

*HISTORICAL*



# SEVENTEENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT

## GENERAL INFORMATION

RELATING TO THE

LORAN TRANSMITTING STATION

**SITKINAK**

[www.loran-history.info](http://www.loran-history.info)



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Address reply to:  
COMMANDER  
Seventeenth Coast Guard District  
P.O. Box 3-5000  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

\* 3262  
1 March 1968

LETTER OF PROMULGATION

1. This letter promulgates a Loran Station Information Book for each of the nine Seventeenth District Loran Stations. These books are designed to provide information to commands and staff components concerned with the stations logistic support, operation and administration, and to training commands to familiarize themselves and their students with station equipment, environment, problems and routines. The books purposely omit unnecessary details. Additional information regarding any phase of the stations operation, equipment, or plant can be obtained from Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District, Juneau, Alaska.
2. Loran Station Information Books will be reviewed periodically and new additions issued as the need arises.

  
J. R. SCULLION

DISTRIBUTION: (SDL 86)

B: a(OAN) (4) b(COMWESTAREA) (2) c(CCGD17) (8) e(2) g(6) h(2)  
n(2)  
C: 1(3) (CCGD17)

U. S. Coast Guard Loran Station

Sitkinak

General Information Book

[www.loran-history.info](http://www.loran-history.info)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Information-----Page 1  
Requirements and Hints for New Arrivals-----Page 2  
Recreation-----Page 3  
Logistics-----Page 4  
Station Facilities-----Page 4

[www.loran-history.info](http://www.loran-history.info)

USCG LORAN TRANSMITTING STATION  
SITKINAK ISLAND, ALASKA

1. General Information;

Sitkinak Island is approximately twelve miles long on a East - West axis with maximum width of about eight miles. The island is generally mountainous except for a relatively flat area extending Southwest from Sitkinak Lagoon across the width of the island. Sitkinak Lagoon adjoins a wide bay on the Northeastern shore of the low flat section of the island. The lagoon is about two miles wide by three miles long and opens by shallow channels at both the North and South ends of Sitkinak to the Pacific Ocean. Sitkinak is one of the Trinity Island Group, the other islands being East Sitkinak and Tugidak Islands. The Group is approximately ten miles Southwest of Kodiak Island.

It is believed that the rock structure of the island were formed from fresh water sediment deposits during the Tertiary Age, having been subjected to severe deformation. Ocean sands and sandy gravel make up a sandspit which separates the Lagoon from the ocean on the Northern end of the island except for a narrow opening on the Eastern end of the spit.

The lowlands surrounding the saltwater lagoon are predominately muskege. Vegetation is mainly heavy grasses on the better-drained portions of the island which cover the layer of muskege that is prominent all over the island. Salmonberry, blueberry and small willow plants are found in the lowlands. The island is barren of any actual trees, but the willows sometimes attain a maximum of 10 - 12 feet in height.

Streams are in abundance and a fresh water lake is located on the Coast Guard Reservation which provides for an ample freshwater supply. Salmon can be seen in the streams in August and September. The lake is stocked with Rainbow Trout that refuse to be caught by anyone but the best fishermen. The lagoon provides good fishing for Salmon and Flounder.

Insufficient data has been compiled on the climate of Sitkinak but the below-listed data obtained from the weather records of nearby Kodiak Island is considered typical. In general, conditions are less severe at Sitkinak due to the close proximity of the Japanese Current and the absence of any large land mass close to the island.

Average Annual Temperature - 41.1 deg. F.  
Average Annual Minimum Temperature - 35.8 deg. F.  
Highest Recorded Temperature - 85 deg. F.  
Lowest Recorded Temperature - Minus 19 deg. F.

In addition, winds of 40 - 50 Knots are common from early fall to late spring.

## II. Requirements and Hints for New Arrivals

Clothing - A complete seabag is a necessity with the exception of whites. Other items which are optional but recommended are hunting boots, sun glasses, sweat shirts, warm woolen socks and insulated underwear. The foul weather gear on hand is adequate for everyday needs. Adequate laundry facilities are on the unit and each compartment has a flat-steam iron and ironing board.

Finances - Meals for officers will run about fifty dollars a month, plus about fifteen dollars for monthly miscellaneous incidentals. Enlisted personnel should have about fifteen to twenty dollars available monthly at a minimum. A checking account is mandatory for officers and is recommended for enlisted personnel since a large volume of personnel purchases is done via the mails.

Personal Items - All personnel should have one month supply of essentials such as cigarettes, soap(hand and laundry), toothpaste, razor blades, etc., upon arrival at Sitkinak. It will take up to one month to obtain these items through the PX after your arrival here.

Government Drivers License - All personnel need a government license to drive while at Sitkinak. ENs, ETs and other Petty officers should definitely have a Government Drivers License. The station has one Dodge Power Wagon, one Ford Crew-Cab-Pickup, one GMC Dump Truck, one Cass Caterpillar, one International Tractor and one SNO-CAT.

Other Items - New personnel are encouraged to bring with them some sort of light firearm for recreational use. Recommendations include .22 cal. pistol and rifle and all gauges of shotguns. The use of heavy rifles is against station policy.

A tape Recorder is considered very desirable to have at Sitkinak, both for general entertainment and taping letters to send stateside.

A radio amateur license is also very handy to have at a Loran Station. The General Class License is preferable as it enables the holder to administer examinations to others. Personnel attending ET school should avail themselves of the chance to obtain a license due to the availability of code practice.

Sports gear such as a softball glove; ice skates and a fishing pole are considered worthwhile items to bring along for the sportsminded.

### III. Recreation

Outdoor - Hiking and exploring are considered to be the prime outdoor recreational pastimes. The rugged terrain offers a challenge to the most experienced and best-conditioned hiker. There are numerous valleys and mountains to explore as well as many miles of beach. Japanese glass balls are found on almost all beaches.

A large lake next to the station provides fishing, duck hunting, boating and swimming. The station has a small skiff with a 10 HP outboard motor for recreational use.

There is no large game on Sitkinak, but hunting is exciting outdoor sport with fox, seal, and ptarmigan to hunt. Sitkinak is considered to be one of the best ptarmigan hunting grounds in Alaska. Similar to a grouse, the ptarmigan are in flocks of about thirty to fifty birds in hunting season - 20 August until 30 April. Licenses are available through the state of Alaska at about \$10.00.

The island is also populated with about 350 head of cattle and three horses. These belong to a rancher who makes occasional trips to Sitkinak to check on his herd. The station has four dogs for the animal lovers with two more on loan from the rancher. The island is also populated with thousands of lemmings that have criss-crossed the Island with hundreds of trails. These small animals are a relative of mice and make excellent pets when caught.

Outdoor sports played at Sitkinak include softball, basketball, archery, volleyball and ice hockey when the lake freezes over. The station has a fair selection of morale gear but bring along your favorite glove bat or bow.

Indoor - The main indoor attractions are pool and daily movies. Weightlifting and pingpong.

Other forms of indoor recreation include beer mess (limited), record playing, amateur photography in the station photo lab, ham radio, and reading in the station library. The library includes some hard covers, numerous paperbacks and a recently donated Set of Encyclopedia Americana. Amateur Radio Station KL7DND enables excellent phone patches to the lower 48 depending on the time of day. During the first few years of operation, practically all permissible countries in the world have been contacted. Personnel being assigned are urged to procure either a telephone company credit card or a home phone for their dependants for collect calls.

#### IV. Logistics:

Coast Guard Air Station, Kodiak is responsible for keeping all 17th C.G. District Loran Stations supplied with commissary items, PX items Station supply items and movies. At the present time the log runs are made every other Tuesday. The Air Station has four - HU16E, One C-123 and expects to receive one C-130 during the summer of 1968. Personnel effects and trunks should be shipped from the lower 48 approximately two (2) months before your arrival date at Sitkinak. This long delay is due to the fact that the effects are shipped by Steamer from Seattle to Kodiak and the ship makes the trip once every Three (3) weeks.

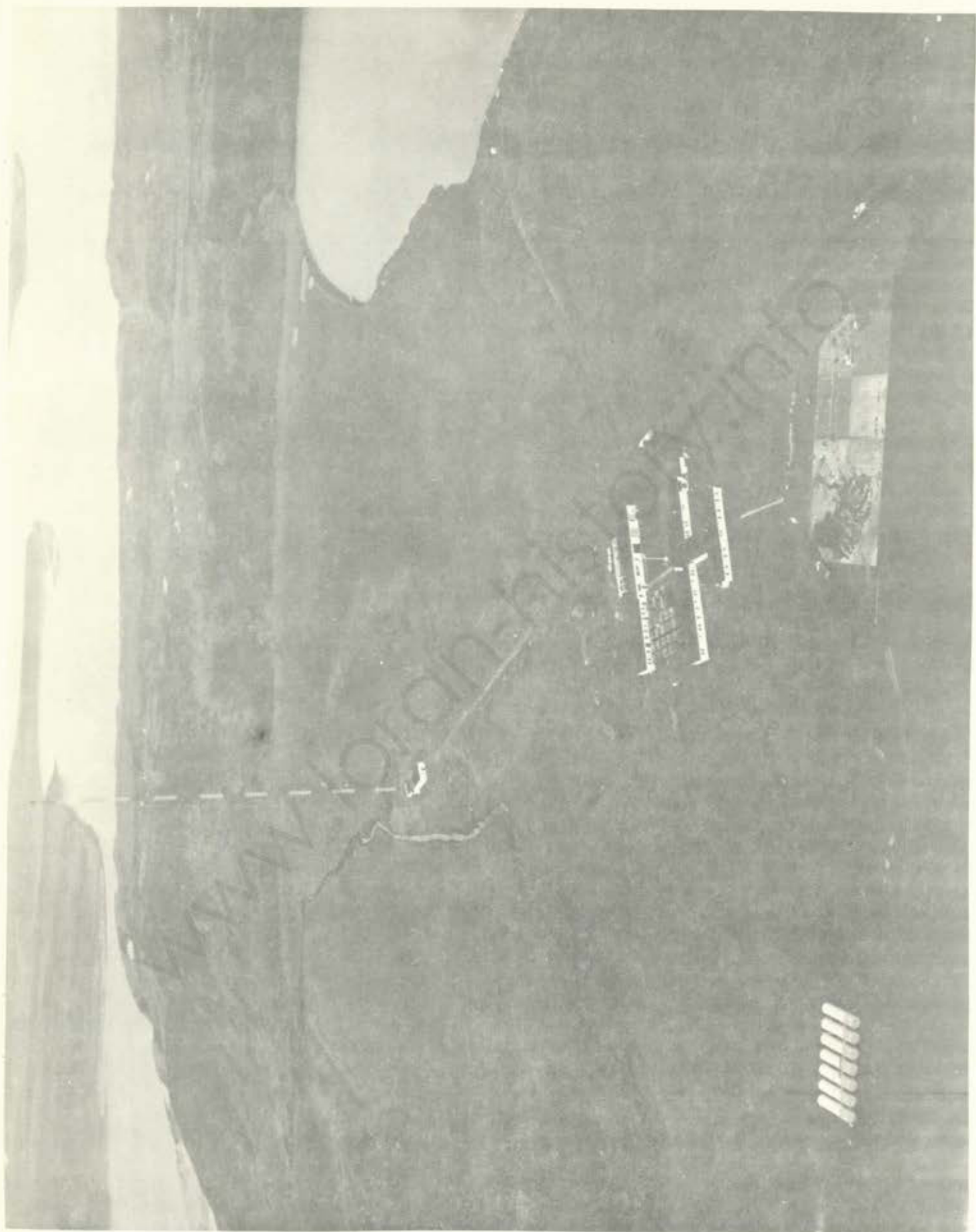
#### V. Station Facilities:

1. Medical and Dental - There are no dental facilities as such on the station. The Station has one First Class Corpsman and an up to date Sick bay for the 28 men assigned. Coast Guard Air Station, Kodiak is only 40 minutes away and would evacuate anyone seriously injured to the Naval Hospital in Kodiak. If weather conditions prevent evacuation the Corpsman on Station has the knowledge and equipment in Sick Bay to preform minor surgery.
2. Electricity - Power is supplied by three 300 KW Caterpillar Diesels. The Normal station full load is about 240 KW.
3. Water - Pumped from fresh water lake approximately 500 yards South of station to storage tanks outside and in back of the engine room. There are three (3) tanks in all and the storage capacity is approximately 75,000 gallons. The water is taken from the tanks through the station chlorinators and various filters and is then ready for use throughout the station. Monthly water samples are sent out to be laboratory tested for bacteria and another test is made locally by the station corpsman for an added bit of safety.
4. Refueling - Normally done every spring by contract with commercial firm. Station has seven 32,000 gallon tanks for storage of a years supply of fuel oil. The commercial firm uses a barge called the "Mona Lisa" to transport the fuel oil. The barge is grounded on the North beach and the fuel oil is pumped into a Coast Guard owned Million gallon settling tank located on the beach. The oil is then pumped by portable pumps through a four (4) inch pipe line. To the storage tanks. Motor and Aviation gasoline is delivered in drums and stored in fuel dumps near the runway.



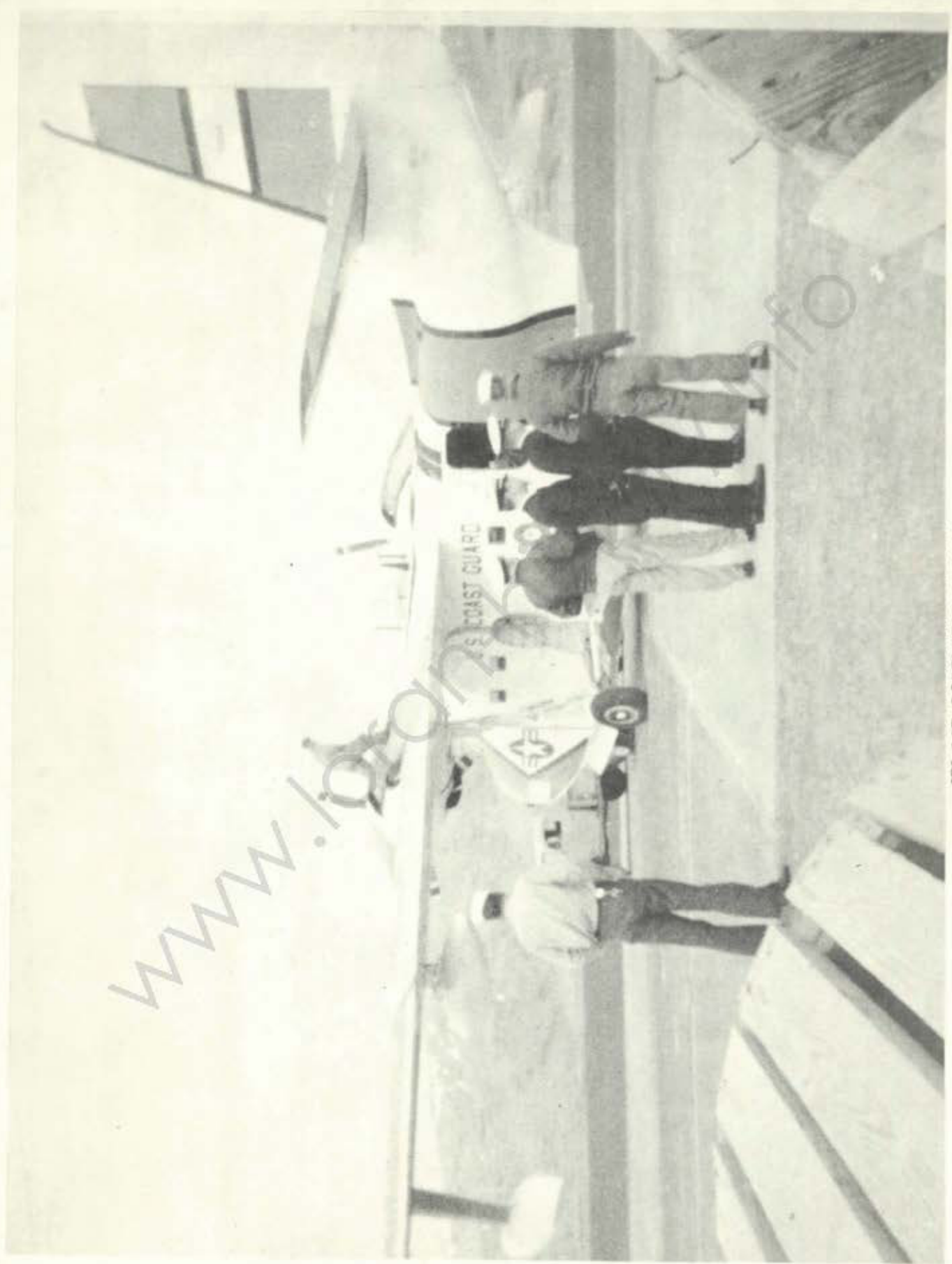
5. Heating - Officers and CPO Quarters are heated by Hot Water Base Board radiation with individual room controls. Crew quarters are heated by electrical base board radiation with individual room controls.
6. Mail Delivery - Kodiak Airways comes to Sitkinak every Tuesday and Friday to deliver incoming and pick up outgoing mail. Registered Mail is picked up and delivered by Coast Guard log flights every two (2) weeks.

Appendix I - Photographs  
Appendix II - Loran Coverage Chart





SOUTH BEACH- WHERE GLASS BALLS AND OTHER BEACHCOMBING ADDITIVES  
ARE ABUNDANT



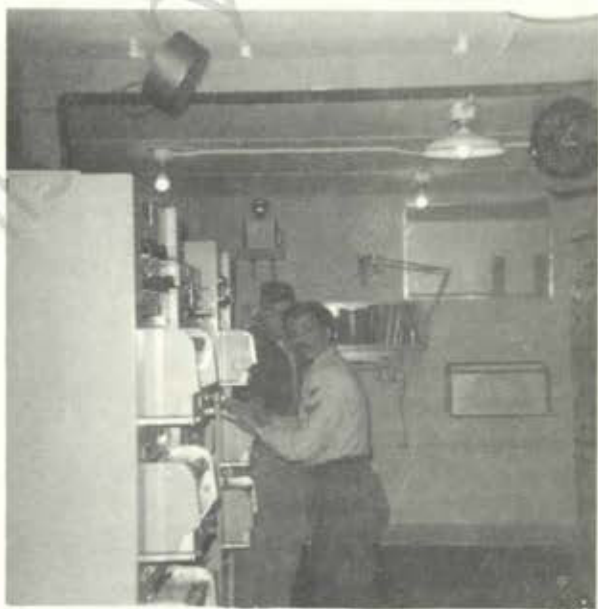
HU-16E LOGISTICS FLIGHT



625 FT. TOWER



SUNSET IN SUMMER



TIMER ROOM



AERIAL VIEW OF RUNWAY AND  
ISLANDS 2 ESTABLISHED ROADS



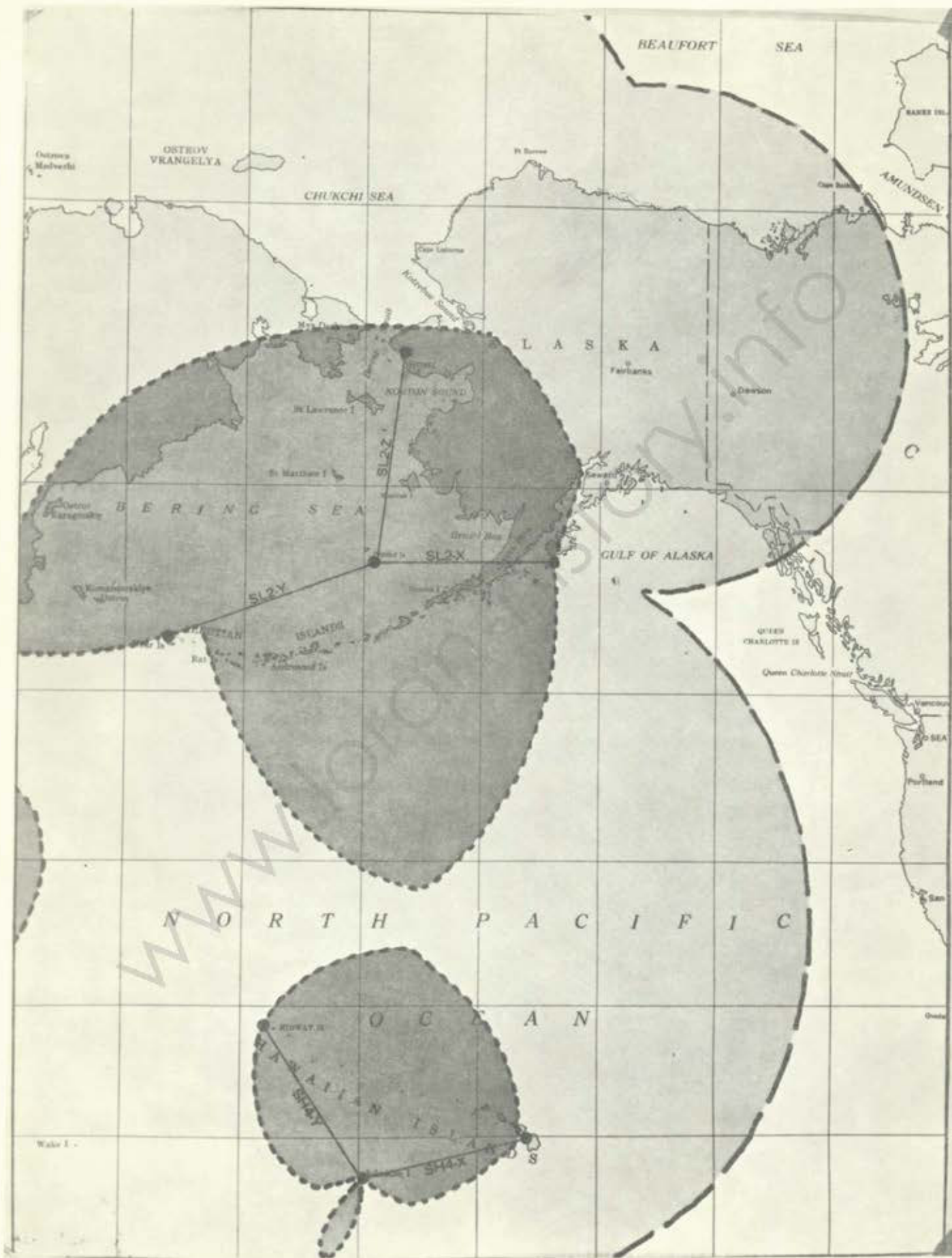
VIEW OF TOUGH HIKING OFFERED  
AT SITKINAK



MOUNTAIN TOPS

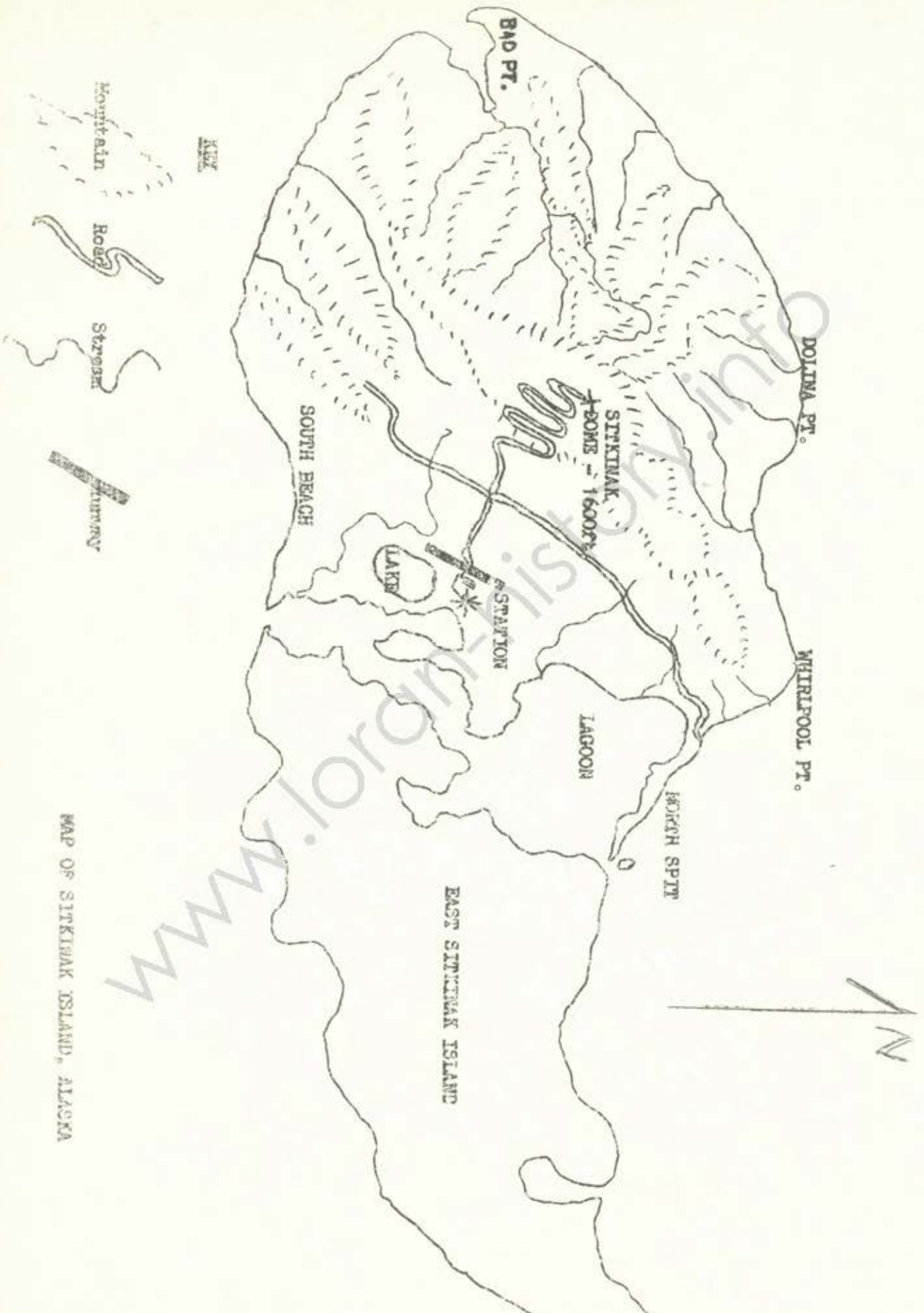


SITKINAK AND EAST SITKINAK  
RESPECTIVELY









MAP OF SITKINAK ISLAND, ALASKA

