



AMERICAN FORCES RADIO AND TELEVISION SERVICE
AFRTS-W SHORTWAVE VERIFICATION CARD



QSL

THANK YOU FOR YOUR REPORT CONCERNING AFRTS BROADCASTS FOR UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PERSONNEL SERVING AWAY FROM HOME.

WE ARE PLEASED TO VERIFY YOUR RECEPTION OF OUR PROGRAMMING ON A U. S. GOVERNMENT TRANSMITTER AT:

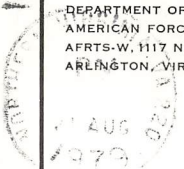
- _____ PHILIPPINE RELAY
- _____ DIXON, CALIFORNIA
- _____ BETHANY, OHIO
- _____ GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

FREQUENCY: 15330 15430

TIME: 243 - 332 pm EST

DATE: 17 June 79

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
AMERICAN FORCES INFORMATION SERVICE
AFRTS-W, 1117 NORTH 19TH ST.
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22209



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Historical Summary

Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS)

The first military radio stations appeared in Panama and Alaska just prior to World War II. Early records are incomplete since there was no official U.S. military recognition of these local stations. During the first days of U.S. entry into WWII, a military radio station was started on Bataan and Corregidor in the Philippines by General Douglas MacArthur's staff. The success of these early radio stations paved the way for the Armed Forces Radio Service (AFRS).

On May 26, 1942, the War Department officially established AFRS with the mission of providing programming, shortwave service and broadcast equipment for U.S. military locations overseas. AFRS was to give servicemembers a "touch of home and combat Axis Sally and Tokyo Rose." Los Angeles was selected as the first headquarters for AFRS and broadcasting executive Thomas H. Lewis was selected as the first commander. With the overwhelming support of the entertainment industry and dedicated military members, he quickly turned AFRS into a professional broadcast unit. Many young radio entertainers got their start with AFRS during WWII.

In early 1945, at the height of WWII, there were about 300 AFRS radio stations worldwide. The end of the war brought considerable reductions to the AFRS system. By 1949, only 60 AFRS stations remained in operation.

Armed Forces Television began at Limestone AFB, Maine in 1953 as an experimental station. In 1954, the television mission was officially recognized and AFRS became AFRTS -the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service.

Continuing to provide radio and television service to U.S. combat forces overseas, AFRTS quickly expanded during the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam Conflict.

AFRTS introduced color television in the early 1970s and began using satellites to provide live news and sporting events in 1968. Satellite transmitted radio replaced the shortwave system in 1988 expanding the quality and coverage of worldwide radio services.

(Over)

During Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, AFRTS once again provided service to U.S. combat forces. In a few short months, AFRTS built an extensive radio network and established a limited television service in the desert, providing the familiar news, sports and entertainment programming to the thousands of troops deployed to the region. More recently, AFRTS deployed to Somalia, Haiti, Croatia, Bosnia, Hungary, Macedonia and Central America to serve our troops in those contingency, peace keeping and humanitarian operations.

Today, AFRTS uses seven satellites along with digital compression technology to provide multiple television and stereo audio services to over 1,000 outlets in more than 160 countries and U.S. territories.

Additionally, AFRTS uses two INMARSAT (International Maritime Satellite) satellites to provide audio only service to over 200 U.S. Navy ships at sea on a network known as Armed Forces Satellite Transmitted Radio Service or AFSTRS.

From the days of isolated radio stations, AFRTS has grown to a worldwide network, continuing to provide a "touch of home" to nearly one million U.S. servicemembers and their families assigned overseas and to U.S. military members serving aboard U.S. Navy ships.

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