

THE MAXIRAN RADIOPOSITIONING SYSTEM (continued)

As illustrated in Figure 2, the distances of A1 and B1 define two intersecting circles, one with a radius of length A1 centered about Beacon "A", the other with radius of length B1 centered about Beacon "B". The two circles intersect at two points (marked I and I' in Figure 2). Obviously, the ship can only be located at one of the points. Since point I' happens to be located on land, we can safely assume that the ship is located at Point I.

There is always some uncertainty associated with the exact measurements of the Beacons. This is illustrated in Figure 3. Figure 3 illustrates an enlarged view of the intersection of the circles shown in Figure 2. If the tolerance of the measurements of Beacon "B" is plus-or-minus 5 meters, then the two solid lines in Figure 3 are 10 meters apart. The tolerance of the measurements of Beacon "A" should be the same as that of Beacon "B", but this is not always the case due to differences in geographical location. Under the above conditions, we only know that the ship is located somewhere in the shaded area of Figure 3.