

M.E.N.A.S. DECCA PROJECT

General description and site location as of September 1977

General

1. The project consists of two separate Chains known as the North or South Chain, with the frequency designations of 5C and 1C respectively.

The Northern Chain is a two slave, three station Chain, each station being situated in Iran. The Southern Chain is a three slave, four station Chain, the Green station being in Iran, the Red station in Qatar, and the Master and Purple stations being in Abu Dhabi territory.

In addition to the navigational element the Decca Survey Company employ in the area some three or four operators, plus a Chief Surveyor, who are employed on various surveys for Oil companies, etc., using the main chains as well as other systems. These projects are closely linked with the chain administration and they sometimes use station facilities as a back-up.

In Iran the project is run under the name Decca Services Limited with its registered office in Tehran. In fact no staff are permanently based in Tehran, and the Head Office is situated in Khorramshahr.

In Arabia the project is run under the name Decca Navigator Overseas Limited, with the registered office in London and Administrative Office in Abu Dhabi.

2. All of the items comprising the two chains in the Gulf are the property of the Middle East Navigation Aids Service and not of the Decca Navigator Company.

The Decca Navigator Company contracts to operate and maintain the chains. The obligation to maintain extends to all aspects of the project and therefore includes buildings, masts, transport, air conditioning, etc. It must be clearly understood that these responsibilities are ours and that the way in which we meet them must be to the satisfaction of M.E.N.A.S.

3. Overall responsibility for the efficient fulfilment of Decca Navigator obligations rests on the Area Managers who are authorised to issue such local instruction and guidance as he considers necessary.

HEAD OFFICE - Khorramshahr

Consists of two unit flats, rented from a private owner, which have been converted for use as an office, workshop and store room as well as living accommodation.

The office is linked to each Gulf station by radio telephone operating in the Chains communication frequency of 5.165 MHz.

Staff complement at Khorramshahr is normally two, consisting of the Area Manager and Secretary/Girl Friday. In addition an Iranian Clerk is based at the Office.

Domestic staff consist of a cook and houseboy.

All utilities are of mains supply.

RED NORTH - Khosrowabad

Location: Latitude 30 Degrees 09 Minutes 57.548 Seconds North.  
Longitude 48 Degrees 25 Minutes 27.658 Seconds East.

Situated approximately fourteen miles from Abadan and connected to it by a metalled road. The site is leased free of charge by N.I.O.C., although it is now within the territory of an Iranian Naval Base and the site has been fenced accordingly.

Buildings: Bungalow: This is of wooden construction over a metal frame, and is the original building. It is a larger building than the other stations, excepting Red South. The rooms consist of a lounge, five bedrooms, office, two toilets and two shower-rooms, and a kitchen.

Operations Building: Also of wooden construction over a metal frame, although this building has been extended to incorporate the Diesel engineers workshop for the Northern Chain and Green South.

Diesel Shed: This is of breeze block construction and was built in 1968. It has been extended to allow the installation of a fourth diesel engine as a maintenance standby.

Coil House: A block building.

Servants Quarters: Two rooms and a toilet/washroom of wooden construction.

Garage: The old diesel shed has been re-erected as a garage but cannot be considered a permanent building.

Transmitting Mast: 300ft BICC lattice.

Power Supply: Self contained as on each station for reliability and strict standards reasons. The major supply is now two Gardner Generators which were installed in 1969, also installed is one of the original Lister JK6 engines and another JK6 is a maintenance standby set.

Air Conditioning: A total of ten required by this station.

Water Supply: Connected to the Abadan mains which is satisfactory.

Sewerage: A self-contained system.

Transport: Chevrolet pick-up.

Logistics: Most items from food to hardware are available in Abadan. Due to its close proximity to the town this station takes care of itself.

Staff: Staff complement is two engineers and a diesel engineer who maintains the generators on the chains.

This station is frequently used as an operational briefing centre for new engineers to the project and it is not unusual to have six people staying there. It is also used as transit accommodation for engineers proceeding on leave etc.

Locally employed staff based here are a Diesel engineers assistant, a diesel coolie, cook houseboy, and a nightwatchman.

MASTER NORTH - Bandar Dilam

Location: Latitude 30 Degrees 02 Minutes 41.00 Seconds North.  
Longitude 50 Degrees 09 Minutes 17,53 Seconds East.

Situated on the edge of the small seaport town of Bandar Dilam. The town is a backward place and little of any use can be obtained there. There are no other Europeans in the close area although there is an Oil Camp about twenty-five miles along the coast.

Buildings: Bungalow: This is of wooden construction and is the original building. It contains a lounge, three bedrooms, toilet, shower-room and kitchen.

Operations Building: Of wooden construction and is simply a large single room housing the majority of electronic equipment.

Diesel Shed: Block building with space for four generators.

Coil House: Of breeze-block construction for the main aerial system.

Servants Quarters: Of wooden construction consisting of two rooms and a toilet/washroom. An extension has been built to this building as a food store. However these quarters are no longer used and the servants live in town.

Power Supply: Self contained using two Dorman 6LD and two Lister FR6 Diesel Generators. Fuel for these is obtainable locally.

Air conditioning: A total of six required by this station.

Water Supply: Supplied under contract from a nearby town and is delivered by bowser. A distillation unit is provided for the drinking water. The station was connected onto a mains supply of sweet water in 1964, however, this has yet to function to date although progress is being made.

Sewerage: A self-contained system.

Transport: One Chevrolet pick-up.

Logistics: Apart from some fresh fruits and vegetables this station is solely dependent on Abadan supplied logistics. The road to Abadan is now open all year round and it is approximately a five hour drive, about half of which is on good tarmaced roads. It is about three hours drive down the road to Bushire (Green North).

Staff: Staff complement is two/three engineers, plus the chain relief.

Local staff consist of a cook, houseboy, diesel coolie and nightwatchman.

GREEN NORTH - Bushire

Location: Latitude 28 Degrees 58 Minutes 18.943 Seconds North.  
Longitude 50 Degrees 51 Minutes 22.663 Seconds East.

The station is situated about one mile from the town of Bushire. Bushire is a fairly large town where foods and hardware can be purchased. This site is the only one in Iran that is not leased free of charge from N.I.O.C.

Buildings: Bungalow: The standard wooden building containing a lounge, three bedrooms, toilet, shower-room and kitchen.

Operations Building: One room building of wooden construction plus stores.

Diesel Shed: Block building with plaster walls.

Coil House: Block building.

Servants Quarters: Of wooden construction consisting of two rooms and a toilet/washroom. One room is utilised as the food store.

Transmitting Mast: 300 ft BICC lattice.

Power Supply: Self-contained using two Dorman 6LD and one Lister FR6 Diesel Generator. Oil and fuel is obtainable locally.

Air conditioning: A total of six required.

Water Supply: A good mains supply with nearby foreign camps.

Sewerage: A self-contained system.

Transport: One Toyota pick-up.

Logistics: Mainly purchased locally.

Staff: Staff complement is two engineers.

Local staff consists of a cook/houseboy, diesel coolie and a nightwatchman.

GREEN SOUTH - Lavan Island

Location: Latitude 26 Degrees 47 Minutes 38.8 Seconds North.  
Longitude 53 Degrees 22 Minutes 25.3 Seconds East.

Situated at the Eastern end of the Island, previously known as Shaikh Shu'aib Island. The Island is an operations centre for helicopter activities and is an oil terminal. There is a small village where some vegetables are obtainable but little else.

Buildings: Bungalow: The original wooden building containing a lounge, three bedrooms, toilet, shower-room and kitchen.

Operations Building: One room of wooden construction. A brick built extension has been added to serve as a workshop/store.

Diesel Shed: Breeze-block constructions, built in 1967.

Coil House: Block building.



RED SOUTH - Qatar

Location: Latitude 25 Degrees 10 Minutes 02.49 Seconds North  
Longitude 51 Degrees 19 Minutes 34.23 Seconds East

The station is located approximately 15 miles from Doha and is connected by an excellent road. The site is rented at a very nominal rent from the Sheikh of Qatar.

Buildings: Bungalow: A large bungalow of wooden construction identical to that at Red North and containing a lounge, five bedrooms, office, two toilets, two shower-rooms and a kitchen.

Operations Building: Standard building of wooden construction.

Diesel Shed: Of concrete construction built in 1968 and extended in 1969 to accommodate a fourth Diesel Generator.

Coil House: Breeze-block building.

Servants Quarters: Standard building of wooden construction. An extension has been put on as a technical store.

Garage: The site has a breeze-block constructed garage.

Transmitting Mast: 300ft BICC lattice.

Power Supply: Self-contained using two Gardner and two Lister JK6 Diesel Generators. Fuel and oil are delivered from Doha suppliers.

Air Conditioning: A total of nine required.

Water Supply: Bulk of water is delivered from the Doha seawater distillation plant. Sanitary water is obtained from a well on the site.

Sewerage: A self-contained system.

Transport: One Datsun station wagon. Maintenance is done on site or at a good garage in town.

Logistics: Doha is an extremely well stocked town and virtually anything can be obtained locally by the station staff.

Staff: Complement is two engineers.  
Local staff consists of a cook, houseboy, and diesel coolie.

PURPLE SOUTH - Zubbaya

Location: Latitude 24 Degrees 20 Minutes North  
Longitude 54 Degrees 19 Minutes 52.96 East

The site is located on a peninsular, approximately 100 Kms from Abu Dhabi. The road is excellent except for the last 20 Kms across the desert to the station. This is moderately rough and, in heavy rain, can flood to a depth of several inches although it is still passable with care. The station was constructed in 1974.

Buildings: Living Quarters and Ops Room: A prefabricated asbestos sheet combined building. Accommodation consists of transmitter room, ops room, four bedrooms, kitchen, two toilets, shower and a large lounge. A car port has been incorporated at one end.

Diesel House: Part Breeze block and asbestos sheet construction on a girder frame. It incorporates a workshop/store.

Coil House: Breeze block construction.

Transmitting Mast: C & S 300ft lattice.

Servants Quarters: Prefab asbestos sheet.

Power Supplies: Two Dormans and two Listers. The electrical load on this station is such that any one engine cannot cope in the summer and a combination has to be used.

Air Conditioners: Total of twelve plus one belonging to the Abu Dhabi Telephone Company who have a small unattended installation within the compound.

Water Supply: Self-contained from a distillation plant. Water can also be obtained from Abu Dhabi via tanker at a relatively high cost. There is a 5000 gallon storage tank on site.

Sewerage: Self-contained.

Transport: GMC wagon. Minor maintenance on site and major work at garages in town.

Logistics: Abu Dhabi has practically everything required in the way of groceries, tools, etc. Diesel fuel is easily obtainable and 6000 gallons can be stored on site.

Staff: Complement is two engineers although extra accommodation provided for transit engineers.

Local staff consists of cook/houseboy and diesel coolie.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- a) It should be mentioned that each locality stores food using deep-freeze units. Twin units are provided at Khorramshahr, Khosrowabad, Bandar Dilan and Lavan.
- b) Domestic refrigerators are provided at each locality.
- c) Cooking is by bottled gas in each case.
- d) Stations are equipped with T.V. and on all sites there is a choice of channels - some of which include English dialogue programmes.