

Commanding Officer
USCG Commanding Officer
FPO USCG LORAN STATION
FPO Seattle, 98793

3262

25 Nov 1974

18 November 1974

From: Commanding Officer, USCG LORAN STA Sitkinak

To: From: Chain Operational Control Officer, NORPAC LORAN-C Chain
To: Commanding Officer, USCG LORAN STATION SITKINAK

Subj: Loran C Operations 130730Z NOV 74

Subj: LORAN-C Operations

Ref: (a) Your letter 3262 dated 18 November 1974

1. At 130730Z Nov 74 while I was in our timer room I heard your LORAN watchstander say the following. "Our radioman

has gone to chow and we don't have communications in the timer room." "I will go to the radio room every 15 to 20

minutes if you have an adjust for me give it to me then."

At that point I instructed your watchstander to get some

help. After a few minutes I heard over the radio, "The

LORAN watchstander is new and breaking-in, you know how it

goes." (The second quote in enclosure (1) was made by TONE who stated that he

was attempting to let LEVY take care of the situation and when it became

apparent that he was only adding to the confusion, TONE took the mike and

attempted to straighten out the matter.

2. Investigate this incident and report your findings and

actions taken to prevent a reoccurrence.

he could verify what he said over the loran net. LEVY stated that he

did not recall making the statement in enclosure (1). On several

occasions I have personally witnessed LEVY speak over the loran

net and it is possible that he said W.E. HENSLEY than what he meant.

Both LEVY and TONE were in the timer room during this period and they

think, though they aren't sure, that LEVY said that the radioman would

be back in the radioman in 15 or 20 minutes.

(2) The second quote in enclosure (1) was made by TONE who stated that he

was attempting to let LEVY take care of the situation and when it became

apparent that he was only adding to the confusion, TONE took the mike and

attempted to straighten out the matter.

2. In my opinion, this instance was not a result of improper watchstanding but one of allowing an unqualified man to handle the loran operation to an extent greater than he was capable.

J. S. Merrill

Encl: (1) Your letter 3262 dated 18 November 1974

Commanding Officer
USCG LORSTA Sitkinak
FPO Seattle, WA. 98794

3262
25 November 1974

From: Commanding Officer, USCG LORSTA Sitkinak
To: Chain Operations Control Officer

Subj: Loran C Operations 130730Z NOV 74

Ref: (a) Your letter 3262 dated 18 November 1974

1. Receipt of reference (a) is acknowledged and an investigation into the incident revealed the following information:

(a) SA K. R. TODD was on watch with SA T. H. LEVY standing the watch as a watchstander trainee. TODD is a well qualified watchstander and LEVY was an unqualified watchstander standing one of his first break in watches.

(b) Z assumed method B modified control at 0700Z and communications with St. Paul were poor. Simultaneous transmission was being used.

(c) LEVY, who was having trouble copying information sent over the loran net was having the radio watchstander copy position reports so that he could verify what he copied over the loran net. LEVY stated that he did not recall making the statement quoted in enclosure (1). On several occasions I have personally witnessed him get flustered over the loran net and it is possible that he said something other than what he meant. Both LEVY and TODD were in the timer room during this period and they think, though they aren't sure, that LEVY said that the radioman would be back in the radioroom in 15 or 20 minutes.

(d) The second quote in enclosure (1) was made by TODD who stated that he was attempting to let LEVY take care of the situation and when it became apparent that he was only adding to the confusion, TODD took the mike and attempted to straighten out the matter.

2. In my opinion, this instance was not a result of improper watchstanding but one of allowing an unqualified man to handle the loran operation to an extent greater than he was capable.

J. S. MERRILL

Encl: (1) Your letter 3262 dated 18 November 1974

Commanding Officer
USCG LORAN STATION
FPO Seattle, 98793

3262
9 December 1974

From: Chain Operational Control Officer Norpac Loran-C Chain
To: Commanding Officer, USCG LORAN STATION SITKINAK

Subj: Loran-C Operations

Ref: (a) My LTR 3262 dtd 18 Nov 74
(b) Your LTR 3262 dtd 25 Nov 74
(c) CCGD17 Supp to CG-222-4 Sec 2-3D-1c

1. In ref. (b) you stated that in your opinion, "This instance was not a result of improper watch standing but one of allowing an unqualified man to handle the Loran Operation to an extent greater than he was capable."
2. If SA TODD did allow an unqualified man to handle the Loran Operation to an extent greater than he was capable that action constituted improper watch standing.
3. If Radio Communications were poor why wasn't the radio watch in the radio room doing what he could to improve communications?
4. I still require to know what action you have taken or intend taking to prevent a recurrence of this situation in accordance with ref. (a).


W.E. HENSLEY

Copy to: CCGD17 (oan)