

## **10. LORAN Command - Taking Advantage of Isolated Duty (3:57)**

I used to go on rounds at night frequently just to be company with a watch stander a little bit sometimes. 11:00 or 12:00 at night was a pretty standard time for me to come. So somebody was on watch all the time? All the time, 24 hours a day. Did anything ever happen?

Well no. They're watching the signal. If the signal goes off we have to repair it, put it back up. That's what happens. Of course during the working day they would clean and repair things. We had extra timers and extra transmitters and we would fix the ones that were offline so they were ready to go and we could just shift them online whenever we needed them. My guys got very good and they were very dedicated.

We had natives that diverted their attention. They just did a good job. The radioman acted as my yeoman and the corpsman was the one that ran the work detail which was usually a seaman. The two of them pretty much took care of the base, kept the buildings nice, repaired stuff. If they had a big project they couldn't just the two of them do then the rest of the crew helped. It was a pretty dedicated group. They did a lot of really nice stuff.

Well the thing that started me was when I went through the district on the way out there. They told me that nobody ever does anything on a LORAN station. They just run the signal and that's all they do. I just thought that's not going to be true in any station I run. If nothing else, we're going to do training. I just thought that. When I went out there I started putting in the log every day what we did and I don't care whether anybody ever read it the log was official document.

I would have the guys on the work detail - the electronic guy, the engineer and the work detail guy - they would come to me every day just like I did when we were building the air station and tell me what they did that day. I would put it in the log and what they planned on doing tomorrow. Pretty much we were required to keep a log - to log people in and out and the ship movements and official stuff. We were supposed to keep a Coast Guard log and I think all land stations the OD does it on a shore station. He writes the log. He comes on watch, he relieves the other guy, the other guy signs out, he signs in and he keeps the log.

Some of you are going to get me to things I can't remember. I was a junior officer a long time ago. You got to realize that being a junior officer was really good for dad. Except for being away from the family it was absolutely wonderful duty for me because you are your own boss. I mean you didn't have to turn to anybody because there was nobody to turn to. You were it. I liked that. We had pleasant weather. Every once in a while it rained a little bit hard but we had open buildings. They were just screened. The wind would go right through, you know, by design. That's way more comfortable. We didn't have air conditioning or anything like that. Okay you made it all the way through - 20 questions. Really? Did you get anything out of that - you think? Yeah. Yeah.

## **Related Primary Leadership Principles**

Authority of Position

Effective Use of Resources

Field Presence

Mission

Team-Building

Training