

# Defense Media Activity - Riverside

## AFN Broadcast Center





This history of the AFN Broadcast Center is dedicated to the men and women of the American Forces Network, *past, present and future.*



Faithfully bringing the troops “home.”



# 1941



Lt. Gen. Frank M. Andrews inspects a radio set, Provisional Maneuver Force, November 1941.

With war already underway across the globe, an expanding American military deploys soldiers and sailors to remote strategic locations.

Soldiers in Panama and Alaska begin a tradition of military broadcasting when they build their own makeshift radio stations to alleviate boredom.

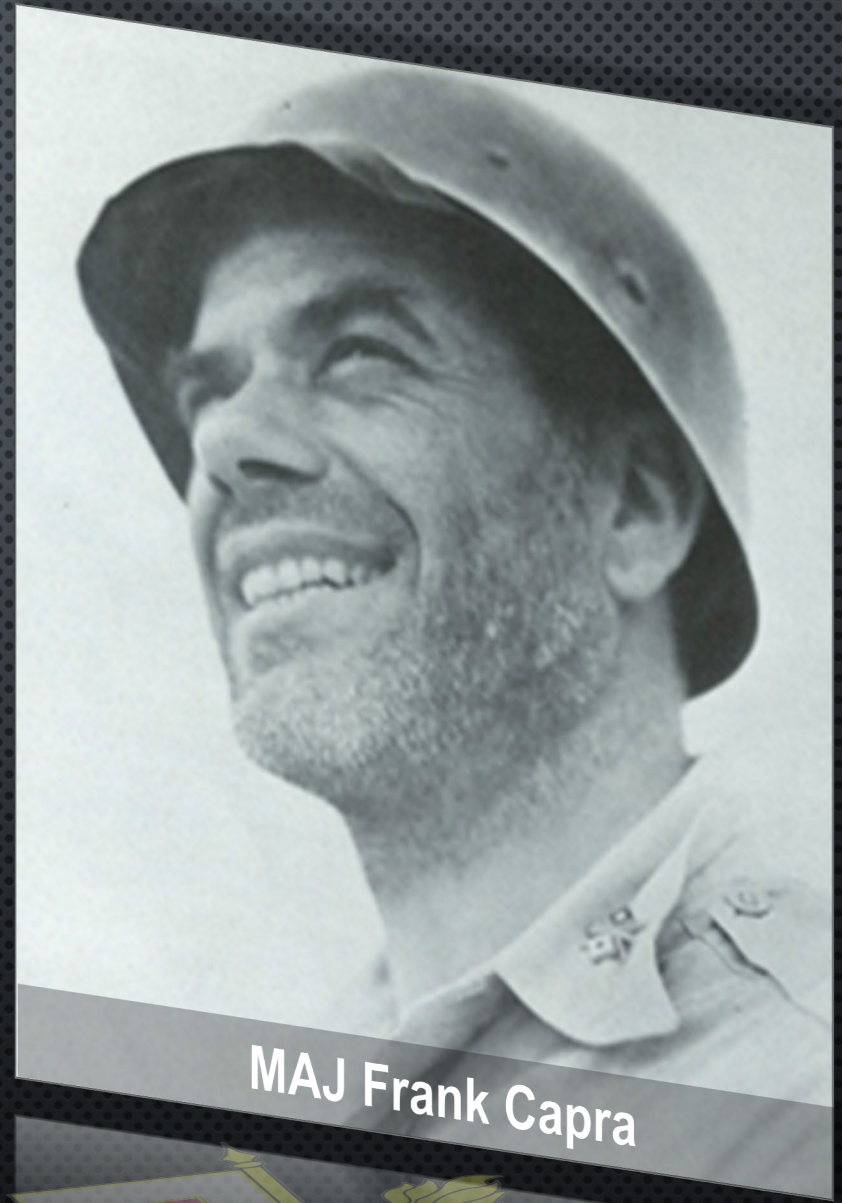


# 1942

America is now at war, and command quickly realizes that U.S. troops in Britain preparing to invade Europe need a reliable source of entertainment and information from home.

Army Chief of Staff General George Marshall asks MAJ Frank Capra, famed Hollywood director-turned-military-filmmaker, if he knows anyone who can start a radio network for the Army.

*"I know just the man,"* Capra says.





# 1942

**May 26** - The War Department creates the Armed Forces Radio Service (AFRS) and offers a commission as Major to prominent radio advertising executive Tom Lewis, making him its first commander.

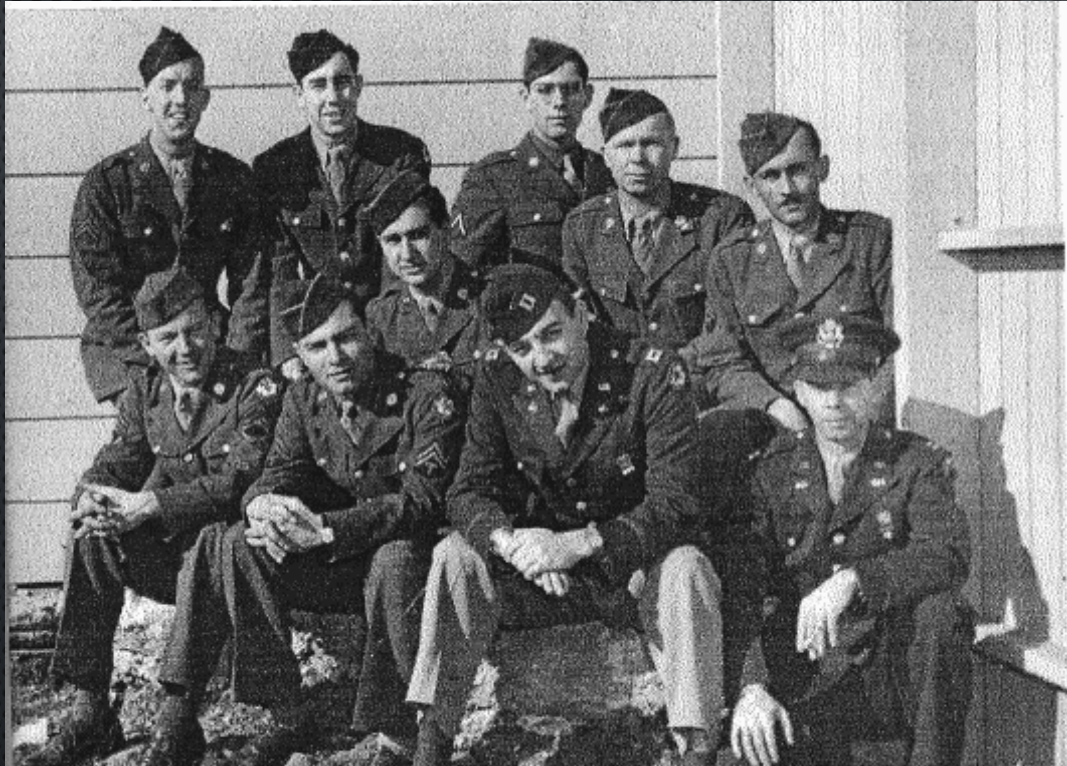
A makeshift headquarters is established on the Fox movie lot in Hollywood, with broadcast studios in New York and San Francisco.



**MAJ Tom Lewis**



# 1942



The first AFRS crew

STANDING L to R: Allen Botzer, Dick Sinclair, Jack (Ivan) Saddler, Rudy Luukinen, Al Taylor.

SEATED L to R: George Dvorak, Rudy Rubin, Hy Averback, Spence Allen, Will Kennedy.

The first AFRS Commander, Major Tom Lewis, brings a solid set of credentials and an air of celebrity.

*“He had been in the movie production business before the war and we soon found he was [popular actress] Loretta Young’s husband. She came by to visit several times and was always charming.”*

— Ivan Saddler.



# 1942

An early troop favorite is *Command Performance*, which premiered from New York starring comedian, dancer, singer, actor and songwriter Eddie Cantor.

The show's content was based on requests from service members – hence, a performance "on command."



Eddie Cantor and Danny Kaye flanked by two unidentified servicemen on the first "Command Performance."



# 1942



Loretta Young

**August 11** - The first original AFRS program is the half-hour *Mail Call*, with the show itself serving as America's love letter to the troops.



Abbott and Costello perform their famous "Who's on First" on *Mail Call*

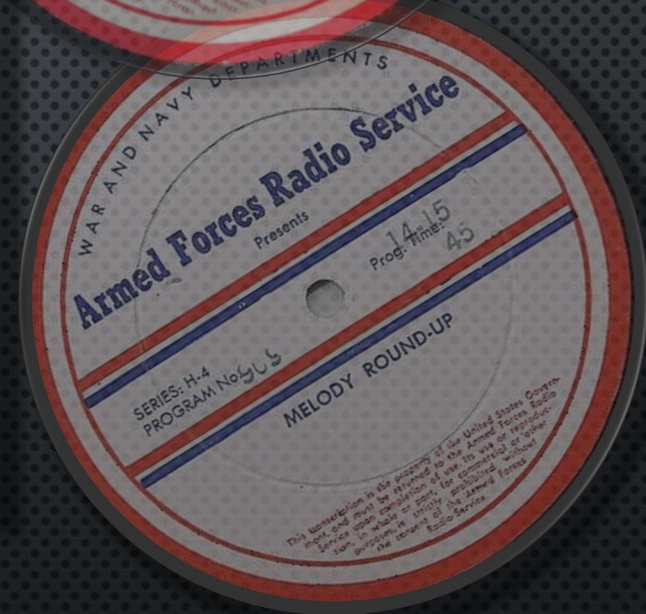
The show featured performances by popular stars of the day like comedians Abbott and Costello, actress Judy Garland, singer Bing Crosby and Maj Lewis' famous wife, actress Loretta Young.



# 1942



Roy Rogers and the Sons of the Pioneers



**August 28 – “Melody Roundup” debuts as the second AFRS program. Cowboy crooner Roy Rogers hosts the first four programs. Subsequently, the fifteen-minute show features many leading Country & Western entertainers.**

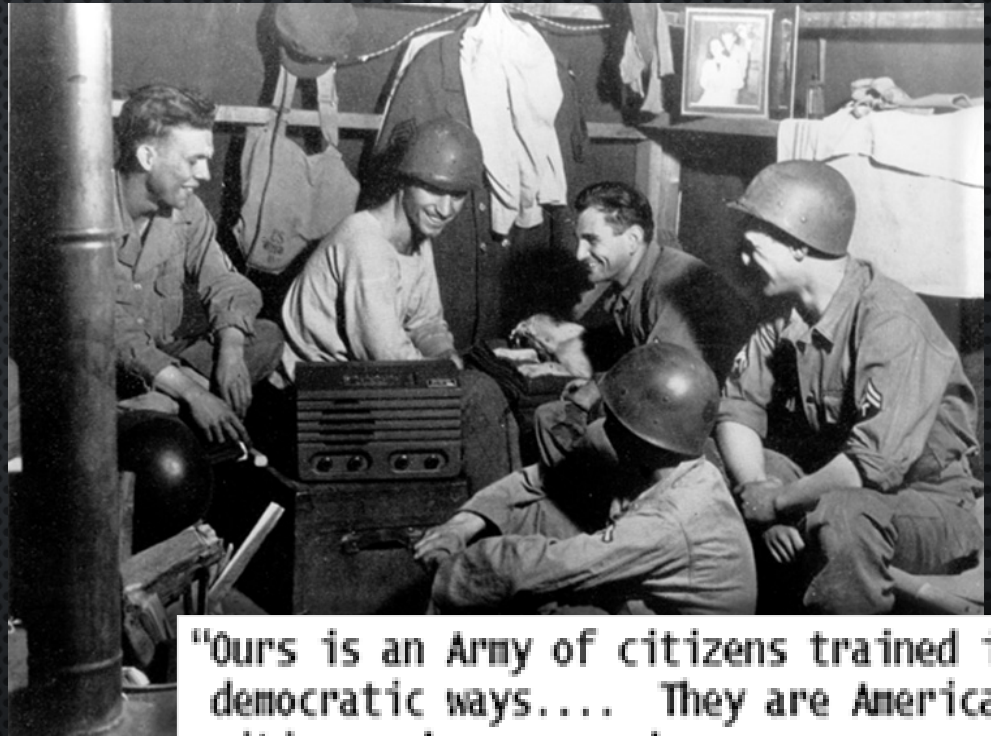


# 1942

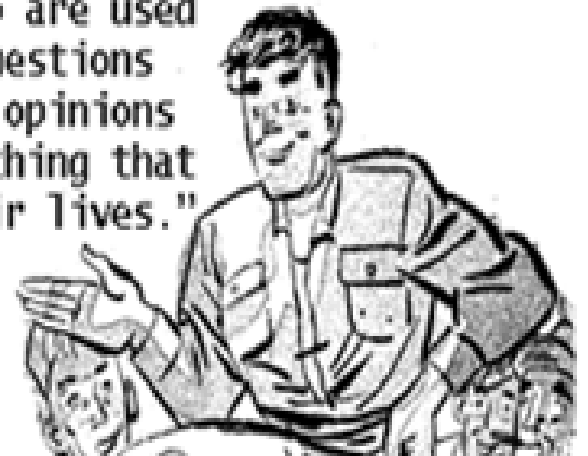
*September 3* – AFRS orders the first audience survey of the listening habits and attitudes of the troops.

With responses from 3,286 enlisted men, the military network leadership concludes that military success requires the troops understand what they are fighting for.

Radio will play a vital role.



"Ours is an Army of citizens trained in democratic ways.... They are American citizens who are used to asking questions and holding opinions about everything that touches their lives."





# 1942

*October* – AFRS creates more original programs. “Personal Album” features popular singers with Bing Crosby as master of ceremonies.

“Yarns for Yanks” offers fifteen-minute human interest stories told in several voices by a single performer.

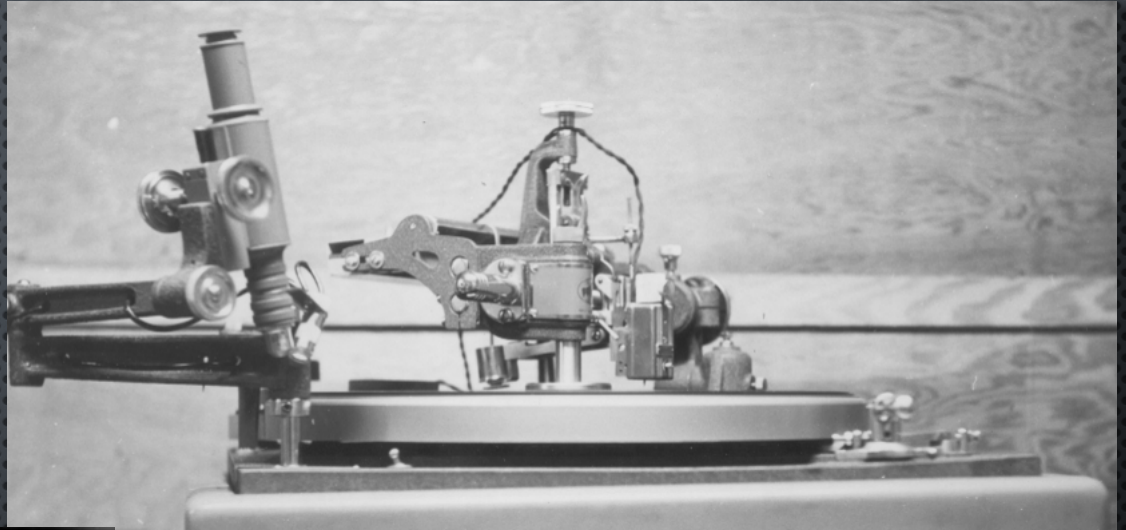
The jazz show “Jubilee” launches the careers of numerous black singers and musicians, and many of its performances are one-of-a-kind.



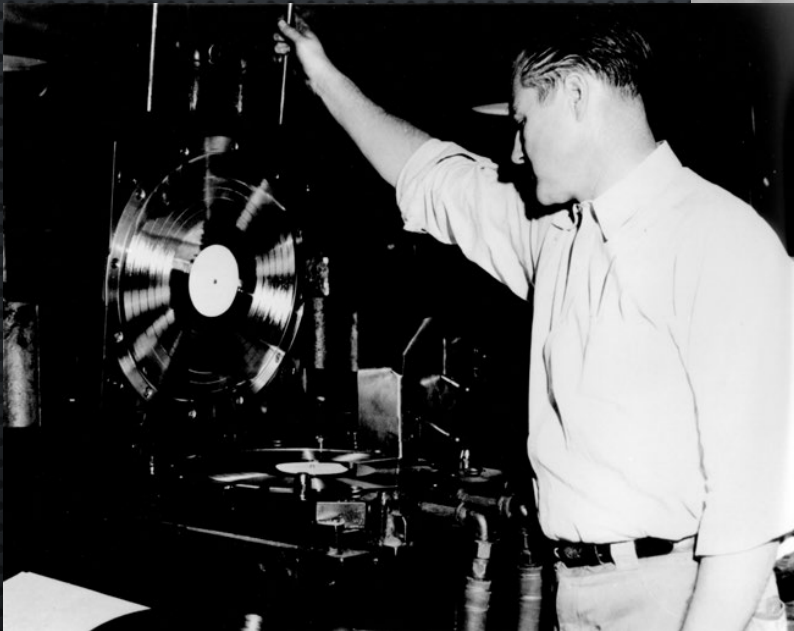


# 1942

With wire and tape recording technologies still in their infancy, AFRS distributes its material on thousands of vinyl discs.



Original vinyl duplication press



Record lathe making a master disk

This greatly increases available programming and allows field stations to broadcast at the hours best suited to local audiences.



# 1942



**COMMAND PERFORMANCE, CBS Studio, Sunset Blvd.,  
Hollywood, CA, 1944.**



**Gene Tierney, Edgar Bergen, Ginny Sims,  
Bob Burns and Betty Hutton debut an AFRS  
shortwave program, August 1942**

***December 15* – production of *Command Performance*, previously under the Bureau of Public Relations, is transferred to the new AFRS.**



# 1942

Andre Baruch, pre-war announcer for popular radio shows including *The Shadow* and *Your Hit Parade*, gets permission from Maj. Gen. George Patton to set up an Army-run radio station in Casablanca.

As a Lieutenant in the Signal Corps' Special Service Section, Baruch will open a chain of "American Expeditionary Stations" across North Africa as Patton's invasion forces advance.



LT Andre Baruch, Pre-war





# 1942

Baruch's AES stations soon become part of AFRS, with a program and music package from Hollywood and live, local talent when possible.

They also offer news at prime listening times indicated by MAJ Lewis' survey.



Members of the Women's Army Corps broadcast from AES  
Algiers, 1944



# 1942



2nd Lt. Sally J. Hocutt with patient, 95th Evacuation Hospital,  
Fifth Army, Oujda, N. Africa.

The impact on morale is evident in letters like this one from a sergeant in an evacuation hospital:

*“The other evening we heard swing music and then, ‘This is the American Expeditionary Station.’ Goose pimples ran up and down our spines, and since then, our morale has increased one thousand percent.... Words cannot express the happiness that your programs have given to the American soldiers.”*



# 1943



Performance rights organizations ASCAP, BMI, MPAA and SESAC jointly grant AFRS an annual license to record and distribute radio programs without paying customary royalty fees.



# 1943

ARMED FORCES RADIO SERVICE  
War and Navy Departments  
6011 Santa Monica Boulevard  
Los Angeles 38, California

## SHIPPING INFORMATION

Ship via : Date : No Ctns :  
EXP-ATC-FM : 12/24/46 : 1 :

UNIT 282 CARTON " B "

TITLE	TIMES PER WEEK	LENGTH	PROG. NO.	D/F
MAGIC CARPET/TEENTIMERS CLUB	2	15 Min	504/23	1
MAIL CALL	1	30	218	1
MANHATTAN MERRY GO-ROUND	1	30	11	1
MC CARTHY, CHARLES	1	30	156	1
MELODY HOUR	1	30	162	1
MELODY ROUNDUP	6	15	1113/14, 1117 th 1120	1
MORGAN, FRANK	1	30	63	3
MUSIC AMERICA LOVES BEST	1	30	127	1
MUSIC FOR SUNDAY	1	30	206	1
MUSIC FROM AMERICA	1	30	211	1
MUSIC HALL	1	30	206	1
MUSIC WE LOVE	1	30	165	1
MYSTERY PLAYHOUSE	2	30	247, 248	1
NIGHT STAND	1	30	1120 th 1126	2
REZIE & HARRIET	1	30	8	7
PERSONAL ALBUM	6	15	987/988, 999/1000, 1007/08	1
RADIO SHINING HOUR	1	30	1	3
REMEMBER	6	15	475/476, 517/518, 523/524	1
SATURDAY NIGHT SERENADE	1	30	129	1
SAY IT WITH MUSIC	1	30	38	1
SHORE, DINAH	1	30	117	1
SHOWTIME	1	30	243	1
SINATRA, FRANK	1	30	45	1
SKELTON, RED	1	30	90	1
SMITH, KATE	1	30	154	1
SMITH, JACK	4	15	200/201, 195/196	2
SMITH/WINGS OVER JORDAN	2	15	189/72	1
SONGS OF THE ISLANDS	2	15	39/40	1
<del>SPOTLIGHT BANDS/SUPPER CLUB</del>	<del>2</del>	<del>15</del>	<del>919/920</del>	<del>1</del>
SPOTLIGHT BANDS	2	15	919/920	1
STARS & STRIPES FOREVER	2	15	33/34	1
SUNDAY SERENADE/HAYMES	2	15	178/74	1
SUPPER CLUB	4	15	444/445, 449/450	2
SURPRISE PACKAGE	1	30	35	1
SUSPENSE	1	30	177	1
SYMPHONIES OF THE WORLD	1	55	1	2

AFRS Hollywood organizes mass shipments of programs, a week's worth for each station, in 2-box sets of 55 discs per box.

The shipments are split for weight considerations and to prevent loss of an entire week's schedule with the loss of a single box.

Each set has a mix of original shows, network programs and individual library selections.

Typical AFRS packing list

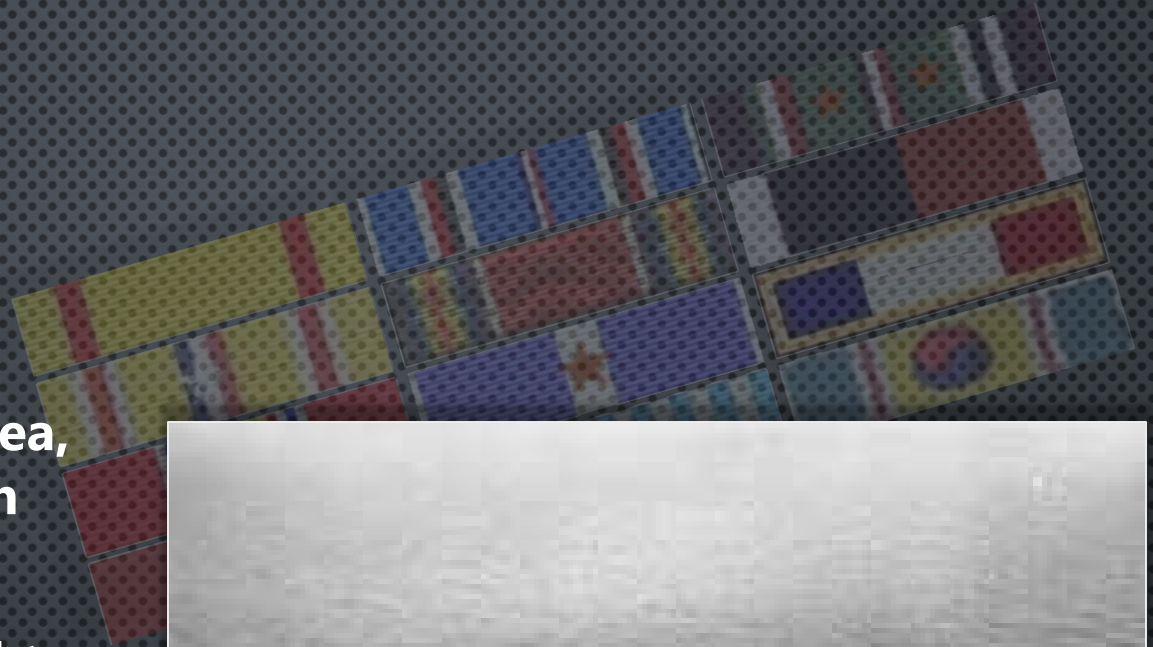


# 1943

Shipments initially go by sea, but boxes often arrive with cracked and broken discs.

Installations are instructed to send the discs along to other units but, inevitably, some discs are not forwarded on schedule and some never arrive at all.

AFRS quickly recognizes that the process is inefficient, unsustainable and unfair to the troops.



Supply Ship USS *James O'Hara* (APA-90) underway, 8 June 1943.



# 1943

**AFRS arranges with the Army's Air Transport Command and the Naval Air Transport Service to carry cartons of records by air to save time and limit damage.**

**Not only do shipments arrive more quickly, they are also increased in number so that programs are no longer passed between units but distributed directly to each destination.**



C-47 circa 1942

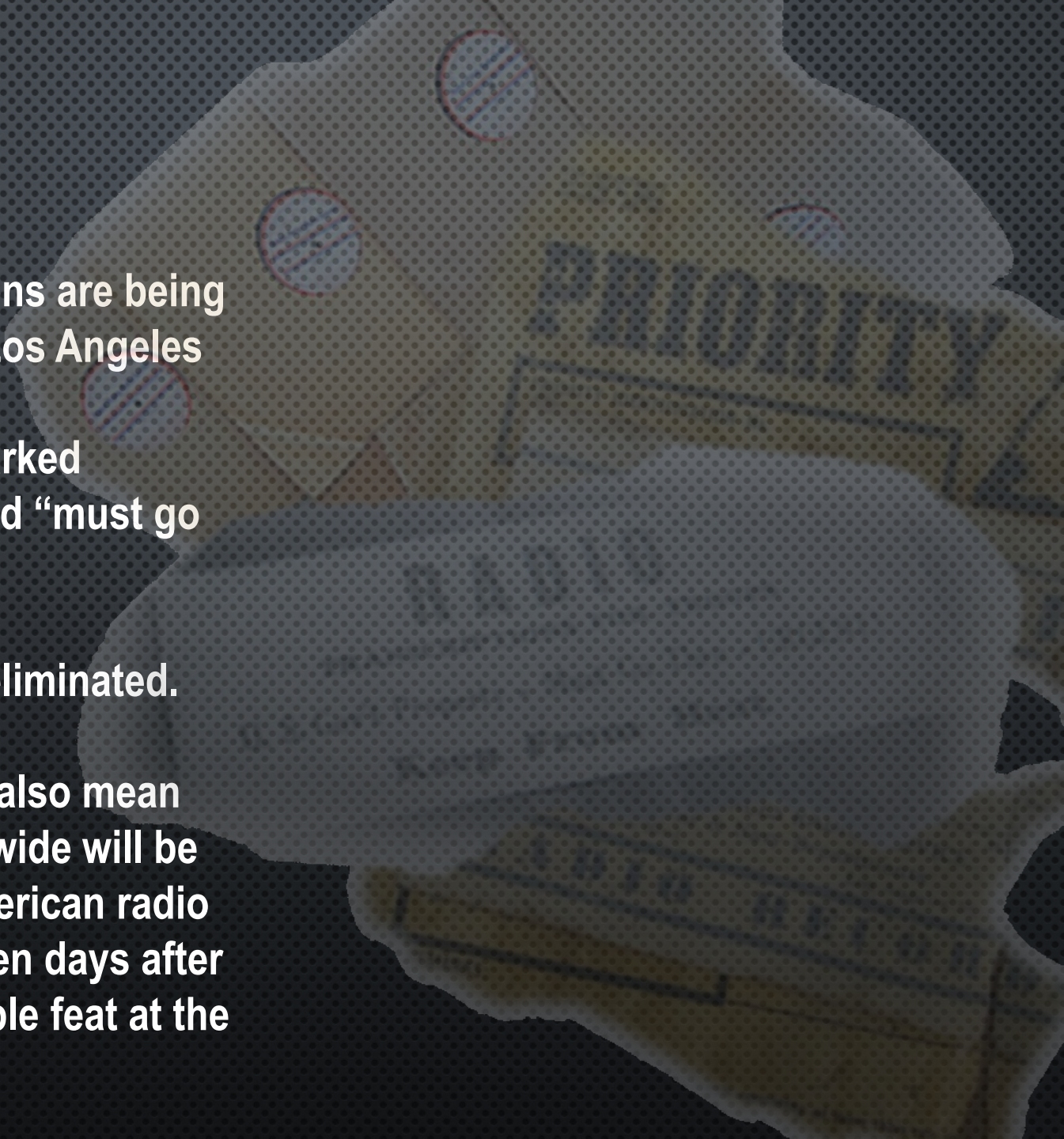


# 1943

By July 1, 1943, cartons are being shipped by air from Los Angeles with all cartons clearly marked “urgent,” “fragile” and “must go through.”

Losses are virtually eliminated.

The new procedures also mean AFRS stations worldwide will be airing prime-time American radio programs less than ten days after shipment, a remarkable feat at the time.



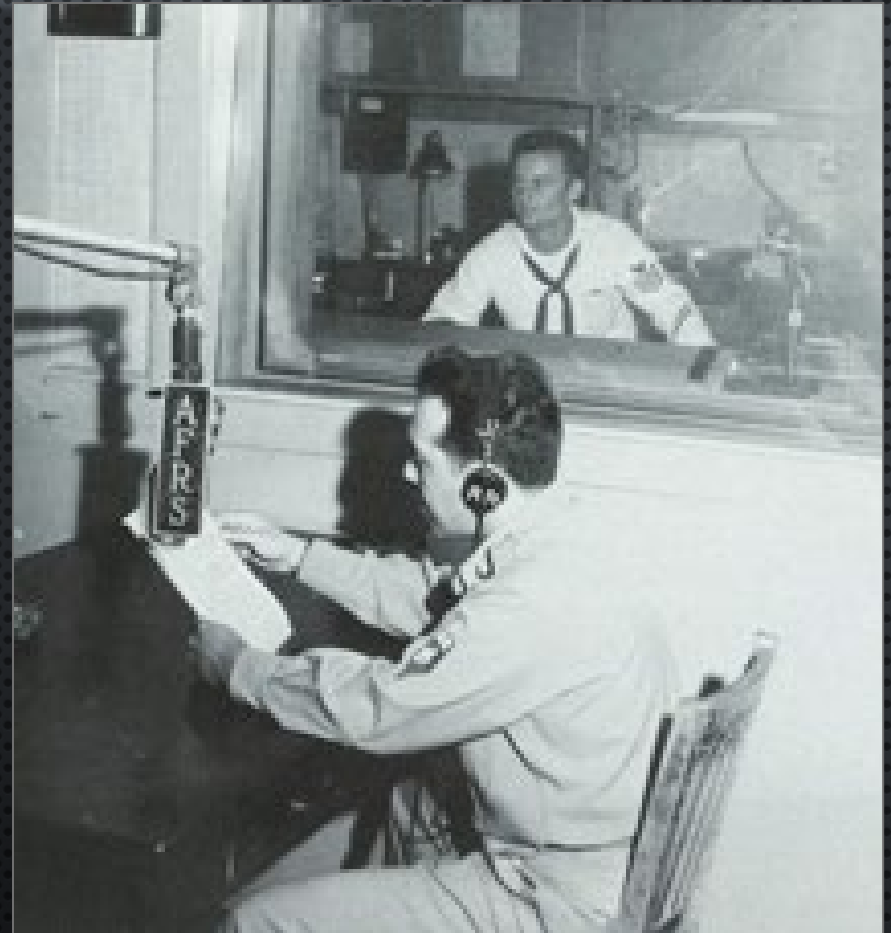


# 1943

The shortwave service also carries news every hour, entertainment events and sports, sometimes as play-by-play recreated from wire reports.



AFRS Hollywood shortwave transmitter.



In addition to programs delivered on disks, the AFRS shortwave operation airs six hours of original productions and de-commercialized shows.



# 1943

FDR preferred to communicate directly to the public and troops



Jack Brown (c) interviews Hollywood stars Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall

At its WWII peak, AFRS shortwave beams 1,086 hours of programming each week. News comprises one third of San Francisco's contribution and almost 24% of New York's.



# 1943

*January* – The War Department assigns AFRS to install its own facilities overseas, run “by American Soldiers for American Soldiers.” By year’s end AFRS has 140 stations around the world.



2LT Vern Carstensen in Italy at the Fifth Army's mobile radio station



Marines of the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Defense Battalion on Palmyra Atoll hear the big game



# 1943

*September 1* – The Office of War Information (OWI) ceases production of programming directed at troops overseas and turns over the entire project to AFRS.

In addition, it makes shortwave equipment available to AFRS for overseas transmission to what would become American Forces Network (AFN) affiliates of AFRS.





# 1944

By now, many network and local radio professionals are in uniform with AFPS, and production quality rivals that of wartime commercial (civilian) radio.

AFPS offerings now fall into three categories: original AFPS shows with a live audience or studio host, commercial network programs and record libraries.



# 1944



AFRS mobile unit at Harmon Field, Guam.  
On door : 'US Army KU5Q1"US Navy KU5Q'

*January* – AFRS is now training and deploying its own personnel for overseas assignments.

It also begins shipping self-contained stations to the Pacific Theater, each complete with transmitter, studio gear and record library.



# 1944



**CBS, Mutual and NBC individually grant AFRS permission to record and distribute their programs.**



# 1944

By May, AFRS-Hollywood is producing 106 different programs each week, 40 hours total. An additional sixty shows from civilian sources air with commercials removed.



COL Lewis with Los Angeles staff:

The corporal at far left is popular voice actor Elliott Lewis (no relation), known to civilian audiences as "Mr. Radio."

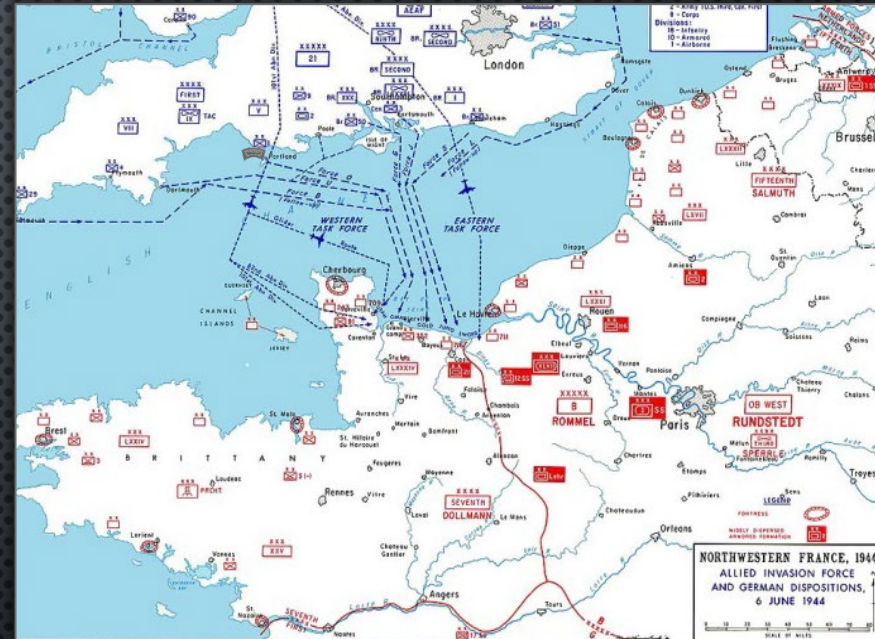
Between the two Lewises is SGT Howard Duff, destined for postwar acting fame.



# 1944



The invasion fleet gathers



D-Day assault routes into Normandy

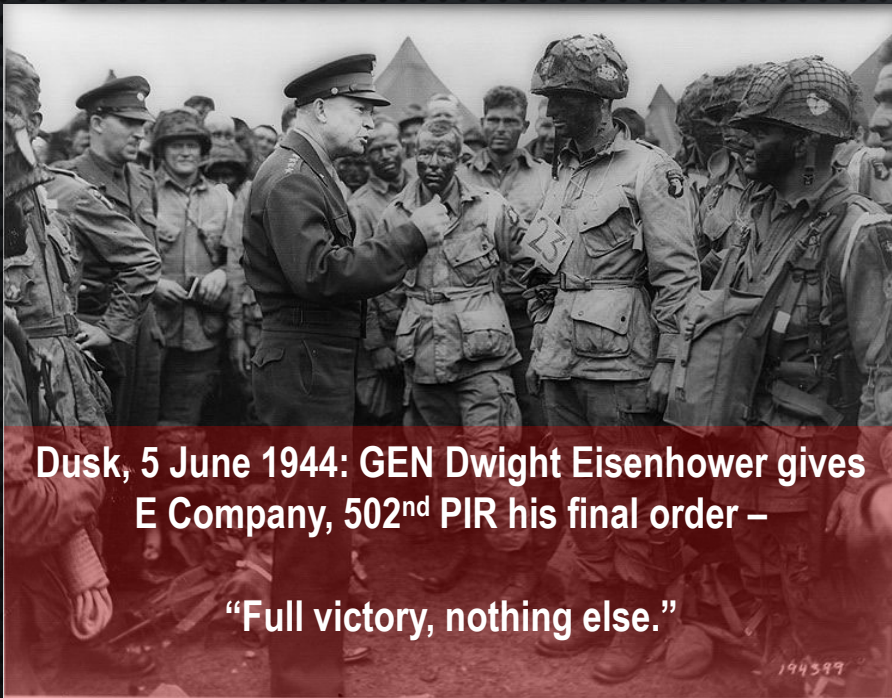
COL Tom Lewis arrives in England to supervise preparations for radio broadcasts during and after the Allied Invasion of the European Continent – “D-Day.”



# 1944

## 6 June: D-Day

As allied troops land successfully in France, AFN broadcasts from England and readies mobile units to follow American armies.





# 1944



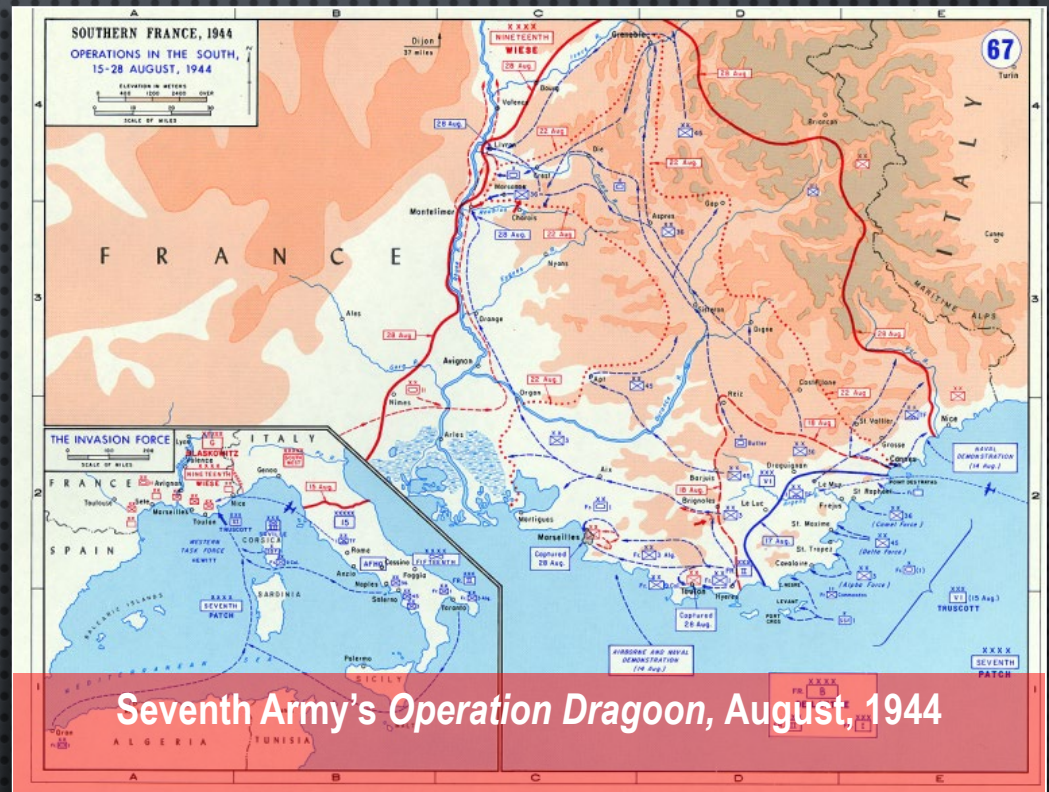
The American First, Third and Ninth Armies are each assigned mobile stations. The stations broadcast near a rapidly-moving front. As the armies advance, so does AFRS.

Soldiers listen to the 1944 World Series





# 1944



Sergeant Jim McNally becomes AFN's first casualty, killed by a German air attack on his Seventh Army mobile radio station.

Soon after, Sergeant Pete Parrish, an AFN news correspondent, is killed in action while covering paratroopers in France.



# 1945

**February 15 – Command Performance** airs “Dick Tracy in B Flat,” a groundbreaking 55-minute musical version of the half-hour series.

It is produced by Sylvester “Pat” Weaver, future creator of the *Today* and *Tonight* shows on NBC and father of actress Sigourney Weaver.

Bob Hope and Judy Garland co-star



Bing Crosby (c) plays Dick Tracy, with Frank Sinatra and Judy Garland





# 1945

ABC grants AFRS gratis permission to record and distribute its programs.

AFRS Hollywood is now shipping 50,000 program discs per month overseas, with an additional 20,000 going to Navy ships.



AFRS broadcast of the jazz show *Jubilee* from the ABC Studios, Hollywood, c. 1944



# 1945



COL Lewis with AFRS staff and the one-millionth record.

***March* - AFRS presses its one-millionth disk and presents it to COL Tom Lewis. It is an episode of *GI Journal* featuring Bing Crosby, Linda Darnell, Betty Grable and Abbot & Costello.**



# 1945

**There are now 154 AFRS stations worldwide including the Middle East, Europe, the China-Burma-India theater, Alaska, the Caribbean and the Pacific.**



**There are also 143 AFRS public address systems and hospital “bedside networks,” each with 126 AFRS program transcriptions.**



# 1945

*April 12* – AFRS is notified at 1749 Eastern War Time that President Franklin Roosevelt has died.

The first bulletin is broadcast worldwide at 1752 Eastern War Time.



Soldiers hear radio report of FDR's death



GIs in Germany hold memorial ceremony



# 1945

*May 8 – with the unconditional surrender of Germany, the war on the European continent ends. It's "V-E Day."*



**General George Marshall (L) and Admirals William Leahy and Ernest King take to the radio on V-E Day**



**Soldiers of the 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on Okinawa hear a radio report of victory in Europe**



# 1945

*August* – the war continues for three more months after Germany's capitulation before the Japanese also surrender unconditionally.

Again, radio spreads the word around the world.



President Harry S. Truman's news conference announcing the Japanese surrender



Men at Naval Amphibious Base, Manus, Admiralty Islands, hear the news on their radio.



# 1945



*September 2: V-J Day*

**AFRS broadcasts the Japanese surrender from the deck of the battleship USS Missouri.**

**Staff members quickly begin looking for permanent sites for AFRS stations on the Japanese mainland.**

**Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu leads his delegation in signing the Japanese surrender**



# 1945

*October 25* – His pioneering job done, COL Tom Lewis re-enters civilian life, echoing a central theme of his work with AFRS:

"To a fellow who has spent months guarding an outpost in the South Seas, Iceland or Africa, a cheery greeting from a favorite comedian, a song hit direct from Broadway, or the beating rhythm of a hot band, mean a tie with the home to which he hopes soon to return."

– COL Tom Lewis, 1944



Colonel Thomas H.A. Lewis  
Armed Forces Radio Service



# 1945

*November* – trials of the major Nazi war criminals start in Nuremberg, Germany, and continue for nearly a year.

AFRS provides daily radio coverage.



Defendants in the dock, Nuremberg,  
guarded by American Military Police



# 1945

As its audience transitions from combat to occupation, so, too, do the themes of AFRS programs.

Shows once concerned with morale-building now focus on helping troops prepare for their return to civilian life.



Revelers at the live broadcast of the AFRS  
New Year's Eve Party, 31 December 1945



# 1946

*January* – 239 AFRS stations remain in daily operation overseas, and 19 stateside shortwave transmitters beam 4400 hours of programming each month around the globe.



## AFRS Continued For Overseas Duty

LOS ANGELES — Armed forces overseas can count on hearing the same volume of top radio programs in 1946 as they have in 1945.

It was confirmed recently that the Armed Forces Radio Service, an agency established at the beginning of World War II to bring information and entertainment via radio to American forces in all parts of the world, will continue as a military operation of the War and Navy Departments.

To meet the increased needs of armed forces overseas for entertainment, news and informative material, Armed Forces Radio Service is maintaining a full production schedule at its headquarters in Los Angeles as well as keeping its daily shortwave broadcasts on the air from San Francisco and New York City.

### ALL BRANCHES

Forty-three officers and 120 enlisted men from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are currently on active duty at Armed Forces Radio Service. The AFRS became a combined operation in 1943, functioning under the Information and Education Division of the Army and the Bureau of Naval Personnel within the War Department.

required to accomplish each transcribed hour.

In addition to decommercialized versions of major network shows, and special programs written and produced at its headquarters, the AFRS will continue releasing supplements for its basic music library. At present AFRS averages 50 new selections weekly.

Armed Forces Radio Service is currently beaming a sum monthly total of 4400 hours of shortwave programs overseas. Its projected shortwave broadcast schedule will bring armed forces in the Pacific 636 hours and 53 minutes of news, sports, special events, and information programs weekly from AFRS shortwave office in San Francisco. AFRS programs will also be available 24 hours a day over KRHO, a 100,000-watt shortwave transmitter located at Honolulu, providing broadcast coverage

to troops in a broad arc from Honolulu, throughout islands in the Pacific ocean areas into Japan, China, India and Burma.

### COMMAND PERFORMANCE

Special radio programs written and produced by AFRS headquarters through the gratuitous performances of stage, screen, and radio stars solely for military audiences will follow the same production pattern established during war-time.

Consequently, armed forces overseas may expect to hear editions of Command Performance, Mail Call, Jubilee, and G.I. Journal into 1946.

Informational type programs on the 1946 schedule include "Heard at Home," Our Foreign Policy, Science Magazine of the Air, and This Is the Story.

Armed Forces Radio Service is retaining the services of G.I. Jig, favorite of G.I.'s throughout the war.

A "bedside network" of 111 AFRS hospital broadcasting sound systems will bring special AFRS productions to the wounded in the United States.

Story from Marine Corps Chevron, 5 January 1946



# 1946

18-year-old Private Larry Gelbart arrives at AFRS and becomes the sole writer for *Command Performance*, a position he holds for nearly a year.

Gelbart goes on to wide acclaim as a writer and producer in civilian life, especially for his military-themed TV series *M\*A\*S\*H*.



Larry Gelbart



# 1946

*October – AFRS innovation helps change the radio industry forever.*

**Bing Crosby's experience with AFRS studio techniques has sold him on the convenience of recorded shows.**

**When NBC asks Crosby to repeat each live show for different time zones, he moves to ABC which allows him to tape his performances.**

**Other stars demand the same privilege, and live radio variety shows are headed for extinction.**



*Bing Crosby,  
Command Performance*



# 1947

**AFRS Hollywood does its part for post-war economics by reducing production of original programs to 14 hours a week.**

**Gaps in the playlist are filled by acquiring 41 hours of additional programming from commercial networks featuring top performers of the day.**



**Peggy Lee**



**Nat King Cole**



**Al Jolson**



**Ozzie and Harriet**



# 1947

Licensing agreements with the American Federation of Radio Actors and the American Federation of Musicians are negotiated which continue, with updates, to this day.



AFRA adds television and becomes AFTRA in 1952



# 1948



A Douglas C-54 Skymaster  
over blockaded Berlin, 1948

*June* – the Soviets begin a blockade of Allied sectors of Berlin that will last for nearly a year.

The Allies respond with an epic airlift of food and other vital supplies, up to 9,000 tons daily.

AFN Berlin, its transmitter right in the flight path, goes to a 24-hour schedule to maintain local morale – and provide a radio beacon for the airlift pilots.



# 1950

AFRS curtails radio production with the exception of a few information programs, thus ending the era of original entertainment programming which had been its hallmark.





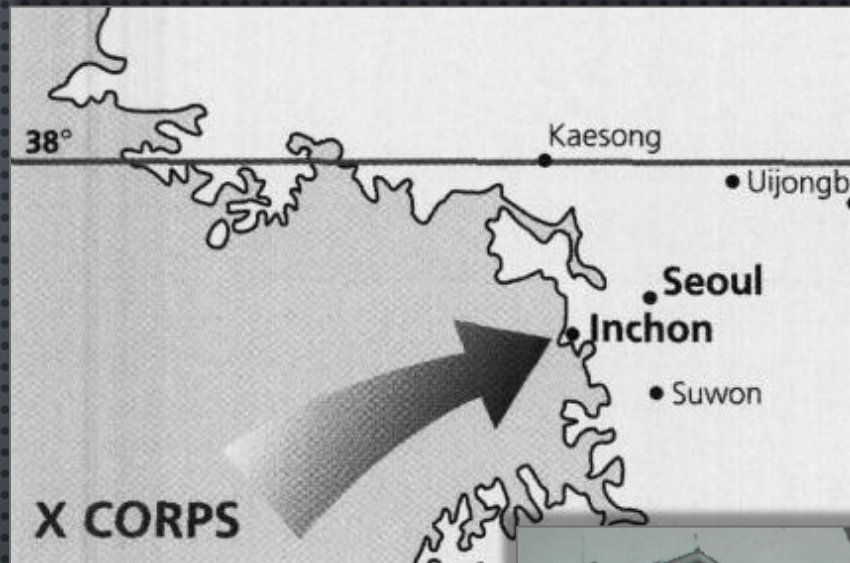
# 1950

*October* – following the Allied landing at Inchon, Korea, AFRS elements set up a Broadcast studio in the Bando Hotel, Seoul.

AFRS Hollywood's newest affiliate is the American Forces Korea Network (AFKN).

Broadcasts continue until Communist forces retake Seoul in January.

AFKN falls back to Taegu and resumes operation using mobile equipment.



Bando Hotel, Seoul



# 1950

AFRS Hollywood becomes primarily a shipping hub for recorded news, information and entertainment.

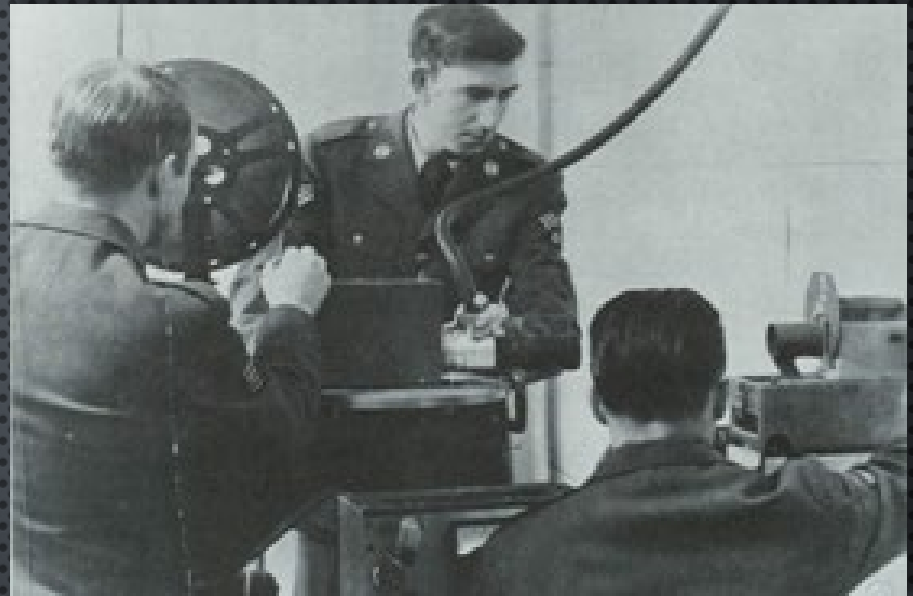
To replace in-house entertainment productions, AFRS increases its use of de-commercialized network and local programs to 60 hours a week.





# 1953

**October 28 - SECDEF Charles E. Wilson signs a memorandum permitting military television broadcasts and establishing an Armed Forces Television activity.**



**Experimental Air Force TV broadcast, Christmas Day, Limestone AFB, Maine.**



**First overseas military TV station, Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal, 1954**

**He cites television's potential as “a strong, favorable influence on the information and education program of the Armed Forces.”**



# 1954

AFRS moves to new headquarters at 1016 North McCadden Place, Los Angeles.

It is now designated AFRS LA.



(170)

Fountain Ave

La Mirada Ave

Santa Monica Blvd

Seward St

N Hudson Ave

Wilcox Ave

Cole Ave

N Las Palmas Ave

Highla

N Orang

N La Br

Melrose Ave



# 1954

NAME CHANGE  
ORDERED



*April 21* – The Office of Armed Forces Information and Education orders a name change.

AFRS becomes the Armed Forces Radio *and Television* Service – AFRTS.

NAME CHANGE  
ORDERED





# 1954

*October 29* – DoD Instruction 5120.2 details the AFRTS mission: provide all service personnel overseas with information, education and entertainment programs of the same type enjoyed by their fellow citizens stateside – in other words, a touch of home.



TSGT Harold Smeder (l) and PM1 Curtis Luhman (r) operate an early videotape recorder.



Early film equipment in the foreground, videotape recorder in the background



# 1955

*July* – the first and only armed forces radio and television squadron is created by the Air Force at Wiesbaden, Germany.

The 7122<sup>nd</sup> Support Squadron operates radio and television stations in Libya, Saudi Arabia, Iceland, Bermuda and Portugal.

Each is supplied with filmed versions of TV shows commercial networks provide free of charge.



RCA Kinescope for recording  
TV programs on film, 1953



# 1957

*September* – Korea becomes first combat zone in AFRTS history to have television, as the American Forces Korea Network begins broadcasting filmed shows.

Its 400-watt transmitter on Seoul's Mt. Namsan has a signal range of just 20 miles.

Because Korea uses a U.S.-style broadcasting system, AFKN is visible to any Korean with a TV.





# 1958



Original CBS logo, 1951



NBC "chime" logo from  
1958

**The CBS and NBC Television Networks grant AFRTS continuous licenses to record, distribute and broadcast their regularly-scheduled network programs.**



# 1962

*August 15* – to serve more than 11,000 U.S. troops now in Vietnam, AFRTS establishes Armed Forces Radio Vietnam (AFRVN) with studios in the Rex Hotel, Saigon.

AFRVN goes on the air at 0600, 15 August 1962, with a five person staff using programs and disks from AFRTS LA.



Sgt Gary Saltsgiver, USAF, night shift, 1970



Rex Hotel, Saigon, AFRVN HQ



# 1963

*November 22* – President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Texas.

AFN commences uninterrupted coverage which continues until Kennedy's November 25<sup>th</sup> burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Besides its military audience, many Europeans choose to follow the events on AFN, and German newscasters use AFN reports as the basis of their coverage.

KENNEDY SLAIN  
ON DALLAS VISIT





# 1965

Air Force broadcaster Adrian Cronauer, with one year left in his enlistment, asks for assignment to Vietnam and hosts the radio show, *Dawnbuster*.

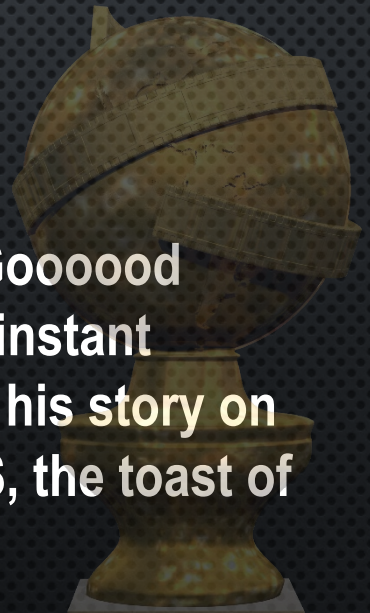


Sgt Adrian Cronauer, *Dawnbuster*



Robin Williams as Cronauer in *Good Morning, Vietnam*, 1987

Cronauer's trademark "Gooooood Morning, Vietnam" is an instant hit with the troops. Later his story on film makes it, and AFRTS, the toast of the civilian world.





# 1966



Chris Noel with men of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Pleiku, RVN, 1967

Actress Chris Noel hosts "Date With Chris" from AFRTS Los Angeles between 1966 and 1971, during the Vietnam War.

She is so valuable to troop morale that the enemy places a \$10,000 bounty on her.

Twice during her many visits with troops, her chopper is downed by enemy fire.



# 1966

**March 24 – An underwater cable is completed linking AFRVN directly to AFRTS Los Angeles.**



Soldiers with their radio, Vietnam, 1966, one of CNN's 16 "Iconic Photos of the Vietnam War"



**This enables round-the-clock programming and coverage of major sporting events.**

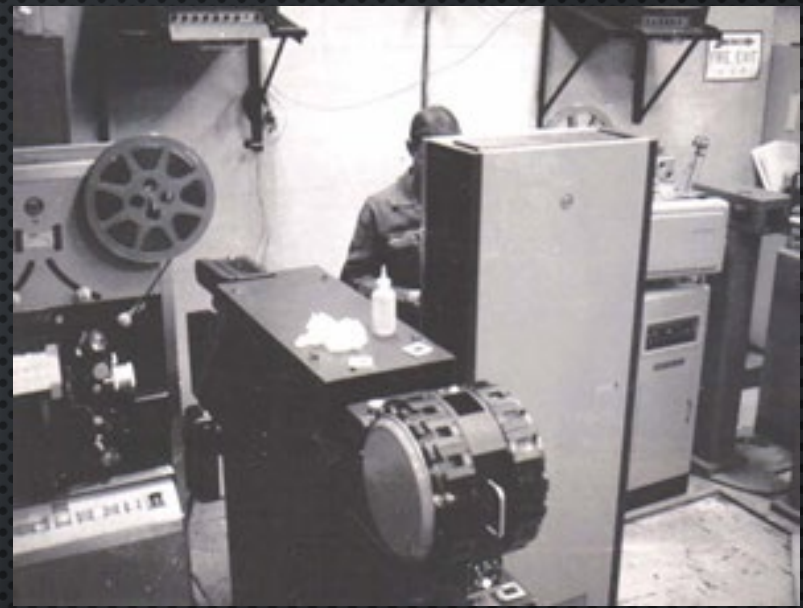
**The Vietnam affiliates are the first armed forces broadcasters to provide news on the hour, 24-hours a day.**



# 1966



AFKN becomes the first location to replace film with a videotape recorder for studio productions.



AFKN's projection equipment in 1966



AFN Korea Network HQ in 1968



# 1967



**AFVN Detachment 3 TV/radio van, Pleiku**



**Detachment 3 van TV control console**

***June 1*** – with the deployment of six broadcast vans, a new Armed Forces Vietnam Network (AFVN) is now complete.

**Every service member “in country” has radio service, and now 85% of them also enjoy television, with local material mixed into feeds from Los Angeles and Saigon.**



# 1968

*February 5* – AFVN stations are enemy targets. During a nationwide communist offensive, Detachment 5 in Hue is overrun.

SGT Thomas Young, USMC, and Mr. Courtney Niles, a civilian with NBC, are killed defending the station; Army SP5 Steven Stroub is executed after capture.

Five others spend five years as prisoners of war.



AFVN Detachment 5 villa, Hue,  
before and after attack





# 1968



October – an Army clerk becomes a disc jockey for AFVN Saigon.

Pat Sajak is on *Dawnbuster* at 0600 weekdays wishing Vietnam its now-iconic “Gooooood Morning!”

Later, as a TV star, he remembers the troops’ gratitude for AFVN’s touch of home: “To this day, my fellow vets from that era repeat those thank yous and it’s really very humbling.”





# 1969



## NAME CHANGE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

**Armed Forces Radio and Television Service changes its name to  
American Forces Radio and Television Service.**

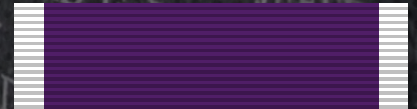


# 1970

***April 10*** – the deadliest day in military broadcasting history.

**A battle-damaged RF-4C Phantom aircraft slams into the studios of the Armerican Forces Thailand Network in Udorn, killing nine USAF broadcasters.**

**Within 24 hours, the station has moved 175 miles south and is back on the air.**





# 1971



**SITE system, 1980,  
USS Truxtun (CGN-35)**



**JOSN Jeff Valdez at the board**

**AFRTS goes to sea as closed-circuit television systems are developed for use aboard U.S. Navy ships while underway.**

**The Shipboard Information, Training and Entertainment (SITE) systems quickly boost both mission effectiveness and morale.**



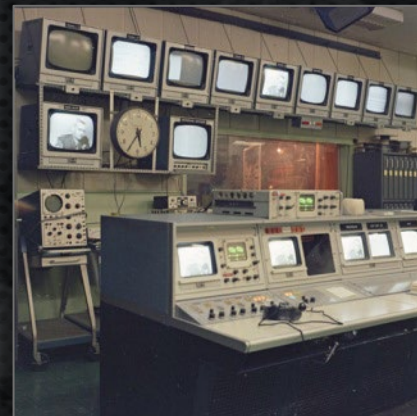
# 1973

*March* – as America withdraws from Vietnam, AFVN has been turning equipment over to the Vietnamese government for nearly a year.

From Saigon, the last AFVN station to close, LTC Harold Hutchison sends his final message as commander:

“AFVN ceased to be as of 2400 hours 22 March, 1973.”

Views of AFVN  
Saigon





# 1973

The American Society  
of Composers, Authors  
and Publishers gives  
AFRTS an experimental  
“open-ended” license  
to record and distribute  
programs  
it controls.



# ascap



Jim Sampson spins a disc from AFRTS-LA  
at AFN Munich, 1973



# 1978



**AFRTS LA wins approval for a 24-hour global satellite feed of news, entertainment and sports.**

**AFRTS studios are now staffed round-the-clock**



# 1978

AFRTS LA changes its name to the AFRTS “Programing” Center.

Because *Broadcasting* magazine had used nonstandard spelling, AFRTS Program Director Gerry Fry likewise insisted that the AFRTS PC should render its name with a single “m.”



Armed Forces Radio & Television Service  
Programing Center  
1016 North McCadden Place



# 1978

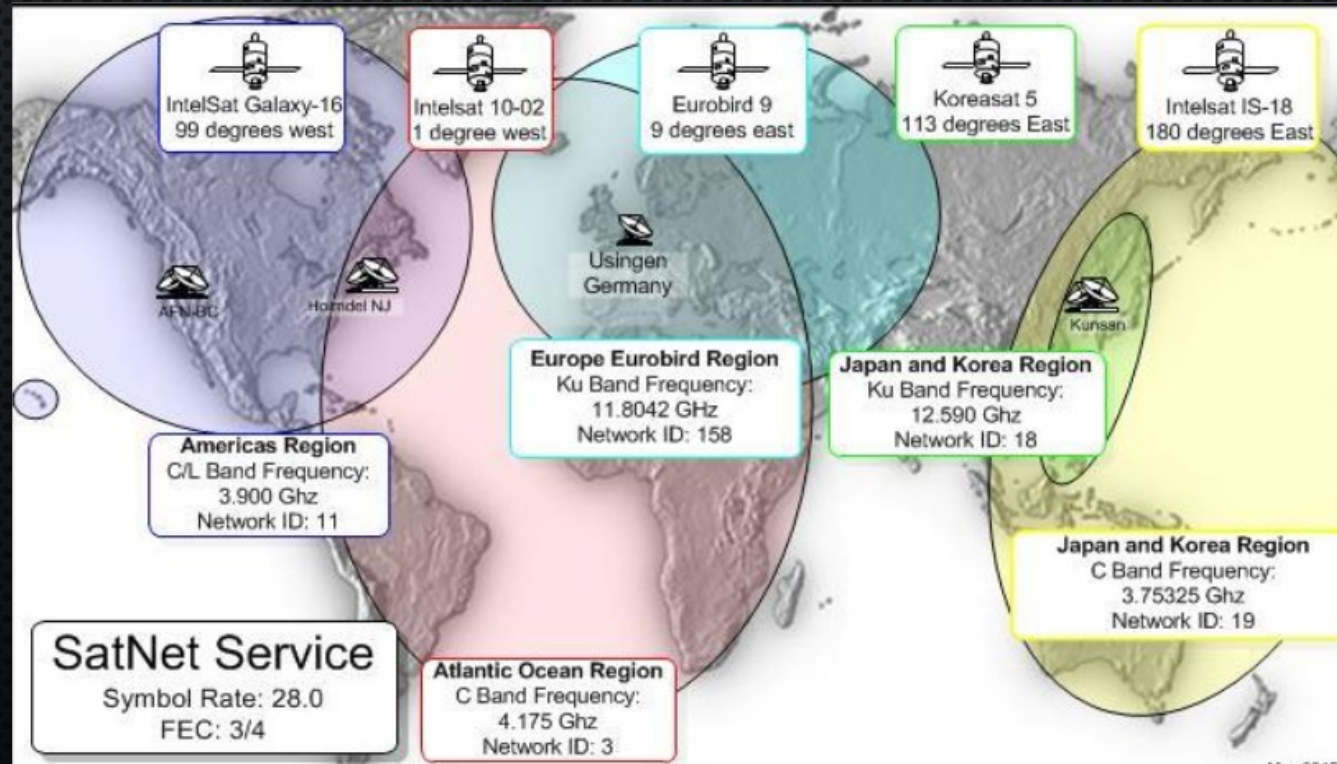
The radio Voice Channel begins worldwide broadcasts.





# 1978

*December* - The AFRTS Satellite Network (SATNET) begins test transmissions, soon supplying more than seven hours a day of live programming to four receiving sites, replacing the weekly Television Priority (TPA) package at those locations.





# 1982

AFRTS PC begins 24-hour satellite delivery of news and sports programming via SATNET, first to Guantanamo Bay, Roosevelt Roads and Panama; later to Diego Garcia and Keflavik.

Daily, 17 hours of programming is first de-commercialized by AFRTS PC staff.



Network headquarters, Panama



Jim Roark at AFRTS Iceland



# 1982

*July* – AFRTS is now the largest radio and television network on earth, reaching more than 1.2 million military members, DoD civilians, and their families in 45 countries, 15 U.S territories or possessions and aboard Navy ships at sea.



2<sup>nd</sup> ID “Indianhead” soldiers in Korea watching AFN



# 1982

The Programing Center is providing 80 hours of recorded programming to 17 global distribution circuits.

The package includes weekly series, mini-series, and made-for-TV and theatrical movies.

Thrift dictates that packages are “bicycled” after airing -- they’re sent to the next station in the circuit.





# 1982

*October 1 - AFRTS changes its name back to Armed Forces Radio Television Service..*

**NAME CHANGE**  
**EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**  
**01 Oct 1982**

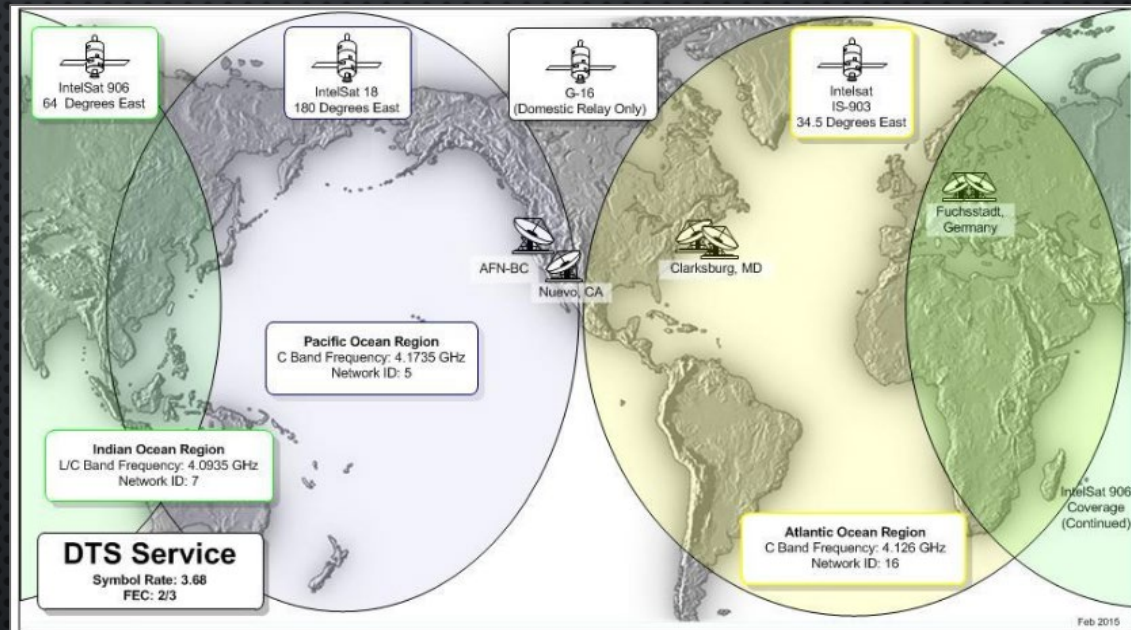
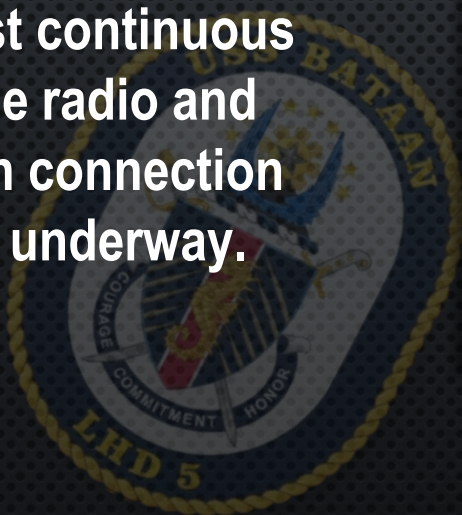




# 1983

The Navy Broadcasting Service begins installing satellite receivers for AFRTS programming aboard larger warships.

Direct to Sailor (DTS) is the first continuous worldwide radio and television connection for ships underway.



Typical DTS installation, USS Bataan (LHD 5)



# 1986

**The world just got  
a little smaller...**



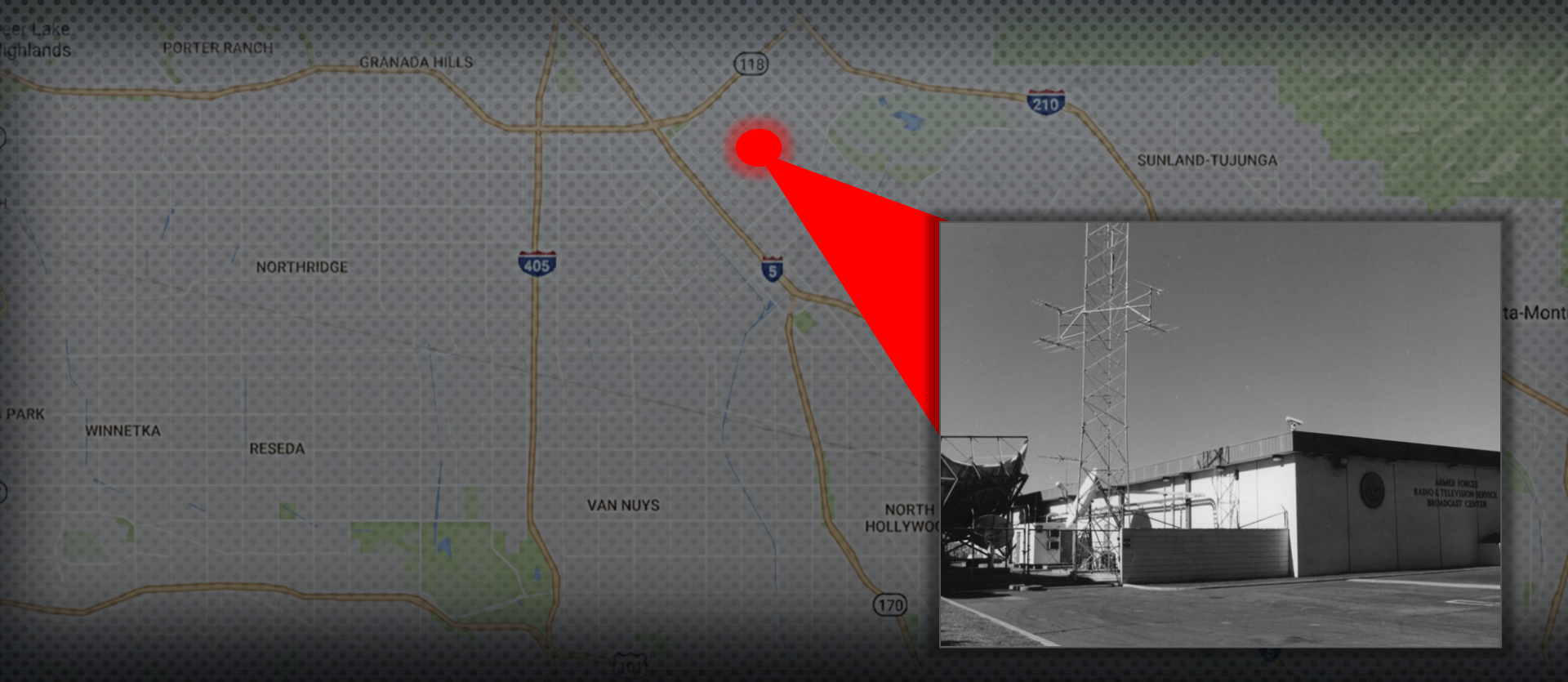
*July* – most AFN TV stations now receive the bulk of their live programs by satellite directly from their network sources, passed through the AFRTS PC.

Operators at the PC cover stateside commercials with AFRTS command information and public service spots on-the-fly.



# 1986

***November 3 – AFRTS Programing Center is renamed the AFRTS Broadcast Center (AFRTS BC) and relocates from Hollywood, with no interruption of service, to a new site in the Los Angeles suburb of Sun Valley.***





# 1987

In Hollywood, entertainment magazine *Daily Variety* reports the AFRTS annual budget as \$27.4 million, against an estimated market value of \$117 million for the programs it acquires.

In the course of fulfilling its mission, AFRTS now delivers the best radio and television shows in America for just 23 cents on the dollar.



Daily Variety logo and  
AFN TV schedule from *Berlin Observer*,  
4 September 1987



# 1988



**LTC Bob Gaylord and  
SMSgt Rafael Alcantara  
ready to deploy  
an AFSTRS van**



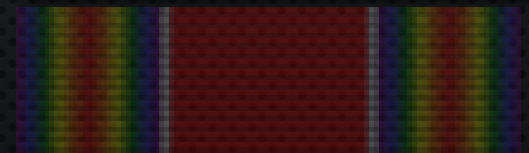
**The first AFSTRS  
deployed  
van is tested in Qatar**

**The AFRTS short-wave  
radio service is replaced  
by the Armed Forces  
Satellite Transmitted  
Radio Service (AFSTRS).**



# 1988

*May* – Colonel Tom Lewis, the broadcast pioneer who made AFRTS the voice of home for millions of service members around the world, dies at age 87.





# 1989

**All AFRTS BC satellite signals are now encrypted to prevent piracy.**

**Encryption is a vital part of agreements which allow AFRTS to acquire shows at greatly reduced cost in exchange for limiting access to authorized OCONUS personnel only.**



**AFN antenna farm at Sun Valley AFRTS-BC**

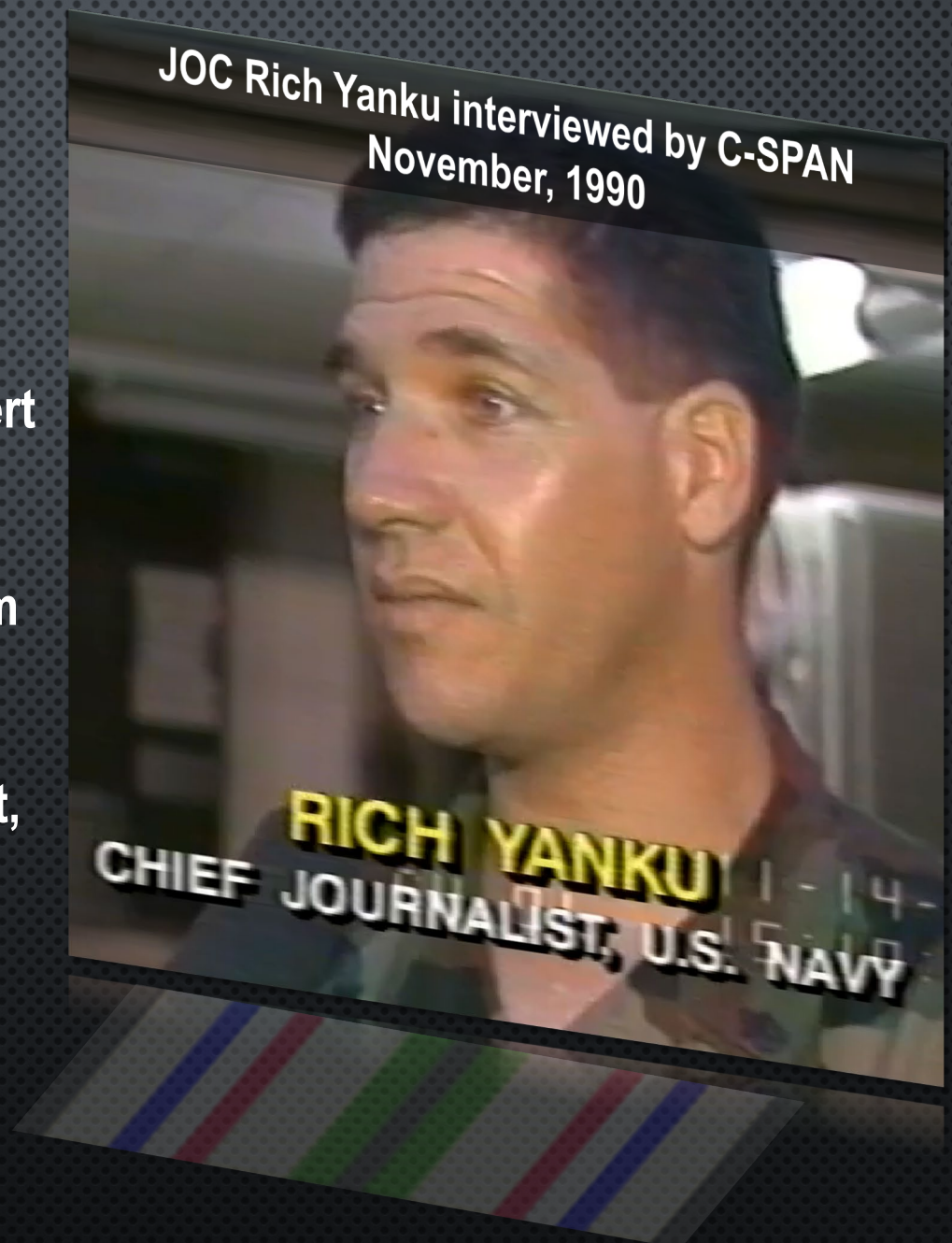


# 1990

*October 9* – with the Gulf War just two months old, AFRTS establishes the Armed Forces Desert Network (AFDN) in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, with a mix of local DJs and streaming from the Broadcast Center.

The DJ for the first AFDN broadcast, Chief Journalist Rich Yanku, opens with an homage to AFVN's Adrian Cronauer:

**“Gooood Morning, Saudi Arabia!”**



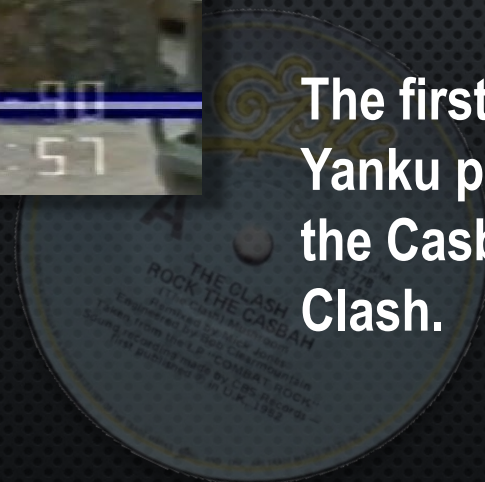


# 1990



Though AFDN eventually expands to a network of stations covering an area the size of the northeastern United States, the “studio” for its inaugural broadcast is a tiny converted shipping container.

The first song CPO Yanku plays is “Rock the Casbah” by The Clash.





# 1991

An early FM automation system at the Far East Network, Okinawa



**AFRTS BC installs its first radio automation system. Music is played from reel-to-reel tapes containing signals that trigger command information to play from pre-loaded tape cartridges.**



# 1991

The AFRTS BC  
acquires rights to  
the first 24-hour  
satellite-radio  
format, *Adult Rock*,  
from Unistar.



TSgt. Barry Cantor in Radio Operations, AFRTS BC Sun Valley



# 1992



**Regional AFN “Super Stations” in Germany, Italy and Turkey now feed full program schedules by satellite for as many as 300 receive-only ground stations.**

**Each also has staffed affiliates capable of producing content for the entire network.**



# 1992



**May – On its Golden Anniversary, AFRTS is honored with a George Foster Peabody Award and the Broadcast Pioneers Golden Mike Award for providing “a beam of light from home to Americans Abroad.”**



# 1994

## Los Angeles Times

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1994  
 PRICE: \$1.00  
 TODAY'S SPECIAL: \$1.00

# 33 Die, Many Hurt in 6.6 Quake L.A. Area Freeways Buckle, Buildings Topple

### Sylmar Jolted by Ghosts of Horror Past

History: The city that crumbled under a 6.2 quake in 1971 remembers well the horror that came when the earth gave way. On Monday, it seemed like it was renewed.

By KATHY HARRIS and JAMES M. MAYER  
 Sylmar, Calif. (AP) — Sylmar, Calif., had nearly forgotten how it felt when the earth shook in 1971. But on Monday, it was as if the city were remembering the horror that came when the earth gave way. On Monday, it seemed like it was renewed.



The body of LAPD Officer Clarence W. Dean lies near his motorcycle, which plunged off the Arroyo Valley Freeway overpass that collapsed on Monday.

### Thrust Faults Pose Brutal Danger to Basin

By ROBERT LEE BUEZ and KENNETH BUEZ  
 Los Angeles (AP) — The thrust faults that lurk beneath the Los Angeles basin pose a brutal danger to the city, according to a new report by a team of geologists. The report, which was released on Monday, says that the basin is underlain by several major thrust faults that could cause a major earthquake in the future.

### Commuters Will Face Nightmare for Months

By KATHY HARRIS and JAMES M. MAYER  
 Los Angeles (AP) — Commuters in the Los Angeles basin will face a nightmare for months as the damage to the freeway system is assessed and repairs are made. The damage to the freeway system is extensive, with several major freeways buckling and collapsing.

### At Least 15 Die in Collapsed Apartments

By KATHY HARRIS and JAMES M. MAYER  
 Los Angeles (AP) — At least 15 people died in the collapse of a three-story apartment building in Northridge on Monday. The building, which was located near the epicenter of the quake, collapsed onto the people living inside.



Rescue workers try to free a resident at Northridge Meadows apartments.

### Disaster Epicenter in Northridge, where three-story apartment complex crumbles.

Ruptured gas lines erupt in fire in strongest tremor in city's modern history.

By TRACY KAPLAN and JIM KIRKMAN  
 Los Angeles (AP) — A deadly magnitude 6.6 quake, which struck Northridge on Monday, killed 33 people and injured more than 1,000. The quake, which was the strongest in the city's modern history, caused widespread damage to buildings and freeways.

### Questions on Reinforcing of Freeways Raised

By VIRGINIA ELLIS and JIM KIRKMAN  
 Los Angeles (AP) — Questions have been raised about the safety of freeways in the Los Angeles basin, following the collapse of a section of the Arroyo Valley Freeway. The collapse, which occurred on Monday, has led to a re-evaluation of the structural integrity of the freeway system.

### A Rush of Fear, and Even the Lucky Are Left Shaken

By VIRGINIA ELLIS and JIM KIRKMAN  
 Los Angeles (AP) — A rush of fear and even panic followed the quake, with many people fleeing their homes and businesses. The quake, which was the strongest in the city's modern history, caused widespread damage to buildings and freeways.

### INSIDE TODAY'S TIMES

ISRAELI VOTES ON HEIGHTS  
 CORNA BOWS ON TEXTILES  
 HOPE FOR THE EARTH  
 ISRAELI VOTES ON HEIGHTS  
 CORNA BOWS ON TEXTILES  
 HOPE FOR THE EARTH

# January 17 – the deadly Northridge Earthquake rocks the Los Angeles basin.

# In a 20-mile radius, production of Seinfeld, The Tonight Show and General Hospital is halted by damage.

# Though the Broadcast Center is just ten miles from the quake's epicenter, AFN stays on the air.

Quake intensity map



# 1995

**AFRTS BC relocates to a new state-of-the-art facility on March Air Force Base near Riverside, California.**



**AFN-BC Bay 3, home of TV , Radio, News, Marketing and Affiliate Relations divisions**





# 1996

AFRTS services worldwide are rebranded “AFN” with a new, on-air logo designed in-house.

A Creative Services and Marketing branch is created within the TV Division, and non-linear editing begins at AFRTS BC.

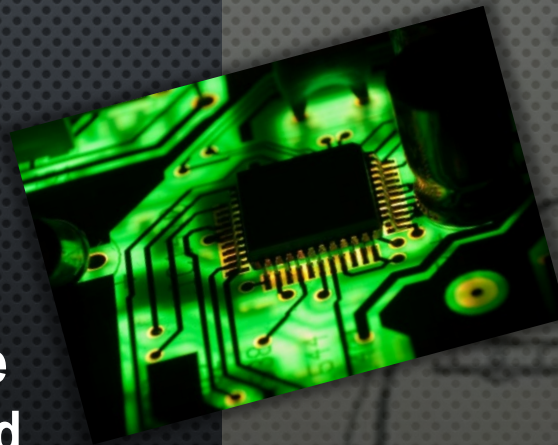
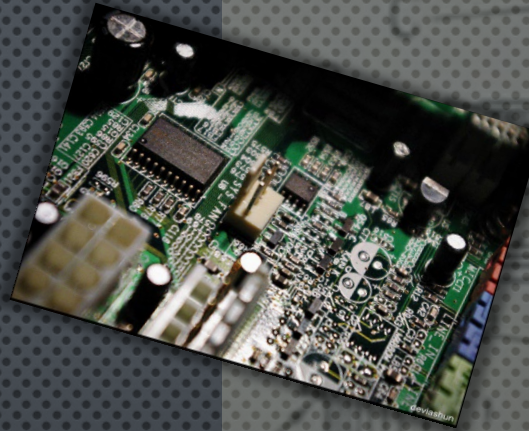




# 1996

*December 15* – AFRTS BC converts from analog to digital broadcast capability and changes SATNET from a program delivery service to a live global feed of radio and TV programs.

Radio expands from a single “Voice Channel” to multiple, satellite-based music services.





# 1997

*January 02* –SATNET is rebranded NewSports.

The NewSports weekday schedule offers live and recorded news programs.

The weekend schedule is a mix of live news and sports.



Brandon Williams and SPC Ernest Lucas  
in original NewSports control room,  
1999



# 1997



*March 23* – AFN launches its second TV channel, Spectrum, which quickly becomes popular with families.

It offers movies, classic series, cartoons and prestige cable programming on an eight hour schedule repeated three times to hit each regional theater's prime time.





# 1997

*September 26* – the AFRTS BC launches four new regional entertainment channels.

AFN Pacific and AFN Korea are on the air first, followed by AFN Atlantic and AFN Americas.

Their schedules duplicate the look of stateside broadcast networks with programs delivered at times most convenient for each audience.





# 1997

**AFRTS BC begins satellite delivery of AFN to customers via small 80-centimeter satellite dishes.**

**Viewers in Europe are the first to enjoy the new “Direct-to-Home” (DTH) service.**

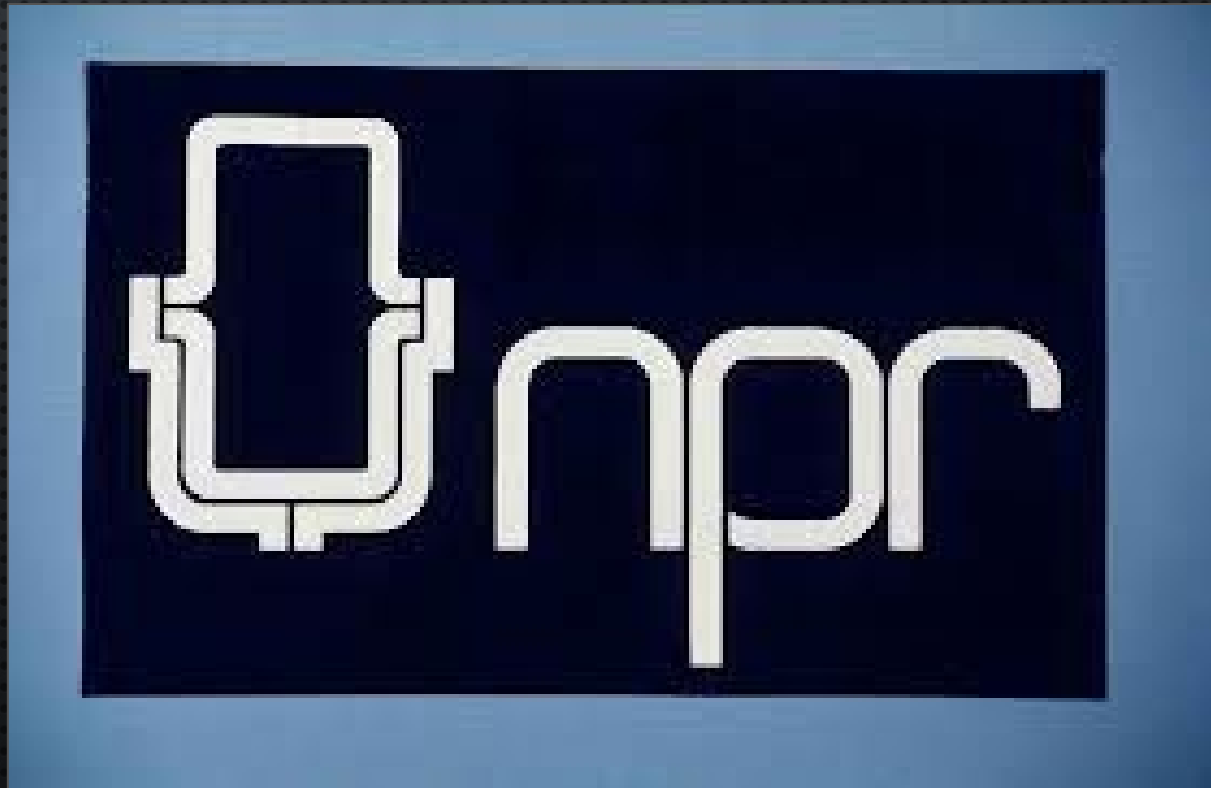


**80cm dish and early PowerVu  
D-9234 home satellite receiver**



# 1997

**“NPR Worldwide,”  
created specifically for  
AFRTS by National  
Public Radio, joins AFN  
as one of its ten  
different audio services.**

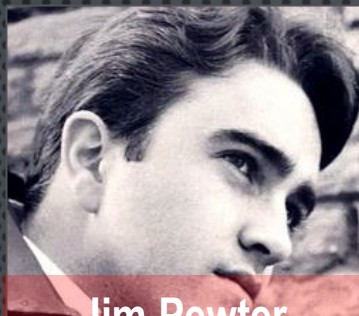




# 1997

AFRTS BC ceases production of custom-made radio shows.

This marks the end of a long tradition in which Hollywood stars and nationally-known radio entertainers would visit the AFN studios to produce shows specifically for the troops overseas.



**Jim Pewter**  
Oldies



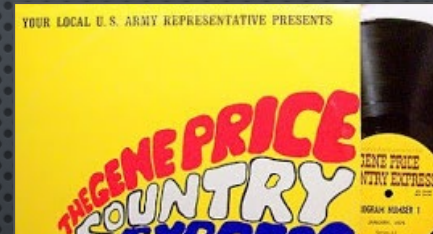
**Wolfman Jack**  
Rock and Roll



**LaRita Shelby**  
Urban



**Don Tracy**  
Soul



**Gene Price**  
Country



**Charley Tuna**  
Top 40



**Laurie Allen**  
Classic Rock



**Bob Kingsley**  
Country

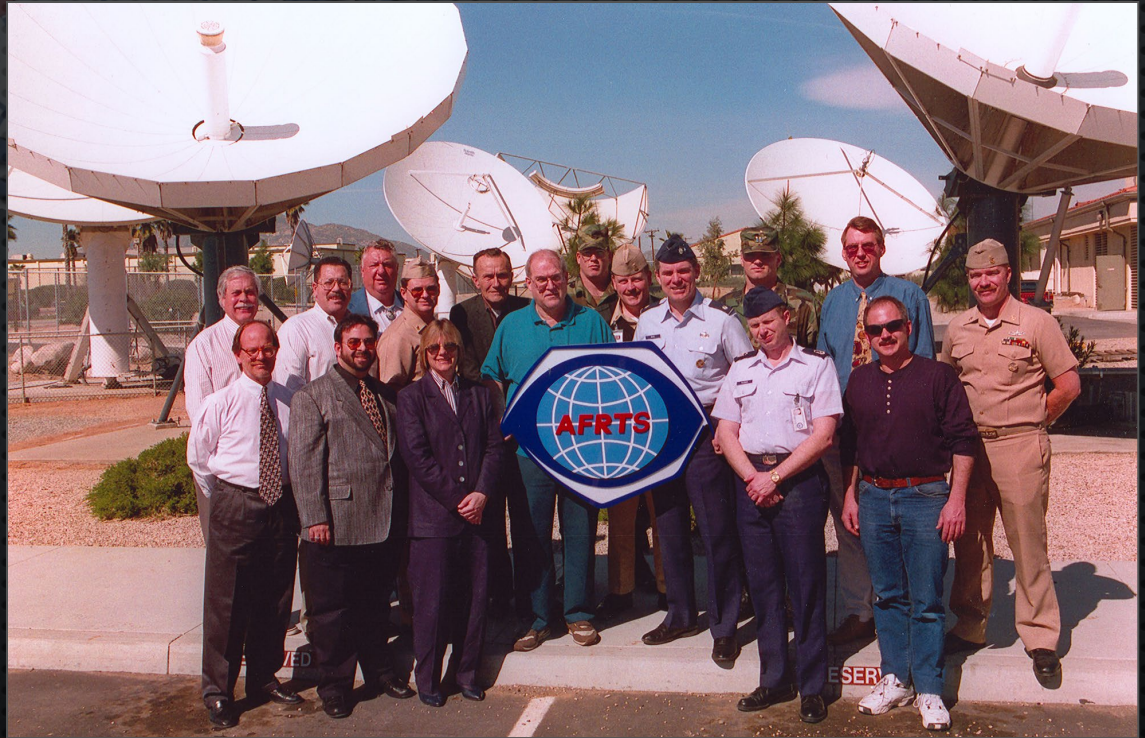


**Walt "Baby" Love**  
Urban



# 1997

**AFRTS BC launches “BC-96,” in which multiple live satellite feeds from California replace the weekly mailing of video cassettes to AFN stations worldwide.**



**The BC-96 project team led by  
Bruce Zieminski**



# 1997



The Broadcast Center constructs and rolls-out the AFRTS corporate website:

<http://afrts.dodmedia.osd.mil>

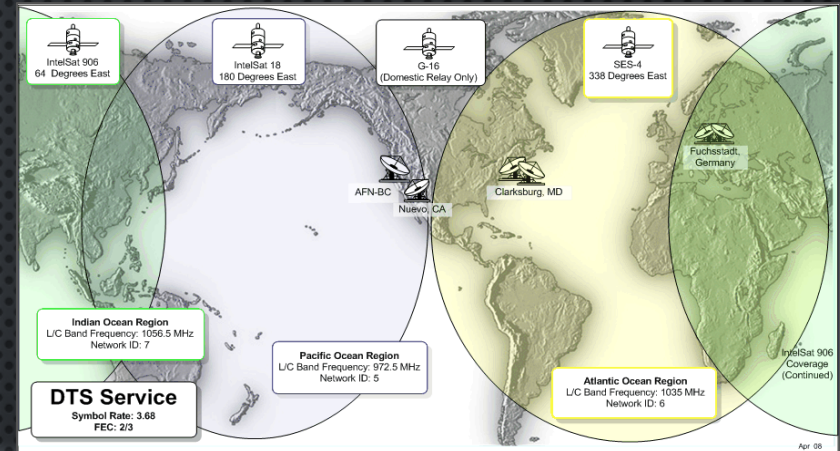




# 1997

AFRTS BC begins delivery of live television to U.S. Navy ships at sea with the “Direct-to-Sailor” (DTS) Service.

With completion of the Atlantic service, by Christmas Eve coverage is available to vessels worldwide.



JO3 Daniel Vaughn at the television controls, USS Enterprise (CVN 65), Arabian Gulf (Dec. 2003).



# 1998

AFRTS BC launches daily global weather reports on AFN Pacific in cooperation with the Air Force Weather Agency (AFWA) at Offutt AFB, Nebraska, creating the AFN Weather Center staffed by Air Force meteorologists.





# 1999

Three new websites are launched in support of the AFN brand:

“AFN on TV” delivers television schedules, “AFN on Radio” provides radio schedules, and a new password-protected site furnishes operational information to AFN Affiliates worldwide.





# 2000

**Satellite distribution from the AFRTS BC grows to more than 30,000 hours of television and 87,000 hours of radio per year, reaching nearly 800,000 service members in 169 countries and aboard U.S. Navy ships at sea.**



**In AFRTS BC TV Operations, each AFN channel has a state-of-the-art videotape machine running the programming, and two operators to ensure it works**



# 2000



**MSgt Clayton Edens “ingests” TV shows to a digital server.**

**AFRTS BC begins the transition to tapeless broadcasting, using computers to digitally record and replay programs.**



# 2000

ALCON: Please note new designation



What – AGAIN??

**November 21 - American Forces Information Service directs a change of the AFRTS organizational title from Armed Forces Radio and Television Service back to American Forces Radio and Television Service.**



# 2001



Vince Trisciuzzi in the AFRTS-BC DTS Control Room

Navy's Direct-To-Sailor (DTS) service expands to three channels each of television and radio.



# 2001

**April 10 – AFRTS BC makes military broadcasting history with the world television premiere of the feature film *MEN OF HONOR*, the story of NDCM Carl Brashear, the first African American to become a Navy master diver.**

**The AFN event precedes the film's stateside debut by a year.**





# 2001

*March 1* – AFN TV adds a program guide to its channel lineup, featuring a 1.5 hour look-ahead and promotional banners.

It replaces the AFN Americas channel, whose audience in Central America now gets time-shifted programming from AFN Atlantic.





# 2001

The logo for AFN|news, featuring the letters 'AFN' in blue with a white star inside the 'A', followed by a vertical bar and the word 'news' in black. The logo is tilted upwards to the right.

**AFN | news**

The logo for AFN|sports, featuring the letters 'AFN' in green with a white star inside the 'A', followed by a vertical bar and the word 'sports' in black. The logo is tilted upwards to the right.

**AFN | sports**

*August 7 – AFN|news and AFN|sports go on the air as separate channels with their own distinct identities, replacing NewSports.*

Separating the two nearly doubles the amount of each type of programming offered on AFN TV.



# 2001

*September 11* – AFRTS BC suspends regular broadcasts for a week of 24/7 live coverage of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

ABC, CBS and NBC round-the-clock coverage airs on the three primary entertainment channels, and 24/7 cable news coverage goes on AFN News and AFN Sports.



AFN TV control room on 9/11



# 2002

January 31 – The Broadcast Center launches myafn.net, merging the AFNonTV and AFNonRadio sites.

Along with the corporate AFRTS website and the Affiliate website, it becomes an officially registered web domain.





# 2003

DMA's global technical services force, the Television-Audio Support Activity (T-ASA), moves its operations and dozens of staff from Sacramento, California, to the Broadcast Center in Riverside.

*Television-Audio*

**T-ASA**

*Support Activity*





# 2003

PAAUZYUW RUEMDAU5507 3172030-UUUU--REJADPA REJDDPA.  
ZNR UUUUU  
P 132100Z NOV 03  
FM PTC EMAIL SYSTEM WASH DC  
INFO REJADPA/JCP EMAIL CUSTOMER//ASD-PA-SMTP/PA//  
P 132030Z NOV 03  
FM DA WASHINGTON DC//JDT-PT-OP3//  
TO SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//CHAIRS/OASD-PA/DPO//

BT  
UNCLAS  
SUBJ: CONSOLIDATION OF THE TELEVISION-AUDIO SUPPORT ACTIVITY  
FROM: SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OASD-PA/DPO//  
SUBJECT: CONSOLIDATION OF THE TELEVISION-AUDIO SUPPORT ACTIVITY  
(TASA), THE AMERICAN FORCES RADIO AND TELEVISION SERVICE-BROADCAST  
CENTER  
1. EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2003, THE TELEVISION-AUDIO SUPPORT ACTIVITY  
(T-ASA) WAS RELOCATED FROM SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA TO MARCH ARB,  
AMERICAN FORCES RADIO LOCATION.  
2. THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSOLIDATION WAS TO ACHIEVE THE MOST  
EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES IN ORDER TO AVOID DUPLICATION OF LIKE  
FUNCTIONS, AND CREATE A MORE EFFICIENT ORGANIZATION. ALL MILITARY  
AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL ACCEPTING THE RELOCATION OF THE MARCH  
SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITIONED FROM SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA TO THE MARCH  
3. THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS REQUIRED A NAME  
CHANGE. THE NEW NAME FOR THE ORGANIZATION IS "DEFENSE MEDIA CENTER".  
THE DEFENSE MEDIA CENTER (DMC) WILL REMAIN LOCATED AT THE MARCH ARB,  
CALIFORNIA. PRESENTLY, COLONEL JOHN HIGHTOWER, USA, IS THE EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR.  
4. REQUEST THAT YOU TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO UPDATE NECESSARY  
DIRECTIVES AND PUBLICATIONS RELATIVE TO THIS ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE.  
5. PLEASE DIRECT YOUR INQUIRIES TO COLONEL JOHN HIGHTOWER, EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE MEDIA CENTER, MARCH ARB, CALIFORNIA, TELEPHONE  
909-413-2201.  
BT  
#5507

# DMC

DEFENSE MEDIA CENTER

**October 1 – The AFRTS Broadcast Center is renamed the Defense Media Center following the consolidation of T-ASA and the AFRTS-BC.**



# 2004



*January 1* AFN introduces its new “prime” entertainment channels: *AFN|prime Atlantic, AFN|prime Pacific and AFN|prime Korea.*



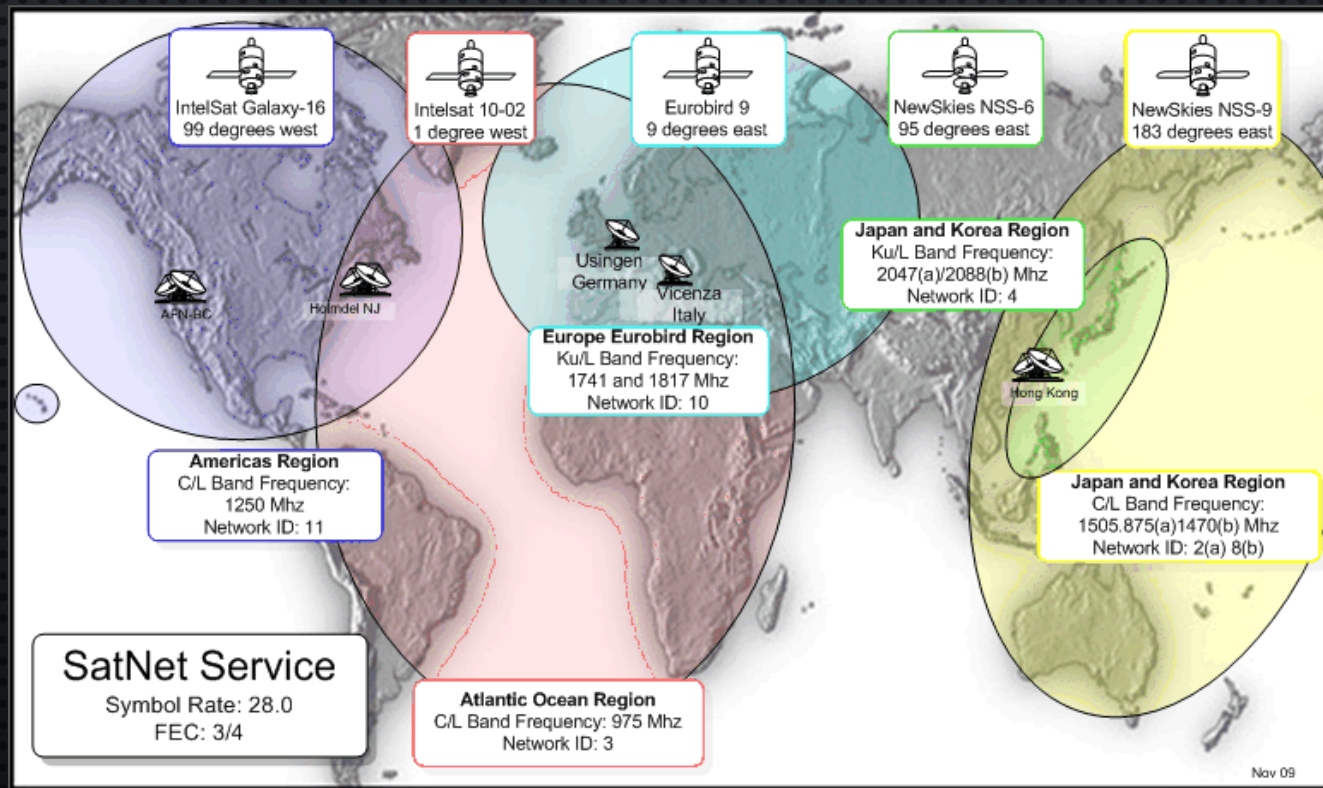
# 2004

*January 1* – the DMC offers audiences in the Pacific region a new Direct-to-Home (DTH) service with programming tailored to viewers in Japan and Korea.





# 2004



AFN now reaches 177 countries, more than 180 U.S. Navy ships at sea, and nearly one million service members, DoD civilians and contractors, and their families.



# 2004

**The Defense Media Center changes its name to the American Forces Network Broadcast Center (AFN-BC).**





# 2004

September 3 – AFN-BC launches two new TV channels: *AFN|family* and *AFN|movie*, and expands *AFN|spectrum* from a repeating 8-hour playlist to a full 24-hour schedule.



**AFN** | family

The logo for AFN|family features the word "AFN" in a bold, orange, sans-serif font with a white star inside the letter "A". To its right is a vertical white line, followed by the word "family" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a black rectangular background.

**AFN** | movie

The logo for AFN|movie features the word "AFN" in a bold, grey, sans-serif font with a white star inside the letter "A". To its right is a vertical white line, followed by the word "movie" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a black rectangular background.



# 2005

**AFN-BC personnel install a satellite uplink in Baghdad, Iraq, that marks a “first” in military broadcasting history: the capability to report live from a war zone.**



**SFC William Amos installs a satellite dish  
on the roof of the US Embassy in Iraq**



# 2005

The *AFN* prime Korea Advisory Block, the last closed-circuit TV feed to regional affiliates, is terminated. All program scheduling is now done by AFN-BC.



Air Force SSgt Rachael Herrmann, an AFN Korea broadcast producer, wears a field protective mask for her shift at Osan Air Base during an exercise.



# 2005

**AFN Radio's Voice Channel  
adds three political talk  
shows:**

**Sean Hannity, Ed Schultz  
and Al Franken, to  
compliment its broadcasts  
of Rush Limbaugh  
and provide audiences with  
contrasting perspectives.**



**Sean Hannity in 2005**



**Al Franken in 2005**



**Ed Schultz in 2005**




# 2006

February 27 – AFN-BC launches *AFN|xtra*, a unique television channel targeted at 18-24 year olds. It replaces AFN Korea.





# 2006



**The AFN-BC Marketing  
and Promotion Division  
wins five Promax Awards,  
for excellence in on-air promotion,  
from the world's leading association  
of media marketing professionals.**



# 2006

With dozens of live sporting events now available on TV, play-by-play sports on AFN Radio is discontinued in favor of greater program variety.



TSgt. Sara Bishop at AFN-BC radio master control



# 2006

**AFRTS and AFN AMERICAN FORCES NETWORK become registered trademarks.**





# 2006



*July 4 – AFN-BC premieres an entertainment channel specifically for personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan.*



**AFN|prime Freedom works by time-shifting AFN|prime Pacific programs for airtimes appropriate to Southwest Asia time zones, and then inserting command information geared toward CENTCOM audiences.**



# 2007

*January 1* – For the first time, Direct-to-Home viewers in Japan and Korea see local command information directly from a new Air Force control room at the AFN-BC.



MC2 Matt Hepburn, DTH control room, 2012



# 2008

*August 8* – AFN-BC broadcasts nearly 600 hours of the Summer Olympic games from Beijing, using live NBC network feeds from New York with supplemental material from USA Network, MSNBC, CNBC and Oxygen.





# 2008

*February 1* – The first high-definition TV encoders are installed at the AFN-BC.





# 2008

*November 1 – AFN-BC Radio Division launches AFN PowerTalk, 24/7 political talk featuring 1:1 hosts from the left and right for the DTH audience.*





# 2009



**AFN Radio brings high-profile live sports coverage to the global audience with its inaugural broadcast of the Daytona 500.**



**MC2 Jason Seward in  
Studio One of AFN-BC radio**



# 2010

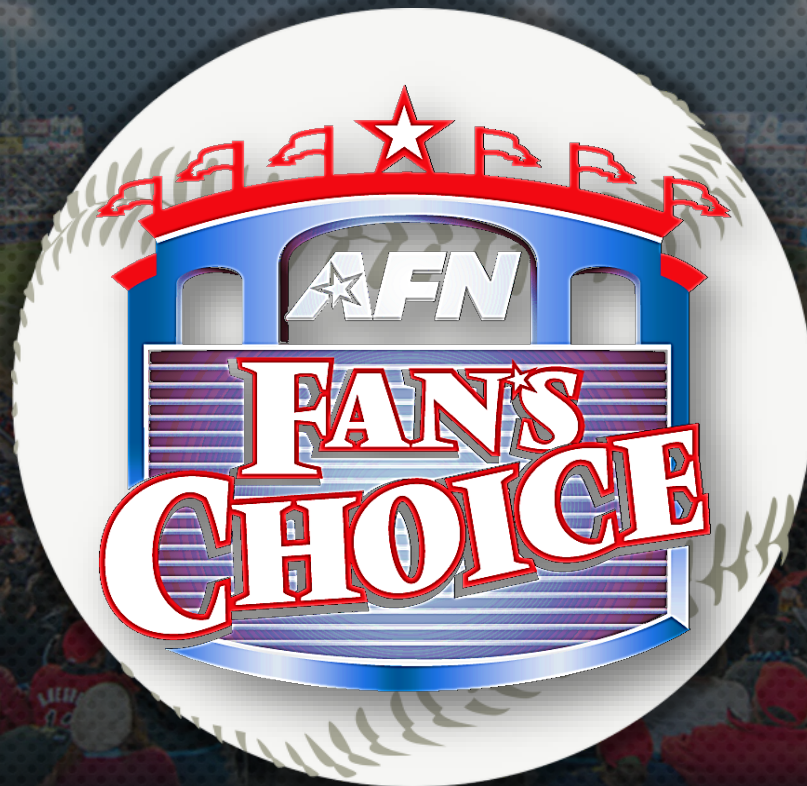
*Spring* - The Voice Channel changes its name to "AFN The Voice."





# 2010

*July* – AFN-BC launches “Fans Choice” and viewer votes decide one Major League Baseball game to air each week. Wildly popular, it soon includes picking a Sunday NFL “game of the week.”





# 2010

*August 7 –*  
AFN starts airing TV-MA  
shows from HBO on  
AFN|spectrum LateNight.



**curb your  
enthusiasm**





# 2011



***January 31 - AFN radio launches a classic rock format, AFN Legacy. It is the first 24/7 satellite music service ever to originate from the AFN-BC. The first song from AFN Legacy is Led Zeppelin's 1971 hit, "Rock & Roll."***



# 2011

*September 1* –AFN-BC  
takes over management  
of TV decoders.



AFN-BC Technologist manages decoder database

AFNConnect becomes  
the gateway to authorize  
and reactivate decoders.



# 2011

*September 25* – sports fans now enjoy their favorite action in razor sharp detail with the debut of *AFN|sports HD*.

The channel is immediately popular but some viewers must wait to receive it: Japan's Tohoku earthquake and tsunami in March has interrupted the supply of chips used in the HD decoders.



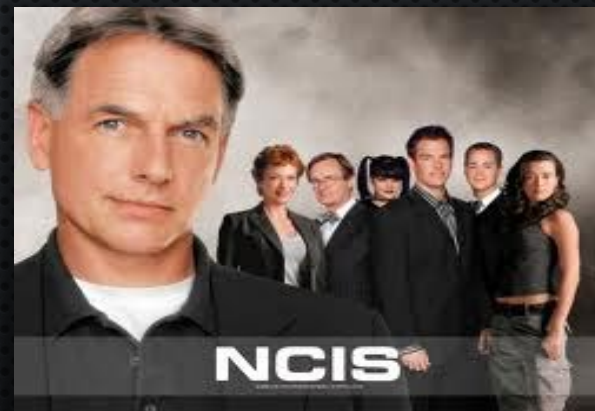


# 2011

*October* – The “Fast, Fresh, Now!” initiative from the AFN-BC greatly enhances the viewing experience by accelerating program acquisition and scheduling.

The hottest entertainment programs now air “downrange” within hours of their stateside debuts.

FFN allows AFN audiences to enjoy the latest episodes of their favorite shows just as they would back home.





# 2011

***November 11*** – AFN airs the first-ever “Carrier Classic” basketball game.

**The live Veterans Day event is held on the flight deck of the USS Carl Vinson in Coronado, California.**



**The North Carolina Tar Heels beat the Michigan State Spartans 67-55 before 8,111 fans, including President Obama.**



# 2011

*December 30* – AFN Radio changes the name of its satellite-provide sports channels from ESPN and Fox Sports to AFN Clutch and AFN Fans, respectively.





# 2012

*March 31* – AFN-BC radio launches Joe Radio, with hits for all tastes: Country, Rock, Dance, Pop and everything in between.



AFN'S  
**JOE** Radio  
playing whatever!



# 2013

*February 18* - AFN airs the world television premiere of Steven Spielberg's multi-Oscar-winning film, "Lincoln" on Presidents Day weekend.

The broadcast coincides with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves held in Confederate States during the Civil War.



Daniel Day-Lewis as Abraham Lincoln

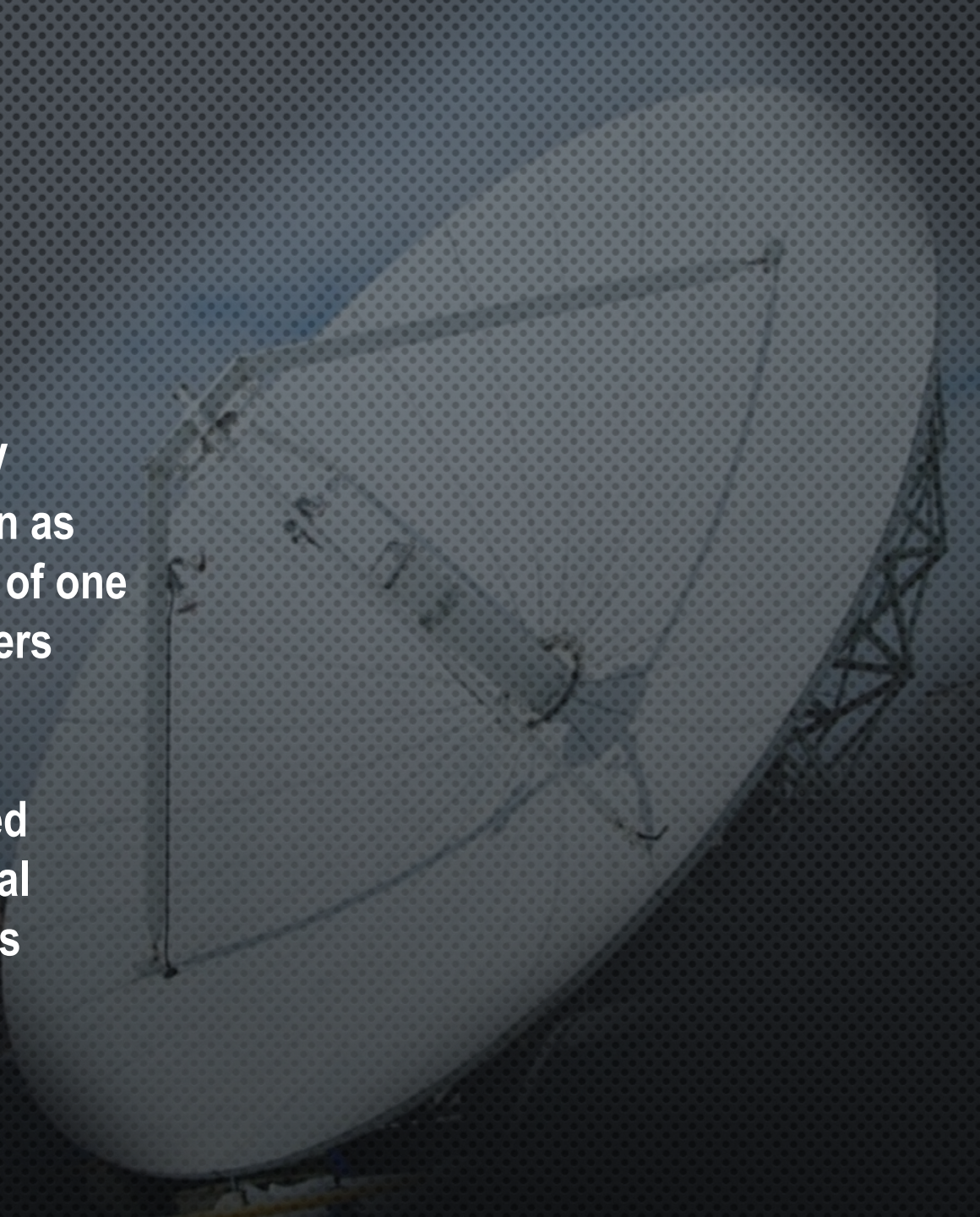




# 2013

***April 22*** – AFN-BC realigns TV channels for the Pacific region as budget cuts force elimination of one of the two satellite transponders serving the area.

**Two channels are reconfigured specifically to ensure that local command information remains available to the audience.**



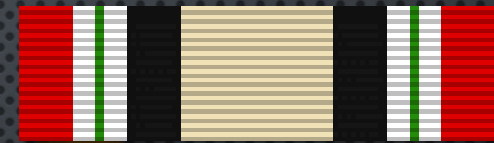


# 2013



*June 14* – with the drawdown of U.S. forces continuing and its mission accomplished, AFN|prime Freedom TV signs off after seven years of service to OIF/OEF.

Delivering on its promise of more than just a time-shifted schedule, Freedom's custom programming showcased the troops themselves.





# 2013

September 5 - AFN TV rebrands its primetime block as  .

The hours between 1900 and 0500 are now home to programs specifically for audience members aged 18+.







# 2013

**October 1** – For the first time in AFRTS history, the AFN-BC must turn off its TV channels after government funding lapses and its civilian staff is sent home. Only AFN|news stays on the air, operated by active duty military personnel. AFN Radio keeps broadcasting using staff specially exempted from the furlough.





# 2013

*October 8* – After tens of thousands of complaints from audience members, commanders and one by a Network TV sports anchor, AFN TV goes back on the air after SECDEF Chuck Hagel uses a newly-enacted law to classify it as essential to military morale and well-being.

The BC staff rushes all channels back into service in less than 26 hours.

Meanwhile, the government shutdown will continue for another eight days.





# 2013



*December 3 – AFN 360 Internet Radio goes live worldwide. Listeners can now enjoy their local AFN station, plus seven music/talk radio channels from the BC, on their office computers or tablets as well as in their cars.*





# 2014

*June 23* – the BC assumes AFN Europe's command information "traffic" functions, the allocation of air time for regional spots and their placement on specific AFN TV channels.

Consolidation means audiences in Europe now enjoy more variety, and individual CI messages now reach a wider audience.

**AFN Prime ATL  
AFN Prime PAC**



**AFN News  
ONLY**





# 2014

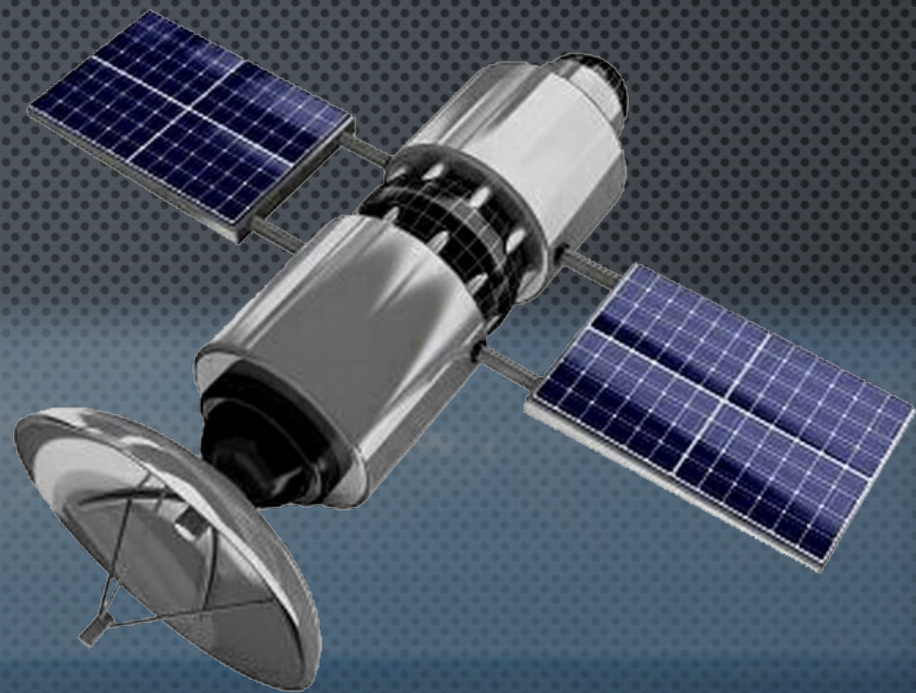


**The BC's radio staff now centrally programs the AFN Eagle format for affiliates worldwide.**

**This allows local AFN stations to concentrate on broadcast content rather than program lineups.**



# 2015



***April*** – a Pacific regional satellite “migration” to better transponders means the AFN audience now enjoys stronger signals and fewer weather outages.

Using videos, detailed guides and an expert help desk, the BC helps thousands of viewers realign dishes and reset decoders.



# 2015

*June 1 – the BC responds to viewer demand by converting AFN|xtra to AFN|sports2 as a second 24/7 sports channel emphasizing live coverage.*

Besides hosting the greatest number of live games and events each week, the channel is the new home for boxing, WWE and UFC, and the exclusive source for UFC's *The Ultimate Fighter*.





# 2015

*September 1* – SECDEF Ash Carter uses AFN and DoD social media to hold the first-ever worldwide troop talk by a Secretary of Defense.

The BC airs the event live on AFN360 radio and AFN|news.

For more than an hour Secretary Carter answers questions on topics as diverse as new maternity leave policies and efforts to defeat ISIL from within.





# 2015

*September 8* – AFN-BC takes audience outreach to the next level with a simultaneous pair of hour-long Facebook and Twitter chats.

Sports Programmer Willie Price discusses his NFL game selection strategy for the upcoming season.

The audience responds enthusiastically, and these chats become the template for others on multiple facets of the BC's sports and news programming.





# 2015



**September 11** – impressed by the success of the SECDEF's global broadcast, President Obama asks to do the same on the fourteenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

The president opens with words of appreciation for the troops before fielding questions from the studio audience and the global AFN audience via satellite, Skype, twitter and Facebook.



LIVE



LIVE



LIVE



# 2016

*April 4* – The BC now supports a five-person DoD News bureau, complete with its own satellite production truck, creating video products tailored to the needs of any client on every DoD digital platform.

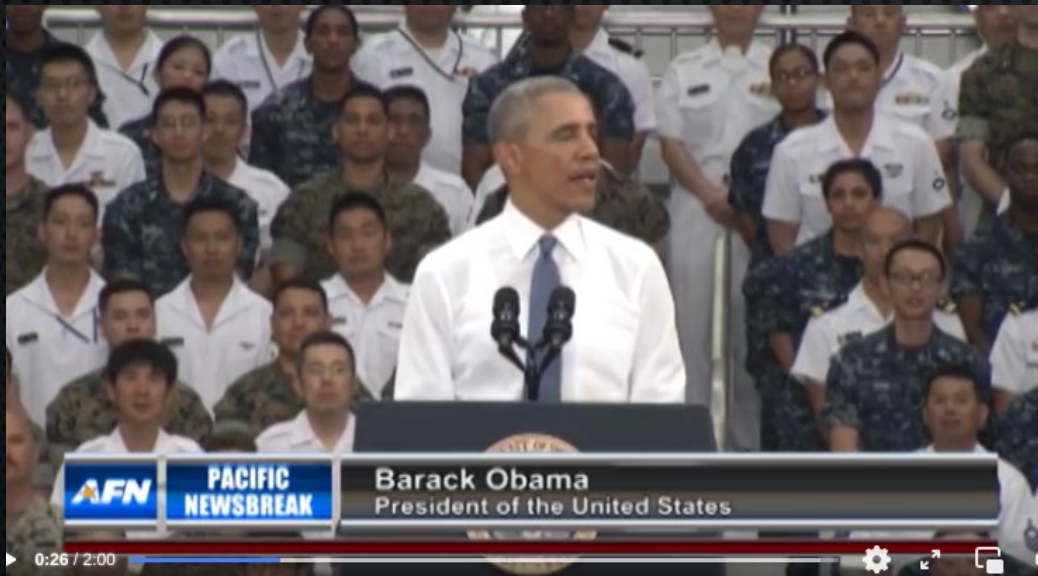
The bureau's beat is all military news west of the Rockies, and its specialty is live coverage of the SECDEF and COCOM commanders.



**PO2 Hansel Pintos checks his settings prior to a shoot**



# 2016



May - AFN provides a live TV stream for President Barack Obama as he visits MCAS Iwakuni.



# 2016



July 10 – the BC sends local coverage global on AFN Radio during a visit by President Obama to Naval Station Rota, Spain.



Rota's AFN 360 feed comes to the BC where it is simulcast to the world by AFN affiliates on The Eagle.



# 2016

**AFN Radio expands the number and variety of its music services, consolidates all of the BC music libraries, and creates web-based show preparation products and materials for its local stations.**

**AFN Radio affiliates worldwide now enjoy the same on-air content and “sound” as the top stations in America’s biggest cities.**





# 2017



February - AFN provides live coverage of Secretary of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis on his visit to South Korea -- his first foreign trip as the SecDef.



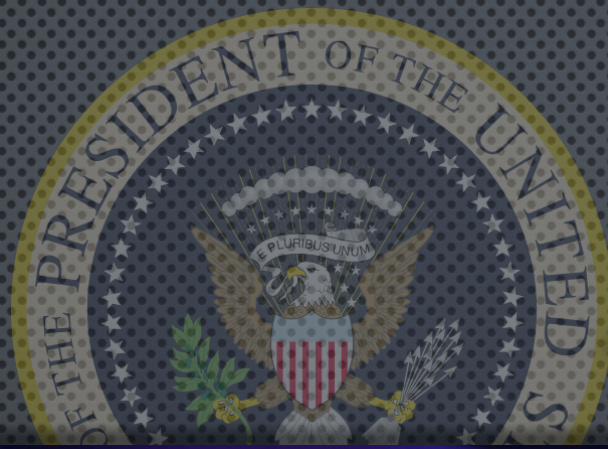
# 2017



**AFN celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of serving the United States military: May 26, 2017.**



# 2017



**November – AFN provides live coverage of President Donald Trump's visit to South Korea.**



# 2018



January – AFN shutdowns all of its AFN TV services during a government shutdown. White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders retweets a message from a soldier in Afghanistan saying now he can't watch the NFL playoffs. AFN TV goes back on the air the next day.



# 2018



**July 9th – AFN airs the "Fightin' Phils" and New York Mets doubleheader opener in real time at Citi Field.**



# 2019



AIRING ON



AFN began airing the 19th season of the popular *Military Makeover with Montel* show.



# 2019

**September 26 – Premiere Networks-syndicated personality Delilah is presented with the AFN Challenge Coin by Curt Eckstein and Tom Arnholt of American Forces Network radio.**





# 2020



September - The American Forces Network's (AFN's) extensive 2020 election year coverage will include every Presidential and Vice Presidential debate and simultaneous election day coverage from three stateside networks.

Each debate will air live on AFN|news and repeat twice at times more convenient for overseas military community viewers. The initial live coverage and the two repeat airings will each come from a different stateside network.



While the pool video feeds from the debates are virtually identical, there are subtle differences in each network's coverage.



# 2020



**AFN airs the Netflix movie *Operation Christmas Drop* as well as the real story about the Department of Defense's longest running humanitarian assistance operation. *Operation Christmas Drop* started and has continued since December 1952 when a B-29 air crew saw islanders waving at them from the island of Kapingamarangi, near Guam. The air crew felt the holiday spirit and responded by attaching goodies to parachutes and dropping the bundles to the islanders. That tradition continues today, despite COVID-19.**



# 2021



**American Forces Network**



**March – COVID-19 hits the world. 95% of the AFN workforce goes to teleworking, but uninterrupted AFN radio and TV coverage continues.**



# 2021

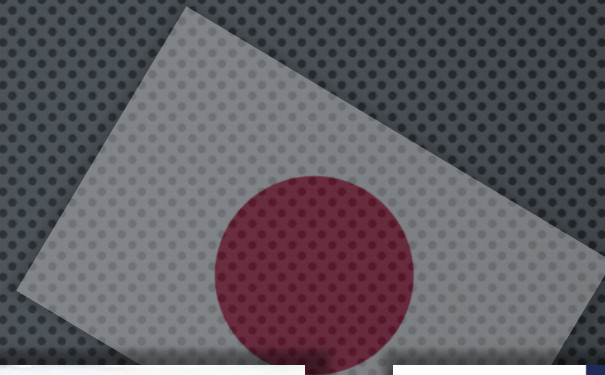
# HOLLYWOOD



May - COVID-19 impacts the U.S. Entertainment industry. AFN simulcasts its two live sports services and starts scheduling vintage sport programming.



# 2021



**July – AFN provides coverage of first lady Dr. Jill Biden arriving in Japan at Yokota Air Base to attend the 2020 Summer Olympic (in 2021 due to COVID) .**





May 26, 2022: AFN celebrates its 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday, and gives its audience the present of a new video on demand service: **AFN now** and a new streaming radio service: **AFN Go**.