

HISTORY AND MISSION

UNITED STATES NAVAL COMMUNICATION STATION UNITED KINGDOM

Begun in 1962 and commissioned on 3 January 1964, the construction of NAVRADSTA Thurso was undertaken to meet a longstanding need for improvement in communications services to U.S., U.K. and NATO forces operating in the North Atlantic and North Sea.

Initially established as a component of NAVCOMMSTA Londonderry, Northern Ireland, NAVRADSTA Thurso rapidly developed its own personality and identity as a professional, fleet-oriented organization. Providing support to ships, aircraft and submarines, Thurso filled in coverage gaps and provided capabilities not available elsewhere. It provides vital command and control communications facilities.

Reflecting the growing importance of its contribution to naval communications, the Naval Radio Station was given its own Commanding Officer on 1 October 1973, ending its dependence upon NAVCOMMSTA Londonderry for support. On 1 March 1976 its name was changed to Naval Communication Unit, Thurso. Recognizing the full range of services and capabilities now in place and under construction, NAVCOMMU Thurso was redesignated Naval Communication Station, United Kingdom, effective 1 October 1977.

As an activity of the Naval Telecommunications System, the mission of NAVCOMMSTA UK is to operate, maintain and manage those facilities, equipments and systems necessary to provide requisite communications for the command, control, and administration of the Naval Establishment and Defense Communications System. In performing this mission, the station provides a wide range of voice, radiotypewritten data, and satellite services. These services support not only US naval ships, aircraft and submarines in the North Atlantic and North Sea areas, but also Royal Navy and NATO units as well. It stands as a vital link in communications for defense of the free world.