

ON-WATCH

District 11S Flotilla 19

Coronado Bay, California

April 2011

Diversity Perspective from the US Coast Guard Academy

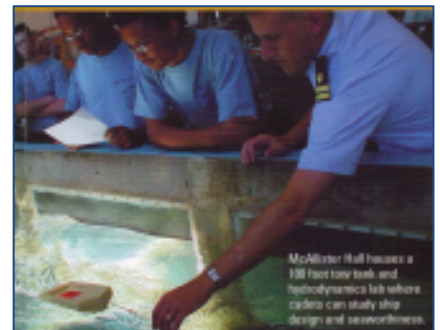
June 2010, I visited the US Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. It was an enlightening experience. There was an overwhelming open arms policy from the public affairs department at the academy. I was exposed to being able to tour the complete academy by walking, a self-guided walking tour.



I also had a chaperoned tour of all the educational and operational facilities. There were numerous individuals of families with cadets and high school administrators with perspective cadets for the upcoming term. School was going to start in August. When I went in June it was a fantastic opportunity but being from Southern California, I was not pleased with the high humidity, as it was hard to breathe and be comfortable. I felt wet all the time during my stay at the academy. There was an extensive collection of photos at the museum. At the beginning of the tour you could spend days

perusing this museum of photo journalist history/gallery, embracing and hi-lighting diversity in the US Coast Guard, showing women's induction, as well as, people of multi-cultural backgrounds. (African American, Asian American, Native American, Pacific Islander, cultures of Mexico, Spain and South America, just to name a few) that are participating in the academy process. There was a huge collection of artifacts, dating back to?...

I was surprised that the Academy was a four year program. I thought if you went in as an officer it was one year and you graduated. It has extensive programs, just as you would see at a four year college or university. Programs such as, required; math, algebra, literature, history, etc. Scholastic programs such as, football, basketball, wrestling, soccer, lacrosse, gymnastics, track & field, tennis, swimming, etc.... Then there are the Arts, as in Theatrical. Cadets put on a spring musical each year. Some participate in voice, such as opera, as in the Metropolitan Opera in New York. In the Sciences, they have hydro propulsion, astro physics, and navigation, study of engines, engineering, seamanship, meteorology, oceanography, chemistry, bio and molecular. There are also electronics and communications, dealing with satellites.



There can be a selection process to the NASA Aeronautics Program, as well as, the Coast Guard's commitment to Semper Paratus protections of the National and International seas and Coastal waterways. The Academy trains and graduates Officers for the Coast Guard. These individuals can become Administrators at the National level.

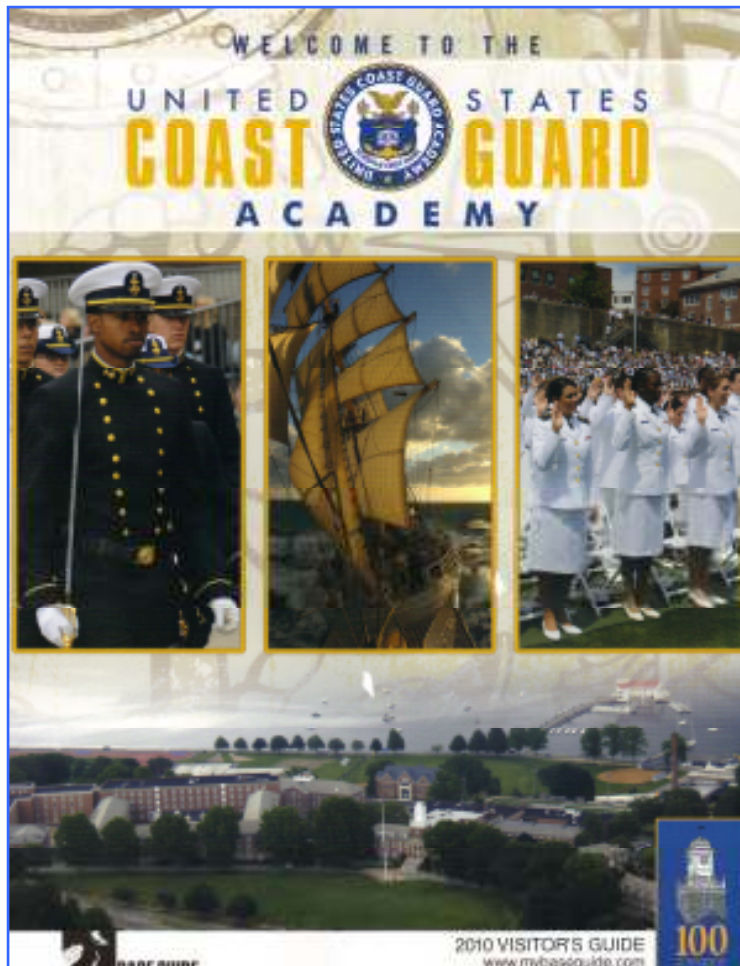


Our commitment to the diversity policy is mandated in the US Coast Guard and supported by individuals such as, Admiral Loy, "Diversity is one of our greatest strengths. I challenge each of you to make an individual commitment to this policy."



Our Flotilla has met these goals, and received the NACO 3-Star Award for managing diversity for the years, 2009 and 2010. We are presently working towards this award for 2011.

By: Michael Rias, Diversity Advisor



AUXILIARISTS NEVER

TAKE VACATIONS

Dennis and I were on the cruise ship Ossterdam on our way to Mexico. The ship left San Diego at 1700 on Saturday October 16 heading to Mazatlan at about 17 to 18



Dennis and CG Helo

knots. The plan was to arrive in Mazatlan on Tuesday. However, when we woke up Sunday the Captain announced at 0640 that a passenger was in intensive care and the ship had turned around heading back to San Diego for an air rescue.

Imagine our surprise when we stepped on deck and saw the Coronado's. Dennis and I later figured we had returned to within 45 miles of San Diego.

As for the air rescue, the Coast Guard helo arrived at about 0700. It circled the ship, went to the bow and then backed out. We heard a doctor was let off the helo. The helo circled the ship for about 15 minutes and then returned to the bow. It backed out about 5 minutes later, circling the ship and then heading off to San Diego. The weather was calm and so was the sea, unusually calm.



I got some great pictures. Here they are. One picture is of Bruce and Joan, a Connecticut couple. I did some AWW's (America's Waterway Watch) while on board and actually gave Bruce a whistle

which was used extensively. He loved the AWW pamphlet (so much that I never saw him without it, even on our formal night). We had a blast. Now that's DEDICATION!!!



Joan and Bruce, future Auxiliarists???



Dennis and Kim Usrey



By Kim Usrey, FSO-Vessel Examiner

Termination of the Loran-C

As of February 8, 2010 the Coast Guard ended transmission of the United States Loran-C Signal. The LORAN-C was a victim of technological advancements, including the Global Position System (GPS) and was being used by only a small segment of the population.



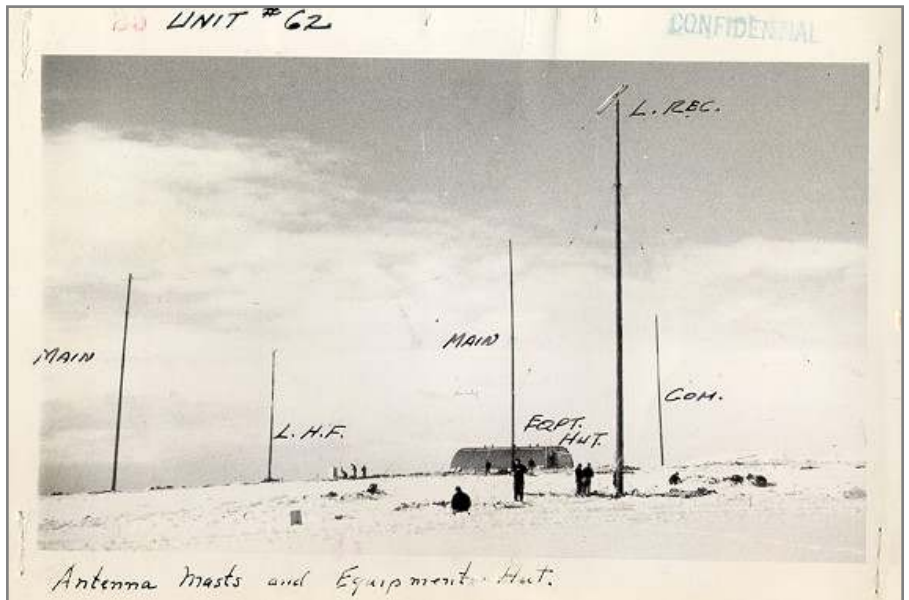
Havre, Montana

The 2010 budget supported terminating outdated systems and the Loran-C was just one of those systems. The termination was also supported in the 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.

The Loran was established in a secret program during World War II. Its purpose was to provide the Allies with a reliable and accurate navigation system while at sea and in any type of weather. When a small receiver was developed aircraft included its use and it expanded to all aspects of the military. The system was used for the Army Air Force bombing campaign against Japan.

The Loran required stations for its support and the Coast Guard Construction detachments built them. They were built on islands in the Atlantic in 1942, and then in the Pacific. After the war Loran was used not only for the military but also for merchant ships. The system proved its usefulness and it was expanded. More stations were built, many of them in isolated areas of the Philippines, Scotland, and Alaska. Some stations were built in more attractive areas of the Pacific like Hawaii and the Caribbean.

Manning the stations was the Coast Guard's duty; usually 8-25 personnel were needed. Veterans have described the duty as "Hours of boredom punctuated by moments of sheer panic", but their detailers called the duty "the best kept secret in the Coast Guard!" But boring times would probably have been better than times of danger. Some of the stations came under attack, like when Libya fired missiles at the station in Lampedusa Italy. Maulo Point station had to watch for the "Huk uprising" in the 1950's. Con Son Vietnam station would have to fend off attacks from the Viet Cong. Other stations had to fend off typhoons and hurricanes but their signals were never off the air for long.



Attu Station, May 1945

The work was 24 hour a day 7 days a week, the transmitters had to operate around-the-clock. The Loran-C system was introduced in the 1970's and the operations were more advanced and more automated. Crews went from watch standing to maintaining and operating the equipment. By 1974 45

stations were in operation. In the 1990's stations that were on foreign lands were turned over to those governments to operate and maintain but, the Coast Guard continued to operate stations in North America. The final 23 stations were shut down in February.

The Loran was important in supporting military operations, helped with the growth of maritime commerce, assisted hundreds of thousands of mariners, and exposed the Coast Guard to the world where many had never heard of the United States Coast Guard. So as one chapter in history has closed, many other more advanced chapters are opening.



Admiral Thad Allen, then a Lieutenant, poses with his crew on 22 August 1975 (front row, second from the right). Allen was the last commanding officer of LORAN Station Lampang, Thailand. Station Lampang was part of the LORAN chain first put into use as part of “Operation Tight Reign” in support of military operations in Vietnam. (Notice the beards and moustaches?)



LORAN Station Targaburan, Turkey, 11 April 1963

For more information on the LORAN history check: www.loran-history.info/ and www.uscg.mil/history/STATIONS/loran_index.asp

Article was written using the following online articles:

<http://coastguard.dodlive.mil/index.php/2010/02/history-%E2%80%93-the-legacy-of-loran/>

http://www.insidegnss.com/node/1806#Baseband_Technologies_Inc

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thad_Allen