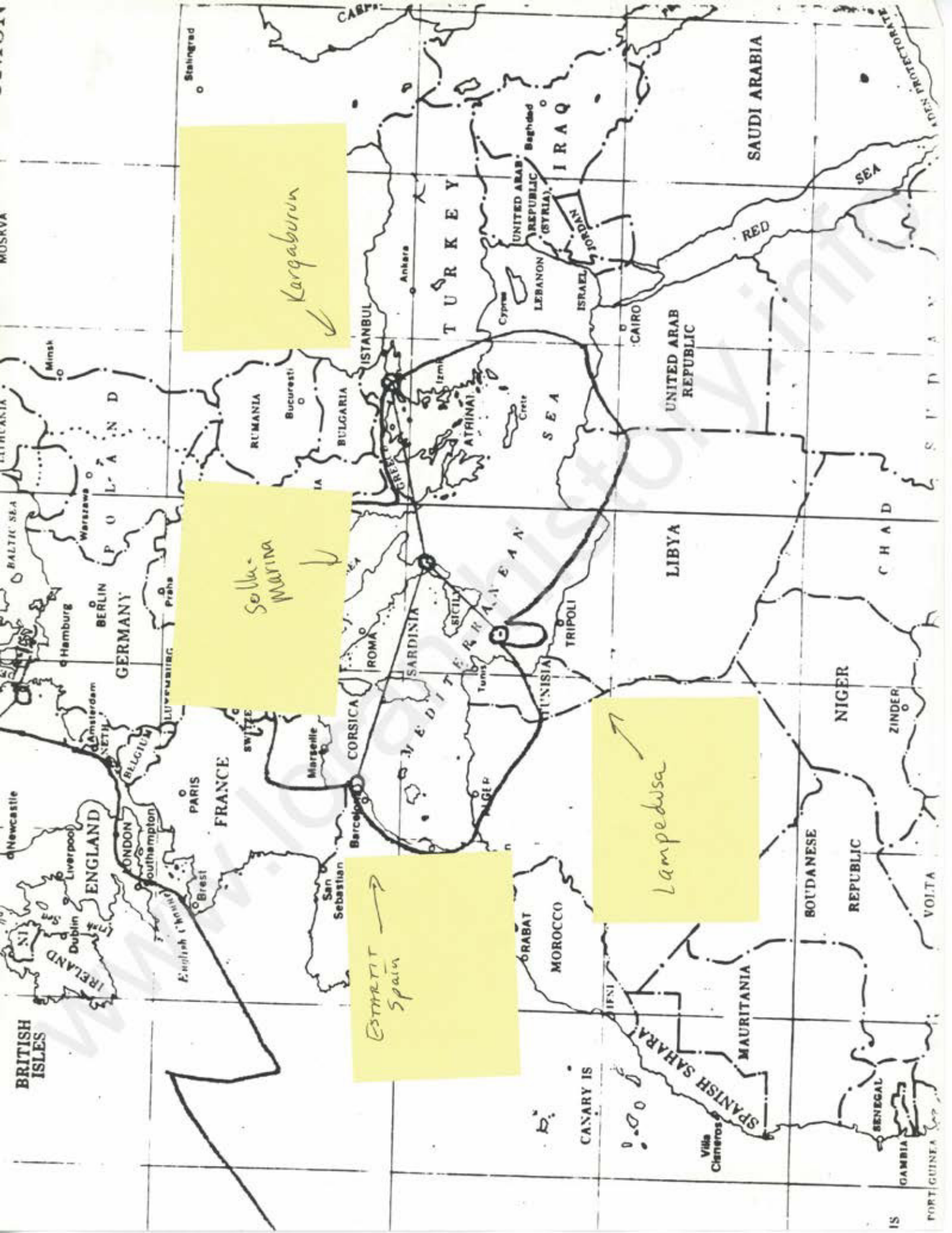
4. We should have written out a brief statement of facts for all spokespersons to work from. This is the principal thing we would do differently. Mr. Sandifer got our facts from Flagplot and relayed them orally to the spokespersons. As a result, on some of the earlier calls we used information which was later revised or omitted upon further consideration. For instance, we decided not to reveal how many persons were stationed at the Loran station or whether they were being evacuated. We also decided not to attribute the explosions to rockets or missiles. And we corrected the time of the explosion from 10:15 a.m. to 9:35 a.m.

5. This written factual statement should have been telefaxed to Area commands for relay to Districts for their information. BPA, however, should remain the single spokesman.

6. In hindsight, we may have run some risk in responding to the first queries prior to State Department notification. In this case we used our judgment that we could confirm the facts in an incident that involved the Coast Guard.

7. We received the first media call after Flagplot had been informed by phone of the incident but before they received a hardcopy message or had informed us. We should remind them to let us know right now when a big one comes down.

Werner Siems
G-BPA-2



Kargaburun

Sollu Maria

ESTRAT Spain

Lampedusa

MUSKVA

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