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*Office of the General Counsel  
Freedom of Information and Privacy Act Office*

July 18, 2014

**RE: Request Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act – FOIA #14-023**

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), dated March 1, 2014. In your request, you ask for an electronic copy of each T/EOS (Operations and Stations Division) Monthly Report produced during the years 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 to date.

On April 15, 2014, the Agency notified you that it completed the search and review of the materials you requested and that a total of \$12.60 in chargeable fees had been incurred. On April 24, 2014, the Agency received your payment by check in that amount.

The records responsive to your request are enclosed with this letter. Certain information was redacted pursuant to multiple FOIA Exemptions, namely Exemption 5 (deliberative process and attorney-client privileges), Exemption 6 (personal privacy), and Exemption 7(F) (law enforcement information). The redacted material is identified by the Exemption code applied to withhold it. No other information responsive to your request was redacted or withheld. Per your request, the documents are provided to you in PDF format on the enclosed CD-ROM.

This completes the Agency's response to your request and it is now closed. However, because information was redacted from the documents provided you have the right to appeal those determinations. If you wish to do so, you must send your appeal within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of this letter to the Chairperson, Access Appeal Committee, BBG, Suite 3349, 330 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20237.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. T. Krog', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew T. Krog  
FOIA and Privacy Act Officer



## **OPERATIONS DIVISION (T/EO) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2011**

### **DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION**

The required environmental study has been completed. The Report of Excess Real Property (SF 118) has been drafted and is currently being staffed for approvals within the Agency. Once it is signed and accepted by GSA, the final phase of the disposal process begins. At this point, the Agency can expect to retain responsibility for the property for the next 12-15 months.

### **DISPOSAL OF SITE A, GREENVILLE TRANSMITTING STATION**

The CFO has authorized us to initiate steps to dispose of Site A. Initial coordination has taken place with GSA's regional office in Atlanta to begin the process to turn-over Site A to GSA. The entire process can take 3-5 years to complete. An initial meeting between GSA real property personnel and Agency personnel is scheduled for March 30, 2011 at Greenville.

### **BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION**

The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in December/January:

Fred Lang and Paul Panone from the IBB Office of Security visited the Station.

The Station was visited by the Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Scott Hamilton and the Regional Security Officer, Mr. John Krajicek.

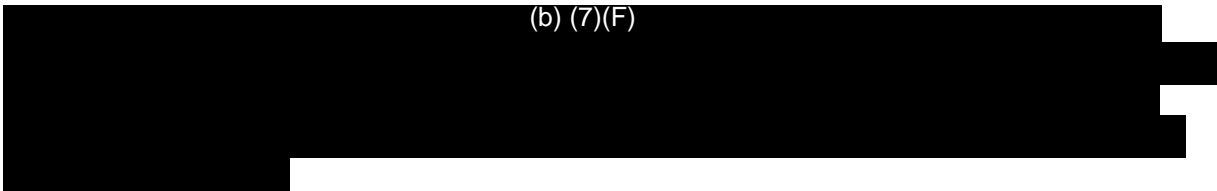
The Station hosted an OIG Inspection that was on site for four days.

### **GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION**

The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in December/January:

Although broadcasts from the replacement FM transmitter in Hebron went on air on December 10th, it appears that the telephone link in that location was destroyed and has not been repaired. In order to restore our monitoring capability through the on-site Golden Eagle system, the contractor will try to establish a more reliable connection through the use of a local DSL line.

(b) (7)(F)



Station Manager Mike Hardegen traveled to Afghanistan in early February to participate in meetings with IBB Director Richard Lobo and IBB Director of External Liaison Gary Thatcher. While in Kabul they met with officials of the US Embassy and the Government of Afghanistan to discuss broadcasting issues of mutual interest.

## **GREENVILLE TRANSMITTING STATION**

The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in December/January:

Walt Borys, Director, Stations Division (T/ET) visited the Station December 20 – 21. He was followed by Andre Mendes, Director, Office of Technology, Services, and Innovation (T) who visited the Station December 27 – 28.

The Station had three retirements at the end December: Foreign Service Officer and Greenville Plant Supervisor, Eric Kehew, who had served at many of the largest transmitter stations in the network; Power Support Systems Mechanic, Frank Young; and Information Technical Specialist (Network), Chester Allamon.

Ron Harris and Aubrey Saxon, Information Technology Division (T/I), visited the Station December 20 – 21 to ascertain the level of IT network support required from Washington upon the retirement of Chester Allamon. They also completed an inventory of the IT system while at Greenville.

At the Delano transmitting site, the Environmental Health Services Department of Kern County did a HazMat inspection. Delano received certification that there were no violations.

Also at Delano, David Dillard (T/I) visited the site for IT configuration and inventory.

## **KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION**

The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in December/January:

Broadcasting Board Governor Victor Ashe and the Director of Middle East Broadcasting, Mr. Brian Conniff, visited the Kuwait Station on December 4th. During their visit to Kuwait, they also made a courtesy visit with US Ambassador Deborah Jones. Station Manager Gaines Johnson and Resident Engineer, Sheldon Daitch, gave them a tour of the station facilities.

Thompson Engineer (b) (6) arrived on site to perform a safety update on the Rotatable Shortwave Antenna system and to resolve some technical problems.

Three radio technicians were selected to fill some long-standing vacancies. Two of the selectees will be coming from the IBB Tinang site, and one will be hired locally from the Embassy. Additionally, Mr. Mohsine Bakkali, from the now closed IBB Morocco site, was selected as the Station's new Antenna Maintenance Supervisor.

The Station welcomed a new employee, Radio Technician Darwin Bautista.

The Station hosted a visit in early February by IBB Director Richard Lobo and IBB Director of External Liaison Gary Thatcher. During their visit, Director Lobo and Mr. Thatcher toured the facilities and met with officials of the US Embassy and the Government of Kuwait to discuss broadcasting issues of mutual interest.

## **NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION**

The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in December/ January:

Richard Cai, Operations Division (T/EO), held the Phase 2 Tower Painting M&R project kick-off meeting in Tinian. Mr. Cao also held a warranty conference with Seafix (painting contractor), and performed an inspection of the Saipan antenna towers.

The Station achieved a significant operational milestone in early January. Tinian operations are now being remotely controlled from the Philippines during the overnight shift, which has eliminated the need for local operators to be on duty during this period.

Comtrain (contractor) conducted tower Safety and Rescue training for 10 employees at the Saipan site. All ten employees are now certified.

CPR/AED and First Aid training was conducted for eight Tinian employees.

## **PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION**

The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in December/January:

Station employees Gina Isais, Vicky Evangelista, Emy Cortes, Arlan Iligan and Arlene Basilio assisted NSTSU in food distribution to 50 elderly recipients within the five surrounding barangays. Assorted groceries, fruits and some used clothing were distributed.

Station Manager David Strawman traveled to Saipan/Tinian to meet with Mike Lawrence, BBG Director of Security, and a security contractor to discuss a security project.

Mike Lawrence and the security contractor also visited the Philippines Station. Their visit was in regards to security equipment that will be installed there.

## **SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION**

The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in December/January:

Regional Medical Officer (b) (6) arrived for a three day visit. She made maximum use of her time at the Station, administering flu vaccinations to all staff, testing water quality at six primary outlets on station, and completing First Aid, CPR and AED training for all our staff.

An extremely heavy and extended rain storm shut down the Station's Transmitter and Admin building's chiller. Three of the four blowers that draw air through the coils were shorted from the deluge. The fan motors were replaced and the unit was put back into service.

Several of the Station's staff attended a presentation of the new computer program that will facilitate port and customs clearances. The program is a concerted attempt to streamline customs procedures at the ports. The IBB dispatch agent has been participating in the training program for the past two weeks. We anticipate some delay in cargo clearances until everyone becomes acquainted with the new procedures.

Twenty 7th grade students from the I.D.F. School visited the Station.

## **SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION**

The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in December/January:

Transmitter Plant Supervisor, Michael A. Thissell, permanently departed post in December and headed to Oregon to begin his retirement. Prior to Mike's departure, the Station threw him a grand farewell party, with many staff returning from vacation just to see him off. Mike will be missed.

The Winter Mission Awards Ceremony was held on December 10 at the US Embassy, where the Station's antenna technicians, nurse, procurement agent, assistant facilities plant supervisor, and two chauffeurs all received awards recognizing various achievements earlier in the year.

The first ever "IBB Health Fair" took center stage. Mirroring a similar U.S. Embassy program with the theme, "a healthy employee, is a productive employee," the Station sought volunteer health & wellness practitioners to provide various medical screenings and training to our IBB employees and associated contract workers.

Six *Extra Mile* awards were given out in January. Three radio technicians, Lasantha, Armpath, and Mangalika, received awards for taking prompt action to respond and extinguish a potential fire at the Transmitter Plant. Lead Radio Technicians, (b) (6), received awards for implementing a software modification that restored full automation capability to Transmitter IRA-5. Finally, Assistant Storekeeper, (b) (6), received an award for extraordinary effort in maintaining smooth logistical operations during a particularly busy period.

Station Manager William Martin represented the U.S. Mission as a guest speaker at the University of Colombo, Sri Palee Campus, to discuss Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and introduce his "*I Have a Dream*," speech. His comments were in recognition of the U.S. Embassy-funded commemorative exhibit, entitled, "*Justice Everywhere*," which paid homage to the achievements of non-violent activists, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi.

## **THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION**

The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in December/January:

The Station Manager traveled to the Embassy to discuss personnel and financial issues associated with the intended privatization of station operations.

The year ended with the failure of one of three power feeder lines between the sub-station and the MW transmitter hall at the Bangkok transmitter plant. The timing could not have been worse, but the staff was able to enact temporary repairs to restore the transmitter to service in time for the New Year holiday weekend.

Fifty eight students and teachers from Ban Kamborn Nonsompoch School toured the Udorn site.

IBB Construction Manager, David K. Leonard, visited Bangkok and Udorn to manage ongoing M&R and Security projects.

## **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

**M&R:** The new 3-year M&R plan was approved by the Director of TSI on January 13, 2011, and then provided to all the Station Managers and other concerned entities. However, because the FY-2011 New Obligation Authority for M&R was budgeted to be derived from the proceeds of sale of Erching, the very limited current balance of funding is being used only for critical ongoing or emergency projects.

**System Wide Circuit Breakers Maintenance and Relay Calibration:** Contract was awarded to EC Company. Botswana, Germany, CNMI, Sri Lanka, Kuwait, Sao Tome, Thailand and Greenville Site B have been completed. The test report for Greenville is under review. The Contractor's testing crew has completed work in the Philippines, which will be the last station visited.

**Green Initiatives:** We moved forward with the second phase of the wind energy analysis for Tinian. Sentech submitted their second deliverable, "Wind Resource Monitoring Programs." The report indicated the most cost effective option for monitoring would be mounting meteorological sensors on existing towers at Tinian, specifically in the most north eastern location. The ideal data gathering location in the northeast is Tower 1.

The procurement for the wind analysis equipment has been completed. The equipment should be delivered to our warehouse location in Virginia by the end of February, from where T/EO will arrange to have it shipped to Tinian. The Station staff will install the equipment using instructions from sub-consultant, Sentech.

**NCC Renovation:** Since TV Master Control is moving out of the space shared with the NCC, we have begun planning the renovation of the space. Hanson Engineering has been given a task order to provide plans and specifications for this renovation. This will include facilities upgrades and selections of monitors and consoles. The construction package will then be put out for competitive bidding. The team verified existing conditions. The 65% design package has been submitted for review to GSA and the users. We hope to complete the design in April 2011.

**Cohen Building Modernization Study:** BBG Chairman Walter Isaacson sent a December 20 letter, which provided the Board's position on options for the modernization of the Cohen building, to the Administrator of GSA, the Honorable Martha N. Johnson. In the letter the Chairman asked GSA to join us in moving forward with this critical initiative that has been studied for many years. GSA has not yet responded to the letter or met with the Board to discuss the subject.

(b) (5)



**CNMI, Paint Antenna Towers:** In September 2009, a contractor named Seafix, who is based in Saipan, was awarded the \$967,000 contract to paint five antenna towers at the Saipan site and thirteen antenna towers at the Tinian transmitting site for corrosion control. To date, all antenna towers at the Saipan site have been painted. The modification work to paint zinc coating on safety climbing cables was completed in early August. The base contract work to paint antenna towers at the Tinian site began in early December, following the end of the rainy season. The Office of Contracts (CON) issued a no-cost time extension to the contract; the new completion date is June 30, 2012.

**Sao Tome Re-roofing:** CON awarded the contract to ERKA Co. LDT on January 24, 2011. Because of funding limitations, only the base contract work to re-roof the transmitter building was awarded; options for re-roofing other buildings will be considered later if funds are available. Issuance of the Notice to Proceed will take place after the contractor has submitted payment bonds, insurance, and safety submittal.

**Generator Overhaul on Tinian:** On December 7, 2010, CON awarded the base contract for the major overhaul of one generator to Wheeler Machinery; the contract also includes options for the minor overhaul of two other generators. The Contractor made a site visit on January 20 & 21. Based on that visit, Wheeler Machinery determined that the first generator is in need of only a minor overhaul, which CON has authorized the Contractor to proceed with. The cost saving resulting from reducing the scope of the first generator's overhaul is being applied to exercising



the option for a minor overhaul of the second generator. The \$6 K of additional funding required to exercise that option has been provided to CON.

## **OPERATIONS DIVISION (T/EO) MONTHLY REPORT FOR MARCH 2011**

### **DISPOSAL OF SITE A, GREENVILLE TRANSMITTING STATION**

A meeting is scheduled to be held at the Greenville Transmitting Station during the last week in March to discuss the turnover process and requirements. The meeting will be attended by personnel from the Network Support Branch (T/EON), the Office of Security (SEC), Greenville Transmitting Station, and the General Services Administration. The meeting will include a visit to Site A to conduct an initial survey of the site.

### **BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION**

The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in February a BOMAID wellness presentation on cancer awareness was held. This presentation included health screenings for individuals.

### **GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION**

The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in February:

The Station Manager accompanied IBB Director Richard Lobo during negotiations and talks with Afghan Government representatives and Ministers in regard to BBG activities in Afghanistan.

The first containerized FM set for Afghanistan was completed.

Due to the ongoing jamming of IBB satellite signals, Station staff was active day and night identifying interfering carriers on different satellites. The most frequently jammed satellites were W3A, Nilesat, AB4 and Hotbird.

In Tajikistan, the new low voltage regulator for the Thales MW transmitter was delivered to the site on February 05, 2011. Due to the excellent support provided by the local staff, the installation of the voltage regulator was finished on February 08, 2011.

In Afghanistan, a Vsat system was installed in Pol e Charki to provide the site with internet access for e-mail and monitoring. The Golden Eagle monitoring equipment is operating and the site is now observed from two locations, on site and from the Kabul RFE/RL office, where a second Golden Eagle is in operation.

**GREENVILLE TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting station reports that in February:

A random check of the warehouse inventory was conducted with just a few discrepancies noted and corrected.

The annual property inventory for the Delano Transmitter Plant was completed.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in February:

The Station was visited on February 6<sup>th</sup> by IBB Director Richard Lobo and IBB External Liaison Director Gary Thatcher. Kuwait was their last stop on a visit through the region. The Director met with the DCM at the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait, and the Kuwait Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Information. Director Lobo also visited the Station for a tour of the facilities and met with all of the American and LES staff.

The other big event this month was Kuwait's 20/50 celebrations on February 25th and 26th marking the 20th year since Kuwait's liberation from the Iraqi invasion and the 50th year of Kuwait's independence. The Government of Kuwait reportedly spent \$5 million on the fireworks display alone.

Master Control personnel have observed many scattered satellite jamming episodes during February. Not only was jamming of PNN and Radio Farda by Iran observed, but for the first time we also observed scattered jamming by an unknown source of some Al Hurra TV and Radio Sawa Arabic services. The increase in jamming activity, especially on the Arabic services, is no doubt related to the current unrest in the region.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in February:

The Transmitting Station Manager met with DPL (Department of Public Lands) regarding the lease agreement.

Seven contract employees attended the CPR/AED training at the local American Red Cross Office.

Larry Chiu of IBB Tinang was on site to assist in SIS satellite equipment upgrades, inter-site microwave alignment and installation of a new Cisco router.

Clifford George of IBB headquarters was on site for the upgrade of the Saipan and Tinian SIS satellite equipment and routers.

IBB Pacific Region Construction Manager, (b) (6) was on site working on various CNMI M&R projects.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in February:

Station personnel replaced a damaged ASIASEAT dish at the VOA Radio Affiliate DWLU, San Fernando La Union.

(b) (6) of the Embassy's Human Resources section conducted a briefing on the New Mandatory Separation for Age Policy for LES.

The Station Manager traveled to the CNMI to meet with Rome's Senior Director of Communications Programs for the annual quality control visit.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in February:

The IBB Security Team of Paul Panone and Fred Lang performed a security assessment of the station and completed repairs and upgrades of the security systems. They gave high marks to site security managed by the station's Security Officer Shannon White and to the condition of the camera system maintained primarily by Herman Fernandes.

The HVAC team of Carlos Freitas, Manuel Gomes, and Elias D'Apresentacao, led by HVAC Supervisor Dionisio Fernandes, and with the assistance of Rigger Supervisor Nelson Neto and Rigger Helio Guadalupe, removed and replaced the station's chiller. It was a fine job by a dedicated Station team who prepared well in advance for any contingencies. Thanks to arrangements coordinated by CON and TSI's Facilities Team, Johnson Control representative Eduardo Cordeiro was on site from South Africa to inspect the installation of the new chiller and to commission it.

The Admin staff worked closely with BBG Financial Systems Manager Joshua Shapiro and State's Direct Connect Project Manager Michelle Jackson to review requirements to convert the Station to Direct Connect RFMS. Conversion is scheduled for June 2011.

#### **SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION**

The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in February:

W.D.M. Stanley, one of the Station's FSN-7 Radio Technicians, was selected as the Maintenance Supervisor, and transferred from the Transmitter Plant to Facilities.

Unfortunately, one of our antenna technicians, Upali Senaka, tendered his resignation. He is moving on to take a similar position outside of Sri Lanka.

Two employees, Rajakaruna and Wickranasinghe, received Extra Mile Awards.

The Station Manager participated in the U.S. Embassy's "Readers to Leaders" program. This Public Affairs program encourages local children to read books at the American Center. Once per month, an Embassy officer is brought in to read to the children, talk about the book, and answer general questions about the officer. About 30 local children of various ages participate in this program.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in February:

The Station transferred select excess property items to MFA Radio Saranrom, and PRD Radio Thailand.

(b) (5) FMO Embassy Bangkok, visited Udon to tour the Station and discuss ICASS issues. In addition, (b) (5), Embassy Bangkok GSO, visited the Station to survey excess residential furnishings. Two truckloads of excess furnishings were transferred to the GSO, and another such shipment will be scheduled next month.

The Station conducted a sealed bid auction sale at the Bangkok MW site.

The Station Manager and Executive Officer had a brief meeting with (b) (6), Deputy Permanent Secretary, at the Foreign Ministry. (b) (6) just returned from a posting as the Thai Ambassador to Vietnam. He is a former Director of MFA's Radio Saranrom.

#### **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**System Wide Circuit Breakers Maintenance and Relay Calibration:** Contract was awarded to EC Company. The maintenance and calibration work has been completed at all the Stations, e.g. Botswana, Germany, CNMI, Sri Lanka, Kuwait, Sao Tome, Thailand, Greenville Site B, and the Philippines. The test reports for the Poro and Tinang sites in the Philippines—which were the last sites visited—have been reviewed, so the work under this contract has been completed.

**Green Initiatives:** We moved forward with the second phase of the wind energy analysis for Tinian. Sentech submitted their second deliverable, “Wind Resource Monitoring Programs.” The report indicated the most cost effective option for monitoring would be mounting meteorological sensors on existing towers at Tinian, specifically in the most north eastern location. The ideal data gathering location in the northeast is Tower 1.

The procurement for the wind analysis equipment has been completed, and the equipment is being shipped to Tinian. We are planning to contract with the O&M contractor, Rome Research Corp, to install the equipment.

**NCC Renovation:** Since TV Master Control is moving out of the space shared with the NCC, we have begun planning the renovation of the space. Hanson Engineering has been given a task order to provide plans and specifications for this renovation. This will include facilities upgrades and selections of monitors and consoles. The procurement will be handled by GSA. The 65% design package has been submitted for review to GSA and the users. Lack of funding has delayed future submissions to GSA. We hope to complete the design in summer 2011 if funding becomes available.

(b) (5)



**CNMI, Paint Antenna Towers:** In September 2009, a contractor named Seafix, who is based in Saipan, was awarded the \$967,000 contract to paint five antenna towers at the Saipan site and thirteen antenna towers at the Tinian transmitting site for corrosion control. To date, all antenna towers at the Saipan site have been painted. The modification work to paint zinc coating on safety climbing cables was completed in early August. The base contract work to paint antenna towers at the Tinian site began in early December 2010 following the end of the rainy season, and is continuing.

**Sao Tome Re-roofing:** CON awarded the contract to ERKA Co. LDT on January 24, 2011. Because of funding limitations, only the base contract work to re-roof the transmitter building was awarded; options for re-roofing other buildings will be considered later if funds are available. The contractor's insurance certifications, safety submittal, and bank guarantee have been submitted and approved, so CON's issuance of the NTP is expected at any time.

**Generator Overhaul on Tinian:** On December 7, 2010, CON awarded the base contract for the major overhaul of one generator to Wheeler Machinery; the contract also includes options for the minor overhaul of two other generators. The Contractor made a site visit on January 20 & 21. Based on that visit, Wheeler Machinery determined that the first generator is in need of only a minor overhaul, which CON has authorized the Contractor to proceed with. The cost saving resulting from reducing the scope of the first generator's overhaul is being applied to exercising the option for a minor overhaul of the second generator; the final Momentum requisition needed to exercise that option is in staffing.

#### **ERCHING SALE:**

BBG is seriously considering proposals from two different bidders that involve dividing the property into separate plots and selling the plots to those bidders. TSI Office Director Andre Mendes will initiate discussions on April 7 with the two bidders under consideration. Meanwhile, work continues on a draft agreement between BBG, DT and the Freising Authority with respect to the cleanup roles and responsibilities. The agreement is under review by the respective lawyers. The cleanup affects a small plot of land that may be leased while the cleanup work is in progress.

**OPERATIONS DIVISION (T/EO) MONTHLY REPORT  
FOR APRIL – MAY 18, 2011**

**DISPOSAL OF SITE A, GREENVILLE TRANSMITTING STATION**

A meeting was held at the Greenville Transmitting Station during the last week in March to discuss the turnover process and requirements. The meeting was attended by personnel from the Network Support Branch (T/EON), Office of Security (SEC), Greenville Transmitting Station, and the General Services Administration (GSA). The meeting included a visit to Site A to conduct an initial survey of the site. The next step in the process is to conduct the Phase 1 environmental study of the site; funding to start this process has been furnished to GSA.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in March/April:

The new Botswana Defense Force Commander for Eastern Garrison, (b) (6), paid a courtesy visit to the Station and met with station staff. He was accompanied by three BDF officials.

The station's Management Admin Specialist traveled to Bangkok, Thailand to attend Advanced Voucher Examiner and Certifying Officers' courses.

The station's Purchasing Agent traveled to the Embassy to consult with GSO on Blanket Purchase Agreements and other purchasing matters following a recommendation by the OIG personnel.

A Wellness Presentation on tuberculosis was given by a representative from the Botswana Medical Aid Society.

The Plant Supervisor and Management Admin Specialist attended the 34th Botswana Defense Force Day celebrations to mark the existence of the force since 1977. The celebrations were held at the Selebi-Phikwe stadium followed by dinner at the BDF Camp.

The station welcomed Mr. Thongbotho Nnyoto, a new Radio Technician.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in March and April:

To negotiate pending "Prague Backup System" issues, two members of the IBB Germany staff met with RFE/RL representatives at their HQ in Prague. The talks were very fruitful.

Reconfiguration of the three Golden Eagle installations in Herat, Mazar e Sharif and Kandahar was successfully finished. Devices are in full operation.

At Khost, the installation of a full redundant monitoring system was finished and is in operation. Both the AM and FM transmitters are observed now by two independent systems.

A new affiliate station in Sweden was provided (via telephone and e-mail) with instructions on how to access VOA English via Hotbird.

Several off-on's of the unmanned FM station in Nablus (Palestine) caused further investigation. Measurement analysis resulted in power fluctuations. The local contractor was able to identify faulty control circuits and repair the circuits. The outage was three days in duration.

German technicians at Biblis completed assembly and testing of the first six containerized FM systems for Afghanistan, and started work on the seventh. Each shelter contains two 1-KW FM transmitters and all ancillary devices, such as satellite receiver, monitoring system, and network components. These shelters will be shipped to, and installed, in various provinces in Afghanistan, where they will be remotely controlled by IBB employees via our operations network.

**GREENVILLE TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting station reports that in March/April:

A random check of the warehouse inventory was conducted with a few discrepancies noted and updated.

The spare vacuum capacitors from Site A were checked with the hi-pot test unit. Those that checked normal were placed in stock.

The new A11 program schedule was implemented. Several transmitter and antenna realignments were made to improve operational efficiency. Additional programming was temporarily added to support the broadcasting effort to Libya.

During the month, several severe storms passed through the area spawning several tornados which caused massive destruction to some of the surrounding counties. The site fortunately did not sustain any damage. There were a few brief interruptions to building power during these storms which were quickly restored.

The mowing contractor alerted the staff to a roll of unidentified wire lying in the antenna field. Further investigation revealed that the majority of the tower support guy cable ground wires at Sites A and B had been cut and removed. IBB headquarters and law enforcement were contacted for guidance and assistance. Cost projections for replacement of the ground wires at Site B were provided to headquarters.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in March/April:



With the Middle East once again heating up, all station personnel attended mandatory “Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness” training sessions at the U.S. Embassy. In addition, three of the station’s technical personnel also received 12 hours of concentrated “First Responder” training.

The local contractor completed installing vinyl fencing around the 7-tower 1548 KHz MW array, which allowed the station to resume 24/7 MW operations.

Mohsine Bakkli arrived at post from Morocco to begin duties as the station’s Antenna Technician/Facilities Supervisor. Mohsine worked at the IBB Morocco Station until the facility closed in 2008.

Visitors to the Station included members of the Embassy’s B&F section. The Chief of the section, (b) (5), brought out her LES staff for a routine orientation visit.

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, Radio Kuwait’s Station Manager, (b) (6), visited to discuss various issues related to implementing the IBB Kuwait/Radio Kuwait Shortwave Sharing Agreement. In connection with that agreement, IBB Kuwait Technicians visited the Radio Kuwait site on the 21st to conduct an STL (Studio Transmitter Link) path test between our two respective transmitting plants. Using surplus IBB 172 MHz digital link equipment, the Station was able to establish a solid 2-channel, line-of-site 44 kilometer VHF path from our station to Radio Kuwait’s HF transmitting station. Once the agreement is signed and implemented, we will be able to send two locally-switched program feeds to Radio Kuwait for BBG broadcasts over their transmitters.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in March/April:

A Tsunami warning was issued for Saipan on March 11th from 4:00 PM to 11:00 PM following the massive earthquake in Japan. Pursuant to island safety requirements, all contract personnel departed the station during the peak period of 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM, and only the IBB Resident Engineer remained on site. Although there was a tidal increase, it was not sufficient to cause any damage. No broadcast programming was lost during this period.

Two personnel from the Rome (on-site contractor) Corporate Office Staff visited the Saipan and Tinian sites to conduct Rome’s annual quality control inspection.

The annual property inventory reports were completed and submitted to Washington.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in March/April:

(b) (7)(F)

The station-sponsored Barangay Day Care held a recognition day, and the Barangay councils from the five supported barangays expressed their appreciation for IBB's support. The station's FSN representatives assisted in distribution of certificates and medals to the 197 children of the five barangays. Much credit is given to all the day care teachers for all their efforts, patience and time.

The B&G crew doubled its maintenance effort to braze and temporarily restore the damaged transportable building and equipment warehouse roofing structure caused by a recent wind storm. This is to prevent transmitter electrical equipment from further damage that could be caused by expected strong rains this rainy season.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in March/April:

Clifford George from Satellite Systems Branch (T/ESS) was on site to install new satellite modems and router for the T1-3 circuit. He also performed a peaking of the AOR satellite dish. Transition to the new equipment went flawlessly. The Station expressed its appreciation to Mr. George for a job well done..

The Station completed its annual accountable property inventory.

Much management time was occupied coordinating between the BBG CFO's office and Department of State for the upcoming RFMS Direct Connect implementation and training. In addition, the Station learned that COAST Encryption must replace the Electronic Certification System (ECS) as soon as possible. The Station is working to get them both implemented during the month of June.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in March/April:

Susantha Fernando, an Antenna Technician and acting Antenna Equipment Supervisor, received the US Mission FSN of the Quarter award for the period October to December 2010. Ambassador (b) (5) presented Susantha with a plaque during a Town Hall meeting. Coincidentally, Susantha also received a promotion this month as the new Antenna Technician – Team Leader.

Two training sessions took place at the station this month. The Embassy's Security Office provided refresher training throughout the month for Local Guard Force staff. Members of the Embassy's HRO staff provided a workshop entitled "Customer Care & Cross Cultural Communications." Twenty-eight IBB employees attended the session.

Radio Technician Ruchira Rodrigo received an Extra Mile award in recognition of efforts to repair several TCI antenna Forward/Reverse Contactors.

The Station Secretary and the Assistant Facilities Supervisor visited the Land Reforms Commission to meet with Director (b) (6). Of particular interest was the status of our request to clear encroaching residents from the Snake Shrine Temple access way,

and to clarify land ownership for a proposed playground adjacent to the station. The meeting was very productive, and should prove a positive step toward successfully achieving both initiatives.

The station's new Antenna Technician Supervisor, Mr. A.S.W. Silva, came on board in April. Mr. Silva previously served in the Sri Lankan Navy.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in March/April:

The Embassy GSO picked up two truckloads of excess residential furnishings and warehouse materials from the station's warehouse at Udorn.

Thirty teachers and 32 students from the Ban Sabang School, Amphur Nong Harn Udonthani, toured the Udorn site.

The Station Manager met the Embassy's assistant RSO at the Phachi MW site where the staff received updated escape masks and training.

Mr. Mitree Patanajag, Supervisory Radio Technician, retired after 19 years of distinguished service. The station wishes him good health and good fortune as he departs on his retirement.

On April 17-20, Mr. Michael T. Lawrence, Director of Security, visited Udorn and Bangkok sites to perform security survey.

Ambassador (b) (5) visited Udorn site on April 20. During her Udorn visit, she also stopped by Radio Thailand in Udonthani, and met with a member of parliament.

## **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**Green Initiatives:** We moved forward with the second phase of the wind energy analysis for Tinian. Sentech submitted their second deliverable, "Wind Resource Monitoring Programs." The report indicated the most cost effective option for monitoring would be mounting meteorological sensors on existing towers at Tinian, specifically in the most north eastern location. The ideal data gathering location in the northeast is Tower 1.

The equipment for the wind analysis equipment has been procured, shipped, and received on site in Tinian. We are coordinating with CON on soliciting quotes from prospective contractors for installation of the equipment.

**NCC Renovation:** Since TV Master Control is moving out of the space shared with the NCC, we have begun planning the renovation of the space. Hanson Engineering has been given a task order to provide plans and specifications for this renovation. This will include facilities upgrades and selections of monitors and consoles. The procurement will be handled by GSA. The 65% design package has been submitted for review to GSA and the users. Lack of funding has delayed future submissions to GSA. We hope to complete the design in summer 2011 if funding becomes available.

(b) (5)



**CNMI, Paint Antenna Towers:** In September 2009, a contractor named Seafix, who is based in Saipan, was awarded the \$967,000 contract to paint five antenna towers at the Saipan site and thirteen antenna towers at the Tinian transmitting site for corrosion control. To date, all antenna towers at the Saipan site have been painted. The modification work to paint zinc coating on safety climbing cables was completed in early August. The base contract work to paint antenna

towers at the Tinian site began in early December 2010 following the end of the rainy season, and is continuing. The IBB Project Manager will be traveling to Tinian in early June to inspect the Contractor's work.

**Sao Tome Re-roofing:** CON awarded the contract to ERKA Co. LDT on January 24, 2011. Because of funding limitations, only the base contract work to re-roof the transmitter building was awarded; options for re-roofing other buildings will be considered later if funds are available. The contractor's safety submittal and bank guarantee have been submitted and approved. Although CON issued an NTP in late March, CON had to withdraw the NTP due to an issue concerning the Contractor's insurance certifications. The Contractor is currently working to resolve the insurance issue, and reissuance of the NTP is expected to take place soon.

**Generator Overhaul on Tinian:** On December 7, 2010, CON awarded the base contract for the major overhaul of one generator to Wheeler Machinery; the contract also includes options for the minor overhaul of two other generators. The Contractor made a site visit on January 20 & 21. Based on that visit, Wheeler Machinery determined that the first generator is in need of only a minor overhaul. The cost saving resulting from reducing the scope of the first generator's overhaul has been applied to exercising the option for a minor overhaul of the second generator. The required contract modifications have been issued, and the Contractor has submitted a proposed schedule to the COTR for the minor overhaul of the first two generators.

#### **ERCHING SALE:**

On March 29, 2011, we received an attractive new offer from a prospective buyer, (b) (6), for the whole Erching property. Property information was provided to her and discussions started on a possible sale. She had expressed concerns about the soil contamination and raised other issues, which have been addressed. BBG is now in the process of making a counter offer that will be valid until May 27, 2011, provided that (b) (6) buys the property "as is" with no conditions attached. As part of this deal, BBG will assign any claims that BBG may have against Deutsche Telekom (DT) regarding the ground cleanup. We are cautiously optimistic about the prospects for this offer being accepted.

## **OPERATIONS DIVISION (T/EO) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUNE 2011**

### **DISPOSAL OF SITE A, GREENVILLE TRANSMITTING STATION**

A meeting was held at the Greenville Transmitting Station during the last week in March to discuss the turnover process and requirements. The meeting was attended by personnel from the Network Support Branch (T/EON), Office of Security (SEC), Greenville Transmitting Station, and the General Services Administration (GSA). The meeting included a visit to Site A to conduct an initial survey of the site. The next step in the process is to conduct the Phase 1 environmental study of the site; funding to start this process has been furnished to GSA.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in May:

(b) (7)(F)

A farewell party was held for the Station Manager George Miller, who retired effective 3 June.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in May:

The Station performed a successful uplink to Hotbird 8 via Lampertheim, after the Hotbird was reconfigured. This reconfiguration required the staff to upgrade the SA (Scientific Atlanta) classic system to compete with the SA PowerVu Plus system in the network. The Lampertheim Hotbird uplink now is able to transmit all IBB signals in the FTA (free to air) and PowerVu (encrypted/closed) mode.

The OIG Team visited the IBB Germany sites, including the Station's administrative office at the Frankfurt Consulate.

The project to replace the old switchbay control system at Tinang (Philippines) Transmitter Site was successfully completed by the IBB Automation Team in Germany. Three engineers from the German team visited Tinang in May to commission the new switchbay control system.

**GREENVILLE TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting station reports that in May:

(b) (6) and a videographer from (b) (6) productions visited the site. They conducted interviews and shot video of the site for a North Carolina Public Television production highlighting various industries in the North Carolina.

The Site A tower light controller was added as an additional alarm function of the Site A Remote Alarm Monitoring system.

Mr. Fred Lang from IBB Security performed the annual site security assessment at the Delano Transmitting Site.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in May:

The rotatable shortwave antenna began experiencing capacitor positioning errors during tuning, mainly due to the harsh environment here. Station radio technicians performed unscheduled maintenance to manually clean and lubricate all moving parts to bring the antenna's performance back to factory specifications.

Kuwait was selected to beta test TACITS, which is the new tube and capacitor failure tracking program developed by the Network Support Branch (T/EON). Kuwait has input all the requested data and is currently comparing it to the data found in the monthly reports.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in May:

Station management visited Far East Broadcasting, which is closing down broadcast operations on Saipan, to identify assets that might be beneficial to the station.

Warranty painting repairs were completed by Seafix on all the Saipan antenna towers.

Members of the IBB Germany Station Automation Team were on site to repair Saipan's transmitter PLC automation system. Larry Chiu, IBB Philippines, also was on site to assist in this repair.

Transmitting Station Manager Dave Strawman, IBB Philippines, was in Saipan working on the new land lease for the Saipan property with CNMI Department of Public Lands.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in May:

Members of the Automation Team from Germany visited the station and commissioned the Station's Antenna Switching Project.

Messrs. Clifford George, T/ES and Marco Geatti visited the station and worked on the station's telephone upgrade.

The Station Manager traveled to CNMI (Marianas) to review operations and to look at excess inventory being offered by the closing Far East Broadcasting.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in May:

Broadcast availability for the month was an outstanding 100%. The Transmitter Plant had a total of 2812 program broadcast hours, with no outages.

Transmitter Plant Supervisor Shannon White was TDY to Lisbon to be certified as the Local Registration Authority for the State Department's Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) implementation at the station.

The B&G team tripled the width of the fire break that runs along the MW transmission line. With the dry season upon us, we want to prevent grass fires from approaching the critical line.

Painters completed corrosion control work on the exterior of the two 225,000 gallon fuel tanks.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in May:

It mourned the passing of Radio Technician, (b) (6) (b) (6) as he is known to friends and colleagues, died of leukemia on May 27, a mere 24 days after he first reported to a hospital with a fever and other symptoms. His funeral took place on Sunday, May 29, amidst a large gathering of family, friends and colleagues who gathered to bid their final farewells. (b) (6)

Many of the Administrative staff attended the wedding of our Financial Analyst. Also in attendance were the Transmitting Station Manager, his wife, and the Facilities Supervisor. We wish Thimalka and her new husband all the best as they begin their life together.

On May 4, the Transmitting Station Manager and Assistant Transmitter Plant Supervisor met with (b) (6), an advisor to the Sri Lankan Broadcast Corporation (SLBC), and other senior members from the SLBC. The meeting was to discuss the status of our current Country-to-Country agreement. Specifically, he cited an old paragraph stating that a single IBB transmitter was reserved for their use. We have since informed him that that particular clause was cancelled by subsequent agreements, and that our current operating agreement formally resides with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

(b) (7)(F)

The Station also was visited by a Public Health inspector who spent the day inoculating the many stray dogs that loiter around the IBB premises.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in May:

Station Management visited eight BBG grantee schools near the station to deliver new grant agreements and obtain signatures on the new agreements.

Officers with the Ban Dung Police visited the Transmitting Station Manager to deliver an anonymous letter forwarded through the Office of the Prime Minister alleging weapons were being delivered and stored at the station, and that planes were landing on station property each week to deliver weapons. The police are obligated to investigate the allegations. The matter was discussed at great length, and the police officers toured the antenna field with Management to demonstrate that there was no landing strip on the property. Embassy's Management was immediately apprised of the complaint because it came through the Office of the Prime Minister. The Police completed their investigation, and no further action is expected.

The station's Executive Officer traveled to Bangkok to make a courtesy call on (b) (6) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (b) (6) was very recently promoted to serve as the new Director of its Broadcasting Division.



## **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**Green Initiatives:** We moved forward with the second phase of the wind energy analysis for Tinian. Sentechn submitted their second deliverable, "Wind Resource Monitoring Programs." The report indicated the most cost effective option for monitoring would be mounting meteorological sensors on existing towers at Tinian, specifically in the most north eastern location. The ideal data gathering location in the northeast is Tower 1.

The equipment for the wind analysis equipment has been procured, shipped, and received on site in Tinian. We are still coordinating with CON on soliciting quotes from prospective contractors for installation of the equipment.

**NCC Renovation:** Since TV Master Control is moving out of the space shared with the NCC, we have begun planning the renovation of the space. Hanson Engineering has been given a task order to provide plans and specifications for this renovation. This will include facilities upgrades and selections of monitors and consoles. The procurement will be handled by GSA. The 65% design package has been reviewed by both GSA and TSI. Comments have been forwarded and answered by Hanson. Responses are being coordinated with GSA. Since funding has now become available, we can submit an RWA to GSA with the next submission, which we expect by the end of August 2011.

(b) (5)



**CNMI, Paint Antenna Towers:** In September 2009, a contractor named Seafix, who is based in Saipan, was awarded the \$967,000 contract to paint five antenna towers at the Saipan site and thirteen antenna towers at the Tinian transmitting site for corrosion control. To date, all antenna towers at the Saipan site have been painted. The modification work to paint zinc coating on

safety climbing cables was completed in early August. The base contract work to paint antenna towers at the Tinian site began in early December 2010 following the end of the rainy season, and is continuing. The IBB Project Manager traveled to Tinian in June 2011 to inspect the Contractor's work.

**Sao Tome Re-roofing:** CON awarded the contract to ERKA Co. LDT on January 24, 2011. Because of funding limitations, only the base contract work to re-roof the transmitter building was awarded; options for re-roofing other buildings will be considered later if funds are available. The contractor's safety submittal and bank guarantee have been submitted and approved. Although CON issued an NTP in late March, CON had to withdraw the NTP due to an issue concerning the Contractor's insurance certifications. Over the past month the Contractor has proposed acceptable insurance. However, new issues have recently surfaced concerning changes to ERKA's proposed on-site project manager and subcontractor. CON has requested ERKA to provide a complete response to these issues by July 8, 2011, or face the possibility of termination by default.

**Generator Overhaul on Tinian:** On December 7, 2010, CON awarded the base contract for the major overhaul of one generator to Wheeler Machinery; the contract also includes options for the minor overhaul of two other generators. The Contractor made a site visit on January 20 & 21. Based on that visit, Wheeler Machinery determined that the first generator is in need of only a minor overhaul. The cost saving resulting from reducing the scope of the first generator's overhaul has been applied to exercising the option for a minor overhaul of the second generator. The required contract modifications have been issued, and the Contractor has submitted a proposed schedule to the COTR for the minor overhaul of the first two generators.

#### **ERCHING SALE:**

On June 16, (b) (6) accepted our final offer for her to purchase the Erching property "as is" for 4.3 million Euros, provided we successfully conclude a Sale and Purchase agreement (SPA). A revised SPA was sent to her on June 29. As part of this deal, BBG will assign any claims that BBG may have against Deutsche Telekom (DT) regarding the ground cleanup. The test phase of the ground cleanup is progressing slowly, and it could impact the sale. However, we are cautiously optimistic.

## **OPERATIONS DIVISION (T/EO) MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2011**

### **DISPOSAL OF SITE A, GREENVILLE TRANSMITTING STATION**

On July 22<sup>nd</sup> GSA submitted the Phase 1 Environmental Assessment, which is the first step in the property disposal process. The report mentioned only minor environmental issues that need to be addressed.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in July:

A wellness presentation on hypertension was held, followed by routine health screening and voluntary HIV counseling and testing.

The Station received the preliminary certificate for water quality analysis of the MW bore hole. The water is considered unacceptable for short term or long term consumption. We are currently exploring filtering options.

Two FSN positions were filled as follows: Mr. Kabelo Ofentse, an Advanced Radio Tech, was selected to fill a Supervisory Radio Tech position; and Ms. Tose Thokometse, Admin Clerk, was selected to fill the Voucher Examiner/Cashier position.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in July:

Mr. Steven P. Schaefer and two other Department of Defense employees visited Lampertheim to determine if it is a possible location for a Satellite Interference Geo Locating System, which consists of two monitoring antennas and some indoor equipment. As a first step, the Station will initiate the approval process with German authorities. Also, the Station will formulate the construction request to migrate both DOD dishes into our construction proposal for new satellites like the 4.5m KU-band 68.5degE Prodelin antenna.

On July 24th, the Station restored the MBN data services via Cairo MBN news bureau. Despite the fact that the system failed at night and on a weekend, Station staff, working with the staff in Cairo, reset all system components and after a couple of hours the system was back on air.

The Hotbird uplink transferred several times between Prague and Lampertheim. In all cases, the transfer was initiated due to adverse weather conditions in Prague. All backup scenarios were executed without any problem via the LAM remote control system.

Parts needed for the Thales MW transmitter in Djibouti were shipped from Lampertheim to the site. The parts included one encoder board, which was needed urgently to support full power operation of the 600KW MW transmitter at the PK-12 site. Since the encoder board failed, the transmitter has been operating with one of the two power blocks (e.g. at half power).

**GREENVILLE TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that In July:

July marked an end of an era with the retirement of Station Manager Wilfred Cooper. The Station has lost not only an exceptional leader, but also a friend.

Staffing continued to be a challenge with the traditional seasonal surge in employee annual leave. Sustaining operations during the month required over 40 hours of employee overtime, with an additional 16 hours provided by secondary contractors.

The Station worked on several initiatives at the A-Site facility in preparation for transition of the site to a “mothball” status by October. Station staff have installed remote monitoring systems for both the fire alarm and tower lighting systems, and is working with the Office of Security on general security of the building in light of its unattended status.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in July:

Sixteen students from the Kuwait College of Basic Education visited the Station. The group of female students, all enrolled in a school TV Media course, was accompanied to the Station by their instructor, (b) [REDACTED], to see how a real-world multimedia broadcasting station functions. Needless to say, they were impressed, especially by the Master Control room and the arrays of satellite antennas and signal processing systems.

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, the blower assembly on the KWT-F FM transmitter (Radio Sawa) at Liberation Tower failed, forcing the Station to substitute with the backup FM transmitter at Mutla Ridge. Station technicians fabricated an impeller shaft and replaced two motor bearings. Normal operation was fully restored by August 1st.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in July:

At Saipan and Tinian, Larry Chui, Philippines Transmitting Station, accomplished the relocation of the servers and associated cabling, and at Saipan, he also accomplished the replacement of the site telephone system. This work was accomplished with the assistance of RRC (Rome Research) personnel.

Seven RRC personnel assigned to Tinian received CPR/AED and First Aid training.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in July, Acting Station Manager, (b) (6) [REDACTED] attended the U.S. National Day reception at the Embassy and visited the Poro site.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in July:

The Station reported that a new CQK50-2 PA transmitting tube (that costs approximately \$60,000) failed initial inspection. The item was returned to the manufacturer and a warranty replacement arrived on July 15. The new tube completed 200 hours of burn-in successfully.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in July:

Station staff having access to the Agency’s computer system completed annual IT Security Awareness Training for 2011.

Embassy HR visited the Station to conduct a Leadership Training seminar and a “meet & greet” session for staff. They also performed a CAJE review of four senior LES positions.

The Assistant Facilities Supervisor and Station Secretary visited St. Anthony's Church of Thoduwawa to meet with the parish priest in order to arrange a donation of the Station's discarded chain link fence.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in July:

Annual Fire Safety Training was provided to staffs at Udorn and Bangkok sites.

One hundred and twenty students and teachers from Ban Pue Vocational College visited and toured the Station. In addition, English students and teachers from Ban Dung Wittaya School visited the station and enjoyed speaking English with our staff members.

Adisak Pattanajakr and Samrong Prakobchit of the TX unit met with the Technical Director of the Public Relations Dept. (PRD) and members of his staff at the old VOA Receiver site near Rangsit, now a PRD transmitter site. The purpose of the visit was to discuss plans to implement AMC mode on a PRD DX-10 MW transmitter. A presentation about AMC mode theory and practice was provided to PRD. The Station is procuring an audio control card from Harris so that an interface can be built around a spare AMC card. Eventually, the mode will be deployed onto the PRD Rangsit DX-10 so that the performance and power savings can be evaluated.

#### **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**Green Initiatives:** We are continuing to move forward with the second phase of the wind energy analysis for Tinian. The equipment for gathering one year of wind data has been shipped to Tinian. A contract has been awarded to Swager Communications Inc. for the installation of the equipment. Hanson Engineers has been awarded a task order to be on site to provide oversight for the boom and equipment installation, to provide the data transfer equipment and to commission the transfer of the data back to the NCC here at Headquarters.

**NCC Renovation:** Since TV Master Control is moving out of the space shared with the NCC, we have begun planning the renovation of the space. Hanson Engineering has been given a task order to provide plans and specifications for this renovation. This will include facilities upgrades and selections of monitors and consoles. The procurement will be handled by GSA. The 65% submission construction documents have been reviewed by TSI staff and GSA, and the review comments were submitted to Hanson. The responses and questions concerning GSA's comments have been forwarded back to GSA. We are proceeding with 95% design even though we have one final issue to resolve with GSA regarding the Fire Alarm and Sprinkler Systems. We expect to discuss the issue with GSA on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The funding has been allocated. GSA will be providing procurement services for this project through a Reimbursable Work Authorization (RWA), which we expect to be processed by September 9<sup>th</sup> if there are no major changes after the GSA discussion.

(b) (5)



(b) (5)

**Sao Tome Re-roofing:** CON awarded the contract to ERKA Co. LDT on January 24, 2011. Because of funding limitations, only the base contract work to re-roof the transmitter building was awarded; options for re-roofing other buildings will be considered later if funds are available. CON issued the NTP on 7/15/11 following resolution of issues that had caused an earlier NTP to be withdrawn. ERKA has submitted its cost loaded schedule and other submittals for review. ERKA was on site earlier this month taking measurements and meeting with potential local subcontractors.

**Generator Overhaul on Tinian:** On December 7, 2010, CON awarded the base contract for the major overhaul of one generator to Wheeler Machinery; the contract also includes options for the minor overhaul of two other generators. The Contractor made a site visit on January 20 & 21. Based on that visit, Wheeler Machinery determined that the first generator was in need of only a minor overhaul. The cost saving resulting from reducing the scope of the first generator's overhaul was applied to exercising the option for a minor overhaul of the second generator. The minor overhaul of the first two generators was recently completed. The optional minor overhaul of the third generator may be performed in FY-2012, subject to availability of funds and other considerations

**ERCHING SALE:**

On August 9, 2011, the IBB property located in Erching, Germany was sold to (b) (6), a German entrepreneur, for the sum of 4.3 Million Euro, or approximately \$6.13 Million. TSI Director André Mendes traveled to Germany for the signing of the sale and purchase agreement. A certified check for the proceeds will be available as soon as German authorities have completed the required processes. Congratulations to everyone who had a role in this major accomplishment.

## **OPERATIONS DIVISION (T/EO) MONTHLY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2011**

### **STATION MANAGERS CONFERENCE**

The Operations Division hosted a conference in the Cohen Building for the IBB transmitting station managers on September 14 – 16, 2011. The conference provided the station managers a valuable opportunity to meet face-to-face with their colleagues at headquarters, including representatives from the offices of Security, Contracts, Human Relations, and General Counsel, as well as essentially every functional element within TSI.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in August:

The Ambassador of the US mission to Botswana, (b) (6), visited the station and toured both sites, and also met with the Selebi-Phikwe Town Council. She was accompanied by the Political Officer, (b) (6).

The station held a representational function for public diplomacy with Selebi-Phikwe high government officials.

The station hosted the Botswana Red Cross Association who offered basic first aid training to IBB Botswana employees.

The station had an unannounced visit by the Embassy's Financial Management Officer, (b) (6). (b) (6) He performed unannounced cash count, purchasing and warehouse verifications.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in August:

Automation team members Peter Knopf and Harald Reis visited Sao Tome to perform maintenance on and update the station's automation system. Their work included installing an additional software module for logging purpose, reorganizing the automation network to provide data exchange, and applying several fixes to correct some "bugs" in the system.

Station personnel equipped the new MERN racks with DMD 20 satellite modems. The new racks are located in the containerized SIS shelter and also will be equipped with IT equipment, C-band down converters, and L-band splitters. The new equipment provides state-of-the art wiring and up-to-date signal distribution. The plan is to convert MERN and MBN step by step to the new equipment within the next months.

The Hotbird uplink transferred several times between Prague and Lampertheim. In all cases, the transfer was initiated due to adverse weather conditions in Prague. All backup scenarios were executed without any problem via the LAM remote control system.

**GREENVILLE TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in August, station personnel had to deal with the effects of Hurricane Irene as follows:

The initial effects of Hurricane Irene arrived around 4:00 PM on Friday (26 August) with severe rains and wind. The hurricane made landfall near Wilmington, NC, approximately 118 miles SE of the station, at 7:30 AM on Saturday morning and continued its pounding until around 8:00 PM, leaving over 9.1 inches of rainfall at the station and some significant damage.

The station lost commercial power around noon on Saturday when the substation's skid-mounted neutral resistor bank toppled. The station generator outage soon followed when the outdoor switchgear succumbed to the driving rain and 90 mph winds that inundated the protective relays. The station was dark until 7:00 PM on Sunday when the generator circuitry was bypassed to restore the run capabilities. Station resumed broadcasts Sunday evening in a virtual manual mode as the automation elements and air handling units were slow to recover. Commercial power services were eventually restored on Monday.

Transmission lines for GB7 from the building were lost between the building and switchbay with the plenum cable scattered in the compound. A crew was dispatched to A-Site to cannibalize plenum and feed lines to retrofit a design for GB7 restoration. Three of the scheduled antennas were damaged including the TCI. Fortunately, the station had suitable substitutes to meet the schedule.

It is important to recognize the efforts, dedication, and resilience of the technicians that weathered this storm at the station. Due to the timing of the storm, regular shift changes were not possible and the Saturday day shift was forced to remain on site for 24 hours until relief could be arranged. Armed with mops and flashlights, they were able to minimize interior building and equipment damage.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in August:

The Station Manager met with Undersecretary of the Ministry of Information, (b) (6), and management personnel from Radio Kuwait concerning the long-proposed IBB/Radio Kuwait shortwave swapping agreement. The talks were very constructive and agreement was reached to move forward on the issue as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) under the legal umbrella of the existing Bilateral Agreement, instead of a completely separate diplomatic agreement. It was agreed that further technical questions would be addressed after Ramadan.

On August 22nd, the KWT-F 5kW FM transmitter (Radio Sawa) at Liberation Tower was restored to full power after replacing a combiner/divider board which, although ordered last year, only arrived on August. 21<sup>st</sup>. The transmitter had been operating at reduced power (2 kW) prior to the installation of the new board.

There were two official visitors to the station this month. The Embassy's Assistant Regional Security Officer (ARSO) visited and conducted a security drill. Later, the Embassy's new Regional Security Officer (RSO), (b) (6), visited the station for an orientation tour. She also conducted a fire drill while here. As a result of the visits, the RSO's office is



requesting that the station's Select-Tone system be upgraded to include a recorded voice message along with the warning tones. That request was forwarded to BBG's Office of Security.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that un-manned midnight shift watches and remote control operations by the Philippines (Tinang) Transmitting Station commenced at the Saipan Transmitting Site on August 8th.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in August:

The August 23<sup>rd</sup> earthquake in the Washington, DC area impacted heavily on the station's broadcast availability, as the station lost most program feeds. The earthquake resulted in the evacuation of the Cohen and Switzer Buildings, and disruption of programs on some AOR channels. No IOR backup was available. The station lost 5.76 hours of English, 5 hours of French and 2 hours of Hausa programs.

National presidential elections were conducted in Sao Tome and Principe. The new President-elect, Manuel Pinto da Costa, will be inaugurated on 3 September.

Radio Technician Hidberto Quaresma announced his resignation from IBB effective in early September. Hidberto was the recipient of an educational grant by the Taiwanese Mission to STP and will continue his education in Taiwan. Station thanks Hidberto for his 16+ years of dedicated service and wishes him all the best for the future.

During the month, forty children from summer school class "*Sementinhas do Conhecimento*" (Seeds of Knowledge) and one hundred children from Almas Summer School visited the station.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in August:

EEO trainers Katharine M. Manderson and Jennifer J. DeHeer, from the BBG's Office of Civil Rights, conducted mandatory EEO training for members of the staff at the station.

As one of the post's EEO Liaisons, Station Secretary Shereen Vanderkoen attended a special EEO seminar at the Embassy.

The station hosted a representational luncheon at the Airport Garden Hotel Katunayake for six officials from the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB). CEB is the primary provider of power for the station. Representatives from the Chilaw and Negombo offices and three members of the station staff also attended. Items of interest to both parties were discussed to foster better rapport between our two organizations.

Bids for the sale of scrap (metal, wood, tires) were received and evaluated at the weekly Management Team meeting. Profit from this sale was Rs. 2.6 million or \$23,647.

SIS Failure - On August 23rd, a total of 220 minutes of programming was lost due to the evacuation in Washington resulting from the earthquake.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in August:

The staff in Bangkok attended CPR and first aid training. In previous years, the station had provided all required safety training at the Udorn site. This year, a local hospital in Ayutthaya provided training for our extended staff at the Bangkok plant. Udorn Hospital provided CPR, first aid and AED training to the staff at the Udorn plant over a three day period.

One hundred students from Rajamunkla Institute, Khon Kaen Campus, visited and toured the Udorn site. The following day, National Science Day in Thailand, a group of 110 students from Ban Nadee and Ban Hua Dongyang School visited and toured the Udorn site.

The new incoming Embassy Regional Security Officer, (b) (6), and the A/RSO, (b) (6), visited the Udorn site for orientation and a tour.

The station hosted visual basic training for selected staff members. Two representatives of the Public Relations Department of the Royal Thai Government also attended this training with our staff.

#### **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** We have received station responses to our annual M&R projects call. These projects are being reviewed by the Facilities Planning Board as part of the process to prepare a new FY12 M&R Plan for approval.

**Green Initiatives:** We are continuing to move forward with the second phase of the wind energy analysis for Tinian. The equipment for gathering one year of wind data has been shipped to Tinian. A contract has been awarded to Swager Communications Inc. for the installation of the equipment. Hanson Engineers has been awarded a task order to be on site to provide oversight for the boom and equipment installation, to provide the data transfer equipment and to commission the transfer of the data back to the NCC here at Headquarters. Representatives from Hanson Engineers are scheduled to arrive on site on October 17<sup>th</sup> to oversee installation and commissioning of the equipment.

**NCC Renovation:** Since TV Master Control is moving out of the space shared with the NCC, we have begun planning the renovation of the space. Hanson Engineering has been given a task order to provide plans and specifications for this renovation. This will include facilities upgrades and selections of monitors and consoles. The Project Manager is reviewing a final check set for the 95% submission prior to the final printing. We expect to distribute the 95% submission to all parties for final review and comment in early October. The funding has been allocated. GSA will be providing procurement services for this project through a Reimbursable Work Authorization (RWA). The RWA has been processed and accepted by GSA. The procurement process will start once the drawings are issued for construction.

(b) (5)



**Sao Tome Re-roofing:** CON awarded the contract to ERKA Co. LDT on January 24, 2011. Because of funding limitations, only the base contract work to re-roof the transmitter building was awarded; options for re-roofing other buildings will be considered later if funds are available. CON issued the NTP on 7/15/11 following resolution of issues that had caused an earlier NTP to be withdrawn. ERKA was on site in August taking measurements and meeting with potential local subcontractors. The contractor appears to be on track to begin mobilizing in April 2012 to commence construction in May.

**Generator Overhaul on Tinian:** On December 7, 2010, CON awarded the base contract for the major overhaul of one generator to Wheeler Machinery; the contract also includes options for the minor overhaul of two other generators. The Contractor made a site visit on January 20 & 21. Based on that visit, Wheeler Machinery determined that the first generator was in need of only a minor overhaul. The cost saving resulting from reducing the scope of the first generator's overhaul was applied to exercising the option for a minor overhaul of the second generator. The minor overhaul of the first two generators was recently completed. The optional minor overhaul of the third generator may be performed in FY-2012, subject to availability of funds and other considerations. (No change)

#### **ERCHING SALE:**

On August 9, 2011, the IBB property located in Erching, Germany was sold to (b) (6), a German entrepreneur, for the sum of 4.3 Million Euro, or approximately \$6.10 Million. The City of Hallbergmoos has finally indicated that it will not exercise its pre-emption right, clearing the way for the consummation of the sale. A certified check for the proceeds is expected to be available on or around October 17th. TSI Director André Mendes plans to receive the check on behalf of IBB and bring it back to Washington. Congratulations to everyone who had a role in this major accomplishment.

## **OPERATIONS DIVISION (T/EO) MONTHLY REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2011**

**DISPOSAL OF DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION PROPERTY:** The Network Support Branch continued the final staffing of the SF-118, Report of Excess. Once signed, the SF-118 will be forwarded to the General Services Administration (GSA). It is needed by GSA before they can start the final process of transferring the site from BBG to GSA.

**DISPOSAL OF SITE A, GREENVILLE TRANSMITTING STATION:** A-Site was officially placed in an unmanned 'mothball' status at the end of the month. The Network Support Branch continued discussions with GSA concerning preparation of the SF-118 for disposal of Site A. The Station is working with the IBB Office of Security on final elements to provide general intrusion protection. Efforts to 'winterize' the facility and reduce energy and support costs will continue until final disposition of the property to GSA.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in September:

TSI Director André Mendes visited the Station. While there, he visited both the shortwave and medium wave sites and addressed the FSNs before his departure to Gaborone.

The Station's technical staff was involved in troubleshooting the Station's failed email server. Eventually, the server was repaired with the help from the IT Directorate in Washington. Our profound thanks go out to our Radio Technician, Matthews Pitso, who was heavily involved in this exercise.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in September:

All Station staff attended mandatory security training at the Frankfurt Consulate General. The training covered the safety risks on possible attacks by weapons of mass destruction.

The Station successfully installed the new 1.8m Prodelin offset antenna, which replaces a 2m IRTE antenna. The offset antenna will eliminate the snow-caused problems the Station was encountering during the winter months, especially when receiving CNN International via ASTRA 19.2° each winter.

At the end of the month, Station staff departed Lampertheim for a two-week maintenance trip to Tajikistan/Orzu. The goal of this trip was to maintain and service both the medium wave and shortwave transmitters at Orzu.

**GREENVILLE TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in September:

A major part of the month was dedicated to the cleanup and repair activities associated with Hurricane Irene. The cleanup process included the following:

a. The Station employed the services of a rigger and redeployed the workers contracted to repair antenna guy wire grounds to address the damage to the duct and feed line for transmitter GB-7. Portions of the A-Site switchbay plenums were cannibalized and retrofitted for the GB7 replacement. The facilities

department constructed jigs to fabricate new crossover transmission line sections required for the new transitions.

b. Repairs have been completed for the five antennas that were damaged during the storm.

c. The generator switchgear has been restored to operation, though it still requires replacement of several protective relays to regain full functionality in all modes. Final repairs have been deferred until FY12 funding is allocated.

Staffing continues to be a major concern at the Station. With the loss of another broadcast technician this month due to medical reasons, the Station is having to rely even more heavily on overtime and outsourced contractors to maintain shift operations..

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in September:

During September, the Embassy's new Deputy Chief of Mission, (b) (5) a new Assistant Regional Security Officer, and the new Gunnery Sergeant of the Marine Guard, visited the station for an orientation. Station management has made a point of inviting all new incoming American Embassy officers to visit the Station and become familiar with what we are all about out here in the high desert.

Aubrey Saxon and Syed Hussain of the Information Technology Directorate arrived from Washington to correct multiple long-standing issues with the Station's Internet firewall and core switch system. Their timing was excellent, as the Station's internet service provider, QNet, had just increased the fiber optic Internet connection from 2 to 4 MB. Everyone at the Station greatly appreciated the corrective work that Aubrey and Syed performed, and the resultant "lightning-fast" data flow on the Kuwait LAN.

Richard Cai, Operations & Stations Division, arrived from Washington for a week of refresher tower safety training conducted by the Station's resident master rigger, Mohsine Bakkali. Following the training, Richard and Mohsine departed post together to conduct a tower inspection on the island of Cyprus.

(b) (6), the manager of the Kabd Radio Kuwait HF site, visited the Station to discuss ongoing issues concerning the efforts to implement shortwave hours swapping between IBB and Radio Kuwait.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in September:

Six employees at the Saipan site received American Red Cross AED/First Aid/CPR training. Six employees at the Tinian site also received CPR/AED and First Aid training.

A quarterly safety inspection walk-through conducted at the Tinian site found no major discrepancies.

Fred Lang, IBB Office of Security, was in the CNMI for a cursory physical inspection of the Saipan and Tinian facilities.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in September, Typhoon "Pedring" slashed through Central & Northern Luzon. There was no major damage at either the Tinang or Poro sites.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in September:

The dry season on the island continues with scattered sprinkling of rain. The rainy season normally starts in early September, but is late this year. The Station's well water levels and most of the island's water levels are low. Due to low potable water levels, Station water conservation procedures have been implemented.

The B&G team completed the stringing of replacement barbed wire along the outer perimeter fence line. This project happens about every 18 months due to highly corrosive salt spray. The team also increased the width of the fire break that runs along the inner perimeter fence near the FSO housing. With the delayed start of the rainy season, the Station wants to prevent grass fires from damaging the inner fence.

A Transmitting Plant Shift Supervisor (FSN) resigned his position for an opportunity to travel to the Republic of China (Taiwan) to earn a Mechanical Engineering degree. The Station wishes him all the best.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in September:

Two employees achieved significant recognition for their efforts. Antenna Team Leader, Susantha Fernando, was recognized as one of the agency's Gold Medal Award recipients. Susantha was nominated for his outstanding contributions and leadership in the antenna maintenance section. Administrative Management Specialist, Hiran DeSilva, was chosen as the U.S. Mission FSN of the Quarter, for April – July 2011, for implementing many cost-cutting measures in the area of financial management.

Assistant Regional Security Officer, (b) (6), toured the facility. A new arrival to the U.S. Mission, the purpose of his visit was to inspect the local guard force and familiarize himself with Station operations.

(b) (6), the Field Officer of the Land Reforms Commission (LRC), North Western Province, visited the Station. (b) (6) served as a liaison between the Station and a handful of neighboring residents in connection with the Station's efforts to reclaim land and re-establish the footpath to the Snake Shrine Temple that traverses the Station's southern border.

Also arriving at the Station was Larry Chiu, the Philippines IT Specialist, who provided SIS/IT training. He also assisted with the installation of a TVRO system to assist IBB Headquarters with monitoring of BBG video program services on the ARABSAT satellite.

The Station's primary and alternate IT Specialists, Yowwana and Senaka, also attended IP Networks & Application training in Colombo.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in September:

Forty four students from Udonthani Vocational College toured the Udorn site.

Visual Basic training was provided to Station staff and to two technicians from the Public Relations Department of the Royal Thai Government. Fiber optic training was also provided to Station staff, and to two representatives of the Udonthani Air Traffic Control Center.

Transmitter Plant Supervisor, Adisak Pattanajakr, and Radio Technician, Janchai Jitpromma, traveled to Phnom Penh, Cambodia to change a tube in a 10KW FM transmitter at the Womens Media Center. Other technical support was provided to an affiliated station in Siem Reap. This trip was requested and funded by the IBB Regional Marketing Office in Bangkok.

Mr. Clifford George, T/ESS, worked at the Bangkok Transmitter Plant to complete upgrades and modifications to the SIS that began last May. Completion of this work was interrupted by the violent red shirt uprising in May 2010.

A security contractor arrived at Udorn to replace the fence protection system on the inner compound perimeter fence with a state-of-the-art fiber optic system. The installation proved to be more problematic than expected, and the system was not operational until 1 October. IBB Director of Security, Michael Lawrence, was at Udorn to evaluate and accept the new system. During his visit to the Station, he also visited the Bangkok Transmitter Plant and the IBB Regional Marketing Office in Bangkok.

## **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** We have received station responses to our annual M&R projects call. These projects have been reviewed by the Facilities Planning Board (FPB). The FPB is in the process of preparing a new three-year M&R Plan, which will be presented to the TSI Director for approval in November.

**Green Initiatives:** We are nearing completion of the second phase of the wind energy analysis for Tinian. Swager Communications started the boom and meteorological devices installation work on site on October 17 and completed the work on October 21. Hanson Professional Services monitored the installation of the equipment on Tower 1. The automatic wind data transfer to headquarters was tested. However, human intervention is required to currently maintain the connection between the data logger and Headquarters. We are working on a permanent solution to this issue so that we can collect this data for one year on an automatic basis.

**NCC Renovation:** Since TV Master Control is moving out of the space shared with the NCC, we have begun planning the renovation of the space. Hanson Engineering has been given a task order to provide plans and specifications for this renovation. This will include facilities upgrades and selections of monitors and consoles. The Project Manager is reviewing a final check set for the 95% submission prior to the final printing. We expect to distribute the 95% submission to all parties for final review and comment in November. The funding has been allocated. GSA will be providing procurement services for this project through a Reimbursable Work Authorization (RWA). The RWA has been processed and accepted by GSA. The procurement process will be coordinated with TV Master Control's vacating the space, which is scheduled for mid-to-late January. The drawings will be issued for construction to coincide with this.

**Cohen Building Generator:** This project is being cancelled as a result of cost growth associated with new requirements imposed by GSA. Due to unavailability of funds and the additional time required to resolve these issues with GSA, the decision was made to instead proceed with the purchase of a temporary generator to replace the leased unit in the Cohen

parking lot. The next step is to coordinate with the budget office on cancellation of the RWA with GSA, so that the funding can be reprogrammed for the purchase of the temporary generator. The Facilities Management Branch has drafted a SOW for the generator purchase.

**Sao Tome Re-roofing:** CON awarded the contract to ERKA Co. LDT on January 24, 2011. Because of funding limitations, only the base contract work to re-roof the transmitter building was awarded; options for re-roofing other buildings will be considered later if funds are available. CON issued the NTP on 7/15/11 following resolution of issues that had caused an earlier NTP to be withdrawn. ERKA was on site in August taking measurements and meeting with potential local subcontractors. ERKA's shop drawings, proposed sub-contractor, safety plan, and installation schedule have been approved. The contractor appears to be on track to begin mobilizing in April 2012 to commence construction in May.

**Generator Overhaul on Tinian:** On December 7, 2010, CON awarded the base contract for the major overhaul of one generator to Wheeler Machinery; the contract also includes options for the minor overhaul of two other generators. The Contractor made a site visit on January 20 & 21. Based on that visit, Wheeler Machinery determined that the first generator was in need of only a minor overhaul. The cost saving resulting from reducing the scope of the first generator's overhaul was applied to exercising the option for a minor overhaul of the second generator. The minor overhaul of the first two generators was recently completed. The optional minor overhaul of the third generator may be performed in FY-2012, subject to availability of funds and other considerations. (No change)

#### **ERCHING SALE:**

On August 9, 2011, the IBB property located in Erching, Germany was sold to (b) (6), a German entrepreneur, for the sum of 4.3 Million Euro. TSI Director André Mendes took receipt of a certified check for the proceeds October 12<sup>th</sup>.



## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2011**

**DISPOSAL OF DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:** T/EOS/N has forwarded the completed SF-118, Report of Excess, to GSA. GSA has accepted the SF-118, which signifies the start of the final process of transferring the site from BBG to GSA. A representative from T/EOS/N will travel to Delano in December to meet with GSA personnel to determine if there are any other actions required on the part of the BBG.

**DISPOSAL OF GREENVILLE SITE A:** T/EOS/N has prepared a proposed SF-118, Report of Excess, and is coordinating it with GC. In addition, the U.S. Navy has expressed an interest in acquiring a part of the site. T/EOS/N will pursue this issue with GSA and the Navy, in coordination with station staff.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in October:

The station hosted presentations from the Botswana Unified Revenue Services Office on the importance of paying income tax, and the First National Bank of Botswana on personal financial management. Both presentations were supported by the Financial Office of the Embassy in Gaborone. Presenters were accompanied by the Financial Management Officer, (b) (6).

The winter B11 broadcast schedule was effected as scheduled, without any major problems.

Bot-1 curtain antenna array experienced arcing caused by heavy winds and thunderstorms. One of the antenna curtain wires was pitted as a result of the arcing. As a temporary fix, the wire was cleaned using sandpaper, wire brushes and re-seated. A visual inspection revealed several areas of concern, and the station intends to request assistance in evaluating all antennas.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in October:

The station took the necessary actions to ensure a smooth transition to the winter broadcast schedule at the end of the month. All A/V switchers, routers, and transmitters were updated and programmed to enable transition between summer and winter schedules. The station also was in close contact with its Prague counterparts to ensure that it matched the Prague Hotbird schedule in detail.

Most of the station staff attended mandatory EEO training at the Frankfurt Consulate General. Since several staff members had been on a maintenance trip in Tajikistan, we will utilize future EEO training slots in November so that all the staff has the opportunity to attend the mandatory training.

The station welcomed Gerhard Straub, T/EB, who visited both IBB Germany sites to start negotiations on future cooperation with the BBC. While there, he met with BBC representative Simon Gosby.

Several stations in Afghanistan using the Golden Eagle monitoring system had the system rerouted using the existing VSAT Systems equipment. Mazar e Sharif, Gardez, Jalalabad, Heart, and Asadabad were moved from a direct, unsecure link to a secure VPN connection. Also, a larger VSAT Systems antenna was installed at Asadabad to compensate for weak signals caused by the surrounding environment. All links are up and working.

(b) (6) from the automation department in Biblis were in Tinang (Philippines) to add additional control functions to the automation system, which had been recently installed as part of the new control system for the antenna switch bays.

**GREENVILLE TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in October:

With the exception of some minor elements, repairs from Hurricane Irene have been completed.

The station continues to operate with limited staffing. However, the new Master Forces contract is currently being advertised, and it is hoped that CON can have it in place in by January or February 2012.

The station added temporary Libyan broadcasts to its operating schedule.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in October:

Two new TCN radio technicians were welcomed to the staff. Rizaldy Vallo and Fidel Aragones finally arrived from the Philippines following an extended effort to fill the two positions vacant for well over a year. Recent changes in the Philippines employment regulations for Kuwait have greatly complicated the official TCN hiring process through the Embassy.

The big story for the month concerned Djibouti operations and support. The Djibouti MW transmitter has been operating on half-power for a couple of months while the shipment of replacement parts has been hindered by vendor back-orders and misdirected shipments. In the first half of the month, Thales engineers arrived in Djibouti from France to convert the Thales MW transmitter over to AMC modulation and provide specialized technical training for the staff. Fortunately, all the necessary spare parts arrived just in time to support the effort. By the last week of October, the transmitter was operating again on full power and in the AMC mode. Early signs are encouraging, as the number of reported daily irregularities has dwindled significantly. We will need to wait a few months to see the actual monthly power savings from this conversion.

At another RTD site, a 100kW IBB-provided SW transmitter suffered a fire in the solid-state modulator section. RTD has requested IBB assistance to restore it. Unfortunately, we were unable to get any IBB TDY travelers into Djibouti this month because the U.S. Embassy was moving to a new location and refused Country Clearances, stating they could not support any TDY travelers until November. In the meantime, we directed RTD to prepare all their modulator boards for shipment to IBB Germany for repairs and refurbishment. Once Germany completes that work, they will send a team to Djibouti to rehabilitate the transmitter.

The fire alarm system for the dormant Radio Farda MW transmitter building was finally completed this month by the contractor. It has now been fully integrated into the station's main alarm system.

Official visitors to the Kuwait Station included the Department of State Desk Officer for Kuwait.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in October:

Sea Fix Inc. completed the Butler roof installation on Saipan's warehouse.

(b) (6) IBB Philippines, visited the station to follow up on projects recently completed or presently ongoing. Meetings were held with; Derek Gifford, IBB Resident Engineer for the Tinian site, (b) (6) of Spectrum Electric, and (b) (6) of Seafix Inc.

Larry Chiu, IBB Philippines, visited the station to assist with the Wind Analysis Survey equipment installation and VESDA (fire alarm system) equipment incorporation into the remote communications network.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in October:

Daniel Maxwell, T/EB, visited the station to conduct RF training on site. Some of the CNMI (Saipan and Tinian) and Poro (Philippines) Radio Technicians joined the training through video conference.

Also this month, the Transmitting Station Manager and Mike Lawrence, IBB Office of Security, visited the Poro site.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in October:

The station received one rebuilt CQK50-2 vacuum tube from CPI-Eimac, and CPI-Eimac Technical Representative, (b) (6), traveled from Croatia to Sao Tome to oversee the installation and initial operation of the rebuilt tube. Acceptance testing was concluded successfully and the tube was installed in SAO-2 on the last day of the month. Station plans to leave the rebuilt tube in operation in SAO-02 for a minimum of 4000 hours rather than the standard 200 hour burn-in. It is expected that this action will prolong the life of the tube, and we are interested in testing this theory.

The new B11 broadcast schedule was successfully implemented.

Battalion Chief (b) (6) from the Naval Air Station in Rota, Spain conducted a full week of rigorous training for our station's Fire Brigade.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in October:

The station held a town hall meeting and reception. The purpose was to discuss relevant topics from the recent Managers' Conference at IBB Headquarters, issue several performance awards, and field general questions from the staff. The highlight was recognizing the station's recent Gold Medal Award winner, Susantha Fernando, for his work supporting antenna inspection and maintenance initiatives. Other award recipients included seven station FSN's, six local guards, and two members of our B&G crew.

(b) (6), an OBO Fire Inspector, was invited to tour the facility, and he gave the station a very good review, with no major recommendations.

A team from the U.S. Embassy's Visa Office visited the station to conduct a briefing on "Diversity Visa Application Procedures." This presentation was very well received.

The station participated in an embassy emergency drill, which included the gathering of the mission's Emergency Action Committee (EAC). The station manager participated and enacted the station's

Emergency Call Tree, and coordinated other station responses as appropriate for the drill. No major vulnerabilities were noted.

The station lost a significant amount of program time when high winds snapped an intermediate boom triadic cable on 49H1 (antenna). The repairs took several days to complete, and necessitated the shutdown of several nearby antenna arrays to ensure that radiation exposure was kept within acceptable limits.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in October:

(b) (6) and (b) (6), RHRO Bangkok, visited the Udorn site with BUPA representatives and met with the entire staff. BUPA supplies health care services to all Mission LES employees.

Heavy monsoon rains caused epic flooding in the central basin of Thailand. The huge body of water reached the areas north of Bangkok and caused the Electric Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) to interrupt electric service to the Bangkok MW site from the 11th until the 14th. Flooding continued to affect 21 provinces, including Bangkok and the IBB MW site in Phachi. By the end of the month, two employees were still unable to reach the plant to work due to the flooding. The Embassy has authorized use of administrative leave for excused absence for all Mission employees who are affected by flooding.

The Public Affairs Section at the US Embassy in Vientiane requested unscheduled corrective maintenance support to repair the Embassy TVRO system. The station sent two technicians to Laos to research the cause of the fault, and the Satellite Systems Branch (T/ESS) in Washington has shipped equipment to the station to complete repairs.

After 17 years of dedicated and faithful service with IBB, Mr. Montri Muangpan, Facilities Administrative Clerk, retired from the Thailand Transmitting Station. All of his friends and colleagues at the station wish him good health and the best of luck in his retirement.

## **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** The new three-year M&R Plan was approved by the TSI Director in mid-November and then transmitted to the transmitting stations for their information and use. The three-year plan reflects a requirement for \$4.7 M to fund all of the projects planned for FY-2012. However, because the agency has been under a Continuing Resolution, the budget office has allocated only \$114,047 since the beginning of FY-2012.

**Green Initiatives:** We are nearing completion of the second phase of the wind energy analysis for Tinian. The installation of the wind analysis equipment has been completed. We successfully tested the communication tunnel for data transfer to headquarters. However, there are still problems with the data logger itself that prevents the data transfer to be totally automatic. We are investigating alternatives for resolving the problems so that the collection and transfer of data to headquarters can be initiated.

**NCC Renovation:** Since TV Master Control is moving out of the space shared with the NCC, we have begun planning the renovation of the space. Hanson Engineering has been given a task order to provide plans and specifications for this renovation. This will include facilities upgrades and selections of monitors and consoles. Changes have been made to the design including an addition

of an office and small work area for equipment testing and associated changes to the mechanical and electrical systems in the east wing (new rack area). Hanson is currently making the changes to all disciplines, and NCC staff has made the finish selections. The 95% submission to all parties for final review and comments is due on December 28<sup>th</sup>. The funding has been allocated. GSA will be providing procurement services for this project through a Reimbursable Work Authorization (RWA). The RWA has been processed and accepted by GSA. The procurement process will be coordinated with TV Master Control's vacating the space, which is scheduled for mid-to-late January. The drawings will be issued for construction to coincide with this.

**Sao Tome Re-roofing:** CON awarded the contract to ERKA Co. LDT on January 24, 2011. Because of funding limitations, only the base contract work to re-roof the transmitter building was awarded; options for re-roofing other buildings will be considered later if funds are available. CON issued the NTP on 7/15/11 following resolution of issues that had caused an earlier NTP to be withdrawn. ERKA was on site in August taking measurements and meeting with potential local subcontractors. ERKA's shop drawings, proposed sub-contractor, safety plan, and installation schedule have been approved. Three containers of roofing materials arrived at the site in early November. The contractor appears to be on track to begin mobilizing in April 2012 to commence construction in May.

## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2011**

**DISPOSAL OF DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:** The SF-118, Report of Excess that is required by the General Services Administration (GSA) before it can start the final process of transferring the site from BBG to GSA has been forwarded to GSA. A representative from T/EOS/N traveled to Delano in December and met with GSA personnel. As a result of the meeting, T/EOS/N provided GSA with a list of capacitors and transformers at the site that contain PCB's. This listing was needed by GSA in order to complete their review of the SF-118 packet submitted by T/EOS/N.

**DISPOSAL OF GREENVILLE SITE A:** T/EOS/N is preparing the SF-118, Report of Excess. In addition, the U.S. Navy has expressed an interest in acquiring the site. T/EOS/N personnel discussed with representatives from GSA, Navy, and Marines the possible turnover of the site for use by the Marine Corps. The Navy is currently drafting an MOU for the interim use of the site until the details for the complete turnover of the property can be worked out.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in November:

The Station Manager honored an invitation and attended the Botswana Defense Force Band Festival. The aim of this festival was to raise funds for the underprivileged.

The Station Manager hosted 25 Peace Corp volunteers at his residence for a Thanksgiving Day celebration.

The Facilities section completed repairs to the station's potable water pipeline, which was leaking and causing a moderate loss of water.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in November:

Station technicians worked to restore and repair all the solid-state modulators (SSM) that had been damaged during the fire in the shortwave transmitter at RTD's Dorale station in Djibouti. In support of this effort, the Lampertheim staff manufactured new components or repaired the damaged components. All modules were tested in Lampertheim transmitters, and the station is confident that all components will operate after being installed in Djibouti.

The station received an inquiry from IBB Philippines about AMC modification boards, which were developed in-house. Station personnel manufactured, aligned, and tested two AMC boards and shipped them with the complete documentation to the Philippines.

In Afghanistan, several incoming commercial power fluctuations and power shutdowns were observed. The heavy power fluctuations damaged several RF power amplifiers, power supplies, and other equipment, causing an outage; however, the local staff handled the problem in an outstanding manner and the transmitter was back in service in a short time.

**GREENVILLE TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in November:

The station welcomed Walt Patterson as the new Acting Transmitting Station Manager. Mr. Patterson arrived on station on November 28.

With the assistance of the local utility company, the station restored generator operation with the transfer of the A-Site generator breaker to the B-Site switchgear.

Richard Cai, T/EOS, was on-site to perform a ground inspection of the station antennas. The station, in conjunction with M&R, will pursue the possibilities of using network resources to conduct annual antenna inspections and maintenance activities.

Two requests for the recent buyout offer were approved. These actions will reduce the station complement of federal employees to 13 full time employees.

The station added temporary Dutch programming to its broadcast schedule.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in November:

Technicians discovered a small latent programming bug in the SAS automation software which affected only transmitters KWT-5 and KWT-6. It was discovered the hard way when a remote/local switch on one of the transmitters was left in the local position after maintenance and the SAS software did not detect it and alert the duty operators to the fault. Consequently, part of a program schedule did not run as scheduled. Peter Knopf, IBB Germany, was able to locate the coding fault and supplied a program upgrade which corrected the issue.

Station technicians installed a UPS unit for the SW matrix cabinets, which should go a long way in limiting outage times during brief commercial power outages or drop outs. They also installed two new Washington supplied audio/video controllers on the IOR/HB and AS3 satellite systems.

Station Resident Engineer, Sheldon Daitch began his yearly pilgrimage to Africa, departing for Djibouti, Accra, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast for inspections of our operations in those locations. Of special interest will be Djibouti, for which technical support is being transferred from IBB Kuwait to IBB Germany. The decision to make the change was agreed to during this year's Manager's Conference because of Germany's familiarity with the Thales MW transmitter.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in November:

Station staff participated in RF training, which was remotely transmitted from IBB Philippines via the video teleconferencing network.

IBB Philippines, Larry Chiu visited the station and worked on the following projects:

- a. Assisted a team from Hanson Engineering, a Washington contractor, to establish a data connection from Washington to Tinian for the wind analysis system.
- b. Installed the new 5.02GHz microwave radio system.

c. Installed the old 2.4GHz microwave radio between Tinian MCR and Tinian microwave shelter. This path will be the redundant path for the fiber optic.

d. Redesigned the automation system to provide redundancy, utilizing the antenna fiber optics path and the 2.4GHz microwave radio. This required installing and configuring a new Cisco switch.

e. Removed the Saipan 7GHz Harris radio, and moved and re-wired all the 5GHz microwave system to the rack location previously occupied by the 7GHz radio.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in November the Tinang Transmitter Site encountered loss of DS3 twice during the month. The first loss was due to scheduled equipment upgrade of our local provider. The second loss was caused by scheduled satellite equipment upgrade in the NCC.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in November:

Operations were made especially challenging by a lightning strike and two separate power plant outages that created havoc with broadcasts.

CPI-Eimac Technical Representative, (b) (6) visited the station and gave a presentation on power tube maintenance for the TX technical team.

Regional Medical Officer, (b) (6) spent a week at the station. While on site, she conducted driver physicals for vehicle operators, administered flu shots for all participating staff, and conducted AED refresher training for the entire staff. Station water quality was also checked at five outlets.

The new Regional security officer, (b) (6), made his initial visit to the station this month.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in November:

Led by the station's Admin Management Specialist, the station has been working feverishly to complete a 100% stock verification of our expendable supplies inventory. This effort, which was initiated as part of a warehouse operations improvement initiative, dovetails nicely with the station's planned move of expendable and non-expendable property from the old to the new warehouse – tentatively scheduled for March 2012. Members from all sections have participated in this effort, which is expected to be completed in early December.

In other news, the station's local guard force cycled through First Aid training, and the station was visited by State Department physical security specialists, who were in country completing annual inspections of the US Mission.

Strong winds wreaked havoc on the station's antenna systems, leading to more than 12 hours of program outage. Antenna 49L2 failed when several dipoles came loose. Antenna 291H was the next to suffer significant damage to a side rope, dipole, bridle cables and insulators. Antenna 49L1 failed shortly after the repair of antenna 291H was completed. Each antenna took approximately one week to fix from date authorization was received.



**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in November:

Flooding in the Bangkok metropolitan area slowly eased throughout the month. Some parts of the city remain flooded, including the old Don Meaung airport. Travel from central Bangkok to the MW site remained especially difficult in the area of Rangsit and Don Meaung airport. The Embassy continued to collect daily data from all units related to LES employees and families that continue to be affected. No station employees were directly affected by flooding by the end of the month.

FSN Facilities Supervisor, Somchai Prasertsunthorn retired after 17 years of service with the Thailand Transmitting Station. All of his friends and colleagues will miss him and wish him the best of luck and good health in retirement.

#### **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** We provided the approved FY12 M&R plan to the stations in November and asked them to select some of their most urgent priorities. Some of the Station Managers have responded and are eager to get started. However, we still have received no funds from the sale of the Erching property, and the earliest projected allocation of FY12 funds is not expected until the middle of January. This lack of funding is seriously impacting the M&R program.

**Green Initiatives:** We are nearing completion of the second phase of the wind energy analysis for Tinian. The installation of the wind analysis equipment has been completed. We successfully tested the communication tunnel for data transfer to headquarters. However, there are still having problems with the data logger itself that prevents the data transfer to be totally automatic. We are continuing to investigate alternatives for resolving the problems so that the collection and transfer of data to headquarters can be initiated.

**NCC Renovation:** Since TV Master Control is moving out of the space shared with the NCC, we have begun planning the renovation of the space. Hanson Engineering has been given a task order to provide plans and specifications for this renovation. This will include facilities upgrades and selections of monitors and consoles. The 95% design was submitted to GSA and other stake holders on December 22, 2011. Comments are expected by mid-January. If there are no major issues, the project should be submitted 100% to GSA for procurement in mid-February. The funding has been allocated. GSA will be providing procurement services for this project through a Reimbursable Work Authorization (RWA). The RWA has been processed and accepted by GSA. The procurement process will be coordinated with TV Master Control's vacating the space including all equipment and cables which is scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of the 2012.

**Sao Tome Re-roofing:** CON awarded the contract to ERKA Co. LDT on January 24, 2011. Because of funding limitations, only the base contract work to re-roof the transmitter building was awarded; options for re-roofing other buildings will be considered later if funds are available. ERKA's shop drawings, proposed sub-contractor, safety plan, and installation schedule have been approved. The contractor appears to be on track to begin mobilizing in April 2012 to commence construction in May.



## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JANUARY 2012**

**DISPOSAL OF DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:** The SF-118, Report of Excess that is required by the General Services Administration (GSA) before it can start the final process of transferring the site from BBG to GSA, has been forwarded to GSA. Currently, there are no actions required on the part of T/EOS/N.

**DISPOSAL OF GREENVILLE SITE A:** The SF-118, Report of Excess, was approved by GC and TSI this month and forwarded to GSA to start the final process of transferring the site to GSA.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in December, the commercial telephone system was repaired and is now 100% operational. The system had been nonoperational for just over a year because replacement parts were unavailable, and a new multiplexer was required.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in December:

The defective solid-state module components received from RTD Djibouti were overhauled, repaired and tested. Since the fire at the Dorale station in Djibouti also destroyed the complete wiring harness, the station manufactured a complete new harness. All components and parts for the reinstallation were sent to Djibouti. The local staff has reinstalled the components and they are waiting for the arrival of German engineers for final test and startup.

The station sent two amplitude modulation companding (AMC) boards manufactured in-house to IBB Philippines for evaluation. The boards were installed in transmitters and successfully tested. As a result of this, IBB Philippines has requested an additional 18 AMC boards from the station.

In Afghanistan, heavy power fluctuations caused broadcast outages at several FM locations. In an effort to reduce the problems caused by power outages and fluctuations, the station ordered uninterruptible power supply (UPS) systems for the FM transmitters at Heart and Mazar I Sharif, with installation scheduled for January.

**GREENVILLE TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in December:

The station was visited by BBG Governor Victor Ashe. The purpose of his visit was to meet the employees, tour the station and observe station operations. The Governor said that understanding what the station and employees do will allow him to make better-informed decisions when voting at Board meetings. Governor Ashe also commented that the Greenville Transmitting Station is the last remaining USG broadcast facility on U.S. soil and has historical significance. He also suggested that the station should reestablish or emphasize its name as the "Edward R. Murrow Transmitting Station" by including the name of the former USIA director on various signs throughout the station, so that the public is reminded of him and his achievements.

The maintenance and repair (M&R) project for the replacement all the antenna tower guy wire copper straps that were stolen by copper thieves a few months back was completed this month.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in December:

Resident Engineer Sheldon Daitch returned from a trip to Djibouti, Accra, Abidjan and Ouagadougou. At Abidjan and Ouagadougou, he met with OMEL/MPR's J (b) (6) for inspections of the two FMs in those locations and accompanied them to meetings with government representatives in Cote d'Ivoire.

Radio Technician Emmanuel Cea designed and activated a high power amplifier (HPA) satellite remote control and monitoring system using Microsoft Visual Basic and a Dell computer system. The system allows all of Kuwait's HPA units to be remotely switched from the Master Control Room. Critical parameters of each amplifier are available on screen as well. His design saved the station well over \$5,000 if a similar system had been purchased commercially off-the-shelf.

The station's rigging staff completed the shortwave antenna maintenance this month. Numerous switch failures over the last several months prompted an authorized systematic shutdown of the antennas. Multiple contacts were replaced, followed by much-needed switch alignments. Voltage standing wave ratio (VSWR) has dropped on the transmitters even lower than previously measured which is evidence of a good job by Antenna Maintenance Supervisor Mohsine Bakkali and Machinist Raju Siddappagol.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in December, Seafix (tower painting contractor) completed work on Tinian's antenna tower #6 and began work on tower #8.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in December:

Station encountered several outages on the West Fiber circuit. Loss of frame alarm at the Cabanatuan Exchange caused an outage on December 7 from 0045 to 0249 UTC and from 0818 to 1006 UTC. Glitches were also noted at 1652, 1654 and 1656 UTC on December 25. Another outage on December 26 from 1211 to 1903 UTC was due to equipment problems.

Station personnel (May Samia, Jess Carmelo, Mildred Bangot, Manny Alterado, and Arlene Basilio) assisted in the food distribution to 50 elderly recipients within the five surrounding barangays. Assorted groceries, fruits, and some used clothing were distributed.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in December:

The Property Disposal Committee convened to evaluate closed bids on three pieces (two pickup trucks and a forklift) of capital equipment. The sale proceeds totaled just over \$14K.

The station conducted an auction sale of 60 lots of excess equipment and used fencing screen. The sale proceeds totaled \$13K. Congratulations to Supply Supervisor Jorge Posser for the excellent job.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in December:

(b) (7)(F)

The embassy held its Winter Awards Ceremony and several IBB employees received awards in recognition of their achievements. The station presented an Extra Mile Award to a member of the Local Guard Force for notifying the Master Control Room staff about the back-up generator running while the station was operating on commercial power.

With the assistance of all station units, the physical verification of on hand stock was finally completed. All that remains now is to input the data into the automated accounting system.

Property inventory personnel from the embassy conducted an inventory of all items loaned to the station.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in December, 53 Students and 6 teachers from the Ban Na Kam school visited and toured the station. In addition, Wing Commander (b) (6) Squadron 231 leader, toured the station with over 120 flight officers and air technicians from Wing 23 in Udonthani.

#### **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** The FY 2012 M&R plan was approved by the TSI Director on Nov. 16, 2011. The M&R program received an allotment of approximately \$1.10 million in January 2012, which has already been allocated to the stations or earmarked for extremely urgent and ongoing M&R projects. Remaining projects on the approved M&R plan will only be funded/authorized when we receive the remainder of the FY 2012 funding.

**Green Initiatives:** We are still working to complete the second phase of the wind energy analysis for Tinian. The installation of the wind analysis equipment has been completed. We successfully tested the communication tunnel for data transfer to headquarters. However, problems surfaced with the data logger itself that prevents the data transfer to be totally automatic. After investigating alternatives for resolving the problem, we are preparing a requisition to purchase a more robust data logger, so that the collection and transfer of data to headquarters can be initiated.

**NCC Renovation:** TV Master Control has moved out of the space shared with the NCC. The 95% design by Hanson Engineers was submitted to GSA and other stake holders on December 22, 2011 for review. GSA received the 95% submission for their review. To date, we have received review comments from several disciplines. We are still waiting for the balance of the comments. GSA has not committed to a final date. Comments are being discussed with Hanson. We will then mediate with GSA to determine what changes we really need to make. In-depth coordination is also continuing in house to be sure that the documents reflect the users' needs. GSA will proceed with procurement when the 100% documents are received.

**CNMI, Paint Antenna Towers:** In September 2009, a contract was awarded to Seafix for the painting of five antenna towers at the Saipan site and thirteen antenna towers at the Tinian site for corrosion control. To date, all antenna towers at the Saipan site have been painted, and the first phase of the painting of antenna towers at Tinian has been completed. The painting of the second and final phase of antenna towers at Tinian was started in December 2011, and is scheduled for completion by July 2012.

**Sao Tome Re-roofing:** CON awarded the contract to ERKA Co. LDT on January 24, 2011. Because of funding limitations, only the base contract work to re-roof the transmitter building was awarded; options for re-roofing other buildings will be considered later if funds are available. ERKA's shop drawings, proposed sub-contractor, safety plan, and installation schedule have been approved. In January 2012, ERKA visited the transmitting station to inspect the roof materials and accessories that had previously been delivered to the site. The contractor appears to be on track to begin mobilizing in April 2012 to commence construction in May.

## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2012**

**DISPOSAL OF DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:** Federal Screening for the Delano Transmitting Station was posted on January 30. The 30 day screening will end on February 29. GSA will let us know if they received any Federal interest in the property. Once the screening has concluded, the Homeless Checklist will be sent to HUD, and we will wait for the suitability determination.

**DISPOSAL OF GREENVILLE SITE A:** The Marine Corps is still interested in obtaining the site, and they are working on obtaining Headquarters Marine Corps' approval. At the same time, GSA is working on having the site appraised, which is a normal step in the transfer/disposal process.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in January, the Transmitter section worked on locating areas along the base of the TX building where water has been leaking in. This has been a long-standing issue which occurs during the rainy season. The B&G contractor has been instructed to seal the identified areas with rubberized paint.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in January:

A station technician was in Cairo investigating a long-standing satellite signal receive problem at the MBN IOR 57° downlink site in Cairo. The problem was caused by interference from a microwave link at the Egypt Government's prime media center, which is in close proximity to the MBN studios. After completion of the work, MBN Cairo was back on the 57°E satellite prime feed, and all other MBN station (Beirut, Jerusalem and Dubai, etc.) signals on the 57° satellite were adjusted to operate within specifications.

The satellite earth station technicians were busy tracking BADR4 26°, EUTELSA 13°E, and EuroBird 2 25.5°E jamming events. These satellites were jammed on a daily base all month long. Countless spectrum plots were prepared and forwarded to HQ Washington.

Two members of the station's staff traveled to Djibouti as a result of Germany assuming responsibility from Kuwait for technical operations in Djibouti. During the visit, they accomplished the following:

- Met with RTD management to discuss open issues regarding IBB support for the FM and AM operation in Djibouti.
- Restored to operations the Continental SW transmitter at Dorale, which had been damaged by fire.
- Visited IBB's PK-12 site and installed a Dranetz Powernet monitoring unit, which will help resolve the power fluctuation issues experienced at the site that affected the transmitter and tower lights.
- Visited the Arta and Djibouti City FM sites.

**GREENVILLE TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in January:

The station worked with IBB Headquarters to design and fabricate signs reflecting the station's name change as suggested by Governor Victor Ashe last month. The Governor suggested updating the numerous road and site signs to reflect the name of Edward R. Murrow Transmitting Station rather than Greenville Site-B. Public Affairs Director Latisha King coordinated the design and production of the marquee sign at the main entrance. The station procured antique gold colored block letters to place above the building's entrance. The station also met with local North Carolina Department of Transportation officials to rename the various directional signs pointing to the station and petitioned Pitt County to change the name of the VOA Site-B road to Edward R. Murrow road.

GE transmitter GB-4 experienced a catastrophic failure. The wiring harness used to route the 120 VAC control circuit voltages to the various control relays burned due to a short in a contactor coil assembly. Retired shift supervisor Leroy Tyndall and retired Site A technician Joseph Jashienski were contracted through Nease Personnel to rewire the affected areas of the wiring harness.

After experiencing several unexplained failures of newly rebuilt 5682 vacuum tubes, the vendor was consulted for guidance. A rejuvenation procedure, which was suggested by the vendor, was implemented and has so far been successful in clearing the faults of the new, rebuilt tubes.

Diesel fuel (2,968 gallons) was transferred via truck from Site-A to Site-B. The transfer cost \$0.25 per gallon. The salvaged fuel will serve to heat Site-B's transmitter plant for approximately a month this winter.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in January:

The station detected multiple satellite jamming incidents. EB2 PNN and Arabsat MTN carriers were frequently jammed throughout the month. Master Control reported all incidents with spectrum analyzer plots to the NCC in Washington.

Station technicians replaced a defective UPS unit at the FM transmitter site at Liberation Tower with a 3KVA unit capable of maintaining power to the remote control, monitoring and ancillary equipment. This repair will minimize the disruptions to the FM transmitters when emergency generators are tested at the Tower. Previously, this situation frequently required our technicians to drive downtown to reset the system.

The new U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait, (b) (6), visited the station. He was given a complete orientation tour and spoke to the LES staff. (b) (6) is no stranger to Kuwait. He was an officer at the old U.S. Embassy during the first Gulf war and DCM at the new Embassy when the Transmitting Station Manager first arrived at post in 2005.

IBB Kuwait turned over technical support duties for the Djibouti MW Station to IBB Germany. This change was decided during last year's Manager's Conference in Washington because Germany already maintains the same make and model of Thales transmitter in Cyprus and Tajikistan. This change will result in better technical support and efficiencies in replacement parts and maintenance. IBB Kuwait will continue to be the administrative service provider for Djibouti.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in January Spectrum Electric personnel were on site at Tinian to replace transformer #2. Associated work of re-tapping transformers #1 and #3 also was completed. Final testing confirmed that all transformers were functioning correctly with respect to voltage potentials and the step-up and step-down characteristics.



**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in January, the Station Manager for both the Philippines and Marianas stations visited the Marianas to complete mid-year reviews for the Resident Engineers and to hold meetings with local management personnel from Rome Research Corporation.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in January:

ERKA Project Manager (b) (6) arrived on site to coordinate the inventory of three containers full of roofing materials needed to replace the roof on the Transmitter and Admin Building. All items on the packing list were accounted for and found to be in good condition.

Warehouse #2 was cleaned and completely reorganized. The Supply Supervisor rearranged the shelving and floor space design to incorporate better access to the inventory. The warehouse users assisted in identifying unneeded stock. The obsolete stock was consolidated and tagged for the next auction sale. The remaining stock was grouped by user and identified by placards. The warehouse's appearance and utilization of space is orders of magnitude over the previous cramped iteration. Great job all around!

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in January:

The station unfortunately said goodbye to their new Antenna Technician Supervisor who tendered his resignation prior to completing his one year probationary period.

High winds caused bridle cables on antenna 275L to break. Affected programming was transferred to another station for three days while the antenna crew resolved the issue.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in January,

(b) (7)(F)

The station was visited by (b) (6) the local District Manager of the Provincial Electric Authority, and a small team of local PEA employees who have taken very good care of the station's power needs during the year. The new Ban Dung District Officer, (b) (6), also visited the station with PEA to meet the station staff and tour the facility.

Forty-eight students and faculty from Udonpattanakarn School visited and toured the Udorn site.

The station enjoyed very high levels of availability during January and the medium wave transmitter experienced a perfect month!

## **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** The FY 2012 M&R plan was approved by the TSI Director on Nov. 16, 2011. So far this fiscal year, the M&R program has received \$905,766 of carry-over and \$2,443,466 of New Obligation Authority, for a total of \$3,349,232 in FY 2012. All but approximately \$100 K of this funding has been allotted to the stations or otherwise earmarked for known projects.

**Green Initiatives:** We are still working to complete the second phase of the wind energy analysis for Tinian. The installation of the wind analysis equipment has been completed. We successfully tested the communication tunnel for data transfer to headquarters. However, problems surfaced with the data logger itself that prevents the data transfer to be totally automatic. Because a planned purchase and implementation of a new data logger was determined to be cost prohibitive, cancellation of the wind monitoring initiative is being considered.

**NCC Renovation:** TV Master Control has moved out of the space shared with the NCC. The 95% design by Hanson Engineers was submitted to GSA and other stake holders on December 22, 2011 for review. GSA has submitted its comments, and we have provided responses to those comments. We have not yet heard if they are acceptable. We are sending them the final submission of plans and specifications next week. GSA will handle the procurement.

**CNMI, Paint Antenna Towers:** In September 2009, a contract was awarded to Seafix for the painting of five antenna towers at the Saipan site and thirteen antenna towers at the Tinian site for corrosion control. To date, all antenna towers at the Saipan site have been painted, and the first phase of the painting of antenna towers at Tinian has been completed. The painting of the second and final phase of antenna towers at Tinian was started in December 2011, and is scheduled for completion by July 2012. (No change)

**Sao Tome Re-roofing:** CON awarded the contract to ERKA Co. LDT on January 24, 2011. Because of funding limitations, only the base contract work to re-roof the transmitter building was awarded; options for re-roofing other buildings will be considered later if funds are available. ERKA's shop drawings, proposed sub-contractor, safety plan, and installation schedule have been approved. In January 2012, ERKA visited the transmitting station to inspect the roof materials and accessories that had previously been delivered to the site. The contractor appears to be on track to begin mobilizing in April 2012 to commence construction in May. (No change)

## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR MARCH 2012**

**DISPOSAL OF DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:** Federal Screening for the Delano Transmitting Station has ended. The site is now undergoing review by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for potential use. In addition, T/EOS/N was contacted by a representative of the Marine Corps who expressed interest in obtaining the site. The Marine Corps representative was advised to contact the General Services Administration (GSA) as GSA is coordinating the disposal of the property.

**DISPOSAL OF GREENVILLE SITE-A:** The Navy and Marine Corps representatives continues to work on obtaining Headquarters, Marine Corps and Department of Defense approval to pursue obtaining the site. In late March, T/EOS/N received a draft agreement from the Navy for the Marine Corps' interim use of the site while the formal disposal process continues. T/EOS/N quickly provided preliminary comments to the Navy, and will coordinate a broader BBG review of the draft agreement after the next version is submitted. GSA has had the site appraised and is currently reviewing the appraisal. The Marine Corps is also pursuing having an environmental study called a Phase II completed on the site to alleviate any concerns over potential environmental issues.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in February:

Richard Cai, T/EOS and Mohsine Bakkali, IBB Kuwait visited the station to review and discuss problem areas within the antenna systems. The station is awaiting the final report, and will take corrective action as indicated.

Station hosted two Embassy officials. (b) (6) from the Human Resources Office addressed the FSNs on retirement and pension changes, medical insurance and pay raise issues. (b) (7)(F)

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in February:

Mr. Peter Knopf and Mr. David Kaiser, two technicians of the Network and Automation team, visited the station in Saipan to execute tasks related to the Saipan antenna switchbay and slew control systems replacement.

Satellite earth station technicians have been pretty active in tracking BADR4 26°, EUTELSA 13°E and EuroBird 2 25.5°E jamming events. These satellites have been jammed on a daily basis since January.

Golden Eagle Monitoring System (GEMS): Biblis staff has started to develop an additional monitoring system (web based) for the entire automation network. The system will detect network outages, as well as carrier alarms on a transmitter or modulation alarms. Development is in progress, and initial tests have been successful. Currently, the system monitors network connections and transmitter status, and provides audio samples.

**GREENVILLE TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in February:

Marine Corps representatives inspected A-Site as part of their administrative process for seeking approval to have A-Site transferred from BBG to the Marine Corps.

One VESDA fire detector system was removed from A-Site for use at B-Site. Also removed was a plotter for D-sized drawings, one modulation monitor and two rack-mounted, powered monitor speakers.

Pamlico Towers Inc. repaired a broken support cable used to support the reflector screen on TCI low band antenna B-31. It is unclear as to whether the cable was weakened during the recent hurricane and finally broke or was weakened by RF arcing.

(b) (6), a retired Greenville employee, was contracted through Nease Personnel to repair broken ground wires, and replace rusted clamps and turnbuckles on the various curtain array antennas on the site. Also, he repaired some ground works damage on the TCI antenna, believed to have been caused by grass cutters.

The name "Edward R. Murrow Transmitting Station" now proudly greets visitors to the facility's main building. The 12 inch antique gold colored block letters were installed by (b) (6) above the building's main entrance. Also, the station worked with IBB's Office of Communications and External Affairs to design new signs for the station's main entrance, and two displays for the lobby, one of which will honor the famous journalist and USIA Director. Plans are underway to formally rededicate the station in early May.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in February:

Persistent and periodic jamming of BBG Persian satellite TV channels intensified during the month on the EB2 PNN feeds on the 11096 and 11585 carriers.

(b) (7)(F)

(b) (7)(F)

The fiber optic trunk between the station and the Jahra exchange was severed, knocking out all telephone lines and internet, as well as the Embassy's OpenNet connectivity through QualityNet. Consequently, the station lost remote control and monitoring for the two FM transmitters at Liberation Tower, as the station connects to those transmitters over the Internet. The system was restored the following day. There was no disruption of our IBB internal email connectivity, and the station used cell phones to facilitate communications.

The station had a sealed-bid auction sale of surplus equipment and materials, and a total of \$59,251.80 in proceeds was collected.

On February 29<sup>th</sup>, the station received a report from its technical vendor in Jordan that the IBB FM transmitter at the Radio Jordon leased site in Ajloun had been vandalized and considerable materials removed. It was the only transmitter at that site affected and, since it was broadcasting towards Damascus, the incident is suspect. The station reported it to the Kuwait RSO office, requesting an investigation by the RSO at AMEmbassy Jordan.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in February:

The Saipan Antenna Controller upgrade project started with members of the IBB Philippines staff replacing the old National Instruments PLC with the new Panasonic PLC provided by the IBB Germany Automation team. In addition, Messrs. Knopf and Kaiser from the IBB Germany Automation Team traveled to the station for the programming of the new Panasonic PLC and modifications to the Saipan OpCon program.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) from Rome's corporate headquarters visited both sites as part of the company's annual quality control (QC) visit.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in February, the Station Manager visited the Poro site and informed the staff about the proposed closure of that facility. This closure is a part of the President's FY 2013 budget request.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in February:

The Transmitter Plant staff completed the installation of the new uninterruptible power supply (UPS) which supports the Master Control Room and the main breakers for incoming 400 volts.

The station's Buildings & Grounds tower corrosion control team completed work on the last of twenty-one towers exactly four years after the project began. In 2008, Richard Cai, T/EOS came to the station to inspect the antenna work of a South African contractor. He suggested that the station could do similar work and save a lot of money. The work is difficult, working under the hot sun on the equator day in and day out. The team averages five hours on the tower every day

that weather allows. Rust is chipped and ground from the metal and the first coat of metal primer is applied. Next a second coat of primer is applied to the entire tower. Finally, a coat of international red and white is applied to alternate sections. It costs \$50K per year for labor and materials, but after four years the station has a product far superior to that done by any contractor. The station spent \$200K but avoided the expenses associated with contracting out for these services every four or five years. The station estimates that over \$1M has been saved by performing the work in house, and it expects to save another million over the next five years.

Station personnel met with SAO Tome Customs Director (b) (6) at her invitation. The purpose of the visit was to obtain station feedback on the new computerized dispatch clearance system after a year of operation. There was good “give and take” on issues from both sides. It was a productive and fruitful meeting.

Sao Tome and Principe Local Social Security System (LSSS) officials held a presentation for employers to introduce upcoming changes to the LSSS. Contributions by both employer and employee are expected to increase by two percent.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in February:

The big news was the sudden explosion of countrywide demonstrations following an unexpected fuel price hike introduced by the Government of Sri Lanka, effective February 11. Noteworthy were demonstrations by fishermen living along the station’s northern and southern coastline. These activities resulted in the closure of several station access roads, with staff transport being rerouted and/or stranded by as much as one hour. Public transportation also came to a grinding halt when private bus operators went on strike, leaving many commuters unable to get to work. In addition, a demonstrating fisherman in neighboring Chilaw was accidentally shot dead by riot police, leading to a citywide curfew. The government has since imposed a fuel surcharge, raising the station’s (industrial) electricity rates by 15% and residential rates by 40%. In response to these localized demonstrations, the station convened the station’s Emergency Action Team to review established emergency response procedures.

Provincial Council Minister (b) (6) visited the station to tour the site and discuss ongoing activities relating to the community playground development project. Following the tour, the station hosted a representational lunch at a nearby hotel.

The US Embassy’s Health Practitioner, (b) (6) made a courtesy call on the station, after which she proceeded to the Chilaw Hospital for another tour, accompanied by the Station Nurse.

Seventeen students from the National Apprentice & Industrial Training Authority (NAITA) Madampe visited the station for a tour, followed by a Q&A with the station manager. They were much impressed by the IBB facility and left on a very happy and satisfied note.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in February:

(b) (6), the Embassy's Regional Medical Officer, traveled to Udorn. He met with the FSN employees and surveyed two private hospitals with station assistance. The surveyed hospitals are used by IBB employees, as well as, employees of the US Embassy in Laos.

(b) (6), and Deputy Regional Security Officer (b) (6) visited Udorn to perform a follow-up compliance inspection of the station. Also, the Station Manager traveled to the Embassy and met with Ambassador (b) (6) and Public Diplomacy Inspector (b) (6) to complete the compliance follow-up inspection of BBG activities in country.

#### **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** The FY 2012 M&R plan was approved by the TSI Director on Nov. 16, 2011. So far this fiscal year, the M&R program has received \$905,766 of carry-over and \$2,443,466 of New Obligation Authority, for a total of \$3,349,232 in FY 2012. Most of this funding has been allotted to the stations or otherwise earmarked for known projects. The Program Manager is currently confirming with the stations their plans to obligate the allocated amounts by the end of FY 2012.

**NCC Renovation:** TV Master Control has moved out of the space shared with the NCC. The 100% design by Hanson Engineers was submitted to GSA. GSA provided comments, and responses were returned and accepted. The final documents, which address all of GSA's requirements, will be sent to GSA the first week of April. GSA will then begin the procurement process.

**CNMI, Paint Antenna Towers:** In September 2009, a contract was awarded to Seafix for the painting of five antenna towers at the Saipan site and thirteen antenna towers at the Tinian site for corrosion control. To date, all antenna towers at the Saipan site have been painted, and the first phase of the painting of antenna towers at Tinian has been completed. The Contractor has started to perform the last phase of the contract work since December, 2011 when the local dry season began. Three antenna towers had been painted by the early-March time frame. T/EOS Civil/Structural Engineer Richard Cai arrived on site in late March to conduct inspections of the contractor's work. The phase III work should be completed sometime in July 2012.

**Sao Tome Re-roofing:** CON awarded the contract to ERKA Co. LDT on January 24, 2011. Because of funding limitations, only the base contract work to re-roof the transmitter building was awarded; options for re-roofing other buildings will be considered later if funds are available. ERKA's shop drawings, proposed sub-contractor, safety plan, and installation schedule have been approved. In January 2012, ERKA visited the transmitting station to inspect the roof materials and accessories that had previously been delivered to the site. The contractor appears to be on track to begin mobilizing in April 2012 to commence construction in May. (No change)

## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL & MAY 2012**

**DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:** The station was visited by representatives of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Southern Command in April. Both DOD organizations are apparently interested in acquiring the site. No other significant activities occurred during these two months. The site continues to go through the General Services Administration's (GSA) disposal process.

**DISPOSAL OF GREENVILLE SITE-A:** The Navy and Marine Corps representatives continue to work on obtaining Headquarters, Marine Corps and Department of Defense approval to pursue interim use of the site while the formal disposal process continues. T/EOS/N has received an updated, draft interim use agreement from the Navy, and that document is under review. The Marine Corps is also pursuing having an environmental study called a Phase II completed on the site to alleviate any concerns over potential environmental issues.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in March and April:

The station was visited by (b) (6) of the German Automation Team for discussions on the station's automation expansion project.

The station hosted health and wellness presentations on Burnout, Work Engagement and Performance. General body screenings followed, together with HIV counseling and testing.

The Botswana Defense Force Base Commander for Eastern Military Garrison, Colonel (b) (6) (b) (6), paid a courtesy visit to the station to congratulate the Acting Station Manager on his new role.

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, the Station Manager honored an invitation from the Botswana Defense Force to attend their 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event held at the town stadium. Guest speaker was the Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, (b) (6). The Station Manager had a chance to meet with the minister during lunch hosted by the BDF.

The Station Manager traveled to Gaborone on April 30<sup>th</sup> to meet with Embassy management and give overview of the station during the visit of two U.S. Senators to Embassy Gaborone.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in March:

TSI Director, Andre Mendes, and David Shiben, T/ES, visited the station and were briefed on all the ongoing activities IBB Germany is involved in.

Peter Knopf and David Kaiser from the German Automation Team traveled to Saipan and completed the installation and implementation of the new antenna control system. This project replaced all worn out antenna switch bay and slewing control components with new, state of the art technology, and optimized the system to meet IBB operational needs. The project was successfully accomplished through a joint venture between the IBB Philippines and IBB Germany stations.



Peter Knopf also traveled to Botswana to meet with the station staff for a review of the existing automation systems which were installed back in 2000, and to investigate ways to remote-control the Marconi MW transmitter. A list of technical hardware and spare parts has been compiled, along with an action list for a complete upgrade of the SAS.

Two equipment shelters have been received in Afghanistan, and three more shelters are enroute. These shelters are part of the Afghanistan FM Project. The last two shelters are completed and ready for shipment.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Edward R. Murrow Transmitting Station reports that in March and April:

Electronics Technician, Bert Sacman, was welcomed back to the station after an extended period of sick leave.

Work began in March to replace the cooling air system for the CEMCO driver units with one that will supply more air. It is anticipated that the modification will extend the life of the 4-1000 vacuum tubes.

A ceremony to rededicate the station in honor of Edward R. Murrow, famed journalist and former USIA Director, was held at the station on May 2, 2012. The Master of Ceremonies was TSI Director André Mendes, and guest speakers included U.S. Congressman Walter B. Jones, BBG Governor Victor Ashe, IBB Director Richard Lobo, and Casey Murrow, son of Edward R. Murrow. Perfect weather and good upfront planning by headquarters officials and station staff helped to make the 2 hour event highly successful. The ceremony was festive and focused on the life of Edward R. Murrow, station history, and journalism. Tours were given to the public by the station's technicians.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in March and April:

The station noted continued periodic jamming of BBG transmissions on Arabsat, Nilesat and EB2 satellite carriers throughout the month of March. Station Master Control technicians notified NCC and sent spectrum analyzer plots back to Washington for documenting each episode.

Station received word that the Ajlon, Jordan FM site that was vandalized the previous month was ransacked again. This time the perpetrators took transmitter power modules and more copper. Jordan Radio and TV (JRTV) provided a temporary 1kW transmitter at their main Ras Munif site to get SAWA broadcasts back on the air. They have also assured the station that their insurance would cover the costs for the lost equipment and systems. It has also been tentatively determined to permanently relocate BBG FM operations to the more secure Ras Munif location.

On April 18th, Resident Engineer Sheldon Daitch departed for Kigali, Rwanda, for transmission systems inspections and consultations. He intended to also include Freetown, Sierra Leone in his itinerary, but was not granted Country Clearance because the Embassy's PAO was on leave. Sheldon returned to post on April 20th.

Station Manager Gaines Johnson and Administrative Management Specialist Mathew Thomas departed post April 22nd for Amman, Jordan. There they joined up with Jon Erikson and Brent Boyd from Washington and Peter Knopf from Germany for a series of meetings hosted by our Jordanian-based regional services contractor, Ibrahim Alhajaj of Nenwa for Technical and Trade Support. During this visit the IBB representatives also met with several officials of JRTV, including the Executive Director,

concerning the previous month's vandalism of our 20 kW FM transmitter site at Ajloun. This is the primary transmitter for broadcasting to Damascus, and the incident could not have come at a worse time.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in March and April:

The Saipan Antenna Control System Upgrade Project was completed ahead of schedule. An official OpMemo from NCC to resume normal broadcast operations was received on March 7th.

IBB Philippines, Arlene Yabut was trained on the IBB Momentum financial system.

On 29 April, the Tinian station required the help of the Tinian Fire Department to control a brush fire that swept around the north and west sides of the station. The fire breached the parameters fire-break area near the northeasterly fence line and was contained at the access road to the Phase 2 antenna field. No damage was sustained to the site systems or antennas. The station will complete a wash-down of all exterior equipment to prevent corrosion from ash and smoke residue.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in March and April:

Tinang experienced series of DS3 circuit losses on numerous occasions throughout both months.

The station sponsored Barangay Day Care held a recognition day. The Barangay councils extended their appreciation for IBB's support. Station FSN representatives assisted in the distribution of certificates and medals to the children of the five barangays.

The U.S. Embassy's Management Counselor (b) (6) accompanied by (b) (6) visited the station and discussed the Balikatan Earthquake Simulation Drill, ICASS issues and other concerns.

The Military and PNP representation event was held on April 20 at Azaya Garden Resort at Capas, Tarlac.

The station sponsored the "Take Your Child to Work Day" on April 30. Thirteen children, parents and coordinators participated in the activities.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in March and April:

Power plant technicians continued corrective actions after recognizing in February that generator set (genset) #3 was burning more fuel than the other generators. The Caterpillar tech rep advised the station to change out the sixteen injectors, since no other abnormalities were identified. The Power plant technicians completed the change-out and fuel usage returned to normal levels. The Caterpillar injector cores and cylinder pack cores also were prepared for return to the vendor. The credit back to IBB's account for core charges (even with return shipping charges included) is enough to fund the \$25K invoice for new injectors.

On April 6<sup>th</sup> the station hosted two groups of tourists visiting Sao Tome aboard Lindblad Expeditions' National Geographic Explorer, making port calls in every city up the western seaboard of Africa.

New ARSO (b) (6) paid an introductory visit to STTS the week of April 9. A security review was conducted April 11 with our Security Officer, contracted Security Supervisor and Station Manager in

attendance. The ARSO was positively impressed with station security guard conduct and controls, and is considering implementing similar security training in Malabo.

The station lost a great friend and mentor with the untimely death of (b) (6) on April 12. (b) (6) originally was contracted in 1992 to teach English to new employees. Over the years he continually reinvented himself, filling various voids wherever expertise was needed. (b) (6) was an excellent researcher and resolved to find solutions for many station issues. His contract with IBB in Sao Tome expired almost three years ago, but he stayed in touch with many of the station employees. A compliment of staff attended (b) (6) funeral on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

On April 16<sup>th</sup> the tanker vessel MT Gascogne arrived with 330,000 gallons of diesel fuel. Mooring operations commenced at dawn the following morning. Pumping finally started at 1430 and was completed at daylight of April 17<sup>th</sup>. The entire operation was uneventful, thanks to flawless execution by the station staff and unseasonably calm seas.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in March and April:

The station donated ten rolls of corroded wire mesh fencing to the St. Peter's Junior School adjacent to the station. The old fencing was scheduled for disposal but we saw an opportunity to help the school by donating it so they could enclose their sports field.

The Facilities Plant Maintenance Supervisor conducted a RF Safety training class for nontechnical station staff members.

Local Guard Force (LGF) Security Refresher Training was conducted throughout the month of March.

The station was subjected to a Tsunami warning on April 11, following the 8.5 magnitude earthquake that struck off the coast of Indonesia. Station staff took appropriate action to ensure the safety of the on-site staff, while at the same time maintaining station operations. Tremors were felt at the station, but in the end the Tsunami preparations and emergency responses were not necessary, as the strength of the actual tsunami was magnitudes lower than originally anticipated by the warning.

On a happier note, the station completed the refurbishment of a playground next to the station and hosted a grand opening on April 30 for the local residents. The ceremony included the gifting of school supplies to the adjoining preschool, with the US Ambassador presiding over the ceremony as a guest of honor.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in March and April:

BBG Governor Victor Ashe visited the station at Udorn on March 13th. During his visit, he met with the staff and toured the station facilities. Later, he took time to pose for numerous pictures with staff members before leaving. He met with the Public Affairs Officer at the Embassy on the following day before continuing his travels throughout SE Asia. The Station Manager traveled back to Bangkok on the 22nd to escort Governor Ashe to the MW site at Phachi.

In March two members of the Transmitter Plant traveled to Seoul, South Korea to install satellite facilities at the new temporary operating site of FEBC. Their old site will be under renovation over the course of

the next two years. Our team also travelled on to Mongolia with funding from OMPP to perform maintenance on Standard-M's FM in Ulaan Bataar.

The Month of April began with two four-day holiday weekends commemorating the Chakri dynasty and the Thai Songkran water festival. Normally, all business as usual ceases in country during these holidays.

The Station hosted a family day event on Thursday, April 5th, to celebrate Thai New Year (Songkran). The festivities were heavily attended this year by staff families, with numerous children engaged in the usual Thai water play and local Isaarn food.

April 30th was the last day on duty for Khun Sukhum Kuamman, the Station Motor Pool Supervisor, who retired after 19 years of service. The Ambassador presented him with retirement plaques at the Embassy during the previous week. His friends and colleagues wish him and his family good health and the best of luck as he departs the station for retirement.

### **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** The FY 2012 M&R plan was approved by the TSI Director on Nov. 16, 2011. So far this fiscal year, the M&R program has received \$905,766 of carry-over and \$2,443,466 of New Obligation Authority, for a total of \$3,349,232 in FY 2012. Most of this funding has been allotted to the stations or otherwise earmarked for known projects. In April the Program Manager followed up with some additional allotments necessitated by adjustments to a few previously funded projects.

**NCC Renovation:** GSA changed their Contracting Officer in May. GSA has all documents and information required for them to proceed with the procurement process. They have decided to use a "full and open competition" process since there are no IDIQ Contracts available to them. GSA requires that they handle all COR responsibilities on the project. GSA's conservative projection for contract award is early December 2012.

**CNMI, Paint Antenna Towers:** In September 2009, a contract was awarded to Seafix for the painting of five antenna towers at the Saipan site and thirteen antenna towers at the Tinian site for corrosion control. To date, all antenna towers at the Saipan site have been painted, and the first phase of the painting of antenna towers at Tinian has been completed. The Contractor has started to perform the last phase of the contract work since December, 2011 when the local dry season began. T/EOS Civil/Structural Engineer Richard Cai visited the site in late March and early April to conduct inspections of the contractor's work. Four antenna towers have been painted to date. The phase III work should be completed sometime in July 2012.

**Sao Tome Re-roofing:** CON awarded the contract to ERKA Co. LDT on January 24, 2011. Because of funding limitations, only the base contract work to re-roof the Transmitter and Administration (T&A) Building was awarded; options for re-roofing other buildings will be considered later. The Contractor and the onsite product consultant from the roof material manufacturer, Butler, are scheduled to attend the onsite pre-construction meeting on May 15. After that meeting, the Contractor will begin to install the new roof for the T&A Building. The work should be complete by early July this year.

## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUNE 2012**

**DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:** The site continues to go through the General Services Administration's (GSA) disposal process. The Marine Corps advised GSA that they are interested in obtaining it. The BBG continues its caretaker responsibilities for the site.

**DISPOSAL OF SITE A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Navy and Marine Corps representatives continue to work on obtaining Department of Defense approval to pursue transferring the site from the agency to the Marine Corps. Also, they continue to pursue a proposed interim use agreement, which would permit the Marine Corps to use of the site while the formal disposal process continues. T/EOS/N has received an updated, draft interim use agreement from the Navy, and that document is under review by GC.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in May:

During the country team meeting, the Peace Corps' in-country director announced that volunteers will no longer be assigned to Selebi-Phikwe due to environmental/health concerns.

The station experienced intermittent problems with its Motorola microwave that was installed last year. It was determined that the cables were terminated incorrectly and the lightning arrestors were not grounded. The station plans on repairing/correcting these issues and charging the cost back to the vendor.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in May:

(b) (6) from the General Accountability Office (GAO) visited the station to learn about the station's shortwave mission and how it fits in with IBB's larger mission to inform, engage and connect with people around the world in support of freedom and democracy. They were briefed on station operations and given a tour of the transmitters, control room, and antenna fields. Their briefing lasted approximately 4 hours.

Heavy rains caused by tropical storm Beryl flooded the station and nearby roads. A storm drain passing under Mills road, a major access road to the station, washed out, closing the road. The detour around the wash-out point adds about 10 miles to the drive from Greenville to Site B.

Eight defective switching arms were replaced with rebuilt ones in the station's switchbay. The defective switching arms will be refurbished by media-blasting all relevant parts, resurfacing the contact areas, and replacing fatigued contact springs. The resurfaced contact areas are then coated with a thin layer of contact grease and placed in storage until needed.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in May:

TSI Director André Mendes visited the station and was briefed on station operations by the staff.

(b) (6) an engineer with Crystal Solution, and Clifford George from T/ES visited IBB Germany to perform the final installation and launch of the Crystal View Global Monitoring System.

In Afghanistan this month, IBB Germany personnel observed several incoming commercial power fluctuations and power shutdowns. Due to the heavy power fluctuations, there were broadcast outages at several FM locations, and the local staffs handled these problems in an outstanding manner.

In Orzu, Tajikistan, the Continental SW transmitter went out of service after a heavy power fluctuation damaged the tuning capacitor. There was a Comet capacitor available but the mechanical shape was different compared to the original installed capacitor. To make the installation possible, IBB Germany provided technical drawings to fabricate an adapter for the installation of this capacitor. The reassembling of the PA stage was finished shortly before engineers from Germany arrived on site. The engineers inspected the transmitter and performed a complete initial setup. The transmitter is now back in service.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in May:

The highlight of the month was a visit by TSI Director André Mendes. This was his first visit to Kuwait. Prior to the IBB Kuwait Station visit, André paid a courtesy call on the U.S. Ambassador and DCM, where strategy was discussed concerning renewal of the station's bi-lateral agreement next year.

The station had a send-off party for Radio Technician, Almario Cortez, who was facing involuntary separation because of his age. His last day of employment was May 20th. Everyone at the station wished him all the best in his retirement.

Station technicians installed a phone-patch system that will enable the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait to broadcast "Emergency Messages" on the two FM transmitters in Kuwait City, should the need ever arise.

The station's Resident Engineer stayed busy working on multiple subsidiary FM system outages and faults at Abidjan, Ivory Coast and Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Both of these locations required sending in SIETID contractor personnel from Morocco to correct the problems, as the scope of the issues were beyond the ability of local technicians to diagnose and rectify.

(b) (7)(F)



**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in May:

(b) (6) of Engineered SCADA Solutions Hawaii was at Tinian for the installation of the Monico generator programmable logic controllers (PLC), and integration of the fuel tank level transmitters into the Wonderware software.

At Saipan, (b) (6), Regional Construction Manager, was on site reviewing the roofing project, security project, and pending air conditioning projects.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in May, the IBB-sponsored Day Care accepted children for school year 2012/2013, with classes to begin on June 14. A total of 221 students were enrolled.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in May:

The Regional Medical Officer, (b) (6), visited the station, administering vaccines and updating medicine stocked in the pharmacy. She also reviewed annual staff TB questionnaires.

The new Taiwanese Ambassador to Sao Tome, (b) (6), made a courtesy visit to the station.

The Station Manager with Admin Management Supervisor Leonor Menezes and Human Resource Specialist Marilia Neto visited the Local Social Security System (LSSS) officials to resolve issues with collection of sick leave by station staff. A follow-up meeting is anticipated after study of the issues by LSSS.

The commander of the U.S. Africa Command, General Hamm, visited Sao Tome for an overnight stopover and high-level meetings with local military leaders, Prime Minister Patrice Trovoada and President Pinto da Costa. A military contingent and U.S. Ambassador Benjaminson accompanied General Hamm. The station provided local logistical support.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in May:

The B&G contractor's workers refused to enter the station on the morning of May 8 in protest of meager wage increases. Their basic claim is that salary increases have not kept up with more significant cost of living increases. Recent hikes include residential electricity (40%), diesel fuel (37%), transportation/bus rates (15%), and even basic staples such as milk (20%), heating fuels/kerosene (17%), bakery products (16%), and flour (10%). Their brief holdout was peaceful, and the workers eagerly returned to work after a discussion with the Station Manager.

New Foreign Service Health Practitioner, (b) (6), visited the station for the second time, as she prepares for an IBB health fair scheduled for this July. While in the area, she also visited the Chilaw Hospital.

Station personnel welcomed (b) (6), the new Financial Assistant.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in May:

Two members of the Transmitter Plant traveled for OMPP Bangkok to the Women's Media Center (WMC) in Phnom Penh. Recent development in wireless access points in Cambodia were found to be causing interference at the WMC TVRO site. Station technicians moved the dish and installed filtering to resolve the interference and restore VOA and RFA programming in Cambodia.

The Station Manager received re-delegated authority from the Office of Contracts to renew nine of thirteen school grants that were in need of renewal. Purchase Orders for the nine grants have all been signed and delivered to respective school offices.

The Regional Medical Officer traveled to Udorn with three other members of the Embassy Medical Unit and delivered First-Aid and CPR training for many staff members. They also delivered influenza vaccine for the staff. The vaccines are specific to Southeast Asian strains of flu. The peak season for such illnesses coincides with the monsoon season in Thailand, which has just begun this month.

The Udorn Transmitter Plant Maintenance Supervisor traveled to the MW site at Bangkok-Rasom to review transmitter plant maintenance and to incorporate adjustments into the MW Optimod to improve AMC performance and power efficiency based on recent experience acquired at the SW plant.

Thirty-six students from the Ban Thung School visited the station with their teachers for a tour of the station and snacks before returning to their village. The Ban Thung School is one of the neighboring schools near the shortwave site that participates in our school grant program.

## **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** The FY 2012 M&R plan was approved by the TSI Director on Nov. 16, 2011. So far this fiscal year, the M&R program has received \$905,766 of carry-over and \$2,443,466 of New Obligation Authority, for a total of \$3,349,232 in FY 2012. Most of this funding has been allotted to the stations or otherwise earmarked for known projects.

**NCC Renovation:** GSA changed their Contracting Officer in May. GSA has all documents and information required for them to proceed with the procurement process. GSA is continuing to obtain their internal clearances needed to complete preparation to advertise the solicitation. IBB is not part of that process and is not being provided information concerning the type of award or set-aside contract that might be used. GSA also requires that they handle all COR responsibilities on the project. GSA's projection for contract award is November 15, 2012. NCC staff is working on the completion of the move of the staff and equipment out of the Phase I area, the removal of all excess cable throughout, the removal of all excess and stored equipment, and the preparation of a plan for their 35 day transition between Phases I and II.

**CNMI, Paint Antenna Towers:** In September 2009, a contract was awarded to Seafix for the painting of five antenna towers at the Saipan site and thirteen antenna towers at the Tinian site for corrosion control. The painting of antenna towers at Saipan was completed in 2010. The Contractor is nearing completion of the final phase of tower painting at Tinian. T/EOS Civil/Structural Engineer Richard Cai will visit the site in July to conduct final inspections. All work on site should be complete by the end of July.

**Sao Tome Re-roofing:** CON awarded the contract to ERKA Co. LDT on January 24, 2011. Because of funding limitations, only the base contract work to re-roof the Transmitter and Administration (T&A) Building was awarded, with options for re-roofing other buildings deferred for future consideration. ERKA initiated the on-site re-roofing work in May 2012. T/EOS Civil/Structural Engineer Richard Cai conducted an inspection visit in June. ERKA is scheduled to complete all work on-site next month (July 2012).



## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JULY AND AUGUST 2012**

**DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:** The station remains in a caretaker status, which is an agency responsibility, as the GSA disposal process continues. A request from the Marine Corps—for a one-time use permit to determine if the site would be a suitable training site—is under Agency review.

**DISPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Navy and Marine Corps representatives continue to work on obtaining Department of Defense approval to pursue transferring the site from the Agency to the Marine Corps. In the meantime, a proposed interim use agreement, which would permit the Marine Corps to use the site while the formal disposal process continues, is under Agency review.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in June and July:

New lockout/tag-out devices were installed in the SW and MW Transmitter buildings in June. Transmitter personnel are writing a new lockout procedure for the SW transmitters. Technicians received refresher lockout/tag-out training and were instructed on the mandatory use of the AC voltage detector test sets.

In June, the station held a Wellness presentation to discuss living a healthy lifestyle.

In July, the Station Manager travelled to Gaborone to meet with former President George W Bush and Laura Bush. Each agency head presented a briefing to the former President, explaining their overall mission in Botswana.

The station hosted six lecturers from the Selebi-Phikwe Technical College's Electrical Engineering Department in July. The college has a robust electrical training department, and the tour focused on expanding the lecturers' knowledge in their related field of study.

In July, there was an attempted brake-in again at the station's pump house facility. Fortunately, the alarm was activated and the guards responded, but did not find anyone there. The station is currently looking at upgrading the fence, which should help deter future thieves.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in June and July:

In mid-June, the station bid farewell to Walt Patterson as he completed his "When Actually Employed" assignment as Transmitting Station Manager. The station appreciated his service and contributions during his short tenure.

The station was affected on several occasions during June by severe storms and flooding. Site A communications and monitoring was lost twice during the month due to lightning and flood events.

The new Transmitting Station Manager, Thomas Moore, arrived and assumed his new role on July 30th. He was previously assigned to the Philippines Transmitting Station.

On July 25th, it became necessary to remove the switch bay from service due to severe arcing in one cubicle. This cubicle affected several scheduled antennas, and immediate repair was the best option to prevent further program loss. Two switch arms, one insulator and one twist line were found to be damaged. All items were replaced and switch bay operation was restored in about 50 minutes.

Progress Energy withdrew Class 2 IPS Power classification on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, which necessitated the use of the peak shaving generator during this time. As the generator cannot completely take the full load of the station, it was necessary to delete one hour of programming to avoid excessive peak demand charges.

The PA blocking capacitor assembly of GB-8 failed in July and was replaced by a refurbished spare that failed due to arcing in the PA. The transmitter is no longer supported by the manufacturer and parts are difficult to find. Fortunately, there were two units available in Germany, which were purchased on an emergency basis.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in June and July:

In June, IBB Lampertheim staff members Peter Knopf and Ruediger Schott accepted an invitation from IBB Headquarters to meet their counterparts at Headquarters in Washington D.C. to discuss several projects. The meetings included discussions on remote monitoring systems like Golden Eagle, the Crystal View system, SAS automation system and others. All in all, the visit was very fruitful. While talking to TSI Director André Mendes, the Lampertheim personnel received the full scope on the direction the Agency is heading in regards to the transfer to MPLS links.

In Djibouti, the first and second level of the tower light system was put back into service in June. In addition, small automatic voltage regulators were installed for each tower to protect the tower light system from damage.

In July, a new generator was ordered for the Gardez, Afghanistan site to replace a malfunctioning generator set. Two generators also were delivered to the Caterpillar dealer in Kabul for overhauling services.

In Orzu, Tajikistan, transmitter DB-13 was out of service from July 11 through July 16. There was a water leakage on the PA boiler, and the entire RF compartment was flooded. To correct the situation, it was necessary to disassemble the RF stage. Also, a replacement for the defective step-up transformer (400V/10KV) was installed and tested at the Orzu SW site.

In July, Biblis staff finished work on the equipment that is needed for the Sri- Lanka automation and remote control project and continued work on the equipment needed for the switchbay and antenna control replacement project for Tinian.

Two engineers from the German automation team, Peter Knopf and David Kaiser, traveled to Sri Lanka in July to complete the installation of the station automation system, which enables the remote monitoring and control of the station's transmitters. The trip was fully successful.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in June and July:

Richard Cai, T/EOS Structural/Civil Engineer, traveled to Kuwait in June for consultations on the Cyprus tower bracing system project. A final prototype design was agreed on and will be contracted out for local

fabrication work. Mr. Cai then departed Kuwait, accompanied by Kuwait Antenna Technician Mohsine Bakkali, to conduct rigger training and antenna inspections at Sao Tome.

In June, the Embassy Health Unit conducted a CPR training class at the station, and an Embassy Assistant Regional Security Officer conducted a security drill.

On June 24th, one phase of the MSB-1 power breaker failed in the 415V distribution room. The Kuwait firm that provided the original distribution system advised the station that the breaker is now obsolete and direct component replacements are unavailable. Station technicians installed a temporary toggle breaker to restore power. The station is investigating the best available option for a permanent fix, short of buying a completely new distribution system.

Station personnel have been dealing with a rash of air-conditioning failures in several parts of the main building, as summer temperatures breached 123<sup>0</sup> F several days in a row in July. Three-fourths of the month's broadcast outages precipitated from a grid-filament tube failure on KUW-C transmitter, which also damaged the tube socket. Station suspects this latest tube melt-down may be attributed to the operation of the transmitter during periods of insufficient air cooling, as there have been several recent failures of KUW-C's two air-conditioning units, which are part of the closed-loop cooling system necessary to operate that old transmitter in this environment. It should be noted that these two, twenty-five ton air-conditioners are the original units from the initial installation of the transmitter in 2002. The station requested their replacement in the FY-12 M&R Project Call, but that request was deferred.

On July 29<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Embassy sent a Diplomatic Note to the Kuwait Foreign Ministry formally requesting a twenty-year renewal of the IBB Kuwait Transmitting Station's operating agreement. In light of the current political situation in Kuwait, the station does not anticipate a prompt response.

Pulling of CAT5e cable for the station's new digital telephone system was completed in July.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in June and July:

Larry Chiu of IBB Philippines and (b) (6) of SCADA Hawaii continued system upgrades through June 15th. Larry Chiu also worked on the MCR UPS and server at Saipan.

Richard Hoffman of T/EOS/N and Econco Technical Representative, (b) (6) visited the station in June. They provided training on vacuum tubes, and assisted station personnel with the testing and installation of a newly rebuilt PA vacuum tube.

In July, Mr. (b) (6) US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and (b) (6), CNMI Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), held EPA compliance inspections at Saipan and Tinian. Primary areas of concern were the above ground storage tanks' containment provisions, and the station's Spill Control and Countermeasures Plans (SPCC). Citations for corrections will be forthcoming.

Mr. Richard Cai of T/EOS visited the station for the Tinian Phase 3 Tower Inspections in July. While on Tinian, Mr. Cai conducted Phase 2 and 3 inspections, and coordinated remediation action for the final warranty period. Per Mr. Cai, the contractor, Seafix, has completed touch-up painting on all Tinian towers, and will issue warranty certificates for the Phase 3 towers.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in June and July:

Tom Moore, Facilities Supervisor, departed post in late June for home leave and transfer to the Greenville Transmitting Station, as Transmitting Station Manager.

Craig Silman, Transmitter Plant Supervisor, retired effective June 30<sup>th</sup> .

Transmitter PHT-5 was returned to service in July, which completes the installation of the four (4) ABB/BBC transmitters received from the Delano Transmitting Station.

Members of the Philippines Broadcast Service (PBS) staff visited the station in July to consult on their audio streaming project to Tinang.

(b) (6) of the Embassy's HR visited the station in July to conduct an orientation on the new Locally Employed Staff (LES) Handbook.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in June and July:

Mohsine Bakkali, IBB Kuwait and Richard Cai, T/EOS visited the station in June. Mr. Bakkali conducted refresher tower rescue training and reviewed antenna and tower maintenance procedures. He also inspected the recently-completed screen refurbishment of antenna #5. Mr. Cai inspected the ongoing M&R project, Transmitter/Admin Building roof replacement.

At different times during June, broken membrane vessels on reverse osmosis unit #01 and #02 were found. Both vessels were cracked and leaking, and were replaced. Vibration being suspected as the cause of the problem, additional rubber was used to isolate them.

In June, the station's Fire Brigade conducted an unannounced fire drill with satisfactory results.

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, the station conducted a short awards ceremony, recognizing individuals that greatly contributed to station operations this past year.

Also on June 29<sup>th</sup>, the new Portuguese Ambassador to Sao Tome, (b) (6) paid a courtesy visit to the Station.

In July, Helena Menezes and Marilia Neto attended Advanced Voucher Examiner training and Advanced Cashiering training, respectively, at the Financial Support and Training Office (FSTO) in Paris. Admin Management Specialist Leonor Menezes also attended Travel Policy training at FSTO Paris.

The Transmitter and Administrative building roof replacement project was completed satisfactorily in July, and the contractor's three 40-foot shipping containers were removed from the site.

In July, Power Plant technicians began the breakdown of engine #3 in preparation for the M&R rebuild project.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in June and July:

In June, the station was visited by 165 students and nine (9) teachers from St. Joseph's College.

The station nurse administered a “Healthy Heart” training program in June. All staff participated in the program, to include members of the local guard force and B&G staff. Two annual first aid training sessions were also conducted. Cholesterol screenings were provided by Lanka Hospitals to the LE Staff. Those with negative results will be able to speak to a consulting physician during a Station-coordinated Health Fair.

The Station Manager attended a farewell reception to honor the services of (b) (6) – a long-time station manager for Deutsche Welle (DW), two other German engineers, and local staff members from DW’s Colombo office. In from Germany, the June event was hosted by (b) (6) – Director of Strategy, Marketing, and Distribution, and (b) (6) – Head of Technical Distribution. DW had ceased shortwave broadcasting from their Trincomalee station in December 2011, but the staff was retained for an additional 6 months as a German skeleton crew who trained incoming Sri Lankan Broadcast Corporation (SLBC) personnel. DW has shut down all in-country activities, granting the Trincomalee station to the SLBC effective June 30th.

In June, the station was once again hit by north western wind gusts that damaged antenna 291H. Luckily, the extent of damage was not as significant as the previous month, taking the station’s riggers only five days to complete repairs.

Station personnel participated in the Embassy’s 4<sup>th</sup> of July reception. The station used this event to host and entertain 26 of its Station contacts. In addition, a representational luncheon was held this month for the station’s administrative contracts within the Ministry of External Affairs and the Department of Treasury.

The station held its second health fair. This is an event where various health service providers come to the station to offer free services to employees. Provided services included cholesterol and diabetes screenings, a mobile dental clinic, vision care and testing, a physical therapy specialist, and several presentations covering alcohol rehabilitation, non-communicable diseases, and sexually transmitted infections.

The U.S. Mission Summer Awards ceremony took place on July 27<sup>th</sup> at Embassy Colombo. IBB was well represented, with 7 employees receiving various honors.

July 27<sup>th</sup> marked the last day of work for Robert Fioritto. After five years at post, Mr. Fioritto is moving on to retirement in Las Vegas, having served the IBB for the last 21 years. Other noteworthy milestones: 50 years of USG service (includes 29 years in the Air Force), 32 years overseas, and 20 family moves/transfers! The station held a farewell party in his honor on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Peter Knopf & David Kaiser from IBB Germany visited the station in July to complete the implementation of the station automation system. Their primary goals were to resolve control issues with the four Marconi transmitters, incorporate installed camera systems into the remote access, and integrate the VESDA fire detection system into the system. Their visit was a complete success.

The station welcomed the arrival of our new Antenna Supervisor, Primal Thimeja, who commenced work on July 9th.

In July, the station fire brigade responded to a house fire along the perimeter fence line. Apparently, a kitchen oil fire flared up and quickly engulfed the palm-thatch enclosure. While the station responded quickly to extinguish the flames, the kitchen was all but destroyed. Thankfully, the main structure was saved and the occupants escaped without injury.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in June and July:

On June 20<sup>th</sup>, the Station Manager, the Station Management Secretary and the acting PAO, (b) (6), traveled to the Foreign Ministry to meet the New Deputy Director-General, Department of Information, (b) (6) and New Director of the Broadcasting Division, (b) (6). Concern was expressed about the actual end date of the country-to-country agreement. A copy of the DIP Note was provided with a formal begin date. The station was advised of the new role of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) that has come about with a recent change in the constitution. Although the country-to-country agreement has four more years, MFA will likely request informal discussion for a new agreement to begin sooner rather than later.

On June 21st, a courtesy visit to meet the new Director General of the Public Relations Department, (b) (6), was made. Power savings realized with AMC mode operation were discussed.

Deputy Chief of Mission, (b) (6) and Political Officer, (b) (6), visited Udonthani Province on June 25th. During her visit, the DCM held a brief town hall meeting with the station staff, visited one of the IBB grantee schools and made a brief visit to the Ban Chiang World Heritage Site near the station before returning to the Udorn airport for their return flight home.

In July, the Facilities Supervisor traveled to Rasom to meet with prospective vendors interested in bidding on M&R Project 1030, which will replace low voltage panel boards and wiring at the MW site.

IBB Construction Manager (b) (6) traveled to Udorn in July to review the upcoming three year M&R plan with the Station Manager. Mr. Leonard and the Station Manager also traveled to the Embassy to review proposals from bidders interested in M&R Project 1030. With assistance from the GSO, a selection was made and all parties met at the Rasom site to review the project.

In July, thirty students and teachers from Udonthani Technical College toured station facilities.

## **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** The FY 2012 M&R plan was approved by the TSI Director on Nov. 16, 2011. In FY 2012, M&R received a total of \$4.09 million including an NOA of \$3.18 million, a credit from Erching sale of \$0.84 million, and a small amount of carry-over. Most of the available funding has been allotted to the stations or to headquarter awards. A small balance of \$39,000 remains for emergencies. The stations are expected to obligate all allotted M&R funds.

**NCC Renovation:** GSA changed their Contracting Officer in May. GSA has all documents and information required for them to proceed with the procurement process, and is continuing to obtain their internal clearances needed to complete preparations to advertise the solicitation. There has been no progress reported by GSA in August. IBB is not part of that process and is not being provided information concerning the type of award or set-aside contract that might be used. GSA also requires that they handle all COR responsibilities on the project. GSA's projection for contract award is now December 6th, 2012. NCC staff is working on the completion of the move of the staff and equipment out of the Phase I area, the removal of all excess cable throughout, removal of all excess and stored equipment, and the preparation of a plan for their 35 day transition between Phases I and II.

**CNMI, Paint Antenna Towers:** In September 2009, a contract was awarded to Seafix for the painting of five antenna towers at the Saipan site and thirteen antenna towers at the Tinian site for corrosion control. The painting of antenna towers at Saipan was completed in 2010. The painting of the final phase of antenna towers at Tinian was completed in July, as verified by on-site inspections performed by T/EOS Engineer Richard Cai. Mr. Cai is commended for his diligence in completing this major project.

**Sao Tome Re-roofing:** CON awarded the contract to ERKA Co. LDT on January 24, 2011. Because of funding limitations, only the base contract work to re-roof the Transmitter and Administration (T&A) Building was awarded, with options for re-roofing other buildings deferred for future consideration. ERKA initiated the on-site re-roofing work in May 2012, and completed re-roofing of the T&A Building in July. The contractor has demobilized from the site, rendering all work under the base contract complete. The Office of Contracts has been requested to exercise two options for re-roofing of the warehouse and power plant building.

## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2012**

**DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:** The station remains in a caretaker status, which is an agency responsibility, as the GSA disposal process continues. The U.S. Marine Corps continues to show interest in obtaining the property.

**DISPOSAL OF SITE-A CLOSURE AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The station remains in a caretaker status, which is an agency responsibility, as the GSA disposal process continues. The Navy and Marine Corps representatives continue to work on obtaining Department of Defense approval to pursue transferring the site from the agency to the Marine Corps. In the meantime, a proposed interim use agreement, which would permit the Marine Corps to use the site while the formal disposal process continues, is under agency review. Attorneys from the Navy and BBG have discussed the interim agreement, and our GC representative has provided the Navy with a marked-up copy showing the changes requested by the agency.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in August:

The Administration Supervisor and Assistant Transmitter Plant Supervisor attended Managing Customer Service (PA 123) and FSN Supervisory Skills Workshop (PA 248) training in Gaborone. The training was sponsored by the Embassy and provided by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI).

The Assistant Transmitter Plant Supervisor and Advance Radio Technician traveled to affiliate E Botswana TV and affected repairs to the TVRO system used for receiving VOA programming. The old Scientific Atlanta (SA) decoder was defective, and the replacement decoder sent from the Marketing Office in Johannesburg was not configured properly.

The station started searching for a new FSO residence located in Francistown. Due to increased mining operations and the need for additional workers, the housing market in Francistown is very competitive.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in August:

A systematic preventative maintenance of the switch bay continued. Several switch arms were replaced and later refurbished. Several transmitter preventative maintenance procedures were performed with minor problems corrected as needed. A prototype blower assembly was installed in the GB-3 power vault to increase cooling for the line shorter resistor bank.

The last remaining stock of blocking capacitors from the OEM (original equipment manufacturer) were received and installed in GB-8. After successful testing, the Op-memo removing the transmitter from service was cancelled and the transmitter was returned to normal programming.

The BR25 transmission line fell to the ground, possibly due to recent severe weather in the area. This required an emergency repair, as the antenna is used on a daily basis. Fortunately, a contractor was



already on site replacing transmission line poles and was able to restring the transmission line almost immediately, minimizing program outage.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in August:

Three members of the IBB Philippines staff visited Biblis to help construct the racks and equipment needed for the Tinian Transmitting Site's switchbay and antenna control systems replacement project.

Following the recent upgrade of the MERN carrier system at the IBB site in Tinang, the same upgrade was applied to the MERN carrier system in Lampertheim. Lampertheim's MERN carrier system is the backup for the primary system in the Philippines.

For security, some windows in the station's "safe heaven" had to be permanently closed.

A telephone conference between IBB Germany, Zoran Predic (lead contact for Serbia, Macedonia, and Kosovo) and the sub-contractors was held to discuss ways how to improve technical support and maintenance for affiliates in this region. Besides agreeing on how to arrange support activities, the group defined required tools and material for current and future installations. Germany will provide a list of required tools.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in August:

The August desert heat proved too much for the aging pair of 25 ton AC units required to keep the even more aged Continental 318.5D KUW-C MW transmitter cool. The AC breakdowns caused transmitter overheating, precipitating grid-filament short failures in four 4CX35000 transmitting tubes. The replacement of these units was recommended in the station's M&R Plan submission in 2011 for implementation in FY-2012 but that replacement action was deferred. The Transmitting Station Manager made an emergency local procurement for two new replacement chiller units.

The long-deferred M&R project for painting of the 1548 KHz MW seven-tower array drew closer to implementation this month as the RFP was finally advertised in the FedBizOps on August 20th. The station is receiving bids through September 5th and hopes to award the contract and obligate the funding before the end of the FY.

On August 27th the station staff held a send-off luncheon for Transmitter Plant Supervisor, Charles Shepard. Chuck served five years as the Kuwait Plant Supervisor. Drafted from an excursion tour in Botswana, Chuck was brought to Kuwait to help ramrod a period of accelerated mission expansion. As a result of his outstanding job performance at Kuwait, he was accepted into the Foreign Service earlier in the year, and was selected as the next Transmitting Station Manager of the IBB Botswana Transmitting Station. He departed post on August 28th. The station wishes Chuck all the best.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in August:

Commercial power was disrupted on August 22nd due to the loss of the voltage tap changer. The station operated on generators during the isolation and by-pass process, and returned to unregulated commercial power with the transmitters operating in the AM modulation mode on August 24th. Replacement parts have been ordered, with an expected arrival and full restoration of the system in late September.

On August 27th, Tinian Resident Engineer, Derek Gifford, departed on TDY to provide approximately two weeks of assistance at the IBB site in Tinang.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in August:

Station encountered loss of West Fiber signal on August 21 from 0355 to 2030 UTC. The circuit came back in service while the Verizon technician was investigating it, and the cause of the downtime was undetermined. Also, several glitches on the circuit were experienced during the month.

(b) (6)

were on site on August 13 and 14.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in August:

The new Brazilian ambassador to Sao Tome and Principe, Mr. Jose Carlos de Araujo Leitao, paid a courtesy visit to the station.

On August 18th, Regional Medical Officer, Dr. (b) (6), arrived on post and was able to perform the required medical exam that departing FSO (b) (6) needed for transfer.

Riggers completed preventive maintenance on RF switch modules on antenna #02. Broken screen wires on both #6 and #7 antennas kept riggers hopping the rest of the month. B&G tower painters continued work on tower #3, applying a secondary coat of paint over the primer.

The station hosted three interns from the local Polytechnic Center for two weeks in August. As part of their mechanical and electrical studies, practical hands-on experience is a requirement during the summer break. The school covered expenses while the station introduced them to diesel engine overhaul. It was a “win-win” all around.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in August:

The station’s big event for the month was the hosting of the first “Community Health Fair” on August 24, for their neighbors in Iranawila. Free services included dental work, issuance of free eye glasses, and several educational lectures regarding non-communicable diseases. In the end, about 272 residents took advantage of these services. The cost of supporting this event was basically limited to \$135 of representational funds: lunch for the doctors plus a few miscellaneous expenses.

The station had several visitors this month. Peter Knopf and David Kaiser, IBB Germany, were on site to complete automation system configuration changes. The system is now 100% functional, and the station is preparing to begin full operational testing. The station was also visited by (b) (6), who was on site to conduct interviews relating to routine security clearance updates. IBB program monitors (b) (6) (Sri Lanka) and (b) (6) (India) visited the station. (b) (6) was in town to discuss monitoring technologies and related issues with Victor, and took the opportunity to visit one of the stations he so frequently reports on. We had two security visits this month, when Regional Security Officer (RSO) (b) (6) and Assistant RSO (b) (6) visited the facility to inspect their guard services. IPC technician, (b) (6), was also on site to repair the Embassy VHF repeater.

Station Secretary, Shereen Vanderkoen, received an Extra Mile Award. The accommodation was issued in recognition of the outstanding speech she wrote for the station manager, which was presented on behalf of the US Ambassador at the IBB Health Fair in July. The speech, which required minimal revision, was drafted on very short notice.

The station participated in several local training opportunities. On August 15, six mid-level supervisors attended "How to Excel in Managing and Supervising People," which was provided by the McGuire Corporate Training group. The station nurse also provided AED refresher training to the entire staff.

Nationwide rolling blackouts commenced on August 8. This occurrence happens on nearly a daily basis, and can last from as little as one hour to more than three hours. As a result, the station expects its commercial power bill will drop by approximately 10-15%, which will be more than offset by the costs of buying more diesel fuel.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in August:

New Assistant RSO's (b) (6) visited the station on August 1-2 to tour the site, review security and conduct a "duck and cover" drill. Diplomatic Security (DS) Coordinator (b) (6) visited the station on August 3 to update the last inspection and review of the station's physical security. On Monday, August 27, (b) (6) of RSO Bangkok, and (b) (6) of DS in Washington visited the station to provide Chemical-Biological Hazard and Weapons of Mass Destruction training to the IBB staff, Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) staff from Udorn and the local guard force.

One of our Transmitter Technicians was fitted with a pacemaker on August 4 after collapsing on the street in Udorn the previous weekend. The Station Safety Committee met to discuss and share information on this event due to the potentially hostile environment that a high power shortwave transmitting station can present to implanted cardiac rhythm devices. The station worked closely with Gerhard Straub, T/EB in Washington and with the RMO to evaluate the safety considerations. Upon close review of all available data, it was finally determined that it would be possible for the employee to return to duty with restrictions. The consulting physician cleared the employee to return to duty on August 24. An MOU was written and signed by the employee who returned to work on restricted duty in the Master Control Room (MCR) on August 27. Gerhard Straub, with assistance of others at HQ, shipped calibrated measurement equipment to the station that will allow a more accurate determination of restrictions that will allow the employee to work safely.

The Embassy's General Services Officer, (b) (6) traveled to Udorn on August 6-7 to provide a brief overview of the procurement process, and to discuss how to avoid unauthorized commitments to our staff.

The Ban Dung Disaster Prevention and Catastrophe Mitigation Dept. provided fire safety and awareness refresher training to the Udorn Staff.

On the occasion of National Science Week in Thailand, 300 students from Ban Chainakham School toured station facilities and 30 students from Sawang Daeng Din Vocational School, majoring in electronics technology, visited the station.

The Ban Dung District Hospital provided first aid and CPR training to IBB Udorn staff members who were not able to attend previous training presented by the Embassy Medical Unit.

## **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** The FY 2012 M&R plan was approved by the TSI Director on Nov. 16, 2011. In FY 2012, M&R received a total of \$4.09 million including an NOA of \$3.18 million, a credit from Erching sale of \$0.84 million, and a small amount of carry-over. Most of the available funding

has been allotted to the stations or to headquarter awards. The stations are expected to obligate all allotted M&R funds. Funds that are not obligated at headquarters by the end of September will be carried-over into FY 2013 for reallocation, hopefully early in the CR cycle.

**NCC Renovation:** In April 2012, GSA received all documents and information from IBB they needed to proceed with the procurement process. On September 13<sup>th</sup>, GSA finally received their internal clearances required to complete preparation to advertise the solicitation. A synopsis for the project was entered into the FBO site on September 14th. IBB is not part of that process and was not being provided information concerning the type of award or set-aside contract that might be used. We learned from the FBO synopsis that GSA has advertised this project as a “SET ASIDE FOR SMALL DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES ONLY.” IBB notified GSA that some items in the synopsis were inaccurate, but no changes were made and no explanation was given as to why GSA would not respond to our request. The project solicitation is scheduled to be posted on September 28th. Proposals are due on October 29th.

GSA also requires that they handle all COR responsibilities on the project. GSA’s projection for contract award is December 11th, 2012. **Prior to this date, the NCC staff must complete: the move of the staff and equipment out of the Phase I area; the removal of all excess cable throughout the area; removal of all excess and stored equipment; and the preparation of a plan for their 35 day transition between Phases I and II.**

**Sao Tome Re-roofing:** CON awarded the contract to ERKA Co. LDT on January 24, 2011. Because of funding limitations, only the base contract work to re-roof the Transmitter and Administration (T&A) Building was awarded, with options for re-roofing other buildings deferred for future consideration. ERKA initiated the on-site re-roofing work in May 2012, and completed re-roofing of the T&A Building in July. The contractor has demobilized from the site, rendering all work under the base contract complete.

In August 2012, TSI requested CON to exercise two options for re-roofing of the warehouse and power plant buildings. CON determined that the time period for exercising those options had expired, and that any consideration for award of the options to ERKA would have to be based on a Justification for Other than Full and Open Competition (JOFOC). Because the Station Manager couldn’t support a JOFOC based on an urgent and compelling justification, an alternate project implementation approach was pursued in coordination with CON that involves the BBG’s purchase of the materials, and a separate contract only for installation. To that end, the Station Manager awarded purchase orders for the roofing materials required for the two buildings in September 2012. A separate contract for installation will be solicited and awarded in FY 2013.

## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2012**

**DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:** The station remains in a caretaker status, which is an agency responsibility, as the GSA turn-in/disposal process continues. With GSA approval, the Marine Corps conducted a one-day exercise at the site, and based on the results of the exercise, remains very interested in obtaining the property.

**DISPOSAL OF THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Navy and Marine Corps representatives continue to work on obtaining Department of Defense approval to pursue transferring the site from the agency to the Marine Corps. The Navy is working with the BBG's OGC to finalize terms of a proposed interim use agreement, which would permit the Marine Corps to use the site while the formal disposal process continues. Once finalized, it will be forwarded to the agency for approval. In addition, GSA has selected a contractor to remove the equipment containing PCB's from the site; this action is agency funded.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in September:

A farewell party for Transmitting Station Manager Gunter Schwabe was held at the Selebi Phikwe Golf Club. The staff thanked Erich for all the hard work and dedication during his assignment at IBB Botswana. Erich was transferred to IBB Sri Lanka in early October.

Incoming Transmitting Station Manager Charles Shepard arrived at the station on September 26th.

The station held a Health Wellness presentation on the effects of depression.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in September:

Transmitter GB-7 was temporarily removed from service to modify the vacuum capacitor water system manifold due to water leaks. Transmitter GB-8 was temporarily removed from service due to a water leak in the water cooling line. In both cases, programming was transferred to other station transmitters with minimal outage.

The first phase of the transmission line pole replacement project was completed with a total of 66 poles being replaced. In addition, the perimeter fence repair project is now complete, with several poles and sections of wire replaced.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in September:

A representative from Teleradiocom, General Director (b) (6), and the IBB representative Transmitting Station Manager Michael Hardegen signed an agreement that will cut the cost of the IBB operations in Tajikistan. While in Germany, (b) (6) also visited the Germany Transmitting Station and was briefed on station operations and the IBB mission. As a result of this agreement, the preparatory work for the installation of a second Continental SW transmitter in Tajikistan was started.

The satellite earth station staff was heavily involved in tracing satellite jamming activities on various satellites in Europe and the Middle East. The attack was quite intensive as Eutelsat 13B, Eutelsat 7A, and Nilesat were affected.

In Afghanistan, a new generator was delivered and installed at the FM site at Khost. In addition, the camera system for the MW transmitter at Khost was installed and tested. This system will enable station personnel to assist the local staff during troubleshooting.

In support of the Tinian Antenna Switchbay and Slew Control Systems Project, three engineers from IBB Philippines joined the German automation team in Biblis and assisted in constructing and wiring the switchbay control racks, as well as fitting many circuit boards.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in September:

At the end of August, the station was in the process of replacing, on an emergency basis, the two-25 ton AC units required to keep transmitter KUW-C operational in the extreme heat. In September, new replacement 32 ton AC units were installed and the entire cooling system loop was normalized. The old Continental 318.5 D 150 kW transmitter is now operating normally in a constant 16° C atmosphere. As an operational change, the station is also now keeping that transmitter's filaments on 24/7 to minimize thermal contraction and expansion of components.

The station experienced problems with the Thomson rotatable antenna, resulting in the loss of 7.3 hours of un-substituted program outages on transmitter KUW-5 over three days. The first problem was traced to an inaccessible slip-ring assembly circuit with an open connection, resulting in the loss of 24 VDC. Telephone and email requests to Thomson for a procedure to access the slip-ring assembly (that is embedded within the rotating hub) went unanswered. Fortunately, one of the station's very observant technicians determined that contact #18 on the assembly was unused, so the station transferred the 24 VDC circuit to the unused contact. The second problem, the loss of one AC phase on the motorized selector switch, was due to a simple loose connection.

Visitors to the station in September included a new ARSO from the Embassy, who came out for an orientation and to conduct an emergency security drill. The station also had two visits by representatives of WesternGeco, a contractor that is currently doing a seismic profile survey of this area for the Kuwait Oil Company. On the first visit, they inquired about the possibility of doing profiles across portions of the station's nine-square kilometer site. The Station Manager visited their base camp and received a complete briefing on their procedures and equipment systems. On their second visit, the station provided them with specifics on where they could and could not use their seismic sounding equipment. Their survey work will probably reach the station area sometime in early November.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in September:

Commercial power was disrupted in August due to the loss of the voltage tap changer. This month, the station received the replacement part and replaced the potential transformer for the load tap changer, which fully restored the system.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in September:

The station encountered the loss of the west fiber for 75 minutes due to re-routing of fiber on the Tarlac road. Station did not receive any advance notice of the re-routing of the fibers.

The Security Inspection Group from the U.S. Embassy inspected the local guard force at both the Tinang and Poro sites.

The Station Manager was at the Marianas Transmitting Station, September 19-26, 2012.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in September:

On September 4th, Power Plant Supervisor Rui Duarte passed away unexpectedly after a short hospital stay. He was laid to rest the following day. The funeral was attended by many of the Sao Tome Transmitting Station staff. Rui will be greatly missed by all.

Three IT technicians from T/I in Washington arrived in Sao Tome to “refresh” its work stations, servers and local network. The refresh was accomplished successfully, although some work remains to be accomplished by IT staff at headquarters. Many thanks to Aubrey Saxon, Sinisa Kurtic and Don Louie for their efforts to get this all accomplished in a single week.

On September 28th, Ron Harris arrived at the station to begin a three year tour as Transmitter Plant/Facilities Supervisor.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in September:

The station welcomed the new US Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Michele Sison, who is a career member of the US Senior Foreign Service. She previously served as the ambassador to Lebanon (2008-2010), United Arab Emirates (2004-2008), and most recently, as the Assistant Chief of Mission in Baghdad, Iraq (2011-2012).

The station also welcomes its new nurse, Nishanee Chathurika Wickramasinghe. Nishanee will work alongside our current station nurse, Susil Fernando, who was granted a 3-month service extension in order to train Nishanee on her new duties. Susil is now set to retire on December 29, 2012.

Extra Mile awards were given to Susil Fernando for his untiring efforts coordinating the Iranawila Health Fair, and to D.S.G.L. Mahinda, for displaying initiative and resourcefulness in making an emergency transmitter repair that prevented an extended program outage.

Richard Cai, from T/EOS in Washington, arrived at the station to review supplies and installation procedures for the new antenna maintenance cables.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in September:

At the Rasom (Bangkok) site, the medium wave (MW) site staff recently installed a Harris AMC card into the DX-1000 transmitter. The card is working but not configured in the way it was expected. The Transmitter Plant Supervisor is working with Harris to obtain a modified eProm for the new AMC card.

Six members of the Udorn transmitter plant worked at the Rasom MW site at different times during the month to acquire on-the-job experience with the megawatt MW transmitter and the plant.

Twenty-five students and five teachers from the Rajamankara University, Khon Kaen Campus visited the Udorn Transmitter Plant to tour the facility. Approximately 40 students from Ban Nong Song Hong Kindergarten, accompanied by teachers and a few parents, toured the Udorn site.

(b) (6) from Diplomatic Security at the State Department in Washington, provided biological, chemical, and weapons of mass destruction first-responder training to five members of the Udorn staff.

#### **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** In FY 2012, M&R received a total of \$4,091,932. During the fiscal year, most of the available funding was allotted to the stations or to headquarter awards. Of the total amount allocated in FY 2012, \$3,656,727 was obligated by the end of September. The unobligated balance of \$435,205 will be carried-over into FY 2013 for reallocation.

**NCC Renovation:** The project solicitation was posted on September 28<sup>th</sup>. GSA has advertised this project as a “SET ASIDE FOR SMALL DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES ONLY.” Potential bidders or contractors visited the NCC on Wednesday October 3<sup>rd</sup>. At that time, GSA’s Contract Specialist indicated that any questions or clarifications shall be sent to her directly. We received the questions from GSA’s Project Manager and provided answers as requested. An addendum to the solicitation was posted on October 17<sup>th</sup>. GSA decided to have a second site visit and round of questions. The second site visit was on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and answers to the second round of questions were returned to GSA on October 31<sup>st</sup>. As a result of this second site visit, the due-date for bids was extended to November 6<sup>th</sup>. It is not known if GSA will further extend the bid due-date based on Hurricane Sandy. GSA’s projection for contract award is now December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

**Prior to the projected contract award date of December 19<sup>th</sup>, the NCC staff must finalize the completion of the move of their staff and equipment out of the Phase I area, the removal of all excess cable throughout all areas, the removal of all excess and stored equipment, and the preparation of a plan for their 35-day transition between the Contractor’s Phases I and II. This work has not been completed this month. The Contractor’s start-work date is contingent upon the NCC equipment and personnel moving out from their current location and the other work described above. Any in-house delays may cause Contractor delays. The Contractor has liquidated damages in his contract, so we do not want to be seen as impacting or delaying his work in any way.**



## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2012**

**DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:** The station remains in a caretaker status, which is an agency responsibility, as the GSA turn-in/disposal process continues.

### **DISPOSAL OF SITE A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:**

The Navy and Marine Corps representatives continue to work on obtaining Department of Defense approval to pursue transferring the site from the agency to the Marine Corps. The proposed interim use agreement, which would permit the Marine Corps to use the site while the formal transfer process continues, has been finalized and is in the final approval stage.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in October:

The Station Manager traveled to the Embassy to assist in Emergency Action Plan (EAP) integration. The Embassy is updating their EAP documentation and is requesting 100% participation from all agencies under the mission.

The station's technical and administration staff attended CPR, First Aid and AED training conducted by Medical Rescue International (MRI) Botswana at Phokoje Bush Lodge.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in October:

Transmitter GB-5 was temporarily removed from service to replace a defective cooling water line fitting in the PA. Programming was transferred to other station transmitters with minimal outage.

Transmitter GB-8 was temporarily removed from service due to a mechanical failure in one of the high voltage switchgear cubicles. The switch mechanism was refurbished by one of the station's part-time contractors and returned to service. Programming was transferred to other station transmitters with minimal outage.

The station welcomed the addition of three new contract technicians, (b) (6) and (b) (6) to the site technical staff.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in October:

A prime task during the month had been the tracking of the jamming of satellite signals that affected programs of IBB, BBC, DW, and others. After Iran's state media had been removed from the very popular Eutelsat 13B (Hotbird), the jamming was dramatically increased. There was not a single day in which EU 13B and EU 7A were not jammed. To avoid program losses for the transmitting stations, the station quickly deployed additional receivers to Lampertheim and Biblis to enable direct receive of the P-channels via Intelsat 907 on 332.5°E.

Three IBB Germany engineers travelled to IBB Philippines (Tinang site) to work on the automation of the SW transmitters, the replacement of the Master Control Room's control systems, and the installation of the Crystal View System. Due to the complexity of all tasks involved, these projects are ongoing and will be completed in November.

In Afghanistan, the surge protector unit in Helmand, which was destroyed by a power strike, was successfully replaced with a new unit sent from Washington.

Four sites in Palestine (Ramallah, Nablus, Jenin and Hebron) were restructured to a new VPN network provided by a local ISP. This modification enables reliable monitoring of these stations, which are now included in the IBB monitoring system.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in October:

Iranian jamming of the Hotbird satellites escalated to a new level after Eutelsat removed 19 Iranian 'news' channels off the Hotbird about mid-month. In retaliation, the Iranians began maliciously jamming Hotbird satellites 7A, 13B and 25A, disrupting the broadcasts of many European news outlets. This jamming also affected the BBG's bundled language feeds to the region, disrupting Radio Sawa programming on FM outlets across North Africa and the Middle East. Shortly after the jamming began, at Washington direction, the Kuwait and Germany Transmitting Stations' Master Controls provided hourly jamming reports and satellite plots to the Network Control Center (NCC).

Visitors to the station this month included:

- a. The State Department's Kuwait Desk Officer, (b) (6), who was accompanied by Eric Burn of the Embassy's Economic Section.
- b. Several members of the Embassy's Management/Human Relations/Financial Management staff who visited for an orientation.
- c. An Embassy Assistant Regional Security Officer who visited to conduct a "Duck & Cover" drill.

The station's Resident Engineer was TDY to Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Crews from WesternGeco began survey work at the station as part of a seismic profile study of this portion of Kuwait for the Kuwait Petroleum Company. Following an initial survey and ordnance clearance by advance teams, lines of geophones were laid out in selected areas across the site. This action was followed by "Shaker" trucks which vibrate the ground to send out pressure waves that are reflected by the underground strata and bounce back up to be detected by the geophone network. As a precaution, the crews will not be making any measurements within 150 meters of any station buildings or antenna systems. The measurement process at the station will continue into November.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in October, no commercial power outages were encountered at the Tinian site, and three commercial power outages were encountered at the Saipan site. All commercial power outages at Saipan were due to faults in the provider's grid that services the station.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in October:

On 29 October, transmitters PHT-5, 7, and 10 each lost 120 hours of program feed due to a telephone line problem.

The station extended technical support to a new TV affiliate, Station PTV-4, in Quezon City.

The Transmitting Station Manager visited the Poro site for management consultations on 9 October.

(b) (6)

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in October:

The station was honored by its first visit by a Congressional Delegation since 2005. Rep. Russ Carnahan (D-MO 3rd District), Rep. David Dreier (R-CA 9th District), Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA 33rd District) and Rep. Robert L. Turner (R-NY 9th District) were in attendance with supporting staff and toured the station with the Transmitting Station Manager and U.S. Ambassador Eric Benjaminson.

FSO (b) (6) departed the station for his follow on assignment at the Philippines Transmitting Station.

Power plant technicians Alvaro Dos Santos, Elias Ribeiro and Paulo Costa successfully completed the overhaul of the engine for Generator #3.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in October:

Cyclone Nilam, originating over the Bay of Bengal, intensified into a cyclonic storm that eventually hit the island on 31 October. Sustained winds, approaching or exceeding 85km per hour, wreaked havoc on station antennas, decimating three curtain antennas (49L1, 275L, and 340L). All were completely disabled, with large swaths of curtain and screen elements mangled, if not thrown to the ground. In addition, there is visible twisting on Tower Q, which needs to be looked at. The ensuing outage totaled over 14 hours. Richard Cai, T/EOS was sent from Washington to survey the extent of the damage, and map out a course of corrective action. The station's internal survey indicates that each array will take a minimum of one month to reconstruct, and likely more.

Officials from the Department of Forrest Conservation ((b) (6) – Beat Forest Officer and (b) (6) – Field Assistant of the Forest Ranger) visited the station to survey mangrove areas and verify our property line. This station is bordered to the east by the Iranawila lagoon, large swaths of which house protected mangroves that serve as a birth sanctuary. The station provided its fullest cooperation as the team moves to demarcate protected areas throughout the Northwestern Province.

The station's new Plant Supervisor, Erich Schwabe, arrived from his previous posting in Botswana. He will occupy temporary housing in Colombo until a permanent residence can be assigned by the Embassy Housing Board. Erich's family is expected to join him following the Christmas holiday.

The station received notice this month that Hemantha Edirisinghe – Lead Radio Technician, was the recipient of an IBB Gold Medal award for "*Designing and implementing transmitter modifications and improvements at the Sri Lanka Transmitting Station*". The award was presented by the US Ambassador during a station visit and town hall.

The station received an unexpected request for assistance from the local VOA Affiliate, TNL Radio Networks Ltd. Sri Lanka decided to reissue FM transmitter frequencies throughout the country to make network-wide coverage more consistent. As such, several FM broadcasters had to re-tune or replace FM duplexers. TNL lacked the required expertise and test equipment to perform the re-tuning, hence their request for assistance. TNL technicians (b) (6) and (b) (6) brought one such unit to the station so that our staff could make the realignment. The station then sent a two-man team to three of the affiliate's nationwide locations (Deniyaya, Karagahatenne, and Colombo) to complete the remaining realignments prior to the November 1 deadline.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in October:

The residential guards at the Udorn housing area did not report for duty on 1 October because the Department of State Program Office in Washington decided to cancel the guard service at the start of the new FY without notifying station management. An official protest was lodged immediately with the Regional Security Officer (RSO) and interim service was quickly restored on a temporary basis. Station management submitted a case for restoring guard services with assistance from the Embassy RSO, and was advised that the State Department had agreed to restore Udorn's guard services pending modification of the global guard workforce contract.

On 2 October, 69 kindergarten through primary-3 students and teachers from Ban Hua Dong Yang School visited the station.

The Transmitting Station Manager, Richard Baltes, Executive Officer, Ms. Patcharin Reechaipichitkul and Management Secretary, Waraporn Seehanavy paid a courtesy call to the New Ban Dung District Chief, (b) (6).

Mr. (b) (6) Embassy/ISC, visited the station to provide a briefing for the Udorn staff on Yammer, a social media application like Facebook that is a part of the Ambassador's LES employee engagement program.

The Ban Dung guard supervisor advised station management that encroachment onto the site was occurring for the purpose of removing trees from the site. The Ban Dung police, Ban Dung District Officer and the RTG Forestry Department were immediately notified.

#### **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** The total of NOA and Carryover allotted to M&R at this time is \$1.326 million. This sum should be available for emergency projects and ongoing projects initiated in FY12. A proposed FY 2013 three-year M&R Plan has been prepared and should be presented to the TSI Director for approval next month.

**NCC Renovation:** GSA posted this project on September 28th as a "SET ASIDE FOR SMALL DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES ONLY." Potential bidders visited the site on two occasions and two amendments were posted to answer contractors' questions from both site visits. As a result, the original bid date of October 29th was extended to November 13th. The technical proposal packages were distributed to the Technical Evaluation Board at a meeting with GSA Legal on November 14th. The Technical Evaluation Board is currently reviewing the technical qualifications of the contractors. The estimate for technical evaluation completion is November 30, 2012. After the technical evaluation is complete, the GSA Contracting Officer and Contract Specialist will review the bid price from the contractors. GSA's projection for contract award is December 26th, 2012. Prior to the contract

award of December 26th, the NCC staff must finalize the completion of the move of their staff and equipment out of the Phase I area, the removal of all excess cable and stored equipment, and the preparation of their 35 day migration plan. The contractor start work date is contingent upon the NCC equipment and personnel move out from their current location. Any in-house delays may cause contractor delays.

## **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT BRANCH ACTIVITIES:**

### **Space Renovations**

- a. Creative Services (14 FTE & POV) – Consolidate all offices in one location. Location is S (b) (7)(F) old Croatian/Audience Mail. Status: Currently under design and space being cleaned up. Once final design is completed we will proceed with a construction estimate and obtaining funding.
- b. ODDI (27 FTE & POV). – Renovation of space. Status: Working with manger to coordinate the swing space in order to complete the construction and installation of new systems furniture. Estimated completion date 11/26/12.
- c. Urdu – Construction of new office for new Chief. Status: GSA finds Blanchard Contracting cost not justified. GSA is obtaining new proposal.
- d. Visitors Center/Briefing Room – Repainting and replacing incandescent light with LED's. Status: All incandescent lamps in the spot lights have been replaced with LED lamps and painting is completed. Project completed.
- e. Studio 1-19, 28, 29 and E – Replacing carpet. Status: Provided carpet selection, selection made by Benjamin. Estimated delivery is 6-8 weeks.
- f. Admin Office (15 FTE & POV's) – Expansion of space, possibly into Budget office space, to accommodate the growth of the office. Status: Meeting was held to discuss the options for the space the CFO office decided that they could accommodate the expansion and a new design is being prepared.
- g. Zimbabwe – Renovation of Space and build office for Chief. Status: 1st phase completed, working with GSA to obtain the estimate for the second phase.
- h. G-747 – Renovate old book library space. Status: Project start date was 10/9/12, project completed on 10/29/12. Back order on blinds- 11/15/12. Still waiting for the blinds to arrive.
- i. TSI – Consolidation of space. Status: TSI team went to the NeCon to survey new furniture option.
- j. VNC – Reconfiguration of workstations (15) to meet agreement between LER and Union. Status: Furniture was ordered 9/30. Once furniture arrives, installing will be coordinated.
- k. New York Bureau – Construction of Studio in the New York Bureau. Status: Contract was awarded to Integrated Construction Enterprises. The award amount was \$306,097.66. Due to Hurricane Sandy, the building was closed and the kick-off meeting had to be delayed. Move is scheduled for November 30<sup>th</sup>, and construction should begin on December 3rd. The construction is expected to take 4 months.

- l. Key project –Replacing locks so there is only one master key. Status: Completed lock work in PNN, HR, Urdu, VNC and Deewa Services. The next section to be completed will be Near East South Central Division.
- m. GSA – Schedule test drilling for the roof replacement project. Status: Work has been postponed until 12/5/2012.
- n. Gym- Has been postponed until January.
- o. Rooftop tent - Working with VOA and GSA to get approval to replace the riser on the roof and to install a tent-like cover over the riser.

### **HVAC Projects**

- a. Second Floor studios – Repair motor, VFD's. Status: Waiting for controls to be installed.

### **Electrical Projects**

- a. UPS 2 – Notifications. Status: Now sending daily reports to (b) (7)(F)
- b. Automatic Transfer Switches – Status: Work is being scheduled for the first week of December.
- c. Upgrade to power in computer room 4137. Status: Sufficient power is not available in the room. We are researching options for increasing the power.

### **Parking**

- a. Closure of parking garage in preparation for Presidential transitions. Status: Twenty-four additional key cards were picked up from Colonial headquarters in NW and distributed to garage parkers by the 11/7/12 deadline.

### **Safety/Health**

- a. Wellness Program. Status: Working with the team to incorporate changes and grand opening.
- b. Fire Alarm Drill. Status: Fire drill was successfully conducted on 11/13/12.
- c. Shelter in Place Drill. Status: Working with GSA and HHS to coordinate a date to have the drill.

## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2012**

**DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION CLOSURE:** The station remains in a caretaker status, which is an agency responsibility, as the GSA turn-in/disposal process continues.

### **DISPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:**

The Navy and Marine Corps representatives continue to work on obtaining Department of Defense approval to pursue transferring the site from the agency to the Marine Corps. The proposed interim use agreement, which would permit the Marine Corps to use the site while the formal transfer process continues, is in the final approval stage. The removal of the equipment containing PCB's (hazardous material) from the site was completed this month (December).

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in November:

The station experienced an unusual amount of power outages. Most of the outages were directly related to power transfers from the power stations operated by South Africa to the power stations operated by Botswana.

The station's technical and administration staff attended a wellness presentation conducted by Botswana Medical Aid (Bomaid). The presentation was held at the station and the topic was woman's health.

The Station Manager travelled to the embassy to consult with the Financial Management Office (FMO) regarding a \$110,000 increase in ICASS billing. The increase was due to the local guard force no longer being billed by the Diplomatic Security (DS) Office. Actually, the cost of the station's guard service "decreased" due to the cost being shared with CDC and the Peace Corp. It was also explained that IBB should not pay DS if they submit an invoice.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in November:

The station peak shaving generator was activated for its routine test. During the synchronizing phase, all power to the site was lost. The problem was traced to a trip of the main breaker feeding the station from the incoming power distribution system. The generator system was inspected by the contractor and no obvious problems were found. A technician from the power company inspected their equipment and determined that their system detected a reverse power feed condition which resulted in a trip command being sent to the generator control system. A redesign of the control system is being investigated.

Transmitter GB-5 was removed from service due to a defective modulation transformer. Transmitter GB-8 was removed from service due to the failure of a ring compressor. Programming was transferred to other station transmitters with minimal outage.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in November:

The station initiated actions in response to the recent jamming activities of the Eutelsat 13B satellite. Eutelsat 9A is currently utilized as backup to Eutelsat 13B (Hotbird). Uplink to the Eutelsat 9A is performed via the Kuwait Transmitting Station on a regular base. Now, Lampertheim's Eutelsat 13A system (backup to Prague) also is able to backup the Eutelsat 9A system via Kuwait. System "A" components are tuned to Eutelsat 13A and system "B" components are tuned to Eutelsat 9A. The switch is made by swinging the 3.8m Vertex batwing antenna.

Two Biblis engineers travelled to IBB Philippines for the installation of extended transmitter control and monitoring equipment to be used with the IBB Station Automation System (SAS). The project was successfully finished with all systems working properly and exceeding all basic requirements. Besides the installation and commissioning, training of station staff and preliminary system documentation were provided.

At Cyprus, the broadcast of Radio Sawa from the site was interrupted for several hours due to a missing program from the studios. The station contacted the Network Control Center and IBB Germany. During the outage time, Cyprus broadcasted music fill.

At Djibouti, the station resumed full power operation.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in November:

Kuwait celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the nation's constitution with a spectacular fireworks display on November 10th. In an hour, they lit off KD 4 Million (USD 14 Million) worth of pyrotechnics. The display actually set a new world's record in the Guinness book.

The contractor performing the seismic survey across our property reported to the Transmitting Station Manager that their line crews had discovered three unexploded MK118 Rockeye projectiles (RPG's) out in our fields. The coordinates of the unexploded ordinance were provided to the Kuwait Ministry of Defense who blew the RPG's up in place.

(b) (7)(F)

The station's Resident Engineer traveled to Ndjamen, Chad to assist in negotiations for the placement of a VOA FM outlet in that city.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in November:

No commercial power outages were encountered at the Tinian or Saipan sites. Saipan reported power fluctuations due to faults in the provider's grid servicing the station, but these fluctuations had no impact on scheduled broadcasts.

Implementation of the Momentum 701.1 upgrade has thus far proven to be extremely problematic, and as a result, procurement functions have been seriously impeded.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in November:



The embassy's Medical Unit staff conducted a CPR refresher course and administered flu vaccines to LES and contract employees.

Shannon E. White, Transmitter/Facilities Supervisor arrived at post on November 2, 2012. Shannon transferred in from the Sao Tome Transmitting Station.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in November:

The station conducted a short award presentation to recognize the outstanding performance of Antenna Maintenance Supervisor Nelson Neto, who was recognized with a Gold Medal Award by the BBG. Nelson gave much of the credit for his award to his team of antenna technicians, as well as, our B&G rigger/painters.

On Veterans Day evening, the station received a call from a distressed Portuguese ambassador looking for a casket suitable for air transport of a body. An unfortunate Portuguese national celebrating his birthday at a popular roça was killed during lunch when a tree branch broke and struck him in the head. Fortunately, the station was able to assist and delivered its casket to the morgue within an hour of taking the call.

The station was visited by the Austrian Ambassador Joachim Öppinger and Canadian High Commissioner to Sao Tome and Principe, Christopher Cooter. Both are assigned to Abuja with STP as an ancillary post.

SAO-02 PA tube began to exhibit low emissions during the month. This is the first rebuilt CQK 50-2 that was provided under the new contract with CPI-ECONCO about two years ago. With 2800 plate hours at the time of reduced emissions, it appears that rebuilds may be more economical than new CQK 50-2 tubes purchased direct from Thomson (now Ampegon). This rebuilt was purchased at one third the cost of a new tube, and has performed for one half the lifecycle. The station continues to operate the low emission tube in SAO-2.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in November:

Ambassador Michele Sison visited the station – her first IBB tour since arriving at post this past September. While at the station, she attended a luncheon organized in her honor. Following brief statements by the manager and ambassador, four Extra Mile Awards were handed out. They also presented a recently issued Gold Medal Award to Lead Radio Technician, Hemantha Edirisinghe, for his outstanding work in the transmitter plant. The ambassador took great pleasure working the crowd, moving from table to table to sit and discuss various topics with the staff

The station had several other visitors for the month. A team from Dialog Telecom visited to research and discuss the possibility of installing an MPLS link at the station. Physical Security Specialist Jesus Castro, from IBB Washington was in country to complete a survey at the station and FSO residences. Richard Cai, T/EOS, was on site to perform an initial damage assessment on antennas 49L1, 275L, and 340L. Assistant RSO Daniel Erickson was on site to conduct chemical/biological escape mask training, which was attended by all the employees.

The most significant activity for the month revolved around the assessment of damaged antennas and towers following the passing of Cyclone Nilam on October 31. Three curtain arrays were all but destroyed by high winds, leaving a mangled web of curtain and screen elements to be disentangled and lowered to the ground. Richard Cai was able to guide the lowering of 49L1 and 340L, but could not stay

to guide the disentanglement of antenna 275L, which is unfortunately the worst of the lot. Thailand agreed to loan the station their Facilities Supervisor (former Antenna Supervisor) Rittisak “Tui” Samboon to guide the lowering of antenna 275L. Tui’s visit will overlap with that of (b) (6) IBB Philippines, who will complete a more thorough structural analysis of the damage, and begin exploring options for remedial action. One particular focus is on the state of tower Q (49L1), and to a lesser degree tower K (340L), both of which show a visible contortion.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in November:

(b) (6), an Antenna Equipment Technician, passed away very suddenly, early in the morning of November 19<sup>th</sup> at Udonthani Provincial Hospital. The ambassador sent a special letter of condolence to the family and other sincere expressions of sadness were forwarded from other offices at the embassy and from Headquarters Washington. The station sponsored the customary prayer service at the family home in Ban Don Keelek and station personnel attended the funeral at the forest temple near the family home on the afternoon of the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Station availability was adversely affected this month by a power cable failure between the transmitter hall and the central tuning house of the medium wave array. Some power cables were burned. The PLC pattern control cable was destroyed and some damage resulted to the PLC that automates the pattern change. Repairs were made to put the MW transmitter back on the air and a modification is being drafted to M&R project 1030, currently underway, to incorporate permanent repairs.

#### **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** The total of NOA and Carryover allotted to M&R at this time is \$ \$2,076,569. This sum is available for emergency projects and ongoing projects initiated in FY12. An urgent allotment of \$375,000 was sent to Sri Lanka this month to support repairs of the three storm-damaged antennas. The proposed FY 2013 three-year M&R Plan has been prepared and is pending approval by the TSI Director.

**NCC Renovation:** GSA posted this project on September 28th as a “SET ASIDE FOR SMALL DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES ONLY.” The Potential bidders visited the site on two occasions and two amendments were posted to answer contractors’ questions from both site visits. The GSA Contract Specialist (CS) received bids on November 13th. The technical proposal packages were reviewed by the Technical Evaluation Board and the consensus report was finalized and submitted to the Contracting Officer (CO) on December 7th. The report was reviewed and approved by the CO and sent to GSA Legal Office for review on December 11th. The CS received comments from Legal last Monday, January 7th. The Technical Evaluation Board started working on the comments right away and is planning to submit the responses to the CS on January 14th. A target contract award date has not been provided by the CS due to some issues with the technical evaluation that cannot be disclosed at this time. There has been a lot of progress from the NCC staff with the move out of the Phase I area. Most of the staff has moved to the swing space, and the staff is planning to concentrate on housekeeping items next week.

#### **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT BRANCH ACTIVITIES:**

##### **Space Renovations**

- a. Creative Services (14 FTE & POV) – Consolidate all offices in one location. Location is (b) (7)(F) old Croatian/Audience Mail. Status: Design was completed on Phase 1 and the construction has been completed. Estimation of construction for phase 2 is being obtained.

- b. ODDI (27 FTE & POV) – Status: Construction is complete, and the punch list is being prepared. Meeting with ODDI on 1/10/13 to discuss additional changes.
- c. Urdu – Construction of new office for new Chief. Status: GSA finds the estimate to be in line. We are waiting for GSA to provide the notice to proceed.
- d. Studio 1-19, 28, 29 and E – Replacing carpet. Status: Started on Monday, January 7. Work is expected to be completed on January 27th.
- e. Admin Office (15 FTE & POV's) – Expansion of space, possibly into Budget office space to accommodate the growth of the office. Status: Met with BBG, CFO. Admin and Budget areas will be consolidated as one open space. Furniture and construction estimate is to be obtained.
- f. Zimbabwe – Renovation of Space and build office for Chief. Status: First phase completed, and we working with GSA to obtain the estimate for the second phase. Walk through is scheduled for 1/15/13, and construction should begin shortly thereafter.
- g. TSI – Consolidation of space. Status: TSI team went to the NeCon to survey new furniture option. We are working with the TSI team on the new design for the space.
- h. VNC – Reconfiguration of workstations (15) to meet agreement between LER and Union. Status: Furniture was ordered 9/30. Once furniture arrives, installing will be coordinated. NO CHANGE.
- i. New York Bureau – Construction of Studio in the New York Bureau. Status: Contract was awarded to Integrated Construction Enterprises. The award amount was \$306,097.66. Demo is nearly completed waiting for funds application drawing. Project on track.
- j. Key project –Replacing lock for one master key. Status: First floor completed and most of second floor completed except 2700 corridor, which will be completed January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Survey for 3<sup>rd</sup> floor has begun.

### **HVAC Projects**

- a. Replace Blower wheel on unit supporting VNC. Status: Waiting on CON to award the contract. On 1/10/13, CON gave a pre-approval to proceed.
- b. Second Floor studios – Repair motor, VFD's . Status: Waiting for controls to be installed. Second-floor air handler is fully operational via automated system.
- c. Problems with C-24-36 Condenser unit that serves Edit suites 1, 3.& 5. Status: It was determined that the units had been wired incorrectly. The contractor has corrected the wiring problem and the units all seems to be working fine thus far.

### **Electrical Projects**

- a. Automatic Transfer Switches. Status: The maintenance was completed and no problems were found.
- b. UPS System - Four UPS batteries have been found to be faulty and must be replaced. Status: Competed.

**Parking**

- a. Closure of parking garage in preparation for Presidential transitions. Status: Garage has been closed, and will remain closed until the end of January.

**Safety/Health**

- a. Wellness Program. Status: Working with the team to incorporate changes and to prepare for the grand opening on 1/23/13.
- b. Fire Alarm Drill. Status: Fire drill was successfully conducted on 11/13/12.
- c. OSHA Report: Status: Agency has received an extension for submitting the report until 2/1/13. Preparation of the report is underway.

## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JANUARY 2013**

**DISPOSAL OF THE TRANSMITTING STATION:** The station remains in a caretaker status, which is an agency responsibility, as the GSA turn-in/disposal process continues.

**DISPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Navy and Marine Corps representatives continue to work on obtaining Department of Defense approval to pursue transferring the site from the agency to the US Marine Corps (USMC). The proposed interim use agreement, which would permit the USMC to use the site while the formal transfer process continues, is in the final approval stage. A support agreement, which is needed to establish the process for the USMC's reimbursement of funds to the BBG, is also being finalized.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in January:

The station welcomed (b) (6) from the US Embassy Health Unit. (b) (6) toured the IBB facilities and collected water samples from the station and the manager's residence for testing. Dr. (b) (6) accompanied by the Station Manager, visited several doctors in town and the BCL Mine Hospital to access the local health care system.

Charge d' Affaires (b) (6) paid the station a visit this month. This was his first visit since he arrived last year. (b) (6) toured the station and addressed the employees on professionalism and explained how the work at IBB Botswana interacts with the embassy's mission in the region.

Botswana is experiencing a high number of electrical outages. These electrical outages are a direct result of limited power availability from South Africa. To ease some of the electrical load on the grid, the Botswana government is moving to a prepaid electricity purchase program. Large operations such as IBB Botswana will not participate in the program. In the meantime, the station is taking a close look at its generators and uninterruptable power supplies to ensure auxiliary power is available when needed.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in January:

Transmitter GB-8 was temporarily removed from service to repair a water leak in the harmonic trap inductor, L425. Transmitter GB-7 was temporarily removed from service to repair a water leak in the L251 inductor water supply manifold and to replace a defective vacuum capacitor in the transformation network. Programs were substituted in-house.

The station experienced a minor ice storm during the month. Antenna substitutions were made as needed due to high, ice induced, voltage standing wave ratio (VSWR).

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in January:

The Station's IT Domain Controller stopped working. The LAN Administrator worked the issue with T/I personnel in Washington. In the end, the unit was finally diagnosed with a defective mother board. A new server was shipped out to the station at the end of the month.

Painting work on the towers of the KWT-A 1548 KHz MW array continued during the month with a daily allotted off-the-air work window between 0400 – 1300 UTC. Progress has been slow because of the unusually wet and windy weather this month, to say nothing of the frequent dust storms. The contractor requires 16 good working days to complete each tower. This includes cleaning, application of primer where necessary, the application of a full intermediate coat, and the application of aviation orange and white final coat. At the end of January, the first tower of the seven was completed.

Station Resident Engineer and Acting Station Manager, Sheldon Daitch and heads of the Embassy Econ and PAO staff, met with Kuwait Ministry of Information officials regarding the renewal of the station's twenty-year country-to-country agreement. Issues related to training were identified, which need to be clarified before the new agreement is consummated.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in January:

Tinian experienced one commercial power outage during the month resulting in 37 minutes of program outage.

All 22 contract employees at Tinian completed CPR training.

(b) (6) IBB Philippines, was at the station to check on the status of Saipan's new 20-ton HVAC unit and to conduct a site survey for the ATS SCADA installation requirements. He also checked on the Tinian antenna automation and HVAC projects.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in January:

Personnel from the Embassy's Financial Management Center (FMC) visited the Tinang Transmitting Site for a tour and familiarization.

(b) (7)(F)

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in January:

Power plant technicians reinstalled the aftercooler and flushed the radiator cores, resolving the cooling problem with generator engine #5. It was returned to service.

The station replaced the low emission PA tube (CQK 50-2) on transmitter SAO-2 when it finally dropped below 80 percent emission. The station first reported low emissions in November 2012, but continued operations for another 60 days until 80 percent emission could not be attained. The T/EOS/N in Washington ordered a replacement rebuilt CQK 50-2 in November 2012.

A third CPI-Econco rebuilt CQK 50-2 transmitting tube was received at the station. Station personnel were hoping for the same success they had with the previous two rebuilt tubes, but were disappointed.

The tube measured shorted right out of the box, and a subsequent tube failure report and photos were submitted. Station is awaiting disposition instructions for the failed tube.

The Admin Section spent a huge amount of time and effort this month (and last) securing specialized hardware, new passports, visas, air travel and accommodations for our two riggers traveling to Djibouti to assist Richard Cai, T/EOS, with MW tower inspections. Even then, TAP Airlines did not cooperate, striking a bird, and then blowing a tire on an aborted takeoff from STP! Travel was delayed by 36 hours, adding to our travelers' tribulations.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in January:

The station was very happy to participate in the mission's Winter Awards Ceremony. IBB was well represented, with five individual and group awards being granted to several employees from among the station and local guard force crew. Of note was a Meritorious Honor Award issued to (b) (6) for his outstanding efforts in the TX Plant, and an Eagle Award to (b) (6) for his work in the procurement section.

(b) (6) a group of Entry-Level Personnel (ELP) from the US Embassy, visited the station as part of their mission familiarization program. ELPs are basically junior officers on their first official tour overseas. In addition to the tour, (b) (6) issued new embassy badges to our station employees. Also visiting the station from the embassy were (b) (6), who are in country working on USAID projects.

Regional Construction Manager, (b) (6) arrived at the station to continue work on the antenna replacement project.

The station requested a team from the local health department to administer rabies vaccinations to the horde of stray dogs that have come to populate the station and neighboring areas. The team, consisting of a public health inspector and two vaccinators, believed that most of the strays had contracted canine distemper after the recent floods in the area.

As a part of the station's outreach program, the B&G contractor donated school books and bags to students at the "Pipena Kakulu" pre-school. Funding for these donations are derived from the sale of coconuts harvested on station lands as part of our B&G contract. Also, the station provided assistance to the St. Peter's Junior School. They had requested support mowing their field in preparation for an upcoming sporting event, and the station gladly obliged.

The antenna section also took a hit when transmitter IRA-04 lost 330 minutes and Transmitter IRA-06 lost another 30 minutes due to a slew switch failure on antenna 291L. This failure occurred after hours, thus preventing the staff from safely accessing the antenna field to affect more immediate repairs.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in January:

Power feeder cables in a conduit between the MW transmitter hall at Rasom (Bangkok site) and the central tuning house failed. Burning in the conduit resulted in 220VAC coming into contact with low level signal cables interconnecting the antenna phase monitor and the remote unit in master control room. Significant damage resulted to the power supply, control board and three metering boards in the model 19X phase monitor. The unit has been returned to Potomac Instruments for evaluation and repair. A modification to M&R project 1030 will separate high power cables and low level signal cables to

different conduits. No program time was lost.

The Mission Management Counselor traveled to Udorn from the Embassy to visit the DEA offices in Udorn and tour the Udorn Transmitter Plant at Ban Dung. During his visit, he accompanied the riggers on a tour through the antenna field.

The Transmitting Station Manager traveled to Rasom to meet the Regional Construction Manager, (b) (6). (b) (6) Progress and ongoing work on M&R project 1030 was reviewed, with special consideration devoted to the recent conduit failure that resulted in burned cables.

#### **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** The total of NOA and Carryover allotted to M&R at this time is \$ \$2,076,569. This sum is available for emergency projects and ongoing projects initiated in FY 2012. By mid-February, Regional Construction Manager (b) (6) is expected to submit a more detailed plan for repairing the three storm-damaged curtain antennas in Sri Lanka; it is hoped that his plan will help us determine how much funding we need to reserve for the antenna repairs this fiscal year. The proposed FY 2013 three-year M&R Plan was approved by the TSI Director on January 11th.

**NCC Renovation:** GSA posted this project on September 28<sup>th</sup> as a “SET ASIDE FOR SMALL DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES ONLY.” The GSA Contract Specialist (CS) received bids on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The technical proposal packages were reviewed by the Technical Evaluation Board and the consensus report was finalized and submitted to the Contracting Officer (CO) on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The CS received comments from Legal on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The Technical Evaluation Board started working on the comments and a revised report was resent to GSA Legal on January 18<sup>th</sup>. After a meeting with GSA Legal to receive another round of comments, the CO decided to send Final Proposal Revision letters to all Offerors. The letters will be sent on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Offerors must respond by February 12<sup>th</sup> to still be considered for award. A target contract award date will be established after receiving responses from the Offerors. In addition, a meeting is scheduled with NCC staff for February 12<sup>th</sup> to address the tear-down and cleanup efforts, new computers, and additional items required to prepare the NCC space for the contractor’s mobilization.



## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2013**

**DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION CLOSURE:** The station remains in a caretaker status, which is an agency responsibility, as the GSA turn-in/disposal process continues.

**DISPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Navy and Marine Corps representatives continue to work on obtaining Department of Defense approval to pursue transferring the site from the agency to the US Marine Corps (USMC). The proposed interim use agreement, which would permit the USMC to use the site while the formal transfer process continues, is in the final approval stage. A support agreement, which is needed to establish the process for the USMC's reimbursement of funds to the BBG, is also being prepared; a revised support agreement was submitted in February to address GC's comments.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in February:

The low voltage control circuit in transmitter GB-4 failed, requiring in-house substitutions during troubleshooting and repair. A defective fuse and blower timer motor were found to be defective. Both were replaced which restored normal operation. A 7532 modulator vacuum tube was also replaced.

Defective 5682 vacuum tubes in transmitter GB-2 were replaced in the PA carrier and peak amplifiers.

The upper insulator on rhombic antenna BR-22 pennant line failed, causing the upper wire of the three-wire element to fall and contact the dissipation line. This damaged the dead end pole and temporarily rendered the antenna out of service. Using contracted rigging assistance, the damaged pole was replaced and the defective element wire stabilized to allow operation of the antenna until a permanent repair can be made. Antenna substitutions were made as available to minimize program outage.

The station experienced a minor snow storm during the month. Antenna substitutions were made as needed due to high, ice induced, VSWR.

Forklift training was given to several members of the technical staff.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in January (Note: February report not yet submitted):

In January a new project was started to prepare the DS3 system for the upcoming upgrade of ATM to IP. The upgrade will be accomplished by replacing the ALCORS by SA9204 Birdies and a Cisco Series 2900 router. The final tests and system launch is scheduled for the beginning of February.

The upgrade of the AOR up/downlink to new transponder and polarization was widely discussed and a method to accomplish this task discussed.

The automation team was in very close contact with the Tinang site to work on different requests in regard to remote control and SAS systems. The automation crew is also busily preparing the soft and hardware for the Tinian project. Travel plans are being coordinated and final equipment procured.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in February:

The bulk of the station's broadcast outages this month (5.95 hours) occurred on February 27th due to a burnt center conductor coupling connection inside the transmission line of the rotatable antenna. The fault happened in one of the flex sections, resulting in an arc into the adjoining line section that then burned through the outer conductor.

Painting work continued on the 1548 KHz MW array. High winds and blowing dust reduced the number of decent working days, but progress is going well. By month's end, three of the seven towers were completed.

Satellite systems: On February 28th the Eutelsat HB uplink was reverted back to 13B (from the temporary 9A) position to facilitate backup feeds for Prague during predicted sun-fade outages. Station technicians also installed a new 3.1 meter satellite dish to better monitor PNN on Telstar 12. This dish will also serve as the source of PNN feeds for our Asiasat and Hotbird uplinks. Technicians also installed a PCI satellite receiver card and BBG one-way IP data network client on an MCR computer terminal to monitor test data from Hotbird VC-240, as requested by Washington.

Work continued in preparation for the installation of the new VOIP Telephone system. This month technicians began terminating the Cat5E cables and started installing the patch panels and Cisco routers. Visitors to the station this month included two nurses from the Embassy Health Unit, who came out on February 13th to check and restock all the medical kits. On the 14th an ARSO came out to conduct a Duck and Cover drill.

The Station Manager and his Administrative manager attended an ICASS meeting at the Embassy on the 21st. Now that the station's Embassy-provided security services will be paid through the local ICASS (instead of by Washington) in FY-13, our local ICASS invoice jumped from \$229,036 for FY-12 to an initial figure of \$1,677,3122 for FY-13. The Kuwait Transmitting Station now accounts for 36.6% of the Embassy's ICASS Redistribution Cost Center percentage.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in February:

IBB Philippines Mr. Larry Chiu arrived on Saipan on the 16th to work with (b) (6) from Caltrol (Engineered SCADA Solutions Hawaii) on the ATS upgrade and SCADA installation.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in February:

AmEmbassy Medical Unit conducted CPR training and administered anti-tetanus vaccine on Feb 6 and 7. Food safety training was also provided on the 28th.

AmEmbassy FMC and Payroll staff visited Tinang for site tour and familiarization on the 13th.

AmEmbassy HR provided writing LES position description workshop on the 15th.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in February:

(b) (6) of URS arrived on the 1<sup>st</sup> in support of M&R project #1133 to install metering for all individual transmitters and for buildings exceeding 500 square feet per TSI-403. His survey was completed within the week and an out-brief was conducted on the 7th.

On the 2nd riggers Nelson Neto and Helio Guadalupe departed STP for Djibouti to assist Richard Cai with MW tower inspections. The inspections were successfully conducted and both travelers returned to STP on March 1st after a well-deserved vacation with family in Portugal.

On the 8th power plant technicians completed valve lash adjustments, repaired all water and air leaks, and painted and installed a new insulated exhaust cover. The engine looks and runs like new.

On the 22nd station received additional \$15K of WWP funds to be used for transport of seven (7) CQK 50-2 dud tubes to WDC for rebuild by CPI Econco.

On February 22-25 US Ambassador Benjaminson and DCM Dante Paradiso visited STP and the transmitting station.

On February 25 through March 1 RSO (b) (6) visited STP, spending February 26th at the station.

On the 27th Mr. Harris chaired the second quarterly safety committee meeting. With a fuel offload scheduled to begin the following day, emphasis was on a safe off load.

On the 28th the MT B. STAR tanker barge arrived inroads at 0900 UTC with 329,818 gallons of DF2 diesel fuel for off load. Pumping operations began at 1641 and finished 0850 on March 1st. This was another great team effort, aided by a break in the recently stormy weather.

Station put the new 15-passenger van to work transporting staff to and from the site. The new bus gets rave reviews from the staff. The closed bid sale on the retired Mitsubishi bus is in progress.

Major clearing was performed on the perimeter and antenna field roads, pushing back overgrowth buildup from the long rainy season.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in February:

Regional Construction Manager, (b) (6) was on site from January 30 – February 16, to finish gathering data for his Sri Lanka Antenna Repair Plan. Having collected extensive data on the condition of the three failed arrays, parts and cost data available to us, and the status of antenna related M&R projects, he was able to create a new database that will allow us to produce a comprehensive repair cost estimate, as well as track parts requirements as we proceed with the rebuild effort. While on site, (b) (6) also discovered a Marconi procedure for raising/lowering antennas. After a few tweaks to adjust this plan to suit our current equipment and requirements, we have settled on a procedure by which to raise and lower all future curtains. This plan was put into effect on February 11, which saw the lowering of the decimated remains of 275L.

In conjunction with opening the new warehouse, the station's Admin Supervisor met with the warehouse staff on 1st to discuss the implementation of a new Warehouse SOP. A complete inventory has since been completed, and the new facility, now 100% accurate, is up and running.

The Plant Supervisor, Erich Schwabe, returned from home leave on the 13th, one week earlier than had been originally planned, so that he could discuss the antenna repair project with (b) (6) prior to his departure.

(b) (6) State Security Engineering Officers from New Delhi, visited the station on the 12th to complete a routine physical security evaluation and to determine what level of support might be provided during future visits. They paid particular attention to items like the Delta Barrier, the condition of security doors, and reviewed our select tone and CCTV camera system.

Also visiting the station on the 12th was (b) (6) from the Ceylon Electricity Board's regional office in Kuliyaipitiya. This visit was in connection with their efforts to convert our electricity rate from the current "Industrial" rate, to a more unfavorable "Commercial" rate. This difference equates to an 80% increase, roughly \$75K per month or \$900K per year. The purpose of their visit was to review our power-demand systems (equipment), ascertain whether or not we were a commercial establishment (no sales), and to verify our diplomatic status (we showed them our Country-to-Country). Having never visited the station, they seemed duly impressed with our operation, and pledged to clarify our requirements to their upper management. Hopefully this will be the last we hear on this subject.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in January:

Mr. Michael Lawrence, BBG Director of Security, traveled to Thailand the first week of the month and met with the RSO at Embassy Bangkok on Monday the 4th. Mike visited Udorn to review security procedures with the Station Manager on Wednesday the 6th, traveled to Rasom to review security at the MW site on the 7<sup>th</sup>, and departed on the 8th.

The Station Administrative Officer and the Acting Facilities Plant Supervisor traveled to the Embassy the week of the 11th to attend REDC course RP-259 Supervisory Training.

The Station Manager attended country team on the 19th at the Embassy and conducted other station business before traveling to Rasom on the 20th to review work progress on M&R project 1030.

The Regional Site Survey team traveled to Udorn on February 22-27 to conduct specialized site surveys at DEA's offices and the IBB transmitting station at Ban Dung. The last such survey was completed ten years ago in 2003 and included all facilities in country under Chief of Mission authority.

February 25-28, FSN RSOI Special Investigators (b) (5), (b) (6), (b) (4) traveled to Udorn site to conduct security revalidation for 20 LES members of the IBB staff. RSOI (b) (6) joined the RSO staff at Udorn on the 28th to conduct a security briefing for the LES staff.

The Station Manager and the senior staff hosted a delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Nakon Prathom restaurant in Ban Dung on the 26th. The majority of the delegation was from the Broadcast Division of MFA, but staff from the MFA Passport Office in Udorn also attended lunch and then travelled to the station to meet the staff and tour the technical facilities.

#### **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** The total of NOA and Carryover allotted to M&R at this time is \$ \$2,076,569. This sum is available for emergency projects and ongoing projects initiated in FY 2012. In early March, Regional Construction Manager (b) (6) is expected to submit a more detailed plan for repairing the three storm-damaged curtain antennas in Sri Lanka; it is hoped that his plan will help us determine how much

funding we need to reserve for the antenna repairs this fiscal year. The proposed FY 2013 three-year M&R Plan was approved by the TSI Director on January 11th.

**NCC Renovation:** GSA posted this project on September 28th as a “SET ASIDE FOR SMALL DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES ONLY.” The GSA Contract Specialist (CS) received bids on November 13th. The technical proposal packages were reviewed by the Technical Evaluation Board and the consensus report was finalized and submitted to the Contracting Officer (CO) on December 7th. The CS received comments from Legal on January 7th. The Technical Evaluation Board started working on the comments and a revised report was re-sent to GSA Legal on January 18th. After a meeting with GSA Legal to receive another round of comments, the CO decided to send Final Proposal Revision letters to all Offerors. The letters were sent on Feb 2nd and Offerors submitted responses on Feb 12th. The Technical Evaluation Board finished reviewing the responses on Feb 25th. The CS established a new target award date after receiving responses from Offerors. The new target award date is March 29th. In addition, the NCC staff relocation to the swing space has been completed. We will continue to meet with them to address cleanup efforts, new computers, telephones and additional items required to prepare the NCC space for the contractor’s mobilization.

## **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT BRANCH ACTIVITIES:**

### **Space Renovations**

- a. Creative Services (14 FTE & POV) - Consolidate all offices in one location (b) (7)(F) old Croatian/Audience Mail). Status: Design has been completed; construction has been funded and phase one has been completed. In order to begin phase two, employees must be relocated and this is being negotiated with the Union through H/R. VOA must fund the furniture purchase.
- b. ODDI (27 FTE & POV) – Renovation of space. Status: Renovation has been completed.
- c. Urdu – Construction of new office for the Chief. Status: Sprinkler work was completed on Sunday, March 3, 2013. Project has been completed.
- d. Studio 1-19, 28, 29 and E – Replacing carpet. Status: Project completed.
- e. Admin Office (15 FTE & 2 POV’s) – Consolidate all staff in one location (b) (7)(F) Status: The decision has been made to reorganize the CFO space to accommodate the growth of the admin office. The design was completed and the estimate for the new furniture and construction is \$75k. Per Marie Lennon, alternative options need to be explored since funding is a problem. (b) (7)(F) was divided to accommodate space needed for IG and storage for Admin and CFO office.
- f. Zimbabwe – Renovation of space to accommodate an office for the Chief of the service. Status: Phase one construction has been completed and staff has been moved in the swing space while second phase is completed. Second Phase is near 80% completed and sprinkler work is being scheduled. Estimated completion date is 3/28/13.
- g. TSI – Consolidation of space. Status: Decision has been made by management to convert all private offices to open floor plan concept. Jim Blessing has been assigned as project manager.
- h. VNC – Reconfiguration of workstations (15) to meet agreement between LER and Union. Status: It has been discovered that the furniture was not ordered at the end of the fiscal year. Working

with staff to determine if the funds were transferred to TSI or if the furniture order was overlooked and not completed.

- i. New York Bureau – Construction of studio and reconstruction of office space. Status: Contract was awarded to Integrated Construction Enterprises. The award amount was \$306,097.66. Construction of space is nearly completed. HVAC equipment has been ordered. Additional funds (\$83k) for unforeseen conditions and MOD requested by VOA. The additional work has been funded by VOA.
- j. Rekeying Project – Rekeying the locks in the Cohen building to minimize the need of multiple master keys. Status: 1st and 2nd and 3rd floors have been completed and proceeding to the 4th floor. 4th floor has been surveyed and the lock smith will begin installs on 3/13/13.
- k. Rooftop Project – Install pavers to replace stone on the roof. Status: During the Inauguration, tents and staging installed by VOA contractor damaged portions of the roof. GSA has insisted that if the agency would like continued use of the roof the must fund the replacement of the stone on the roof with paver to protect the roof membrane. Working with various contractors to obtain estimates for the work.GSA as well has asked that all cabling on the roof be secured in a safe manner.
- l. Serbian Service project- Space modification. Status: Project has been submitted to GSA so estimates can be obtained for work to patch and paint the space as well as electrical work to accommodate the relocation of the systems furniture.
- m. Burmese Service- Expansion to accommodate the growth. Status: VOA has funded the additional work and the requisition is being staffed.
- n. H/R – LER was relocated to another portion of the H/R space. Status: This was completed the weekend of 3/1/13.
- o. Mechanical Closets – GSA has informed us that the closets being used as storage space must be vacated. Status: Facilities staff has been surveying the spaces and working with the office to clear out the spaces.
- p. Language Service Division – Rooms 4193A- F, 4619, 4621- Paint and patch and recarpet the offices. Status: The work is scheduled to begin March 11<sup>th</sup>, and is expected to take approximately 30 days to complete.
- q. Carpet cleaning throughout the building. Status: On-going.

#### **HVAC/ Electrical**

- a. Replace Blower wheel on unit supporting VNC. Status: Work to be completed 3/4/13.
- b. COOP HVAC- Maintenance. Status: Albert Tartaglia met with Neil Kennedy of NCC to put in place a maintenance program for the HVAC equipment located at the COOP site. An estimate was prepared and the requisition is being staffed.
- c. New Annunciator Panel – Replace the current annunciator panel located in the NNC that is not functional. Three new panels will be installed in the following locations: NCC, Generator Room and the Facilities Office. Status: Installation of all wiring is 75% completed

**Safety/Health**

- a. Shelter in Place Drill. Status: Drill has been rescheduled several times, but is currently scheduled for 3/12/13.
- b. OSHA Report: Status: The agency submitted its annual OSHA report on 1/31/13.

**OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT  
FOR MARCH 2013  
(AS OF 3/22/13)**

**DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION CLOSURE:** The station remains in a caretaker status, which is an agency responsibility, as the GSA turn-in/disposal process continues.

**DISPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Navy and Marine Corps representatives continue to work on obtaining Department of Defense approval to pursue transferring the site from the agency to the US Marine Corps (USMC). The proposed interim use agreement, which would permit the USMC to use the site while the formal transfer process continues, is in the final approval stage. A revised support agreement, which is needed to establish the process for the USMC's reimbursement of funds to the BBG, is being staffed for IBB approval.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in February:

With great sadness, this month began with the passing of the station's FSN Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, (b) (6), who passed away on March 1st. (b) (6) began working for IBB in April 1989 as a Radio Technician and was promoted to Facilities Supervisor in February 2009. (b) (6) will be profoundly missed in the everyday operations of the Botswana Transmitting Station.

The station received its water test results. The report indicated an unacceptable amount of "bad" bacteria in the potable water supply. The station is in the process installing a large capacity distiller unit to eliminate the little culprits.

The Transmitting Station Manager, Asst. Plant Supervisor and Admin Supervisor met with the Botswana Power Corporation (BPC) to discuss BPC's "Load Shedding" power outages and the affect they have on the station's broadcast mission and equipment. BPC has agreed to not include IBB in its power outages unless demand dictates it to be necessary.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in February:

Transmitter GB-4: The low voltage control circuit failed requiring in-house substitutions during troubleshooting and repair. A defective fuse and blower timer motor were found to be defective. Both were replaced which restored normal operation. A 7532 modulator vacuum tube was also replaced.

Antenna BR22: The upper insulator on the rhombic antenna pennant line failed causing the upper wire of the three-wire element to fall and contact the dissipation line. This damaged the dead end pole and temporarily rendered the antenna out of service. Using contracted rigging assistance, the damaged pole was replaced and the defective element wire was stabilized, which allowed the operation of the antenna until a permanent repair can be made. Antenna substitutions were made as available to minimize program outage.

The station experienced a minor snow storm during the month. Antenna substitutions were made as needed due to high, ice induced, voltage standing wave ratio (VSWR).



**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in February:

T/EOS engineer, Mr. Clifford George visited the station to upgrade the Lampertheim DS3 system from ATM to IP. While there, Clifford also worked with the station staff on a number of issues involving data streaming.

Richard Cai, T/EOS, visited the station during his return trip from Djibouti. Mr. Cai was briefed on the station's mission and was provided with detailed information on decommissioned antenna hardware and equipment from Holzkirchen being stored at the station.

At Djibouti, Mr. Richard Cai, T/EOS, and two riggers from Sao Tome completed an inspection of the antenna. The Transmitter Plant Supervisor and the Maintenance Supervisor from IBB Germany also visited and installed a voltage regulator for the low power compartment of the Thales MW transmitter at the PK-12 site. In addition, they installed new Golden Eagle monitoring systems along with network routers at the FM sites in Djibouti City and Arta.

(b) (6) Public Diplomacy Officer, from the U.S. Embassy in Djibouti visited Radio Television Djibouti Headquarters, and the IBB MW site. This was the first time that an US Embassy officer has visited the MW site.

In Orzu, Tajikistan, the site received two new Comet load capacitors from IBB Kuwait. One of these capacitors was installed to replace a load capacitor that had a water leak. In addition, the site received two new outdoor heat exchangers. One will be used to replace a defective MW heat exchanger, and the other one will be used during the upcoming installation of the second Continental SW transmitter.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in February:

The station experienced 7.65 hours of outage primarily due to a burnt center conductor coupling connection inside the transmission line of the rotatable antenna. The fault happened in one of the flex sections, resulting in an arc into the adjoining line section that then burned through the outer conductor.

Painting work continued on the 1548 KHz MW antenna array. High winds and blowing dust reduced the number of decent working days, but progress is going well. By month's end, three of the seven towers were completed.

Visitors to the station included two nurses from the Embassy Health Unit who came out to check and restock all the medical kits, and an Assistant Regional Security Officer who came out to conduct a Duck and Cover drill.

The Transmitting Station Manager and his Administrative manager attended an ICASS meeting at the Embassy. Now that the station's Embassy-provided security services will be paid through the local ICASS (instead of by Washington) in FY-13, the station's local ICASS invoice jumped from \$229,036 for FY-12 to an initial figure of \$1,677,312 for FY-13. The Kuwait Transmitting Station now accounts for 36.6% of the Embassy's ICASS Redistribution Cost Center percentage.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in February:

Tinian experienced one commercial power outage during the month resulting in 64 minutes of program outage.

Mr. Larry Chiu, IBB Philippines, arrived on Saipan to work with (b) (6) from Caltrol (Engineered SCADA Solutions Hawaii) on the ATS upgrade and SCADA installation.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in February:

Visitors: AmEmbassy Medical Unit conducted CPR training and administered anti-tetanus vaccine. Food safety training was also provided. AmEmbassy Financial Management Center and Payroll staff visited Tinang for a site tour and familiarization. AmEmbassy HR provided a workshop on writing a LES position description.

The Concepcion electrical substation, which supports the station, scheduled a commercial power interruption to perform diagnostic testing and calibration. The station operated its standby generators to take station load that lasted almost 10 hours.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in February:

(b) (6) of URS completed a site survey in support of M&R Project #1133. This project is to install metering for all individual transmitters and for buildings exceeding 500 square feet per TSI-403.

Riggers Nelson Neto and Helio Guadalupe traveled to Djibouti to assist Richard Cai, T/EOS with MW antenna tower inspections. The inspections were successfully conducted and both travelers returned to Sao Tome after a well-deserved vacation with family in Portugal.

U.S. Ambassador (b) (6) and Deputy Chief of Mission (b) (6) visited Sao Tome and the IBB site.

The MT B. STAR tanker barge arrived with 329,818 gallons of DF2 diesel fuel. The off load took approximately 16 hours and was another great team effort aided by a break in the recently stormy weather.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in February:

Regional Construction Manager, (b) (6) was on site to finish gathering data for his Sri Lanka Antenna Repair Plan. Having collected extensive data on the condition of the three failed arrays, parts and cost data available to us, and the status of antenna related M&R projects, he was able to create a new database that will allow us to produce a comprehensive repair cost estimate, as well as, track parts requirements as the station proceeds with the rebuild effort. While on site, (b) (6) also discovered a Marconi procedure for raising/lowering antennas. After a few tweaks to adjust this plan to suit the station's current equipment and requirements, the station has settled on a procedure by which to raise and lower all future curtains. This plan was put into effect with the lowering of the decimated remains of 275L.

(b) (6), State Security Engineering Officers from New Delhi, visited the station to complete a routine physical security evaluation and to determine what level of support might be

provided during future visits. They paid particular attention to items like the Delta Barrier, security doors, and CCTV camera system.

(b) (6) from the Ceylon Electricity Board's regional office in Kuliapitiya visited in connection with their efforts to convert the station's electricity rate from the current "Industrial" rate to a more unfavorable "Commercial" rate. This difference equates to an 80% increase, roughly \$75K per month or \$900K per year! The purpose of their visit was to review the station's power-demand systems (equipment), ascertain whether or not we were a commercial establishment (no sales), and to verify our diplomatic status (we showed them our Country-to-Country). Having never visited the station, they seemed duly impressed with our operation, and pledged to clarify our requirements to their upper management. Hopefully, this is the last we will hear about this.

**SRI LANKA UPDATE:** As an update to the above, on March 8th the station experienced high winds that damaged three additional curtain antennas: 49H1, 49H2 and 291L. Antennas 49H1 and 49H2 sustained major damage and will be inoperative for an extended period of time. Antenna 291L sustained less damage, which the station repaired, allowing that antenna to be returned to service on/around March 14th.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in February:

Mr. Michael Lawrence, BBG Director of Security, met with the Regional Security Officer (RSO) at Embassy Bangkok, and visited the Udorn and Rasom sites to review security procedures with the Transmitting Station Manager.

FSN Regional Security Office Special Investigators (RSOI) (b) (6) traveled to Udorn site to conduct security revalidation for 20 LES members of the IBB staff. RSOI Ms. Prapaipan joined the RSO staff at Udorn to conduct a security briefing for the LES staff.

The Transmitting Station Manager and the senior staff hosted a delegation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) at the Nakon Prathom restaurant in Ban Dung. The majority of the delegation was from the Broadcast Division of MFA, but staff from the MFA Passport Office in Udorn also attended lunch and then travelled to the station to meet the staff and tour the technical facilities.

#### **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** The total of NOA and Carryover allotted to M&R at this time is \$ \$2,076,569. This sum is available for emergency projects and ongoing projects initiated in FY 2012, although a large portion of it will likely be required to initiate repairs to the damaged antennas in Sri Lanka. On March 7th, Regional Construction Manager (b) (6) submitted a more detailed plan for repairing the three storm-damaged curtain antennas in Sri Lanka. On March 20<sup>th</sup> (b) (6) submitted a further revision to his plan, incorporating headquarters comments and also addressing repairs to the two additional antennas damaged in the second wind storm event that occurred on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The details of (b) (6) plan will be discussed with TSI management in the coming weeks. It reflects the need for over \$1 M of funds in FY 2013, with additional funds required in FY 2014 & 2015 to return the five damaged antennas to service.

**NCC Renovation:** GSA posted this project on September 28<sup>th</sup> as a "SET ASIDE FOR SMALL DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES ONLY." The GSA Contract Specialist (CS) received bids on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The technical proposal packages were reviewed by the Technical Evaluation Board and the consensus report was finalized and submitted to the Contracting Officer (CO) on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The CS received comments from Legal on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The Technical Evaluation Board started

working on the comments and a revised report was re-sent to GSA Legal on January 18<sup>th</sup>. After a meeting with GSA Legal to receive another round of comments, the CO decided to send Final Proposal Revision letters to all Offerors. The letters were sent on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> and Offerors submitted responses on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>. The Technical Evaluation Board finished reviewing the responses on Feb 25<sup>th</sup>. However, there were several rounds of comments from GSA Legal office. During this time, the CS revised the target award date from March 29<sup>th</sup> to April 19<sup>th</sup>. The CS is currently working on the final consensus report before submission to GSA Legal office for approval. In addition, the NCC staff has made a lot of progress preparing the space for contractor's mobilization. We have been meeting on a regular basis to address cleanup efforts, new computers, telephones and additional items that will be needed as part of the construction process. Since the construction will be performed in a fully operational space and in different phases, a significant amount of planning and coordination is required.

## **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT BRANCH ACTIVITIES:**

### **Space Renovations**

- a. Creative Services (14 FTE & POV) - Consolidate all offices in one location ( (b) (7)(F) old Croatian/Audience Mail). Status: Design has been completed; construction has been funded and phase one has been completed. In order to begin phase two, employees must be relocated and this is being negotiated with the Union through H/R. VOA must fund the furniture purchase.
- b. Admin Office (15 FTE & 2 POV's) – Consolidate all staff in one location ( (b) (7)(F) ). Status: The decision has been made to reorganize the CFO space to accommodate the growth of the admin office. The design was completed and the estimate for the new furniture and construction is \$75k. Per Marie Lennon, alternative options need to be explored since funding is a problem. Meeting is scheduled for 3/21/13 with furniture designer to determine if we can reduce the cost in any way. (b) (7)(F) was divided to accommodate space needed for IG and storage for Admin and CFO office.
- c. Zimbabwe – Renovation of space to accommodate an office for the Chief of the service. Status: Phase one construction has been completed and staff has been moved in the swing space while second phase is completed. Second Phase has been completed. Furniture is being installed. Completion date is expected to be 3/28/13.
- d. TSI – Consolidation of space. Status: Decision has been made by management to convert all private offices to open floor plan concept. Jim Blessing has been assigned as project manager. Met with LER on 3/20 to discuss the next steps to notifying the Unions. It was determined that the managers can be relocated to swing space without having to wait for union approval.
- e. VNC – Reconfiguration of workstations (15) to meet agreement between LER and Union. Status: It has been discovered that the furniture was not ordered at the end of the fiscal year. Working with staff to determine if the funds were transferred to TSI or if the furniture order was overlooked and not completed.
- f. New York Bureau – Construction of studio and reconstruction of office space. Status: Contract was awarded to Integrated Construction Enterprises. The award amount was \$306,097.66. Construction of space is nearly completed. HVAC equipment has been ordered. Additional funds (\$83k) for unforeseen conditions and MOD requested by VOA. The additional work has been funded by VOA. RWA has been prepared and the contractor has been given a NTP on the additional work. Waiting for and updated project schedule, which is due by COB 3/22/13.

- g. Rekeying Project – Rekeying the locks in the Cohen building to minimize the need of multiple master keys. Status: 1st and 2nd and 3rd floors have been completed and proceeding to the 4th floor. 4th floor has been surveyed and the lock smith will begin installs on 3/13/13. Fourth floor will be completed by 4/24/13. Survey of the ground floor will begin 3/27/13.
- h. Rooftop Project – Install pavers to replace stone on the roof. Status: During the Inauguration, tents and staging installed by VOA contractor damaged portions of the roof. GSA has insisted that if the agency would like continued use of the roof the must fund the replacement of the stone on the roof with paver to protect the roof membrane. Working with various contractors to obtain estimates for the work.GSA as well has asked that all cabling on the roof be secured in a safe manner.
- i. Serbian Service project- Space modification. Status: Project has been submitted to GSA so estimates can be obtained for work to patch and paint the space as well as electrical work to accommodate the relocation of the systems furniture. GSA has provided an estimate of \$15k to complete the work. RWA has been provided to GSA to proceed.
- j. Burmese Service- Expansion to accommodate the growth. Status: VOA has funded the additional work and the requisition is being staffed with CON.
- k. Mechanical Closets – GSA has informed us that the closets being used as storage space must be vacated. Status: Facilities staff has been surveying the spaces and working with the offices to clear out the spaces. Still in progress. GSA has identified spaces that belong to BBG and is requesting that they be emptied. Working with GSA to accommodate BBG needs.
- l. Language Service Division – Rooms 4193A- F, 4619, 4621- Paint and patch and recarpet the offices. Status: The work is scheduled to begin March 11<sup>th</sup>, and is expected to take approximately 30 days to complete. Still on schedule.
- m. Carpet cleaning throughout the building. Status: On-going.
- n. French to Africa –Expand by additional 5 workstations. Status: Three workstations have been installed. Working with the service chief to determine how and if the additional two workstations can be installed.
- o. PNN- Request for more workstations. Status: A request has been submitted for two cubicle-offices to be disassembled and four to five workstations to be created in their place.
- p. OIG – Space needed. Status: A request for a large enough office to house three people and a conference table has been submitted. Possible location is the office formerly belonging to an employee on the fourth floor currently being used for storage.
- q. Digital Team – New office space. Status: This is a newly created office, which will start out with 3 TE's and One Chief. They will be set up in room 3176.

#### **HVAC/ Electrical**

- a. New Annunciator Panel – Replace the current annunciator panel located in the NNC that is not functional. Three new panels will be installed in the following locations: NCC, Generator Room and the Facilities Office. Status: Installation of all wiring is 75% completed.

- b. COOP HVAC Maintenance – Albert meet with Neil Kennedy of the NCC to put in place a maintenance program for the HVAC equipment located at the COOP site. Status: Estimate was obtained and the requisition is being staffed.

**Safety/Health**

- a. Shelter in Place Drill. Status: Performed on 3/12/13. All went well. Follow- up meetings are being scheduled with GSA and HHS to review the procedure.

## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL 2013**

**DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:** The station remains in a caretaker status, which is an agency responsibility, as the GSA turn-in/disposal process continues. The Marine Corps is interested in obtaining the site and is working on obtaining Department of Defense approval to pursue transferring the site from the agency to the Marine Corps.

**DISPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Marine Corps received Department of Defense approval to pursue transferring the site from the agency to the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps requested, through GSA, OMB's approval for a no-fee transfer of the property to the Marine Corps. (This approval process can take up to six months.). The proposed interim use agreement, which would permit the USMC to use the site while the formal transfer process continues, is in the final approval stage. A support agreement, which is needed to establish the process for the USMC's reimbursement of funds to the BBG was approved by Director Lobo this month and forwarded to DOD for approval.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in March:

The Transmitting Station Manager and Admin Supervisor paid a courtesy call to the Botswana Defense Force Commander. They also paid a courtesy call to the Selebi Phikwe Town Council Mayor and his delegation.

The Embassy's Regional Security Officer performed a security inspection of the station and the manager's residence. Security drills for "duck and cover" and "evacuation" were also performed.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in March:

The station began the VOA Radiogram digital transmission test on the 16th. Early listener response has been very good from various locations around the world.

Progress Energy withdrew its Class 2 IPS (Incremental Power Service) Power classification on March 2nd due to colder than normal temperatures in the area. The peak shaving generator was placed online during this time and operations modified to keep the building load within the limits of the generator.

The summer broadcast schedule was implemented with minimal complications.

Former PBS technical manager, (b) (6), visited the station for a tour of the facility.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in March:

The semi-annual sun outage at the beginning of the month did not result in any problems for the station.

Affiliates Support – A new affiliate contract for TV programs established by the IBB Marketing Office, required technical support for the affiliate site in London, UK. In addition, two shipments of satellite equipment have been shipped to affiliates in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The A13 broadcast schedule was implemented without difficulties.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in March:

Painting of the 1548 KHz seven-tower MW array progressed well, with five towers completed and a sixth tower 50% completed at month's end, thanks to improving weather conditions.

Clifford George, T/ESS and T/ESS contractor (b) (6) arrived at post to program and initiate the new Cisco digital PBX telephone system. The commissioning and training was mostly successful. The initial install was not 100% successful, however, due to a change in signaling requirements on the two analog Embassy telephone trunk lines that requires a change of settings in the E&M cards inside the Embassy's routers that, unfortunately, are not under the control of the local Embassy IRM Management. This will require Department of State action by their OpenNet router engineers in Washington. How long it will take to have these necessary changes made is yet to be determined.

The Station implemented the new A13 satellite and broadcast schedules without difficulties. Most notable in the changes were the reconfiguration of our MW operations. The 24/7 Radio Sawa "Iraq" feed was transferred from the 1548 KHz KWT-A transmitter to KWT-C which broadcasts on 1593 KHz. The seven-tower antenna array of KWT-A was switched around to the 197 degree pattern and began broadcasting the Radio Sawa "Gulf" program feed towards Saudi Arabia and points south.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in March:

At Tinian, two commercial power outages encountered during the month resulted in 12.75 hours of program outage.

At Saipan, Spectrum Electric installed a safety disconnect switch for the new 20-ton AC unit, while Advance Air Conditioning continued work on the new 20-ton AC installation project.

Employees from IBB Philippines and IBB Germany were on site in Tinian working on the Antenna Automation Upgrade project.

The station completed the annual inventory of its nonexpendable property.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in March:

The station implemented the A13 program schedule and no abnormality was noted.

The station sponsored its recognition day for the Barangay Day Care. FSN representatives from the station assisted in distribution of certificates and medals to the children of the five barangays. The Barangay councils expressed their appreciation for IBB's support

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in March:



A total of 13 Operational Memos were received and implemented during the month. In addition, the new A13 broadcast schedule was implemented without any major concerns. Sequestration reduced station broadcast hours by 45 hours per week.

The station's riggers completed replacement of all nine vertical screen lines and clamp assemblies of antenna #4. Routine maintenance was also performed on the spreader bars and support cables per recent guidance from T/EOS. Corrosion control work and priming was completed on the NE MW tower.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in March:

The worst fears of the Sri Lanka Transmitting Station were confirmed when yet another thunder storm struck the station on Friday, March 8th. The storm damaged antennas 49H1, 49H2 and 291L and rendered them out of service. Damage to antennas 49H1 and 49H2 is severe. Antenna 291L had only moderate damage and was repaired within 2 weeks. As a result of this storm and damage, 7.2 hours of broadcasts were lost. Scheduled programs now have been assigned to other available antennas until further notice.

A three-person team from the Embassy Colombo visited the station to sight-check and inventory the Embassy-owned radio equipment installed at the station.

A three-person team from United Tractor and Equipment visited the station to discuss the renewal of the CAT Generator contracts, which were due to expire at the end of the month.

The Regional Medical Officer visited the station to conduct physical examinations of the station's drivers.

An Assistant Regional Security Officer from the Embassy performed a physical security assessment and resolved pending local guard force issues.

Numerous members of the station staff participated in a Foreign Service Institute (FSI) Crisis Overview Training session, Crisis Management Exercise, and Crisis Management Tabletop Exercise.

The Station Nurse conducted an in-house presentation for all staff members. The presentation "Your Feet Your Life" provided information for persons prone to diabetes and was well received by attendees.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in March:

The Electric Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) interrupted power to the MW transmitter plant at Rasom in order to install new power lines over the main highway at Saraburi. Op Memo B12-075 facilitated cancellation of some programs to allow the transmitter to be off the air for the required maintenance period.

The Station Manager and the Transmitter Plant Supervisor met with the new Director of Radio Thailand, (b) (6), at the Public Relations Department (PRD) headquarters. During this visit, Khun Adisak, the Transmitter Plant Supervisor, made a presentation to the PRD transmitter technical staffs from around the Kingdom on modulation-dependent carrier level and amplitude modulation companding (AMC) mode. PRD transported the entire gathering to the station's Bangkok site to view recent modifications to the DX-1000 transmitter and to see the mode in operation. The remainder of the week, (b) (6) and the Senior Technician, (b) (6), from the Rasom plant provided follow-up training and guidance while installing AMC mode into the PRD DX-10 transmitter at Pathumthani in the metropolitan Bangkok area. The PRD transmitter is now operating on 837 KHz in AMC mode with improved power efficiency. PRD is very pleased with the results and will soon request that we continue to support them with this project.

## **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** The total of NOA and Carryover allotted to M&R at this time is \$ \$2,076,569. This sum is available for emergency and ongoing projects. Approximately \$1,849,990 has already been allotted to such urgent projects, including an amount of \$1,175,000 allotted to Sri Lanka for emergency repairs necessitated by storm-related damage to five curtain antennas that were rendered inoperable. TSI management has authorized the station to proceed with the repair of two of the five damaged antennas, and is analyzing options related to the other three.

**NCC Renovation:** GSA posted this project on September 28<sup>th</sup> as a “SET ASIDE FOR SMALL DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES ONLY.” The GSA Contract Specialist (CS) received bids on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The first technical evaluation was completed on December 7<sup>th</sup>. After a round of comments from GSA Legal, Final Proposal Revision letters were sent to all Offerors on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> and Offerors submitted responses on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>. The Technical Evaluation Board finished reviewing the responses on Feb 25<sup>th</sup>. However, there was another set of several rounds of comments from GSA Legal office. During this time the target award date was delayed in several occasions and finally set to May 3<sup>rd</sup>. To our surprise, the contract was awarded ahead of schedule on April 25<sup>th</sup> to Arriba Corporation. Once the contractor submits the required documentation (Payment & Performance Bonds, Certificate of Insurance, and HSPD-12 forms), the Contracting Officer will issue Notice to Proceed. This should happen within 15 days of contract award. Prior to the contractor’s mobilization, the NCC staff must finalize the move of equipment out of the Phase I area, the removal of all excess cable and stored equipment, and the preparation of their 35 day migration plan. We have been meeting regularly to facilitate coordination between all parties involved. Major activities completed include moving MBN equipment racks and under-floor cleaning. The cable management effort started several weeks ago and we continue to coordinate the work from Peyton Communications and Hanson Professional Services.

## **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT BRANCH ACTIVITIES:**

### **Space Renovations**

- a. Creative Services (14 FTE & POV) - Consolidate all offices in one location ( (b) (7)(F) old Croatian/Audience Mail). Status: Design has been completed; construction has been funded and phase one has been completed. In order to begin phase two, employees must be relocated and this is being negotiated with the Union through H/R. VOA must fund the furniture purchase. (No change this month.)
- b. Admin Office (15 FTE & 2 POV’s) – Consolidate all staff in one location ( (b) (7)(F) ). Status: The decision has been made to reorganize the CFO space to accommodate the growth of the admin office. The design was completed and the estimate for the new furniture and construction is \$75k. Per Marie Lennon, alternative options need to be explored since funding is a problem. (b) (7)(F) was divided to accommodate space needed for IG and storage for Admin and CFO office. A design has been prepared that modifies the CFO space only; we are waiting for approval on the design.
- c. TSI – Consolidation of space. Status: Decision has been made by management to convert all private offices to open floor plan concept. Jim Blessing has been assigned as project manager. Met with LER on 3/20 to discuss the next steps to notifying the Unions. It was determined that the managers can be relocated to swing space without having to wait for union approval. (No change this month.)

- d. VNC – Reconfiguration of workstations (15) to meet agreement between LER and Union. Status: After discovering that the furniture was not ordered at the end of the fiscal year, a cost estimate for its purchase was obtained and a requisition has been submitted.
- e. New York Bureau – Construction of studio and reconstruction of office space. Status: Contract was awarded to Integrated Construction Enterprises. The award amount was \$306,097.66. Construction of the space is nearly complete and the HVAC equipment has been ordered. Additional work was requested by VOA. The additional work has been funded by VOA, the RWA has been prepared, and the contractor has been given an NTP. We will be performing inspections and attending an on-site progress meeting on 4/29/13. Project is on schedule, with completion expected by the end of May 2013.
- f. Rekeying Project – Rekeying the locks in the Cohen building to minimize the need of multiple master keys. Status: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2nd and 3rd floors have been completed and the 4th floor is nearing completion. Rekeying of the ground floor locks will be next.
- g. Rooftop Project – Install pavers to replace stone on the roof. Status: During the Inauguration, tents and staging installed by VOA contractor damaged portions of the roof. GSA has insisted that if the agency would like continued use of the roof the must fund the replacement of the stone on the roof with paver to protect the roof membrane. Working with various contractors to obtain estimates for the work. GSA as well has asked that all cabling on the roof be secured in a safe manner. (No change from last month.)
- h. Serbian Service project- Space modification. Status: Project has been submitted to GSA so estimates can be obtained for work to patch and paint the space as well as electrical work to accommodate the relocation of the systems furniture. GSA provided an estimate of \$15k to complete the work, and an RWA has been provided to them. We are waiting for approval from the unions to proceed.
- i. Burmese Service- Expansion to accommodate the growth. Status: VOA has funded the additional work and the requisition is being staffed with CON. Proceeding with the work is contingent on getting the approval on the Serbian space.
- j. Mechanical Closets – GSA has informed us that the closets being used as storage space must be vacated. Status: Facilities staff is continuing to survey the spaces and to work with the offices to clear them out. GSA has identified spaces that belong to BBG and is requesting that they be emptied. We are continuing to work with GSA to accommodate BBG needs.
- k. Language Service Division – Rooms 4193A- F, 4619, 4621- Paint and patch and recarpet the offices. Status: Work completed.
- l. Carpet cleaning throughout the building. Status: On-going.
- m. French to Africa –Expand by additional 5 workstations. Status: Work completed.
- n. PNN- Request for more workstations. Status: A request has been submitted for two cubicle-offices to be disassembled and four to five workstations to be created in their place. Proceeding with the work is pending approval from the union.

- o. OIG – Space needed. Status: A request for a large enough office to house three people and a conference table has been submitted. Space was identified and the office was set up. Work completed.
- p. Digital Team – New office space. Status: This is a newly created office, which will start out with 3 TE's and One Chief. They will be set up in (b) (7)(F) Work has begun and should be completed by 5/10/13. Furniture estimates have been provided to VOA and we are waiting for funding to order the furniture.

#### **HVAC/ Electrical/Miscellaneous Services**

- a. New Annunciator Panel – Replace the current annunciator panel located in the NNC that is not functional. Three new panels will be installed in the following locations: NCC, Generator Room and the Facilities Office. Status: Installation of all wiring is 75% complete. Panels were inspected on 4/15/13 and accepted. Panels have been installed and testing will begin the week of 4/29/13. Testing is expected to take approximately two weeks.
- b. COOP HVAC Maintenance – The Satellite Division needs assistance with establishing a HVAC maintenance program for the COOP site. Status: A maintenance plan is now in place and work began on 4/25/13.
- c. Repair Waste Line – The waste line to the restroom located in the penthouse by the standup camera location on the roof needs to be replaced. (This is used primarily by VOA). Status: Cost estimate has been obtained and the requisition is being staffed.
- d. Water proofing project – GSA has a project to repair a leak in the exterior foundation wall near the front entrance of the building. The work will impact the parking spaces located near the front entrance of the building, and will last approximately six months. Status: Work is scheduled to begin in mid-March.

#### **Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)**

- a. The OSH Manager met with (b) (6), OSHA Compliance Officer, Sheryl Williams-Jones, LER and two representatives with AFGE to address Studio 52 DOL complaint. The group conducted a walk-through inspection of Studio 52. Mr. Rodriguez agreed with the response we sent to DOL. He was pleased with the warning sign posted on the Studio 52 entrance door and other actions taken to resolve this issue and address the DOL complaint.
- b. On April 25, 2013 the FEMA working group was working on updating evacuation zones in their neighboring area. The OSH Manager attended the meeting and provided the group with information on our Agency evacuation zones for Cohen and Switzer Building. Mr. (b) (6) FEMA Program Analyst will update and provide the FEMA map with evacuation zones to BBG.
- c. The OSH Manager worked with Mr. (b) (6) and several employees from (b) (7)(F) to address a noise problem. Per Mr. (b) (6) email dated April 24, 2013, the problem with the condensate pump was identified and corrected. Per follow-up with Mr. Lorraine Davis-Quick and other Room (b) (7)(F) occupants, the issue was resolved and they were satisfied with the results.
- d. The OSH Manager attended the BBG Wellness Committee meeting and provided recommendations on program improvement and other group initiatives.

## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR MAY 2013**

**DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:** The station remains in a caretaker status, which is an agency responsibility, as the GSA turn-in/disposal process continues. The Marine Corps is interested in obtaining the site and is working on obtaining Department of Defense approval to pursue transferring the site from the agency to the Marine Corps.

**DISPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Marine Corps received Department of Defense approval to pursue transferring the site from the agency to the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps requested, through GSA, OMB's approval for a no-fee transfer of the property to the Marine Corps. (This approval process can take up to six months.). The proposed interim use agreement, which would permit the USMC to use the site while the formal transfer process continues, is in the final approval stage. A support agreement, which is needed to establish the process for the USMC's reimbursement of funds to the BBG was approved by Director Lobo this month and forwarded to DOD for approval.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in April:

The Station's contractor, CTB, mobilized its crew to perform antenna and tower work.

The Station Manager and Admin Supervisor attended the Botswana Defense Force MESS night in commemoration of their 36 years of service.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in April:

The VOA Radiogram digital transmissions are continuing. Listener responses from around the world are helping to establish the most effective type of format to use.

Visitors for the month included (b) (6) from CPI/Econco, who gave an excellent presentation to the technical staff on the "care and feeding" of high power vacuum tubes.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in April:

The Station staff participated in a test to transmit 16:9 video signals generated in Dubai via Lampertheim to the NCC. The test was successful.

Two members of the Biblis staff visited the Northern Marianas Transmitting Station, and worked on installing the new switchbay and antenna control systems in Tinian and performed maintenance on the Saipan automation system.

In Tajikistan, three members of the Lampertheim staff spent two weeks working with Teleradiocom staff on the installation of the second Continental SW transmitter.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in April:

Kuwait was having a prolonged spring this year and, for the most part, the weather was very mild. All this month, Station technicians took advantage of the good outdoor working conditions to perform preventive maintenance on all of the satellite uplink antennas and HPA systems. The good weather also permitted the contractor to complete the painting of the seven-tower 1548 KHz MW antenna array. With that work completed, the KWT-A transmitter resumed 24/7 operations.

A team of security contractors worked at the site installing a fiber optic based fence protection system on the inner compound fencing. BBG Physical Security Engineer, Paul Panone, was on hand for the final testing and commissioning.

Last month, Clifford George, T/ES and a Cisco contractor, (b) (6) initiated and commissioned a new Cisco Digital VoIP telephone PBX. They were unable to get the Station's two direct-to-Embassy Kuwait trunk lines to work with the new system, as it would require configuration changes on the DOS owned Routers. As of the end of April, those trunks are still not communicating in spite of ongoing messages between BBG and DOS technical personnel. To make matters worse, on April 18<sup>th</sup>, several of the Station's landline telephone circuits stopped functioning. In spite of frequent appeals to the Kuwaiti telephone service department, those lines remain out of service at month's end.

In other news, Facilities Supervisor, Mohsine Bakkali, was TDY to the Philippines Transmitting Station to provide refresher rigger training.

This month, the Station prepared two ocean containers for out-bound shipping. One contains assorted MW antenna components and hardware which are being shipped to RTD Djibouti. These items were part of the old Holtzkirchen, Germany MW antenna array which was previously shipped to Kuwait for storage. The second container is packed full of fabricated tower braces and rigging gear which will be shipped to Cyprus in support of a M&R project to service the MW antenna towers at the Cape Greco Radio Station, a BBG subsidiary operation.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in April:

At Tinian, a combined automation team from IBB Germany and IBB Philippines, working together with the Station's technicians, continued working on the new antenna control system.

The Station staff completed the annual property inventory and submitted reports for the Transmitting Station Manager's review and approval.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in April:

Ambassador (b) (6) visited the Station.

Members of the Embassy's Consular Section visited Tinang for a site tour and familiarization.

The Embassy's Medical Unit conducted CPR and First Aid training at Poro and Tinang.

Rigger training was conducted by Mohsine Bakkali, IBB Kuwait. Eric Schwabe of the Sri Lanka Transmitting Station also joined the training.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in April:

Riggers completed replacement of thirty-two corroded feeder lines and clamp assemblies on Antenna #4. Corrosion control and painting work has begun on Antenna #4.

Contractors completed replacing Security Grilles on the manager's residence.

On April 7, at approximately 1613 GMT, a Beechcraft 1900 turboprop aircraft piloted by an American pilot was reported missing by Sao Tome Air Traffic Control, when about 14 kilometers out on approach, the tower lost radio contact. There were tropical storm conditions on that day. On April 8, the Sao Tome Airport Authorities asked the Sao Tome Transmitting Station if it could assist in the search effort. Station personnel contacted the American Embassy in Libreville and the story of the missing aircraft went out over the VOA newswire. On April 24, an American investigator hired by the family of the missing pilot arrived at the station to look at the beachfront areas outside the station and speak with the local villagers. The local Coast Guard conducted a search and, as of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, there has been no sign of a downed aircraft or its pilot.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in April:

Regional Construction Manager, (b) (6) visited the Station to manage M&R projects concerning the refurbishment of the storm damaged antennas.

Transmitter Plant Supervisor, Gunter Erich Schwabe was away at the Philippines Transmitting Station attending to consultations with antenna systems specialists and completing a 2-week climber certification program.

(b) (6) from Green Link Company, an environmental waste collection organization, visited the Station to review the environmental waste earmarked by the Station for disposal.

The Station continues with its effort to reinforce the bridle cables to save the antennas from further damage. The Station rigging crew completed the reinforcement of antennas 49L2, 255L and the replacement of maintenance cables between towers R-S and H-J. In order to speed up the reinforcement program, the remaining work on reinforcing the bridle cables was out sourced; however, the Station riggers will continue with the replacement of maintenance cables on the remaining towers.

Besides the antenna refurbishing, the corrosion remediation and painting continues on towers R and S.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in April:

This month is the month of the Thai New Year holidays or Songkran, a water festival based in Buddhist culture. Very little business is conducted in Thailand during April. The Station organized a Songkran family style holiday on the 5th of April for the LES staff, B&G staff, the guards and their families. This year's party was attended by about 100 people, half of whom were children. The Embassy and Station offices were closed for Songkran.

A new B&G workforce contract goes into effect on 1 May. The new contractor was on site the week of the 22nd to interview the existing B&G staff and to interview potential candidates for upcoming vacancies. Most of the existing staff will return, but a few new employees will join the staff with the new contractor. Security packages were assembled for the new employees and submitted to the Embassy's

Regional Security Officer for security background checks. The clearance processing for the new employees will not be completed by 1 May.

On 29 April, (b) (6) of Kearney and Company met the Transmitting Station Manager at Rasom (MW site) to begin conducting a financial audit for the CFO that consisted of observing capital assets as well as other functions. The auditors traveled to the Udorn site on the 30th to continue the audit, and departed post on 1 May.

#### **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** Following a recent infusion of approximately \$1.6 M of NOA, the total amount allotted to M&R at this time is \$3,706,788. . Approximately \$1,969,990 has already been allotted to urgent projects, including \$1,175,000 allotted to Sri Lanka for emergency repairs necessitated by storm-related damage to five curtain antennas that were rendered inoperable. The transmitting stations have been requested to submit their priority projects that could still be awarded by the end of FY 2013.

**NCC Renovation:** GSA posted this project on September 28th as a “SET ASIDE FOR SMALL DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES ONLY.” The GSA Contract Specialist (CS) received bids on November 13th. After a lengthy procurement process, the contract was awarded on April 25th to Arriba Corporation. The Notice to Proceed (NTP) has not been issued because the contractor has not submitted the security forms (HSPD-12 forms). Prior to the contractor’s mobilization, the NCC staff must finalize the move of equipment out of the Phase I area, the removal of all excess cable and stored equipment, and the preparation of their 35 day migration plan. There has been a lot of progress recently on all fronts. All the permanently installed equipment is out of the Phase I area and the 35 day migration plan is almost complete. The cable management effort has also been completed, including permanent labels and WireCAD drawings of the complete system. Peyton Communications continues to work on the removal of cables under the floor and in the ceiling. GSA requested tasking for Construction Management Services. We communicated with them and they agreed to work as a team with divided responsibilities. We will continue enforcing GSA Project Managers’ contracting responsibilities as specified via letter by the GSA Contracting Officer.

#### **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT BRANCH ACTIVITIES:**

##### **Space Renovations & Miscellaneous Projects**

- a) Cohen building water proofing project – GSA has awarded a contract to make water proofing repairs to the step area located outside of the C street entrance of the building which is allowing water to penetrate into the mechanical and electrical vault. The work will impact ten of the agency’s parking space and provisions have been made to move ten carpools to colonial parking.
  - i) Work began on 6/3 and is expected to last through November 2013.
- b) Creative Services (14 FTE & POV) - Consolidate all offices in one location ( (b) (7)(F) - old Croatian/Audience Mail).
  - i) Status: Design has been competed; construction has been funded and phase one has been completed. In order to begin phase two, employees must be relocated and this is being negotiated with the Union through H/R.
  - ii) VOA must fund the furniture purchase.
  - iii) No Change.
- c) Admin Office (15 FTE & 2 POV’s) – Consolidate all staff in one location ( (b) (7)(F) )
  - i) Status: The decision has been made to reorganize the CFO space to accommodate the growth of the admin office.



- (1) The design was completed and the estimate for the new furniture and construction is \$75k.
  - (2) Per Marie Lennon, alternative options need to be explored since funding is a problem.
    - (a) Meeting is scheduled for 3/21/13 with furniture designer to determine if we can reduce the cost in any way.
  - (3) (b) (7)(F) was divided to accommodate space needed for IG and storage for Admin and CFO office.
  - (4) A design has been prepared that modifies the CFO space only. Waiting for approval on the design.
- d) TSI – Consolidation of space.
- i) Status: Decision has been made by management to convert all private office to open floor plan concept.
  - ii) Jim Blessing has been assigned as project manager.
  - iii) Met with LER on 3/20 to discuss the next steps to notifying the Unions. It was determined that the managers can be relocated to swing space without having to wait for union approval.
    - (1) No change.
- e) VNC – Reconfiguration of workstations (15) to meet agreement between LER and Union
- i) Status: It has been discovered that the furniture was not ordered at the end of the fiscal year. Working with Aj and Angela to determine if the fund were transferred to TSI or if the furniture order was overlooked and not completed.
  - ii) Estimates have been obtained.
  - iii) Requisition has been submitted to purchase the furniture.
  - iv) Purchase order has been issued and furniture is on order. Should arrive in 45 days.
- f) New York Bureau – Construction of Studio and reconstruct the office space.
- i) Status: Contract was awarded to Integrated Construction Enterprises. The award amount was \$306,097.66.
  - ii) Project is nearly completed all that is left for competition is the electrical connection to the supplemental HVAC and start up. We do not have a date yet when the connection can be scheduled.
- g) Rekeying Project – Rekeying the locks in the Cohen building to minimize the need of multiple master keys.
- i) Status: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors have been completed and proceeding to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. Lock work on the ground floor is being done and expected to be completed by 7/15/2013.
- h) Rooftop Project – Install pavers to replace stone on the roof.
- i) Status: During the Inauguration, tents and staging installed by VOA's contractor damaged portions of the roof.
  - ii) GSA has insisted that if the agency would like continued use of the roof they must fund the replacement of the stone on the roof with pavers to protect the roof membrane.
  - iii) Working with various contractors to obtain estimates for the work.
  - iv) GSA has asked that all cabling on the roof be secured in a safe manner.
  - v) No Change.
- i) Serbian Service project- Space modification
- i) Status: Project has been submitted to GSA so estimates can be obtained for work to patch and paint the space as well as electrical work to accommodate the relocation of the systems furniture.
  - ii) GSA has provided an estimate of \$15k to complete the work. RWA has been provided to GSA to proceed.
  - iii) Waiting for approval from the unions to proceed.
  - iv) Approval was received from the unions and work is scheduled to begin the week of 6/10/2013.
- j) Burmese Service- Expansion to accommodate the growth.

- i) Status: VOA has funded the additional work and the requisition is being staffed with CON.
  - ii) Work start depends on getting the approval on the Serbian space.
  - iii) Approval has been received and the work will begin after the Serbian renovation has been completed.
- k) Mechanical Closets – GSA has informed us that the closets being used as storage space must be vacated.
  - i) Facilities staff has been surveying the spaces and working with the office to clear out the spaces.
  - ii) Still in progress. GSA has identified spaces that belong to BBG and requesting that they be emptied. Working with GSA to accommodate BBG needs.
  - iii) No change, still work on the remaining spaces.
  - iv) Closed
- l) Carpet cleaning throughout the building.
  - i) Ongoing.
- m) PNN- Request for more workstations
  - i) A request for two cubicles offices to be disassembled and four to five workstations to be created in their place.
  - ii) Work pending approval from the union.
- n) Digital Team – New office space.
  - i) This is a newly created office which will start out with 3 TE and One Chief. They will be set up in (b) (7)(F)
  - ii) Work has begun and should be completed by 5/10/13. Furniture estimates have been provided to VOA and waiting for funding to order the furniture.
  - iii) Funding for the furniture was approved by VOA and order is being place. Temporary desk have been placed in the space to be used in the interim.
- o) Repair Waste Line – the waste line to the restroom located in the penthouse be the standup camera location on the roof need to be replaced. This is used primarily by VOA.
  - i) Estimate has been obtained and the requisition is being staffed.
  - ii) Work has been completed.

#### **HVAC/ Electrical/Miscellaneous Services**

- a) Harmonic migration study – As part of HVAC upgrade project to be done by GSA, they have instructed the contractor to perform a Harmonics migration testing. This is to make sure that there is not any electrical interference from the variable frequency drives that are being installed as part of the project.
- b) New Annunciator Panel – Replace the current annunciator panel located in the NNC that is not functional. Three new panels will be installed in the following locations. NCC, Generator Room and the Facilities Office.
  - i) Status: Panels have been installed. Project is completed and tested.
- c) COOP HVAC Maintenance – Albert met with Neil Kennedy of the NCC to put in place a maintenance program for the HVAC equipment located at the COOP site.
  - i) Status: Estimate was obtained and the requisition is being staffed.
  - ii) Maintenance plan is in place and work began on 4/25/13.
  - iii) Contractor as completed tagging all the equipment at the COOP and the maintenance is be performed on a scheduled basis. This will be the last report unless any problems arise.
- d) New electrical panel for I/T – A requisition has been submitted to have an electrical survey performed in room 4137 to determine how additional electrical power can provided for new servers I/T has purchased.
  - i) Status: Met with the A/E and walked the project.

- e) Mission Critical HVAC Maintenance – Working with CON to prepare a new package to be sent out for bid. The current project will expire in November 2013.

### **Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)**

- a) Performed maintenance check of AED units at the Cohen and Switcher Building; identified one broken AED unit and 11 expired Adult Electrode Pads. Worked with FOH to address issues with broken AED; identified cost and other technical/financial requirements, prepared and submitted the purchase order for approval. The funds were approved for Agency to purchase of the AED unit and 11 Adult Electrode Pads. The purchase order was prepared and submitted to FOH. The AED Unit and Adult Electrode Pads have not arrived yet. Per follow up with FOH on 6/4/13 FOH was working on the order but funds were not available. Also, per FOH the Agency may not paid them for AED program to cover the year 2013 and they will not process the order until they are paid for services. Collaborated with T/R on those issues. Per communication with T/R and FOH on June 5, 2013 T/R will check the records to see if FOH was paid for AED services for the year 2013. They will also make sure that funds are actually available for purchase of the replacement AED unit and supplies.
- b) Responded to a report from Ms. Lorraine Davis-Quick on live mouse in Room 2240. Worked with GSA and arranged for exterminator visit for May 2, 2013. On May 9, 2013 was contacted again by Ms. Davis –Quick re: live mouse in the room. Followed-up with GSA. The GSA visited Room 2240 again on May 10, 2013 to ensure that adequate number of mouse traps was placed in the proper locations. The tenants of the Room 2240 were informed about proper food storage and disposal. Collaborated with GSA and Facilities/Contractors to provide the trash cans lids, additional mouse traps for room 2240. The possible mouse pathways were identified and blocked to resolve this issue. Per May 21, 2013 follow up with 2240 tenants; they have not seen the mouse for several days. The mouse issue was reported again in May 22, 2013. Per follow-up with GSA and tenants, the mouse was caught and removed from the room.
- c) Prepared handouts and safety kits for the New Employee Orientation. On June 3, 2013 conducted the new employee orientation training and safety tour. Five new employees attended orientation.
- d) Worked with Ms. Angela Vohwinkle, Room 1655, Phone 202-203-4633 and GSA reported mouse droppings in and around her cubicle. Addressed this issue with GSA. Per last follow up with the tenant on June 4, 2013 this issue has not been closed yet. GSA placed the mouse traps but still need to properly clean Ms. Vohwinkle's area. Per conversation with GSA on June 4, 2013, GSA will clean the mouse droppings from the tenant's desk.
- e) June is a National Safety Month. This year's theme is "Safety Starts with Me". As part of the National Safety Month initiative, prepared and sent a house announcement on "Driving Safety- Don't Text & Drive" reminder to the Agency employees. The employees were also encouraged to submit their ideas and suggestions for improving employee safety and health to their supervisor and to the BBG Safety and Occupational Health Office at [SafetyHealth@bbg.gov](mailto:SafetyHealth@bbg.gov). These also would satisfy the Agency annual reporting to the DOL.
- f) Collaborated with FOH on National Men's Health Week (June 10–16) and sent a house announcement on "Man up - Spin the wheel for your health" to provide information on man health.
- g) Updated and submitted BAM Safety Program.
- h) In support of the wellness program initiative followed up with Duane Lambert, GSA, on possibility of having healthy snack choices in the Cohen Building vending machines. Per Mr. Lambert's response on June 3, 2013, he already requested that information and will follow back up with us as soon he has more details about what can be offered.

## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JUNE 2013**

**DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:** The station remains in a caretaker status, which is an agency responsibility, as the GSA turn-in/disposal process continues. However, due to the time that has passed, GSA will soon become responsible for reimbursing the agency for its caretaker expenses. A letter was sent to GSA on June 13, 2013 to initiate the reimbursement process.

The Marine Corps is interested in obtaining the site and is working on obtaining Department of Defense approval to pursue transferring the site from the agency to the Marine Corps.

**DISPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:**

The Marine Corps received Department of Defense approval to pursue transferring the site from the agency to the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps requested, through GSA, OMB's approval for a no-fee transfer of the property to the Marine Corps. This approval process can take up to six months.

A proposed interim use agreement, which would permit the USMC to use the site while the formal transfer process continues, has been coordinated with DOD for over a year. A support agreement, which is needed to establish the process for the USMC's reimbursement of funds to the agency, has been approved by BBG and DOD. The formal interim use agreement was submitted to the BBG this month, and is being staffed for approval.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in May:

Station was visited by delegates from the Sedimo Junior Secondary School who toured the Station and received an overview of operations. They will in the future request a tour for their students.

The Station held an on-site Health Wellness Presentation given by the Botswana Medical Aid Society, an insurance organization used by the mission for employees' medical insurance. The topic was parenting.

The Embassy's Financial Management Officer (FMO), Ms. (b) (6) and Cashier, Ms. (b) (6) visited the Station to review the Station's cashier and financial operations. An unannounced cash count was performed by the FMO.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in May:

The VOA Radiogram digital transmissions of both text and picture data are continuing. Quite often when the audio portion is obscured by noise, the text still comes through with 100% copy.

On transmitter GB-7, the glycol heat exchanger control circuit failed due to a defective contactor in the high speed control circuit. Correcting the failure required substantial component replacement, rewiring and testing before the transmitter could be returned to service. All of the broadcast programs were transferred to other Station resources while repairs were made.

A radiator element failed in antenna BR22 requiring it to be removed from service. Due to the quick response of a local contract rigging crew, the antenna was quickly repaired and returned to service. Other Station antennas were used to cover the broadcast schedule during the repair.

Visitors for the month included members of the Onslow County and Carteret County Amateur Radio Clubs.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in May:

Astro Systems Engineer, (b) (6) visited the Station in connection with grooming the INTELSAT AOR satellite gateway for a planned migration to a new space segment on the existing satellite. The Station was the first stop on scheduled visits to all the IBB transmitting stations that use the AOR relay.

Two ocean containers were shipped out during the month. One contained the structural steel bracing and rigging equipment necessary to support MW tower repairs at the IBB subsidiary station on Cyprus. The other container was full of tower hardware and miscellaneous components that were formerly in use at the closed Holtzkirchen, Germany MW Station. This container was outbound to Djibouti as part of the equipment being provided to Radio/Television Djibouti (RTD) in support of the pending renewal of the RTD/IBB operating agreement. The Djibouti site is under the management of the Germany Transmitting Station.

The Embassy's Assistant Regional Security Officer (ARSO), (b) (6) visited the Station to conduct a monthly drill. He was accompanied by a Department of State security engineer who changed the combinations on the two cashier's safes. Also this month, the Embassy's Health Unit conducted CPR training classes at the Station.

After many months of bureaucratic processing, the Station's newest replacement technician arrived from Manila. Mr. Remar Angeles was formerly employed by the IBB Philippines Transmitting Station. With his arrival, the Station is finally back up to its full contingent of staffing.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in May:

Rome Research Corporation (RRC) technicians assigned to Tinian continue working on conversion of the old Telefunken antenna control system to the new antenna programmable logic controller (PLC) system.

(b) (6) from RRC conducted corporate's annual quality control inspection of Saipan and Tinian.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in May:

The Transmitting Station Manager attended the Country Team Meeting at the Embassy. A Group Eagle Award for the 75 IBB/PTS employees was presented by the Ambassador during the meeting. The Group Eagle Award recognized their superior and innovative work in the field of information technology, cost savings, and outreach efforts while making programming accessible to millions in Asia.

Personnel from the Embassy's General Services Office visited Tinang for a site tour and familiarization. Also, personnel from the Embassy's Medical Unit conducted First Aid Training and a Health Fair at Tinang.

The Station held a “Take Your Child to Work Day”. Twenty-one children along with their parents and coordinators joined the activities.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in May:

The transition for the new satellite transponder 87/87 was successfully completed.

Two maintenance & repair (M&R) projects were completed - Security Fencing Fabric Replacement and Housing Security Grilles Replacement.

Contractors (b) (6) from Wheeler arrived on station, completed the overhaul of Generator #4, and restored it to service. The Station now has five functional generators. In the process of performing the head install, excessive deterioration was found on many of the jacket water passages. The Station has requested additional funding to correct this problem.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in May:

(b) (6), Administrative Assistant at the Health Unit of Embassy Colombo and (b) (6) Embassy Colombo’s FSN nurse toured the Station. They also met with the Management staff and distributed pedometers to the staff.

The Station hosted a visit by (b) (6), who is a Chaplain at St. Vincent De Paul Society of the Diocese of Chilaw. He met the Transmitting Station Manager and was taken on a Station tour by the staff.

Management Officer (b) (6) from Embassy Colombo’s Human Resources Office visited the Station. Their visit was primarily to present Personal Service Agreements for several Local Guard Force (LGF) employees and IBB staff. Coinciding with their visit, a Town Hall Meeting was held for all staff where pressing issues such as sequestration, “Time Off from Duty Award” and curtailing of training under sequestration were discussed.

(b) (6), the Guard Force Commander at Post Katmandu, Nepal paid an official call on IBB to learn about security operations at the Station. He was accompanied by LGF Officer-in- Charge R. (b) (6) of Embassy Colombo.

Diplomatic Security conducted a Cyber Threat Awareness briefing at the Embassy. This session was attended by the Station’s Admin Management Specialist, Station Secretary, Computer Management Specialist and Budget Analyst.

The Annual First Aid & CPR training took place at the Station and was attended by most of the IBB and B&G Staff.

Staff from Green Links Lanka, an E-waste (electronic waste) removal company removed scrap material earmarked as e-waste from the Station.

The tower painting contractor completed work on antenna 255H. In addition, a contract was awarded for reinforcing the bridle cables on the remaining undamaged antennas. So far the selected vendor has been able to install the reinforcing cables on four of the six antennas that had to be reinforced. The bridles on the other two antennas are scheduled to be replaced in June. This will ensure that bridle cables are reinforced on all operational antennas except the damaged ones. Station riggers continue with the replacement of maintenance cables, with 27 of the 39 maintenance cables having been replaced.

The Transmitting Station Manager signed off on a memo, "Assignment – New Station Manager", assigning Gunter Erich Schwabe Jr. as the new Transmitting Station Manager for Sri Lanka Transmitting Station – effective June 1, 2013. After five and half years at post, the current Transmitting Station Manager, (b) (6) is being reassigned as the Transmitting Station Manager at the Philippines Transmitting Station. (b) (6) and family attended a farewell luncheon hosted by the Station staff and well-wishers at nearby Carolina Beach Hotel, where a souvenir "Cricket Bat" with a fitting inscription was presented to him during the celebration. A friendly volleyball match between the staff complemented the event.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in May:

The capitol asset audit team, which is auditing the agency, completed their audit of the Station's capitol assets.

ARSO (b) (6) traveled to Udorn site with (b) (6), the Local Guard Force Supervisor to review the Station's guard force. The trauma kit and the weapons of mass destruction clean-up supplies and kits were inventoried during his visit, and Selectone duck and cover drills were conducted before they departed.

Applicants for the vacant Antenna Technician position have been interviewed by the senior staff; the Station is still awaiting authority from headquarters to fill the position.

The Transmitting Station Manager traveled to Rasom (MW site) to conduct the final review of punch list items with the contractor. The required items were completed and the final invoice was approved for payment. M&R Project 1030 is now complete.

(b) (6) a trainer from the Embassy's Regional Employee Development Center, traveled to Udorn to provide FSI customer service training for the Udorn staff.

ARSO (b) (6) traveled from Chiang Mai Consulate to Udorn to conduct security work for the RSO and to tour the Udorn transmitter plant. (b) (6) will be increasingly responsible for providing Embassy security services in the future. Direct air travel is now available between Chiang Mai and Udorn, which makes this shift in responsibilities more feasible.

#### **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** Following a recent infusion of approximately \$1.6 M of NOA, the total amount allotted to M&R at this time is \$3,706,788. After consultations with the stations on the possibility of quick obligations versus urgent need, 23 projects were identified this month, totaling approximately \$1.57 M. Funding allotments for these projects have been sent to the stations. Unfortunately, major obligations at headquarters are impossible given the few months left in the fiscal year.

**NCC Renovation:** GSA posted this project on September 28<sup>th</sup> as a "SET ASIDE FOR SMALL DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES ONLY." The GSA Contract Specialist (CS) received bids on November 13<sup>th</sup>. After a lengthy procurement process, the contract was awarded on April 25<sup>th</sup> to Arriba Corporation. The Notice to Proceed (NTP) has not been issued because the contractor is still submitting security forms (HSPD-12 forms). GSA requested tasking for Construction Management Services. We thought we had reached an agreement last month but were surprised when GSA requested following a SOW for a Construction Quality Manager contract. The amount of work required by the SOW surpasses our requirements and includes administrative tasks that clearly correspond to the GSA

Project Manager. We have requested funding to cover these services via an RWA. GSA also requested a meeting to discuss piping through the windows. GSA first suggested changing the mechanical system by providing a dedicated chiller. We immediately told them that we were not in a position to redesign the project to accommodate their preferences. Also, we mentioned that we investigated different mechanical systems and selected the best option. At the end, GSA agreed to run piping through the brick and requested a detail. We have submitted a detail for the brick penetrations for GSA's review and approval. Prior to the contractor's mobilization, the NCC staff must finalize the move of equipment out of the Phase I area, the removal of all excess cable and stored equipment, and the preparation of their 35 day migration plan. All equipment has been moved from the Phase 1 area and the NCC cable removal effort was completed by Peyton Communications last week. We compiled a draft package with all the information to be used for the 35 day migration and distributed to the NCC staff for comments.

## **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT BRANCH ACTIVITIES:**

### **Space Renovations & Miscellaneous Projects**

- a) Cohen building water proofing project – GSA has awarded a contract to make water proofing repairs to the step area located outside of the C street entrance of the building, where water is penetrating into the mechanical and electrical vault. The work will impact ten of the agency's parking spaces, and provisions have been made to move ten carpools to colonial parking.
  - i) Status: Work began on 6/3 and is expected to last through November 2013. No change
- b) Creative Services (14 FTE & POV) - Consolidate all offices in one location. Location is Suite (b) (7)(F) old Croatian/Audience Mail.
  - i) Status: VOA has funded the purchase of the new furniture and the requisition has been sent to contracts.
- c) TSI – Consolidation of space.
  - i) Status: Waiting for GSA to provide the agency with a letter of intent. Followed up with John Kennedy on 7/2/13 to ask the status of the letter. Mr. Kennedy's response was that the letter had been drafted and was being reviewed by GSA legal office, and that we should receive it by the end of the week (7/12/13).
- d) VNC – Reconfiguration of workstations (15) to meet agreement between LER and Union
  - i) Status: The furniture arrived on 7/3/13. We are coordinating with the vendor on an installation date.
- e) New York Bureau – Construction of Studio and reconstruct the office space.
  - i) GSA was scheduled to have the contractor make the electrical connections for the new HVAC equipment on 6/28/13. When the contractor went to make the bus-duct tap they discovered that the equipment did not match. GSA is to provide an update as to when the equipment will be available and the installation will occur.
- f) Rekeying Project – Rekeying the locks in the Cohen building to minimize the need of multiple master keys.
  - i) Status: Lock work on the ground floor is being done and expected to be completed by 7/15/2013.
- g) Rooftop Project – Install pavers to replace stone on the roof.
  - i) Status: During the Inauguration, tents and staging installed by VOA' contractor damage portions of the roof.
  - ii) GSA has insisted that if the agency would like continued use of the roof, we must fund the replacement of the stone on the roof with pavers to protect the roof membrane.
  - iii) Working with various contractors to obtain estimates for the work.
  - iv) GSA as well has asked that all cabling on the roof be secured in a safe manner.
  - v) No Change.
- h) Serbian Service project- Space modification



- i) Status: Work has been completed.
- i) Burmese Service- Expansion to accommodate the growth.
  - i) Status: Construction has been completed and the final punch list items will be completed by 7/15/13
- j) Carpet cleaning throughout the building.
  - i) Status: Ongoing.
- k) PNN- Request for two more workstations
  - i) Status: Union approved the changes. VOA agreed to fund the purchase of the furniture. The requisition is being staffed.
- l) Digital Team – New office space. This is a newly created office which will start out with 3 FTE and One Chief. They will be set up in (b) (7)(F) .
  - i) Status: Funding for the furniture was approved by VOA and order is being placed. Temporary desk have been placed in the space to be used in the interim. No change.

### **HVAC/ Electrical**

- a) Harmonic migration study – As part of HVAC upgrade project being done by GSA, they have instructed the contractor to perform a Harmonics migration testing. This is to make sure that there is not any electrical interference from the variable frequency drives that are being installed as part of the project.
  - i) Status: As of 7/5/13, we have not received an update from GSA.
- b) New electrical panel for I/T – A requisition has been submitted to have an electrical survey performed in (b) (7)(F) to determine how additional electrical power can provided for new servers I/T has purchased.
  - i) Status: The report from the A/E is scheduled to be completed by 7/15/13.
- c) Mission Critical HVAC Maintenance – Working with contracts to prepare a new package to be sent out for bid. The current project will expire in November 2013.
  - i) Status: No change
- d) H/R HVAC unit – The unit supporting the front half of the office has a bad compressor.
  - i) Status: It has been determined that due to the age of the unit, it would be better to replace the entire unit. We are in the process of obtaining estimates.
- e) Generators – Status: Monthly PM's were performed on 7/2/13. On unit #2, during the inspection it was found that a grease fitting was cracked on the fan motor. This will be replaced under warranty at no cost to the government. Also, the semiannual fuel-oil PM is scheduled for 7/12/13.
- f) Generator Load Bank – Status: Met with a potential vendor to explore possible options to install a load bank for generator #2 located in the Cohen parking lot. It is recommend to have an electrical load on the genset when testing to prevent damaging the unit. We expect to have product information from the vendor the week of July 15<sup>th</sup> to review.

### **Safety**

- a) On June 27, 2013, Irina attended FEMA C St. Working Group meeting. Discussed was the new FEMA Facility Security Plan (FSP) that is being used for facility security assessments. FEMA provided a template that they used for their plan. Irina discussed SER with FEMA and Department of State representatives at this meeting.
- b) Air Sampling - On June 25, 2013, a request was received from Ms. (b) (6) with the Eurasia Division to have indoor air quality test performed in her (b) (7)(F) . She was seen (b) (6) In the course of Irina's investigation/ evaluation, several other employees in the Eurasia Division expressed

similar concern. Irina collaborated with GSA to perform indoor air quality (IAQ) evaluation/sampling in the Eurasia Division to address employees concern. Negotiated with GSA to have IAQ tests done free of cost for BBG. Collaborated with the tenants and GSA on scheduling and preparation for IAQ evaluation/sampling. Per GSA June 26, 2013 email, no issues found during the testing other than slightly high humidity levels. GSA will forward the report and readings as soon as we receive them in our office.

#### **Miscellaneous**

a)

(b) (5)



## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JULY 2013**

### **DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:**

The station remains in a caretaker status, which is an agency responsibility, as the GSA turn-in/disposal process continues. However, due to the time that has passed, GSA becomes responsible for reimbursing the agency for its caretaker expenses. A letter was sent to GSA on June 13, 2013 to initiate the reimbursement process. It appears that GSA will begin reimbursing the agency for its caretaker expenses and is preparing a response to that affect.

At one time, the Marine Corps expressed interest in obtaining the site. On July 17, 2013, GSA sent a letter to the Marine Corps asking them to confirm their intent to acquire the Delano Site. The letter also sought to determine if the Marine Corps was interested in the interim use of the site. An informal response from GSA confirmed that the Marine Corps is still interested in Delano, and that they plan to propose an interim use agreement similar to the one approved for Murrow/Greenville.

### **DISPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:**

The Marine Corps received Department of Defense approval to pursue transferring the site from the agency to the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps requested, through GSA, OMB's approval for a no-fee transfer of the property to the Marine Corps. This approval process can take up to six months.

This month the agency and the Marine Corps have entered into an interim use agreement, which allows the Marine Corps to use the property on a reimbursable basis while the transfer of the property is being pursued. The interim use agreement was effective July 16, 2012.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in June, the Station was visited by the Embassy's General Services Officer, Mr. (b) (6) who assisted with the Station's purchase requests, invoices and the Time and Attendance report. Mr. (b) (6) also conducted an unannounced cash count, and toured the Station's facilities.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in June:

The Radiogram digital transmissions of both text and picture data are continuing. Several high quality images were successfully decoded by listeners around the world.

Visitors for the month included Gerhard Straub and Marc Poe from T/EB in Washington, who were evaluating Site A's antennas for possible overseas deployment.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in June:

The Station was alerted that the Iranian government would start a new jamming attack on international broadcasters prior to and after the elections in Iran. In the past, VOA PNN TV programming via Eutelsat 13B had been a preferred target. In anticipation of this jamming, the Station created a backup scenario to minimize the impact of any jamming by establishing an uplink to Eutelsat France via Eutelsat 16B.

Although Iran tried to interfere with the signal, the impact was minor and all commercial and home entertainment receivers remained in lock. The Station operated in this backup mode for about three days.

The Station Automation System (SAS) at IBB Marianas, which allows for the remote operation of the transmitters at Saipan and Tinian from IBB Philippines, is up and running. There were two issues with the Tinian antenna control that were observed on specific combinations of operational settings. These issues were resolved after extensive troubleshooting.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in June:

A burnt S14 RF switch on the SW antenna array affected scheduled transmission on transmitters KWT-3 and KWT-4, resulting in a loss of 2.2 hours of programming. A broken feed line on antenna A2 (070L1) resulted in additional hours lost. Due to high winds and blowing sand, it was not possible to get the riggers aloft to initiate repairs until a heavy crane could be brought in.

The Station's Facilities Supervisor, Mohsine Bakkali, departed on TDY to Sri Lanka to assist in the repair work of that station's storm damaged antennas.

The Transmitting Station Manager, accompanied by the Embassy's Public Affairs Officer (PAO), met with Ministry of Information (MOI) officials concerning the renewal of the Station's operating agreement. In addition, two members of the MOI staff visited the station for a tour of the facilities and discussions on remaining questions concerning the structure of our mission.

The Station welcomed a new technician, Mr. Remar Angeles, from the Philippines.

This month the Station trained 120 members of the Embassy's Local Guard Force on the new security fence system.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in June:

Rome Research Corporation (RRC) technicians assigned to Tinian, together with Larry Chiu, IBB Philippines, started the installation of new SAS audio router switcher.

At Saipan, three power outages were encountered during remote operations by IBB Philippines.

At Saipan, Spectrum Electric installed a 200 AMP Auto-Breaker, which required the commercial power to be disconnected and the Station to operate using generator power for approximately 6 ½ hours.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in June:

The Transmitting Station Manager visited the Poro site to present a service award to Benjie Ofilada and Eagle Awards to the staff. He also traveled to the Saipan and Tinian sites located in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) to oversee CNMI operations. Mr. Shannon White traveled with him to receive a facilities familiarization and orientation.

School started for the IBB grant-sponsored Day Cares located in the five (5) Barangays.

Personnel from the Embassy's Human Resources staff gave a presentation to the LES employees on Supplemental Retirement Benefits and the Philippine Social Security Retirement System.

The Embassy's IM staff visited Tinang for a site tour and familiarization.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in June:

The rigging team reported they found copper ground straps cut and removed (stolen) from array #3 antennas and from a guy wire on the Radio Nacional antenna. The antenna riggers restored the groundings by installing aluminum wires and clamps. The contracted security supervisor was notified and the guard force alerted to heighten vigilance in these areas.

A contingent from the Station visited Radio Nacional to congratulate the new Director on his appointment and to view the operations.

The Safety Officer conducted an unannounced fire drill to include simulation of a victim trapped in a smoke-filled building. The drill went very well with good response time.

IBB Office of Security's Rick Castro visited Sao Tome to review the site's security conditions.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in June:

Erich Schwabe took over as Transmitting Station Manager effective 1 June.

This month the Station was run on the "Full Automation Mode", which accounted for more than two hours of program interruptions. At this point, most of the issues have been resolved; however, there are a few more bugs to be eliminated before the Station can confidently go to unmanned mode.

The Regional Construction Manager, (b) (6) and IBB Kuwait's Maintenance Supervisor, Mohsine Bakkali, visited the Station to assist with the Tower Reconstruction Project. The damaged antennas 49 H1 & H2 were safely lowered to the ground by the Station's Antenna Technicians under the supervision and observance of Messrs. Leonard and Bakkali, and the Station Manager and Assistant Facilities Plant Supervisor.

The Station was visited by 160 students and eight teachers from St. Joseph's College, Negombo.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in June:

The Station's Computer Management Specialist traveled to Rasom (medium wave site) and Radio Saranram at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) to install a new streaming encoder PC and new connectivity from Telecommunications of Thailand. The new connectivity is used to transfer files for broadcast from MFA to Rasom and Udorn. The new circuits offer much improved bandwidth at a favorable cost.

Seventy one students from the Sawang Dan Din Vocational School visited and toured the Station. Another smaller group of 33 students from the same school toured the Station the following week.

The Station's Supply Supervisor, (b) (6), resigned and began a new position with the Center for Disease Control in Bangkok. A farewell luncheon was held in Ban Dung for him. Everyone at the Station will miss (b) (6) and wishes him all the best in his new career with CDC.

## **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** Following a recent infusion of approximately \$1.6 M of NOA, the total amount allotted to M&R at this time is \$3,706,788. After consultations with the stations on the possibility of quick obligations versus urgent need, 25 projects were identified. Commitments/allotments totaling \$1,622,000 have been processed for these projects. Unfortunately, major obligations at headquarters are impossible given the few months left in the fiscal year.

**NCC Renovation:** GSA posted this project on September 28<sup>th</sup> as a “SET ASIDE FOR SMALL DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES ONLY.” The GSA Contract Specialist (CS) received bids on November 13<sup>th</sup>. After a lengthy procurement process, the contract was awarded on April 25<sup>th</sup> to Arriba Corporation. GSA requested tasking for Construction Quality Management Services (CQM). We thought we had reached an agreement long ago that IBB would manage the construction, but were surprised when GSA requested that IBB follow all specifics of a scope of work generally used for a Construction Quality Management contract and contractor. As a result, IBB decided to submit a RWA to GSA for procurement of CQM Services. The RWA was submitted on July 12<sup>th</sup> and we received the RWA acceptance letter on July 29<sup>th</sup>. GSA expects the contract for CQM services to be awarded by Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. We have told the GSA Project Manager to not issue the NTP until the CQM contract is awarded. GSA also requested to discuss piping through the windows. After discussions with GSA, they agreed to run piping through the brick and requested a detail from IBB. We submitted a detail for the brick penetrations for GSA’s review and approval. We received comments with a request to add an exterior flange that could be caulked or seated with a gasket. We are currently working on modifying the penetration details. We also learned that the approved drawings and specifications were submitted to GSA’s Office of Planning and Design Quality for review. We have only received one comment regarding space usage and provided an answer to the GSA Project Manager. We indicated that we will only implement comments related to code compliance, if any.

## **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT BRANCH ACTIVITIES:**

### **1) Space Renovations**

- a) Cohen building water proofing project – GSA has awarded a contract to make water proofing repairs to the step area located outside of the C street entrance of the building which is allowing water to penetrate into the mechanical and electrical vault. The work will impact ten of the agency’s parking spaces; provisions have been made to move ten carpools to Colonial Parking.
  - i) Work began on 6/3 and is expected to last through November 2013. (No change)
- b) Creative Services (14 FTE & POV) - Consolidate all offices in one location. Location is Suite (b) (7)(F) old Croatian/Audience Mail.
  - i) Status: VOA has funded the purchase of the new furniture and the requisition has been sent to contracts. (No change).
- c) TSI – Consolidation of space.
  - i) Status: Met with GSA on 7/31/13 to discuss the Switzer move. TSI participants consisted of André Mendes, Terry Balazs, Connie Stephens, and Piero Ciano; GSA participants consisted of Sergio Delcid, Stephanie Mayo, and Elena Garrison. At the meeting, GSA committed to responding as quickly as possible to move the employees in the Switzer Building to Cohen. This they would like to accomplish the move by the first quarter of the new calendar year. They indicated that the fitness center and storage space could possibly be moved at a later date. GSA asked when HHS could tour the space in Switzer, and were informed that André will first notify the manager at Switzer, which could occur late next week. GSA was informed that Jonathan Ward would be the PM for this project.
- d) VNC – Reconfiguration of workstations (15) to meet agreement between LER and Union

- i) Jackie Francis is coordinating the move of the employees in the space prior to the installation of the new furniture.
- e) New York Bureau – Construction of Studio and Reconstruction of the Office Space.
  - i) The bus duct tap has been rescheduled for August 17, 2013. The contractor has to modify the switch to be installed. GSA also has expressed concern over the way that the backdrop set was installed in the new studio, specifically with the placement of panels that will prevent the airflow coming from the induction units. This work was performed under the directions of VOA, so we have asked Mark Prahl to coordinate a meeting with GSA and the installer to explain how the panels can be removed in order to service the induction units.
- f) Rekeying Project – Rekeying the locks in the Cohen building to minimize the need of multiple master keys.
  - i) Status: All new work has been completed, with only some minor follow-up work being performed. Project is considered complete.
- g) Rooftop Project – Install pavers to replace stone on the roof.
  - i) Status: During the Inauguration, tents and staging installed by VOA's contractor damaged portions of the roof.
  - ii) The initial estimate was provided to VOA to perform the work, at a cost of \$300k. VOA could not fund this amount and revised the scope of work. The new estimate was \$90k and VOA is working on funding the work.
- h) Georgian and Armenian Services –
  - i) Status – The two services now report to the Eurasian service.
  - ii) The services will be relocated from the (b) (7)(F) area. Jackie Francis is working with VOA to design the new space and is preparing an estimate for the renovation work to be performed.
- i) Carpet cleaning throughout the building.
  - i) Ongoing.
- j) PNN- Request for two more workstations
  - i) Union approved the changes. VOA will fund the purchase of the furniture and the requisition is being staffed. (No change).
- k) Digital Team – New office space. This is a newly created office which will start out with three FTEs and one Chief. They will be set up in (b) (7)(F)
  - i) Funding for the furniture was approved by VOA and the order is being placed. Temporary desks have been placed in the space to be used in the interim. (No Change).
- l) Window Cleaning-
  - i) GSA has informed us that cleaning of the inside and outside of the windows in the Cohen Building is scheduled to begin within the next two weeks.
  - ii) Employee will be required to remove all items from the window sills.

## 2) HVAC/ Electrical

- a) Harmonic migration study – As part of the HVAC upgrade project being done by GSA, they have instructed the contractor to perform a Harmonics migration test. This is to make sure that there is no electrical interference from the variable frequency drives that are being installed as part of the project.
  - i) Preliminary findings are that the VFD's will require electrical filters to be installed to preclude creating electrical interference that could affect our equipment.
  - ii) No date has been provided as to when the equipment will be installed.
- b) New electrical panel for I/T – A requisition has been submitted to have an electrical survey performed in (b) (7)(F) to determine how additional electrical power can be provided for the new servers I/T has purchased.

- i) The A/E reported on the solution and the recommendation was to install new step-up and step-down transformers which would allow for the increase in load, and also to install new electrical panels.
- ii) The estimate for the work was \$172 K.
- iii) I/T has informed us that they will not be able to fund this project this FY.
- iv) Project is on hold.
- c) Mission Critical HVAC Maintenance – We are working with CON to prepare a new package to be sent out for bid. The current project will expire in November 2013.
  - i) T/RA has recommend that a \$0 fund requisition be sent to contracts informing them that it will be funded next FY.
  - ii) The requisition has been resubmitted and is being staffed.
- d) H/R HVAC unit – The unit supporting the front half of the office has a bad compressor.
  - i) It has been determined that due to the age of the unit it would be better to replace the entire unit. We are in the process of obtaining estimates.
  - ii) We are working with GSA on this project and are waiting for an updated estimate. The original amount was \$28 K, and our IGE was in the range of \$15 K.
- e) Generators – The semiannual fuel oil filter PM was performed and the fuel tested. Everything was found to be in excellent condition.
- f) Generator Load Bank – Met with a potential vendor to explore possible options to install a load bank for generator #2 located in the Cohen parking lot. It is recommend to have an electrical load on the genset when testing to prevent damaging the unit. Product information and an estimated cost of \$67 K was received.
  - i) We are working with GSA to obtain approval to install the load bank adjacent to the generator in the parking lot. If we get the OK from GSA in time, we will submit the requisition for an FY 2013 award. If not, it will be done next FY.

### **3) Safety**

- a) Irina met with HHS to coordinate the evacuation zone to be used between BBG and HHS during emergencies.

### **4) Miscellaneous**

- a) Met with VOA to discuss Nancy Coviello's roll in the VOA workforce engagement program. Nancy will be the liaison between VOA employees and the Facilities Management Branch on building issues.
  - i) Some of the items discussed were:
    - (1) Improving communications
    - (2) Procedures for furniture replacement
    - (3) Reporting problems
    - (4) Rodent problems in the building.



## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR AUGUST 2013**

### **DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:**

As the GSA turn-in/disposal process continues, the Station remains in a caretaker status, which is an agency responsibility; however, GSA now will reimburse the agency for its caretaker expenses.

The Marine Corps has re-confirmed with GSA its interest in obtaining the site on a permanent basis. The Marine Corps also is preparing a request to use the site on an interim basis until the permanent transfer is approved.

### **DISPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:**

The Marine Corps requested, through GSA, OMB's approval for a no-fee transfer of the property to the Marine Corps. In the meantime, the agency and the Marine Corps have entered into an interim use agreement, which allows the Marine Corps to use the property on a reimbursable basis while the transfer of the property is being pursued. The interim use agreement was effective July 16, 2012.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in July:

The Station's Facilities Section was involved in a number of activities around the Station, which included new road markings. They did an excellent job relocating the road around the microwave link tower to avoid damage to the newly installed guy wires.

The SIS high-power amplifiers (HPAs) experienced random periods of switching off without any logical reason. After many hours of troubleshooting, it was discovered that the coax cable interconnecting the HPA's and the satellite dish was too thin and too old to handle the recent increase in power it was given. After consulting with Neil Kennedy (T/ES) in Washington, a decision was made to use a LDF4-50A cable while Neil looks into a permanent replacement part.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in July:

The rear power amplifier (PA) bias transformer failed in transmitter GB-5 and caused a localized fire affecting the adjacent wiring and components. The fire was quickly extinguished and the affected parts replaced. The program was substituted in-house with minimal program loss.

In preparation for the upcoming hurricane season, the auxiliary generator was tested in the island (storm) mode. This function allows the transmitter plant to remain active while being completely removed from utility power. The transition to island mode went smooth; however, at the conclusion of the test, the generator failed to synchronize with the utility power and all power to the building was lost requiring a manual reset of the system to restore building power. The generator maintenance contractor was contacted to address the problem.

The conductivity of the Station's master deionized (DI) water supply was discovered to be out of tolerance. The tank was drained and refilled to correct the problem.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in July:

Vincent Barbera, the new Director of the Satellite Division within the Engineering and Transmission Directorate, visited the Station.

The transfer of the DS3 stream to multiprotocol label switching (MPLS) was accomplished. First, the IBB Kabul video and data stream was transferred to MPLS and then the MBN news bureau's data link. At the same time, the Station started to transfer the prime feed of the East fiber (AOR MCPC) from DS3 to MPLS. This activity was done in conjunction with the dual transmission of the Lampertheim return feeds including the MBN news bureau's videos on DS3 and MPLS.

The AOR SIS was reconfigured, which required a general frequency modification and increase of bandwidth for Sao Tome and Botswana, and a decrease in bandwidth for Lampertheim. All worked out well with the exception that the increase in bandwidth significantly impacted the Botswana SIS carrier. The carrier level dropped significantly, causing a loss of Voice over IP (VoIP) and Internet service to this Station. After two days of work, a fix was in place and VoIP and Internet were restored.

Afghanistan FM Sites: Several fuel pumps were replaced at the generators located in different provinces. The increasing number of problems with generators is being caused by bad fuel quality. IBB Germany has ordered small polishing units for cleaning, decontaminating and stabilizing the fuel. The first unit will be installed next month.

Djibouti Support: On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, a serious problem with the transmitter was encountered. Due to a heavy power fluctuation, several components of the control system of the Thales transmitter were damaged, which caused the transmitter to fail and remain off the air since that time. The transmitter manufacturer is supporting the staff in troubleshooting.

Tajikistan Support, Orzu: The TRK staff continued their work on installation of the second Continental SW transmitter. On the evening of July 24<sup>th</sup>, a serious problem with the other Continental SW transmitter was encountered and the broadcast was stopped due to a water leakage at the power amplifier (PA) stage. The problem was corrected and broadcasts resumed on July 27<sup>th</sup>,

Technical and logistical support was provided to two new affiliate stations in Macedonia and Kosovo. Several technical problems were resolved by telephone.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in July:

This was an interesting month at the Kuwait Transmitting Station. With sizzling summer temperatures and sandstorms, the onset of Ramadan, and a relentless plague of crickets, the Station still managed to muddle through fairly well.

Station availability was 99.44% for the month. Out of 5,662.5 scheduled hours of programming, there was a whopping 31.70 hours of irregularities, of which 3.52 hours were related to an antenna outages caused by severe sandstorm winds and 27.83 hours were due to a massive outage of MW transmitter KWT-C. The MW outage was caused when one of the thousands of Arabian crickets that have plagued the Station throughout July made the unfortunate and fatal mistake of trying to walk between contacts on the top of transformer T12, the (460/240 volt) distribution transformer. The resulting current surge damaged T12 and precipitated a chain reaction that also took out the T16 (3.5/6 kV) transformer, which shorted several diodes in the 3.5/6 kV power supply, screen bypass capacitors for both the Peak and Carrier tube sockets and the 4-400 audio driver tube. It took an extensive and time-consuming effort to

trace-out all the effected circuits and complete repairs. Fortunately for us, Station Resident Engineer, Sheldon Daitch had just returned from Home Leave and was available to figure out the rather unorthodox circuit design methodology of this particular Continental 318.5 prototype's 3 & 6 kV power system. This was the first outage of its kind with this particular transmitter.

The local contractor doing the M&R antenna repainting project began work on the KWT-C two-tower array. Because of shipping delays for the remaining paint, the contractor had to do this work during Ramadan, which meant that the painting crew showed up at the site each day at the crack of dawn and could only work safely until about 09:30 hours because of their fasting. Nevertheless, they completed the work and did an excellent job.

Clifford George (T/ES) and a contractor from Crystal Solutions arrived on site to install and commission the Crystal M&C satellite system monitoring project. Training was also provided on the system.

Official visitors from the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait this month included:

- Three Embassy Interns for an orientation and a tour.
- An Assistant Regional Security Officer (ARSO) to conduct a security drill.
- The Embassy Information Management Officer (IMO) to change out the OpenNet router encryption devices and consult with Clifford George on solutions for making our new Cisco digital private branch exchange (PBX) telephone system communicate across the routers to the U.S. Embassy Kuwait's PBX to restore our two Embassy telephone extensions.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in July:

IBB Philippines assumed 24 hours/7 days remote control operations at both the Saipan and Tinian sites.

At Saipan, cabling requirements for the VoIP telephone system project were completed.

Mr. Richard Cai, T/EOS Structural Engineer, returned to Washington after completing the Tinian antenna guy wire inspections.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in July:

Mr. William Martin, the incoming Transmitting Station Manager, arrived on 26 July.

The Station experienced a loss of 10 hours and 18 minutes on the West Net MPLS due to a reported fiber cut in Manila.

The Station assisted VOA radio affiliate, DWSL/DWHL-Olongapo, in troubleshooting an intermittent signal received from ASIA SAT3. Technicians replaced a defective integrated receiver/decoder (IRD), retuned the satellite dish for maximum signal quality and strength, and performed preventive maintenance on the dish.

Members of the American Embassy staff visited the Tinang site for a tour and familiarization.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in July:

The rigging team found copper ground straps cut and removed (stolen) from array #3 antennas and from a guy wire on the Radio Nacional antenna. The antenna riggers restored the groundings by installing

aluminum wires and clamps. The contracted security supervisor was notified and the guard force alerted to heighten vigilance in these areas.

A contingent from IBB Sao Tome visited Radio Nacional to congratulate the new Director on his appointment and view the operations.

The Safety Officer conducted an unannounced fire drill to include simulation of a victim trapped in a smoke-filled building. The drill went very well with good response time.

IBB Office of Security's Rick Castro arrived at Sao Tome to review site security conditions.

Painters performed maintenance on all three satellite dishes to include pressure washing, scraping and repainting.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in July:

This was another busy month with the Antenna Refurbishment Project being center stage. The Admin, Facilities, and Rigging sections, with oversight and supervision provided by Regional Construction Manager (b) (6) worked hard at identifying and procuring antenna parts and supplies, and obligating as much maintenance & repair (M&R) funding as possible during the current FY.

The Station's Management Team welcomed important IBB contacts at the American Embassy's July 4th celebration held at the Colombo Hilton.

The Embassy's ARSO's, (b) (6) performed a security assessment and briefed the Station Manager on the results of a recently conducted security inspection carried out by State Department's Diplomatic Security.

IBB Kuwait's Facilities Supervisor, Mohsine Bakkali, departed post after a very successful three-week stint. His work was much appreciated, and really helped move the antenna repair project along.

Preliminary work for the tower painting and nut & bolt replacement contracts took place this month. Nine prospective bidders submitted bids for the tower painting project, while eight prospective bidders submitted bids for the nut and bolt replacement project. The packages were reviewed for best competitive pricing, and two prospective contractors selected for both projects.

The Station's Budget Analyst, (b) (6), who had just completed a year's service at the Station, resigned. (b) (6) is leaving Sri Lanka with her spouse to complete her higher studies in New Zealand. We wish her all the best on her new journey.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in July:

The Regional Construction Manager, (b) (6), was on site in support of upcoming station M&R activities.

Forty students and four teachers from the Udonthani Technical College toured the Udorn Transmitter Site.

Two FSN's, (b) (6) and (b) (6) from the Regional Security Office (RSO) Bangkok conducted background security checks on new contract employees at the Udorn site.

The staff at the Rasom MW Site received First Aid and CPR training from a local hospital near Ayutthya.

The water well at the Rasom site failed last month and construction of a new well was approved as a new M&R project. The Embassy General Services Office (GSO) is providing assistance with this project. Requests for Quotes (RFQ) were distributed and later returned for technical evaluation.

The Kochasit Fire Department provided fire safety training to

#### **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** M&R received another allotment of \$1.630 million in June, June bringing the FY13 M&R total to \$3,706,788. After consultations with the stations on the possibility of quick obligations versus urgent need, we collectively identified 25 projects with commitments/allotments totaling \$1,622,000. Allotments have been sent to the stations. Unfortunately, major obligations at HQ are impossible given the few months left in the fiscal year. In late July the stations were requested to respond to the annual project call request by the end of August. In September the Facilities Planning Board at headquarters will initiate its review of the proposed projects for inclusion in the FY14 M&R Plan.

**NCC Renovation:** GSA posted this project on September 28th as a “SET ASIDE FOR SMALL DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES ONLY.” The GSA Contract Specialist (CS) received bids on November 13th. After a lengthy procurement process, the contract was awarded on April 25th to Arriba Corporation. GSA requested tasking for Construction Quality Management Services (CQM). After discussions with management, the decision was to submit an RWA for procurement of CQM services. The RWA for CQM services was processed and accepted on 7/29/2013 with RWA# N0720746. The CQM procurement package was submitted to GSA Budget Office for approval. GSA Budget approved the package and forwarded to GSA Contracts for procurement. The CS received the procurement package on 08/03/2013. GSA Contracts had initially selected to issue the CQM solicitation for 8a Hub Zone Contractor. After a very successful conference call on 8/20/13, GSA will use an existing CQM contract, which can provide an individual with a HSPD-12 badge; therefore no need for security clearance. The CS is currently working on procurement package and the estimated contract award date is 9/21/13. The security clearance for the contractor Arriba Corp. is still in process. GSA has only issued two contractor’s badges. GSA estimates that both the CQM contractor and Arriba Corp. will request NTP in early October 2013. The Contracting Officer will not issue NTP until Arriba Corp. has enough HSPD-12 badges to work in the building without a need for escorting.

#### **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT BRANCH ACTIVITIES:**

##### **1) Space Renovations**

- a) Cohen building water proofing project – GSA has awarded a contract to make water proofing repairs to the step area located outside of the C street entrance of the building, which is allowing water to penetrate into the mechanical and electrical vault. The work will impact ten of the agency’s parking spaces, and provisions have been made to move ten carpools to Colonial Parking.
  - i) Work began on 6/3 and is expected to last through November 2013. (No change)
- b) Creative Services (14 FTE & POV) - Consolidate all offices in one location. Location is Suite (b) (7)(F) old Croatian/Audience Mail.
  - i) Status: VOA has funded the purchase of the new furniture and the requisition has been sent to CON. (No change)
- c) TSI – Consolidation of space.

- i) Status: GSA has stated that the contract for the design will be issued before 10/1/2013. They have an aggressive schedule to complete the design, construction and moves by the end of the first quarter of calendar year 2014.
- d) VNC – Reconfiguration of workstations (15) to meet agreement between LER and Union
  - i) Jackie Francis is coordinating the move of the employees in the space prior to the installation of the new furniture. Completed August 3, 2013.
- e) New York Bureau – Construction of Studio and reconstruct the office space.
  - i) The bus duct tap was completed on August 17, 2013. GSA also has expressed concerns with the way that the backdrop set was installed in the new studio, resulting in placement of panels that could restrict the airflow coming from the induction units. GSA was shown that there was adequate ventilation provided, that the panels could be removed for maintenance, and that certification was provided that the panels were constructed from fire retardant materials. GSA has no further concerns with the set design and installation.
- f) Rooftop Project – Install pavers to replace stone on the roof.
  - i) Status: During the Inauguration, tents and staging installed by VOA’ contractor damaged portions of the roof.
  - ii) The initial estimate was provided to VOA to perform the work, at a cost of \$300k. VOA could not fund this amount and revised the scope of work. The contract was negotiated and the new estimate was \$77 K. VOA is in the process of issuing the purchase order for the repairs.
- g) Georgian and Armenian Services –
  - i) Status – The two services now report to the Eurasian service.
  - ii) The services will be relocated from the (b) (7)(F) to the (b) (7)(F) Jackie Francis is working with VOA to design the new space and is preparing an estimate for the renovation and work to be performed.
  - iii) Furniture and construction has been funded. An RWA has been submitted to GSA for the construction. A meeting has been scheduled on 9/11/13 by LER to meet with the Union to discuss the move
- h) Carpet cleaning throughout the building.
  - i) Ongoing.
- i) PNN- Request for two more workstations
  - i) Union approved the changes. VOA will fund the purchase of the furniture, and the requisition is being staffed. (No change)
- j) Digital Team – New office space. This is a newly created office that will start out with 3 FTEs and One Chief. They will be set up in (b) (7)(F) .
  - i) Funding for the furniture was approved by VOA and the order is being placed. Temporary desks have been placed in the space to be used in the interim. (No change)
- k) Window Cleaning-
  - i) GSA has informed us that cleaning of the inside and outside of the windows in the Cohen is scheduled to begin within the next two weeks.
  - ii) Employees will be required to remove all items from the window sills.
  - iii) Completed

## 2) HVAC/ ELECTRICAL

- a) Harmonic migration study – As part of HVAC upgrade project being done by GSA, they have instructed the contractor to perform Harmonics migration testing. This is to make sure that there is not any electrical interference from the variable frequency drives that are being installed as part of the project.
  - i) Preliminary finding are that the VFD’s will require electrical filters to be installed so not to create electrical interference that could affect our equipment.
  - ii) No date has been provided as to when the equipment will be installed.

- iii) No Change.
- b) New electrical panel for I/T – A requisition has been submitted to have an electrical survey performed in (b) (7)(F) to determine how additional electrical power can be provided for new servers I/T has purchased.
  - i) The A/E reported on the solution and the recommendation was to install new step-up and step-down transformer that would allow for the increase in load and also to install new electrical panels.
  - ii) The estimate for the work was \$172k.
  - iii) I/T has informed T/EOS/F that they will not be able to fund this FY.
  - iv) Project is on hold.
- c) Mission Critical HVAC Maintenance – Working with CON to prepare a new package to be sent out for bid. The current project will expire in November 2013.
  - i) T/RA has recommend that a \$0 funded requisition be sent to CON informing them that it will be funded next FY.
  - ii) The requisition has been resubmitted and is being staffed.
- d) H/R HVAC unit – The unit supporting the front half of the office has a bad compressor.
  - i) It has been determined that due to the age of the unit it would be better to replace the entire unit. We are in the process of obtaining estimates.
  - ii) We are working with GSA on this project and are waiting for an updated estimate to come back. The original amount was \$28k and our IGE was in the range of \$15k.
  - iii) GSA has revised their estimate to \$20,511. RWA has been prepared and submitted to GSA.
- e) Generators – Monthly PM was performed and everything was found in good condition.
- f) Generator Load Bank – Met with a potential vendor to explore possible options to install a load bank for generator #2 located in the Cohen parking lot. It is recommend to have an electrical load on the genset when testing to prevent damaging the unit. Product information and an estimated cost of \$67k.
  - i) Working with GSA to obtain approval to install the load bank adjacent to the generator in the parking lot. If we get the OK from GSA in time, we will submit the requisition in September. If not, it will be done next FY.
  - ii) We have not received approval yet from GSA to install the load banks.

### 3) Safety

- a) Our Occupational Safety and Health Manager, Irina Kabakova, is working with various offices to address the rodent concerns.
- b) Irina is working on updating the safety and occupational health website with Mr. Michael Osicki.
- c) Updated GSA Pest poster per Barbara Brady's recommendations and submitted to the Graphics department. They will be able to provide a draft for review by 9/6/2013.
- d) Safe escape respirator – A recommendation was submitted to remove the SER since they are no longer useful and reached the end of the SER life cycle. Waiting for response from management on how to proceed.
- e) AED – T/EOS/F has been notified by Federal Occupational Health (FOH) that the manufacturer will discontinue all replacement parts for our older AEDs in two years and we will need to purchase new AED units. We are getting the cost of replacement units so we can procure in FY-14.

### 4) Miscellaneous

- a) Met with VOA to discuss Nancy Coviello's role as the VOA workforce engagement program manager. Nancy will be the liaison between VOA employee and Facilities Management Branch on building issues.
  - i) Some of the items discussed were:
    - (1) Improving communications
    - (2) Procedure for furniture replacement

- (3) Reporting problems
- (4) Rodent problem in the building.
- ii) These issues are still being worked, and will only be reported on in the future if there is a major issue to bring to management's attention.

**5) PARKING**

- a) Form for the new parking applications is being revised so it can be sent out by 10/1/13.



## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2013**

### **DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:**

As the GSA turn-in/disposal process continues, the Station remains in a caretaker status, which is an agency responsibility; however, GSA now will reimburse the agency for its caretaker expenses.

The Marine Corps has re-confirmed with GSA its interest in obtaining the site on a permanent basis. The Marine Corps also is preparing a request to use the site on an interim basis until the permanent transfer is approved.

### **DISPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:**

The Marine Corps requested, through GSA, OMB's approval for a no-fee transfer of the property to the Marine Corps. In the meantime, the agency and the Marine Corps have entered into an interim use agreement, which allows the Marine Corps to use the property on a reimbursable basis while the transfer of the property is being pursued. The interim use agreement was effective July 16, 2012.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in August:

The Station was visited by the Network Automation Team, Peter Knopf and David Kaiser from the Germany Transmitting Station. The purpose of their visit was to install automation equipment on both the shortwave and medium wave transmitters.

The Station was also visited by Neil Kennedy, T/ESS in Washington, and Ruediger Schott, IBB Germany. They installed a Satellite Interconnect System (SIS) waveguide that links the microwave equipment to the AOR satellite dish.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in August:

The site lost utility power for a short time on 8/2/13 due to a failure in the Duke Energy transmission system. As the outage was short, the auxiliary generator was not needed.

(b) (5), (b) (6), GS Electronic Technician, retired at the end of the month. His skills and friendship will be sorely missed by the Station staff.

Several curtain antenna inspections were completed under the new antenna maintenance contract. Preventative maintenance procedures were performed on four transmitters with minor problems corrected as found. More extensive maintenance was performed on four additional transmitters and one antenna.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in August:

The weather conditions enabled the Station to inspect and perform maintenance on the most critical satellite uplink systems. In addition, the staff installed a 2.4m three-segment Prodelin antenna, which, most likely, will be used for the 10° Eutelsat downlink transmitted by TV1 in Kabul.

At Biblis, testing showed that the Station's drinking water was contaminated with bacteria. Purchase of defective parts for the water system is ongoing. Manual intervention is done daily.

In Cyprus, the contractor started the structural remediation work on the MW antenna. By the end of the month, work on tower #1 was completed, with 20 sets of new structural strengthening bracings installed. While the structural work was being done, the transmitter was off the air.

In Djibouti, the local (RTD) staff continued the troubleshooting on the transmitter at PK-12, but without any success. Since the manufacturer was not able to send an engineer to Djibouti, IBB Germany sent Maintenance Supervisor Walter Andel and Reinhold Wichert from Lampertheim to PK-12. It took several days to find and fix all the problems. The transmitter was returned to service on August 26<sup>th</sup>.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in August:

On Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup> the Transmitting Station Manager was directed by the Deputy Charge of Mission (DCM) of the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait City to withdraw all IBB Kuwait Station personnel from the site, including the duty operating technicians, by 8pm (1700 UTC) that evening. This action was ordered by the State Department as part of the multiple closures of U.S. embassies and diplomatic facilities across parts of the Middle East, South-East Asia and Africa.

Following consultations with TSI in Washington, the Station Manager opted to keep all transmitters on the air, relying on the computerized SAS to maintain broadcast and satellite network gateway operations while the Station was unmanned. With the assistance of Peter Knopf at IBB Germany, Station technicians were able to quickly setup remote connections to the system's OpCon software interface via the Internet so that two technicians could directly monitor system performance in real-time from their home computers. From 1700 hours UTC August 3<sup>rd</sup> until 0900 hours UTC August 6<sup>th</sup>, the Station was effectively running on autopilot.

Within hours, transmitters began to fail. Although minimal transmitter on/off, and antenna and program channel switching functions can be performed via the remote OpCon system software, the Station cannot remotely reset tripped circuit breakers or make fine tuning adjustments. Although the automated antenna software, SAS, operated flawlessly, these old SW and MW transmitters, that were refit for basic computerized operation, did not. Consequently, 24 hours into unattended operation KWT-3, KWT-4 and KWT-5 SW transmitters and KWT-C MW transmitter had failed, which represented 50% of the site's high-power transmission capacity. All remotely located technicians could do was monitor the remaining equipment and keep Network Control Center (NCC) in Washington advised of failures.

Thanks to successful intervention by BBG/IBB Washington, the Department of State finally agreed to a plan that would allow the Station to send in a four-man repair crew on the morning of August 6<sup>th</sup> at 0600 hours UTC to get all transmitters repaired, then resume manned operations with a skeleton two-man duty crew working 12 hour shifts. At 0900 hours UTC, IBB Kuwait resumed manned operations with a restricted staffing level. Normal operations did not resume until the morning of Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. Because of the forced abandonment of the Station from August 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>, a total of 162.07 hours of broadcast schedule was unavailable from the IBB Kuwait Transmitting Station. Other IBB Stations took up the slack and substituted for 97.3 of those hours, but a total of 64.77 hours could not be substituted. Consequently, the IBB Kuwait Station's availability was 98.77% for August. Had this event not happened, 99.9% would have been the availability figure for August. (Editorial note: The two

availability numbers mentioned in the preceding sentences were calculated by the Kuwait Station. The official availability numbers as calculated by TSI/EOS headquarters staff are 98.64 and 99.77, respectively).

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in August:

On August 20, Tinian had a lightning strike to the Phase-III antennas (305L & 270L) causing its AC feeder transformer to fail. No broadcast outage suffered. The following morning the transformer was replaced, restoring operations.

On August 21, Tinian encountered more thunderstorms and lightning strikes that knocked out several antenna field transformers, antenna control modules, and some of the sites security surveillance equipment. Loss of 528 minutes of program time was attributed to these failures. As of the end of the month, most of Tinian's broadcast equipment was restored to operation, with the exception of the Phase-III antennas. Antennas 305L and 270L were still usable, but unable to be slewed with bore sites of 329° and 270° respectively. Further, the site's security surveillance system will require distribution equipment acquisition and replacement to restore full operations.

The lightning strikes at Tinian also caused problems with Saipan's IT network equipment, as the two networks are interconnect. The problems at Saipan were resolved once the Internet provider's data and cellular circuits were restored at the Tinian site.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in August:

The Station's overall availability for the month was 99.72%. Total program outages were 7 hours, with 71.4% of these outages being program feed (SIS) related.

VOA affiliate DXSM-Jolo lost its signal from ASIASEAT3. The marketing office in Bangkok authorized the travel of one technician to Jolo; however, clearance for travel to the Mindanao Archipelago was disapproved twice by the Regional Security Officer (RSO) due to security concerns in the area.

Personnel from the Embassy (Consular Section, Department of Homeland Security, and Human Resources) conducted a talk on Non-Immigrant and Special Immigrant Visas.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in August:

Transmitter availability was 100%; however, broadcast availability for the month fell to 99.83%. Of the 4.61 hours of program outages, 100% were program feed (SIS) related.

The local telecom provider, CST, completed the initial 2 MBps fiber installation to the site. It was made active to the LAN office and available for use. Further distribution awaits the arrival of media converters that the Station purchased from CST.

Corrosion control work was completed on antenna tower #05. The tower received its final coat of gray epoxy paint.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in August:

The station's availability was 99.69% with 8.35 hours of program outages. Of the outages, 75.9% were program feed (SIS) related.

Regional Construction Manager (b) (6) visited the station and conducted a number of meetings and undertook a number of actions related to either the antenna refurbishment project or antenna spreader bar contract.

(b) (7)(F)

The Station Nurse's, (b) (6), was married and her wedding was a significant event for the month. Most staff attended the traditional ceremony held at her hometown in the south of Colombo.

Two representational events took place this month. The Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB), which is the commercial power supplier for the station, held a luncheon at the Gateway Hotel Airport Garden Colombo, where key officers of the Chilaw & Negombo CEB office attended. Participants from IBB were the Transmitting Station Manager, Facilities Plant Supervisor and Maintenance Supervisor. The second representational event was the luncheon for key contacts at the Ministry of External Affairs and Treasury. The luncheon took place at the Kingsbury Hotel in Colombo. In attendance were (b) (6), Deputy Director, Revenue – Government Treasury, (b) (6), Deputy Director, America Division – Ministry of External Affairs. In attendance from IBB were the Transmitting Station Manager, Administrative Management Specialist, and Station Secretary.

The Station provided power, water, firewood and coconuts for the annual Snake Shrine Temple's festival. The temple is adjacent to the IBB property on the south perimeter.

The Station's northern perimeter road was illuminated with a solar powered street light, heeding to the request by security personnel to illuminate the dark spots. As a trial, a single light was installed and this proved to provide adequate lighting. The remainder of the road area along the northern perimeter will be illuminated using solar lighting, eliminating the costly project of laying power cables.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in August:

Members of the Ban Dung Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department came to the site to provide fire safety awareness training to all staff members at the Udorn Transmitter Plant.

A selection was made this month to fill one vacant Antenna Equipment Technician position. Given the amount of time required for a new hire to clear security, the selected candidate may not start work until after the end of the fiscal year.

The Station Supply Clerk at Udorn retired this month. The Station hosted a farewell luncheon in Ban Dung for (b) (6). (b) (6) received his retirement plaque in a ceremony in the Ambassador's office at the Embassy.

Fifty electrical engineering students and six teachers from the Udonthani Rhajabat University visited and toured the Udorn site.

The Administrative Management Specialist traveled to Bangkok to deliver the purchase order and statement of work to the vendor who won the award to install a new water well at the Rasom Transmitter Plant. A visit was also made to the Foreign Ministry to deliver the package required to cancel the permit

for the failed water well and to acquire a permit to drill and use a new water well. Work on this new M&R project cannot begin until these permits are granted.

## **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** M&R received another allotment of \$1.630 million in June, June bringing the FY13 M&R total to \$3,706,788.. After consultations with the stations on the possibility of quick obligations versus urgent need, we collectively identified 25 projects with commitments/allotments totaling \$1,622,000. Allotments have been sent to the stations. Unfortunately, major obligations at HQ are impossible given the few months left in the fiscal year. During August and early September, the stations responded to the annual project call request. In late September the Facilities Planning Board at headquarters initiated its review of the proposed projects for inclusion in the FY14 M&R Plan.

**NCC Renovation:** GSA posted this project on September 28<sup>th</sup> as a “SET ASIDE FOR SMALL DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES ONLY.” The GSA Contract Specialist (CS) received bids on November 13<sup>th</sup>. After a lengthy procurement process, the contract was awarded on April 25<sup>th</sup> to Arriba Corporation. GSA requested tasking for Construction Quality Management Services (CQM). After discussions with management, the decision was to submit an RWA for procurement of CQM services. The RWA for CQM services was processed and accepted on July 29<sup>th</sup> with RWA# N0720746. The CQM procurement process has been completed and the contract was awarded on September 24<sup>th</sup>. We met the CQM contractor, (b) (6), via conference call on September 27<sup>th</sup>. His plan is to have the pre-construction meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup>. GSA Security issued several contractors’ badges this month. As a result, Arriba requested the Notice to Proceed (NTP) on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The Contracting Officer issued the NTP on September 27<sup>th</sup> with an effective date of October 1, 2013 and a completion date of July 28, 2014, which is 300 days from NTP. Arriba Corp. has visited the site twice. We expect to receive Request for Information forms (RFI’s) shortly after NTP.

## **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT BRANCH ACTIVITIES:**

### **1) Space Renovations**

- a) Cohen building water proofing project – GSA has awarded a contract to make water proofing repairs to the step area located outside of the C street entrance of the building which is allowing water to penetrate into the mechanical and electrical vault. The work will impact ten of the agency’s parking spaces, and provisions have been made to move ten carpools to Colonial Parking.
  - i) First phase of the project is completed and GSA will begin on the second phase September 30<sup>th</sup>. This will require shifting of the closed spaces to accommodate the construction area. Based on the delay experienced thus far, it is now expected that the project will be complete around January 2014.
- b) Creative Services (14 FTE & POV) - Consolidate all offices in one location. Location is (b) (6) old Croatian/Audience Mail.
  - i) Status: VOA has funded the purchase of the new furniture and the requisition has been sent to contracts. (No Change)
- c) TSI – Consolidation of space.
  - i) Status: GSA has stated that the contract for the design will be issued before 10/1/2013. They have an aggressive schedule to complete the design, construction and moves by the end of the first quarter of calendar year 2014.
- d) New York Bureau – Construction of studio and reconstruction of the office space.
  - i) The contractor will be training the building engineers on the new HAVC equipment on 9/30. This will be the last report.
- e) Rooftop Project – Install pavers to replace stone on the roof.

- i) Status: During the Inauguration, tents and staging installed by VOA's contractor damaged portions of the roof.
  - ii) The purchase order was issued the week of 9/16. We are working with the contractor to set a start date.
- f) Georgian and Armenian Services –
  - i) Status – The two services now report to the Eurasian service.
  - ii) The services will be relocated from the (b) (7)(F) to the (b) (7)(F). Jackie Francis is working with VOA to design the new space and is preparing an estimate for the renovation and work to be performed.
  - iii) Furniture and construction has been funded. An RWA has been submitted to GSA for the construction. A meeting . (No Change)
- g) Carpet cleaning throughout the building.
  - i) Ongoing.
- h) PNN- Request for two more workstations
  - i) The Union approved the changes. VOA will fund the purchase of the furniture and the requisition is being staffed.
  - ii) Purchase Orders have been issued and we are waiting for the furniture to arrive,
- i) Digital Team – New office space. This is a newly-created office which will start out with three FTEs and one Chief. They will be set up in (b) (7)(F).
  - i) Funding for the furniture was approved by VOA and the order is being placed. Temporary desks have been placed in the space to be used in the interim. (No Change)

## 2) **HVAC/ Electrical**

- a) Harmonic migration study – As part of a HVAC upgrade project being done by GSA, they have instructed the contractor to perform harmonics migration testing. This is to make sure that there is no electrical interference from the variable frequency drives that are being installed as part of the project.
  - i) Preliminary finding is that the VFD's will require electrical filters to be installed to prevent creation of electrical interference that could affect our equipment.
  - ii) No date has been provided as to when the equipment will be installed. (No Change)
- b) New electrical panel for I/T – A requisition has been submitted to have an electrical survey performed in (b) (7)(F) to determine how additional electrical power can be provided for new servers I/T has purchased.
  - i) The A/E reported on the solution and the recommendation was to install new step-up and step-down transformers which would allow for the increase in load, and also to install new electrical panels.
  - ii) The estimate for the work was \$172k.
  - iii) Project has been funded and waiting for the purchase order to be issued.
- c) Mission Critical HVAC Maintenance – Working with CON to prepare a new package to be sent out for bid. The current project will expire in November 2013.
  - i) T/RA has recommend that a \$0 fund requisition be sent to contracts informing them that it will be funded next FY.
  - ii) The requisition has been resubmitted and is being staffed.
  - iii) The office of Contracts has informed us that they will not begin working on the request until next FY.
- d) H/R HVAC unit – The unit supporting the front half of the office has a bad compressor.
  - i) It has been determined that due to the age of the unit it would be better to replace the entire unit. We are in the process of obtaining estimates.
  - ii) We are working with GSA on this project and are waiting for an updated estimate to come back. The original amount was \$28k and our IGE was in the range of \$15k.

- iii) GSA has revised their estimate to \$20,511. An RWA has been prepared and submitted to GSA.
- iv) Waiting for GSA to issue the contract to perform the work.
- e) Generators – Monthly PM was performed and all was found in good condition.
- f) Generator Load Bank – Met with a potential vendor to explore possible options to install a load bank generator #2 located in the Cohen parking lot. It is recommend to have an electrical load on the genset when testing to prevent damaging the unit. Product information was provided. The estimated cost is \$67k.
  - i) Working with GSA to obtain approval to install the load bank adjacent to the generator in the parking lot. If we get the OK from GSA in time I will submit the requisition. If not, it will be done next FY.
  - ii) We have not received approval yet from GSA to install the load banks.
  - iii) Due to end-of-year activities, this had been delayed.

### 3) **Safety**

- a) Our Occupational Safety and Health Officer, Irina Kabakova, is working with various offices to address the rodent concerns.
- b) Irina met with SharePoint representative re: update of the safety and occupational health office website. Mr. Michael Osicki will replace the old OEP with an updated one. She discussed other update issues. Another meeting with him is planned for next month.
- c) Updated GSA Pest poster per Barbara Brady's recommendations and submitted to the Graphics department. Draft sample has been provided for review.
- d) Safe escape respirators (SERs) – A recommendation was submitted to remove the SERs since they are no longer useful and have reached the end of the SER life cycle. We are waiting for a response from management on how to proceed.
- e) AED – T/EOS/F has been notified by Federal Occupational Health (FOH) that the manufacturer will discontinue all replacement parts for our older AEDs in two years, and so we will need to purchase new AED units. We are getting replacement costs so we can procure in FY-14.

### 4) **Parking**

- a) Form for the new parking applications is being revised so it can be sent out by 10/1/13. Draft has been sent to LER for review. LER has not responded yet. The 10/1/13 date will be most likely missed.

### 5) **Space Renovations**

- a) Cohen building water proofing project – GSA has awarded a contract to make water proofing repairs to the step area located outside of the C street entrance of the building, which is allowing water to penetrate into the mechanical and electrical vault. The work is impacting ten of the agency's parking spaces, and provisions have been made to move ten carpools to Colonial Parking.
  - i) Work began on 6/3 and is expected to last through November 2013. (No change)
- b) Creative Services (14 FTE & POV) - Consolidate all offices in one location. Location is Suite (b) (7)(F) old Croatian/Audience Mail.
  - i) Status: VOA has funded the purchase of the new furniture and the requisition has been sent to CON. (No change)
- c) TSI – Consolidation of space.
  - i) Status: GSA has stated that the contract for the design will be issued before 10/1/2013. They have an aggressive schedule to complete the design, construction and moves by the end of the first quarter of calendar year 2014.
- d) VNC – Reconfiguration of workstations (15) to meet agreement between LER and Union

- i) Jackie Francis is coordinating the move of the employees in the space prior to the installation of the new furniture. Completed August 3, 2013.
- e) New York Bureau – Construction of Studio and reconstruct the office space.
  - i) The bus duct tap was completed on August 17, 2013. GSA also has expressed concerns with the way that the backdrop set was installed in the new studio, resulting in placement of panels that could restrict the airflow coming from the induction units. GSA was shown that there was adequate ventilation provided, that the panels could be removed for maintenance, and that certification was provided that the panels were constructed from fire retardant materials. GSA has no further concerns with the set design and installation.
- f) Rooftop Project – Install pavers to replace stone on the roof.
  - i) Status: During the Inauguration, tents and staging installed by VOA’ contractor damaged portions of the roof.
  - ii) The initial estimate was provided to VOA to perform the work, at a cost of \$300k. VOA could not fund this amount and revised the scope of work. The contract was negotiated and the new estimate was \$77 K. VOA is in the process of issuing the purchase order for the repairs.
- g) Georgian and Armenian Services –
  - i) Status – The two services now report to the Eurasian service.
  - ii) The services will be relocated from the (b) (7)(F) to the (b) (7)(F). Jackie Francis is working with VOA to design the new space and is preparing an estimate for the renovation and work to be performed.
  - iii) Furniture and construction has been funded. An RWA has been submitted to GSA for the construction. A meeting has been scheduled on 9/11/13 by LER to meet with the Union to discuss the move
- h) Carpet cleaning throughout the building.
  - i) Ongoing.
- i) PNN- Request for two more workstations
  - i) Union approved the changes. VOA will fund the purchase of the furniture, and the requisition is being staffed. (No change)
- j) Digital Team – New office space. This is a newly created office that will start out with 3 FTEs and One Chief. They will be set up in (b) (7)(F).
  - i) Funding for the furniture was approved by VOA and the order is being placed. Temporary desks have been placed in the space to be used in the interim. (No change)
- k) Window Cleaning-
  - i) GSA has informed us that cleaning of the inside and outside of the windows in the Cohen is scheduled to begin within the next two weeks.
  - ii) Employees will be required to remove all items from the window sills.
  - iii) Completed

## 6) **HVAC/ Electrical**

- a) Harmonic migration study – As part of HVAC upgrade project being done by GSA, they have instructed the contractor to perform Harmonics migration testing. This is to make sure that there is not any electrical interference from the variable frequency drives that are being installed as part of the project.
  - i) Preliminary findings are that the VFD’s will require electrical filters to be installed so not to create electrical interference that could affect our equipment.
  - ii) No date has been provided as to when the equipment will be installed.
  - iii) No Change.
- b) New electrical panel for I/T – A requisition has been submitted to have an electrical survey performed in (b) (7)(F) to determine how additional electrical power can be provided for new servers I/T has purchased.



- i) The A/E reported on the solution and the recommendation was to install new step-up and step-down transformer that would allow for the increase in load and also to install new electrical panels.
- ii) The estimate for the work was \$172k.
- iii) I/T has informed T/EOS/F that they will not be able to fund this FY.
- iv) Project is on hold.
- c) Mission Critical HVAC Maintenance – Working with CON to prepare a new package to be sent out for bid. The current project will expire in November 2013.
  - i) T/RA has recommend that a \$0 funded requisition be sent to CON informing them that it will be funded next FY.
  - ii) The requisition has been resubmitted and is being staffed.
- d) H/R HVAC unit – The unit supporting the front half of the office has a bad compressor.
  - i) It has been determined that due to the age of the unit it would be better to replace the entire unit. We are in the process of obtaining estimates.
  - ii) We are working with GSA on this project and are waiting for an updated estimate to come back. The original amount was \$28k and our IGE was in the range of \$15k.
  - iii) GSA has revised their estimate to \$20,511. RWA has been prepared and submitted to GSA.
- e) Generators – Monthly PM was performed and everything was found in good condition.
- f) Generator Load Bank – Met with a potential vendor to explore possible options to install a load bank for generator #2 located in the Cohen parking lot. It is recommend to have an electrical load on the genset when testing to prevent damaging the unit. Product information and an estimated cost of \$67k.
  - i) Working with GSA to obtain approval to install the load bank adjacent to the generator in the parking lot. If we get the OK from GSA in time, we will submit the requisition in September. If not, it will be done next FY.
  - ii) We have not received approval yet from GSA to install the load banks.

## 7) **Safety**

- a) Our Occupational Safety and Health Manager, Irina Kabakova, is working with various offices to address the rodent concerns.
- b) Irina is working on updating the safety and occupational health website with Mr. Michael Osicki.
- c) Updated GSA Pest poster per Barbara Brady's recommendations and submitted to the Graphics department. They will be able to provide a draft for review by 9/6/2013.
- d) Safe escape respirator – A recommendation was submitted to remove the SER since they are no longer useful and reached the end of the SER life cycle. Waiting for response from management on how to proceed.
- e) AEDs – T/EOS/F has been notified by Federal Occupational Health (FOH) that the manufacturer will discontinue all replacement parts for our older AEDs in two years, which will require us to purchase new AED units. We are getting the cost of replacement units so we can procure in FY-14.

## 8) **Miscellaneous**

- a) Met with VOA to discuss Nancy Coviello's role as the VOA workforce engagement program manager. Nancy will be the liaison between VOA employee and Facilities Management Branch on building issues.
  - i) Some of the items discussed were:
    - (1) Improving communications
    - (2) Procedures for furniture replacement
    - (3) Reporting problems
    - (4) Rodent problem in the building.

- ii) These issues are still being worked, and will only be reported on in the future if there is a major issue to bring to management's attention.

9) **Parking**

- a) Form for the new parking applications is being revised so it can be sent out by 10/1/13.

## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2013**

**DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:** As the GSA turn-in/disposal process continues, the Station remains in a caretaker status, which is an agency responsibility. GSA now reimburses the agency for its caretaker expenses. The Marine Corps has re-confirmed with GSA its interest in obtaining the site on a permanent basis.

**DISPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Marine Corps requested, through GSA, OMB's approval for a no-fee transfer of the property to the Marine Corps. In the meantime, the agency and the Marine Corps have entered into an interim use agreement, which allows the Marine Corps to use the property on a reimbursable basis while the transfer of the property is being pursued. The interim use agreement was effective July 16, 2012.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in September, the Station had an exceptionally good month on the broadcast operations side of the house. For the month of September, 100% transmitter availability was realized, while the overall station availability was 99.99%. This high availability mark was a result of an enormous team effort.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in September, the Station's availability for the month was 99.8%. Its overall transmission availability was 99.7% due to loss of program feed from the Network Control Center (NCC).

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in September:

The Station welcomed T/ESS engineer Mr. Gary Marrie who upgraded the Lampertheim Scientific Atlanta (SA) classic system and related components to be capable of handling HD video transmissions. This upgrade will support MBN programming in full HD quality.

Two Station technicians returned from a maintenance trip to IBB Botswana after completing the repair and upgrade work on Botswana's Station Automation System (SAS).

IBB contractor (b) (6) completed the installation of two 4.5m Prodelin antennas. Both antennas are currently pointed to 68.5°E Intelsat 20 for test purposes. The 68.5°E bird feeds "VOA Southern Africa" to Africa.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in September:

Of its 18.78 hours of irregularities this month, 17.93 hours were caused by an FM array structural failure atop Liberation Tower in downtown Kuwait. On September 1<sup>st</sup>, both FM transmitters (KWT-G, and KWT-F) went off the air due to a damaged top bay of the four-bay antenna. Station technicians temporarily restored service for one transmitter by removing the damaged bay while KWT-F (Radio Sawa) broadcasts were substituted by the backup FM transmitter at Mutlaa Ridge. On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, technicians and riggers restored the repaired bay and returned transmissions to normal.

Garry Marrie, T/ESS and Cisco engineer (b) (6) installed and configured two newly received Cisco Digital Content Managers (DCM) for HDTV capability on the Hotbird SA uplink system. They also provided training in the operation and configuration of the new Cisco DCM. Later in the month, Station personnel successfully installed and configured another pair of Cisco DCMs for HDTV capability on the Asiasat SA uplink system.

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, the Transmitting Station Manager, the embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission and its Public Affairs Officer met with the Under Secretary at the Ministry of Information (MOI) concerning the pending renewal of the Station's operating agreement. On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, a delegation of MOI Engineering Directors and other officials visited the Station for a tour of the facility and to gather additional information about its operations and planned training to be provided to the MOI under the new agreement. A few days after this last meeting, the Station received word via the Embassy that the MOI had approved the renewal and had passed it on to the Kuwait Foreign Ministry for final diplomatic action.

The Station's Internet Service Provider (ISP) increased the Station's ISP connection bandwidth from 4 megabits per second (mbps) to 30 mbps.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in September:

(b) (6) the new Rome Research Corporation's (RRC) Project Manager/Tinian Site Manager, arrived at the Station.

Five (5) RRC Tinian employees completed Bucket Truck Safety and Fall Protection & Prevention Safety Course.

IBB Saipan's Resident Engineer, Mr. Clifford Smith, completed his excursion tour and departed Saipan on Sept. 20, 2013.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in September:

Mr. William S. Martin officially took over as the new Transmitting Station Manager for the Philippines and Robert E. Kamosa Transmitting Stations on September 27th.

In support of the Affiliates program, a site survey was conducted by (b) (6) for the installation of a VOA satellite at PTV4 Vigan, Ilocos Sur. In addition, Mr. (b) (6) worked on Taiwan affiliate's (Rainmaker) satellite problem.

(b) (6) and (b) (6) from OMRON conducted Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) training at the station.

An indicator for the antenna switching reverse interlock for each transmitter was installed at the Master Control Room (MCR) to monitor antenna connection readback indication. An over-temperature alarm was also installed to monitor temperature of each antenna switching control (PLC) shelter at the switchbays. The alarms will notify the MCR in the event of fire or air conditioning unit failure on each shelter.

Two vehicle sun shade assemblies were installed in the inner compound and one at the power plant compound. This local M&R project will provide the Station's heavy equipment and vehicle fleet protection from excessive exposure to sun light.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in September:

The Station's broadcast operations were excellent again. Transmitter availability was 100%, but a SIS outage on the last day of the month reduced broadcast availability to 99.99%.

HVAC technicians continued work on a building chiller problem again this month. They found a faulty solenoid and filter dryer and replaced both.

Power Plant technicians with the support of B&G personnel cleaned and painted generator engine #5 external covers with Caterpillar yellow. Radiator support hardware and radiators were removed for corrosion work and repainting in preparation for new radiator installation.

The Facilities Supervisor conducted a realistic and unannounced fire drill at end of month, burning off an area heavily overgrown with dry grass and brush that threatened the medium wave tower's wooden enclosure. The station's Fire Brigade responded quickly and professionally, controlling the flames and burning off the dry, dense brush.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in September:

The Assistant Transmitter Plant Supervisor represented the Station at the ceremonial opening of the Protus Thissera Memorial Library in Iranawilla. The station was invited to attend by the organizing committee. Area politicians, religious dignitaries, and Iranawilla villagers were also present at the opening.

A contractor commenced work to replace the Switch Matrix roof, which is severely corroded and in danger of collapse. All work will be completed by early October, and the Station will be ready to resume normal programing at that time.

An investigation was launched into the theft of antenna parts and scrap material at the Station. The investigation is being led by the embassy's Regional Security Office (RSO). All the Station's antenna crew personnel were questioned by the RSO with regard to the theft.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in September:

The month began with an embassy activation of the emergency call tree notification system for test purposes, and all Station employees were reached during this test. In addition, the embassy's Medical Unit traveled to Udorn to provide the annual safety training for the Udorn staff. During this visit, the Post Medical Officer, the Medical Officer from the US Embassy Vientiane and the Transmitting Station Manager visited two local hospitals in Udorn for evaluation.

Fifty-six students from the Ban Pheu Technical College visited and toured the Udorn site.

Mr. Clifford George, T/ESS and IBB Contractor, (b) (6) traveled to Udorn to install the Crystal Monitoring and Control System into the SIS at IBB Udorn.

FSN TX Transmitter Plant Supervisor, (b) (6) and FSN Senior Radio Technician, (b) (6) traveled to Seoul, South Korea to move TVRO equipment to the new studio facilities at the Far East Broadcasting Corporation (FEBC) in Seoul. In addition, they traveled to Ulaanbaatar to provide corrective and preventive maintenance to the VOA FM affiliate station there.

The Station wishes to extend its congratulations to (b) (6), the Station's Purchasing Agent, who has been promoted into the Supply Supervisor position.

#### **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** We learned that M&R will soon be allocated approximately \$800,000 in carry over and CR allotments for the first quarter of FY14. The station managers have been requested to identify their immediate and urgent needs and ongoing projects that may be funded at this time. Once we receive and consolidate their responses, funds will be allocated to the stations. Preparation of the FY14 M&R Plan for the TSI Director's approval is continuing.

**NCC Renovation:** GSA posted this project on September 28th as a "SET ASIDE FOR SMALL DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES ONLY." The GSA Contract Specialist (CS) received bids on November 13th. After a lengthy procurement process, the contract was awarded on April 25th to ARRIBA Corporation. GSA requested tasking for Construction Quality Management Services (CQM). After discussions with management, the decision was to submit an RWA for procurement of CQM services. The CQM contract was awarded on September 24th. The Contracting Officer (CO) issued the NTP on September 27th with an effective date of October 1, 2013. We started a pre-construction meeting on October 1st but had to stop due to government shutdown. At the conclusion of the government shutdown, the contractor submitted a letter to the CO expressing their concerns regarding possible unanticipated incurred costs due to the shutdown. However, after discussions, both GSA and ARRIBA agreed that there were no additional costs to this project resulting from the government shutdown. The CO issued a second NTP on October 25th with an effective date of October 28th. ARRIBA has been conducting site visits with their subcontractors. GSA met with ARRIBA on October 29th to accept submittals, shop drawings, construction schedule and schedule of values. We received the submittals on October 31st and will forward to the A&E for review and approval. GSA Life Safety Division is currently reviewing the Fire Protection, Safety and Abatement plan for approval. A progress meeting will be held on November 6th. One of the items to be discussed is the construction schedule.

#### **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT BRANCH ACTIVITIES:**

##### **1) Space Renovations**

- a) Cohen building water proofing project – GSA has awarded a contract to make water proofing repairs to the step area located outside of the C street entrance of the building which is allowing water to penetrate into the mechanical and electrical vault. The work will impact ten of the agency's parking spaces, and provisions have been made to move ten carpools to Colonial Parking.
  - i) Work began on 6/3/13 and is expected to continue through November 2013.
- b) Creative Services (14 FTE & POV) - Consolidate all offices in one location. Location is Suite (b) (7)(F) old Croatian/Audience Mail.
  - i) Status: VOA has funded the purchase of the new furniture and the requisition has been sent to contracts. (No Change)

- c) TSI – Consolidation of space.
  - i) Status: GSA issued the design contract, and the design is underway. They have an aggressive schedule to complete the design, construction and moves by the end of the first quarter of calendar year 2014.
- d) New York Bureau – Construction of studio and reconstruction of the office space.
  - i) The contractor will be training the building engineers on the new HAVC equipment on 9/30. This will be the last report.
- e) Rooftop Project – Install pavers to replace stone on the roof.
  - i) Status: During the Inauguration, tents and staging installed by VOA's contractor damaged portions of the roof.
  - ii) The initial estimate was provided to VOA to perform the work at a cost of \$300k. VOA could not fund this amount and revised the scope of work. The contract was negotiated and the new estimate was \$77k and VOA is in the process of issuing the purchase order for the repairs.
  - iii) Project was awarded and the work is scheduled to begin 12/1/13.
- f) Georgian and Armenian Services –
  - i) Status – The two services now report to the Eurasian service.
  - ii) The services will be relocated from the (b) (7)(F) to the (b) (7)(F). Jackie Francis is working with VOA to design the new space and is preparing an estimate for the renovation and work to be performed.
  - iii) Furniture and construction has been funded. An RWA has been submitted to GSA for the construction. A meeting has been scheduled by LER to meet with the Union to discuss the move. (No Change)
- g) Carpet cleaning throughout the building.
  - i) Ongoing.
- h) PNN- Request for two more workstations
  - i) The Union approved the changes. VOA will fund the purchase of the furniture and the requisition is being staffed. (No Change)
- i) Digital Team – New office space. This is a newly-created office that will start out with three FTEs and one Chief. They will be set up in (b) (7)(F).
  - i) Funding for the furniture was approved by VOA and the order is being placed. Temporary desks have been placed in the space to be used in the interim. (No Change)

## 2) **HVAC/ Electrical**

- a) Harmonic migration study – As part of a HVAC upgrade project being done by GSA, they have instructed the contractor to perform harmonics migration testing. This is to make sure that there is no electrical interference from the variable frequency drives that are being installed as part of the project.
  - i) Preliminary finding is that the VFD's will require electrical filters to be installed to prevent creation of electrical interference that could affect our equipment.
  - ii) No date has been provided as to when the equipment will be installed. (No Change)
- b) New electrical panel for I/T – A requisition has been submitted to have an electrical survey performed in room 4137 to determine how additional electrical power can be provided for new servers I/T has purchased.
  - i) The A/E reported on the solution and the recommendation was to install new step-up and step-down transformers which would allow for the increase in load, and also to install new electrical panels.
  - ii) The estimate for the work was \$172k.
  - iii) Project has been funded and we are coordinating with GSA.
- c) Mission Critical HVAC Maintenance – Working with CON to prepare a new package to be sent out for bid. The current project will expire in November 2013.

- i) T/RA has recommend that a \$0 fund requisition be sent to contracts informing them that it will be funded next FY.
  - ii) The requisition has been resubmitted. (No Change).
- d) H/R HVAC unit – The unit supporting the front half of the office has a bad compressor.
  - i) It has been determined that due to the age of the unit it would be better to replace the entire unit. We are in the process of obtaining estimates.
  - ii) We are working with GSA on this project and are waiting for an updated estimate to come back. The original amount was \$28k and our IGE was in the range of \$15k.
  - iii) GSA has revised their estimate to \$20,511. An RWA has been prepared and submitted to GSA.
  - iv) Waiting for GSA to issue the contract to perform the work. (No Change).
- e) Generators – Monthly PM was performed and all was found in good condition.
- f) Generator Load Bank – Met with a potential vendor to explore possible options to install a load bank generator #2 located in the Cohen parking lot. It is recommend to have an electrical load on the genset when testing to prevent damaging the unit. Product information was provided. The estimated cost is \$67k.
  - i) Working with GSA to obtain approval to install the load bank adjacent to the generator in the parking lot. If we get the OK from GSA in time I will submit the requisition. If not, it will be done next FY.
  - ii) We have not received approval yet from GSA to install the load banks. (No Change)

### 3) **Safety**

- a) Safe escape respirators (SERs) – A recommendation was submitted to remove the SERs since they are no longer useful and have reached the end of the SER life cycle. We are waiting for a response from management on how to proceed. (No Change)

### 4) **Parking**

- a) Form for the new parking applications is being revised. The 10/1/13 target date for sending it out could not be met due to the government shutdown.
- b) Due to the furlough, LER has not been able to review the document.



## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2013**

**DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:** As the GSA turn-in/disposal process continues, the Station remains in a caretaker status, which is an agency responsibility. GSA now reimburses the agency for its caretaker expenses. The Marine Corps is no longer interested in obtaining the site. GSA is now conducting the required homeless screening and once that screening is completed, GSA will put Delano up for sale in January.

**DISPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The agency and the Marine Corps have entered into an interim use agreement, which allows the Marine Corps to use the property on a reimbursable basis until the permanent transfer of the property to the Marine Corps receives OMB approval. The interim use agreement was effective July 16, 2013.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in October, the total program outages for the reporting period were 4.08 hours; while program broadcast hours totaled 1347.5 hours. Because the rainy season has started, 70.6% of the outages were due to commercial power disruptions.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in October:

Work is continuing to update the warehouse and inventory system.

The project to replace the Selsyn servo system in transmitter GB-6 is nearing completion, with final installation expected next month.

Engineers from General Motors visited the site to perform electromagnetic field strength measurements at various locations in and around the antenna field.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in October:

Biblis, Lampertheim, and Cyprus sites reported 100% station availability, with Djibouti having close to a perfect month with 99.99%.

Winter has arrived in Afghanistan bringing along with it the usual problems of battery failures and snow-covered satellite dishes. The Station is experiencing some fuel oil quality problems in Afghanistan, but has managed to mitigate the effects with added fuel filtering.

Commercial power continues to be a chronic problem in both Djibouti and Afghanistan.

An SOW is being drafted for the repainting of the Cyprus MW towers. Thanks to Richard Cai, T/EOS, for his efforts on this initiative.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in October:

On October 3<sup>rd</sup> there was a commercial power fluctuation that knocked all transmitters off the air for only a couple of minutes, but the surge did some damage to the old KWT-C transmitter. It was off the air for 3.17 hours and required replacement of the 2A7 audio driver card and the 4-400 audio driver tube. In addition, the building's main breaker and transmitter main power supply breaker also failed to energize, requiring a manual intervention to charge them. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> transmitter KWT-A was off the air for 2.58 hours due to an antenna interlock fault requiring replacement of a defective Z-World controller module in ATU-3.

The U.S. Embassy received a Diplomatic note from the Government of Kuwait, advising us that renewal of the IBB Station's Agreement was approved for renewal for another 20 years.

While investigating the outage of the beacon light on tower six of the 1548 KHz MW antenna array, the Facilities/ Rigger Supervisor found damaged electrical cables at the opening of a conduit pipe near the top platform. This revealed a latent design defect from the original construction of the towers that has taken almost two decades to emerge. The Resident Engineer and the Facilities and Radio Plant Supervisors are formulating a plan for the replacement of all tower cables and modification of the conduit openings to correct this issue.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in October:

On Tinian, a leak was detected on the diesel fuel distribution piping adjacent to tank number 1. A temporary repair was completed and emergency M&R funds will be needed for replacement of all 2" piping associated with the distribution piping.

At Saipan, installation of CAT5 cables for the site's VOIP project was completed.

Antonio Virrey (Rome employee) visited Tinian to perform HVAC preventive maintenance.

(b) (6) and David Carulla Jr. from IBB Philippines visited both sites and completed an assessment of their power distribution. While on Tinian, they reviewed the plans for the installation of the new 40-ton chilled water air-conditioning system.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in October:

A new audible alarm was designed for the current Master Control Room (MCR)/transmitter setup to alert operators to a forthcoming activity or fault involving a transmitter. The design was fabricated, tested and installed to provide the needed functionality. The device was fabricated in-house using available parts and materials at the stockroom.

Typhoon Santi roared through the Station on October 12th, resulting in some roofs being torn and two 10-foot diameter satellite dishes damaged beyond repair. In the antenna field, at least 50 porcelain insulator spreaders were detached from transmission lines. Teflon insulation spreaders are currently being considered to replace the old porcelain insulation spreaders which are too expensive and are no longer available in the market.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in October:

Transmitter availability was 100%, but two program feed outages reduced broadcast availability to 99.99%.

HVAC technicians dipped both main fuel tanks to determine a January 2014 refuel date.

Riggers completed the replacement of all 66 horizontal screen cables and two vertical screen cables on high band antenna #1.

A satellite phone antenna was installed on the roof and run into the safe haven. Now, the Station can keep the doors locked while calling for rescue.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in October:

Former IBB LAN Administrator (b) (6), who now works for the US Embassy, visited the Station to perform routine maintenance on the repeater systems installed at the Station. The new HR Officer (b) (6) along with (b) (6) and (b) (6) from the Embassy HR Office, also visited the Station.

Most of the Antenna Technicians were placed on administrative leave in October pending investigations into the theft of antenna parts. Based on an email report received from the station manager in late November, the embassy RSO concluded his investigation into the theft, which resulted in the termination of our 4 most experienced riggers. The three remaining riggers will receive written reprimands.

Mrs. W.T.S.Tiessera, who formerly worked for a local commercial bank in Chilaw, was selected to fill in the vacant Financial Assistant position.

The Station continues with the installation of the solar panel lighting along the North Perimeter roadway, heeding to the request by the RSO to illuminate this area.

Florescent lighting is being replaced in stages as an energy saving project, and during this reporting period the lighting in the Transmitter and Administrative Building passageway and MCR was replaced.

Technicians replaced all seven of the perimeter surveillance cameras. They also installed an additional camera on the hundred and twenty-five foot tower, providing a panoramic view of the Station and its surroundings, effectively increasing the surveillance capability for the security guards.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in October:

Clifford George, T/ESS and Crystal Contractor, (b) (6) completed the installation of the Crystal Monitoring and Control System at Udorn, but were directed to return home due to the USG shutdown. The installation of the system remains a pending issue at the Rasom medium wave site.

Station technicians provided support to the IBB Regional Marketing and Program Placement Office in Bangkok by travelling to Cambodia to install a TVRO system, audio routing switch, and other equipment at affiliated stations in Kampong Thom, Udor Meanchecy, Battambang, Siem Reap province and Phnom Penh.

Thirty-eight students and four teachers from Pitchayabundit College toured the SW transmitter site at Ban Dung.

## **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** The M&R Program has been allocated approximately \$800,000 in the first allotment of CR funds in FY 2014. The transmitting station managers were requested to identify their immediate and urgent needs and ongoing projects that may be funded at this time. Based on their responses, \$478,050 has been allotted to the stations, spread over eight sites to address the most urgent needs; more allotments will follow later. Based on station responses and headquarters input, we have assembled a draft FY 2014 M&R Plan that will be presented to the TSI Director for approval in early December. Once approved, the plan will serve as a guide in allotting M&R funds in FY14.

**NCC Renovation:** GSA posted this project on September 28<sup>th</sup> as a “SET ASIDE FOR SMALL DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES ONLY.” The GSA Contract Specialist (CS) received bids on November 13<sup>th</sup>. After a lengthy procurement process, the contract was awarded on April 25<sup>th</sup> to ARRIBA Corporation. GSA requested tasking for Construction Quality Management Services (CQM). After discussions with management, the decision was to submit an RWA for procurement of CQM services. The CQM contract was awarded on September 24<sup>th</sup> and the first NTP issued to ARRIBA was effective on October 1<sup>st</sup>. That NTP was withdrawn due to the government shutdown, and the Contracting Officer (CO) issued a second NTP with an effective date of October 28<sup>th</sup>. ARRIBA submitted electrical, mechanical, and finishes submittals on October 31<sup>st</sup>. The A&E completed its review and deemed the submittals insufficient and requested that they be resubmitted. ARRIBA also submitted the fire protection, safety and abate plan for approval. GSA Life Safety Division approved the fire protection submittal but had some comments on the safety and abatement plans. ARRIBA met with GSA and is currently working on the review comments. The construction schedule was also submitted and reviewed. We found the schedule not to be in compliance with the specifications. We have raised our concerns regarding contract administration to the CQM contractor. At this point, we do not have an approved construction schedule and we also do not have any date for the resubmission of the submittals. We participated in a meeting with GSA, the CQM contractor, and ARRIBA on November 27<sup>th</sup>; at that meeting ARRIBA’s VP made assurances that they will take care of these administrative issues.

## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR JANUARY 2014**

### **DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:**

As the GSA turn-in/disposal process continues, the station remains in a caretaker status, which is an agency responsibility. GSA reimburses the agency for its caretaker expenses. . GSA is now in the process of screening the property for possible use by Homeless providers. A Homeless provider in Arizona has expressed interest in the site and has until the end of January 2014 to submit all the necessary paperwork. Due to the isolated location of the site, GSA believes the homeless request will be denied and GSA will then put the site up for sale beginning in February 2014.

The Antique Wireless Association is requesting the donation of a complete Collins 821A-1 transmitter, a second remote control console from a second transmitter, and an analog studio board. They plan to display the transmitter and its remote control console at a museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The second remote control console and the analog audio board would be displayed in its Bloomfield, New York museum. The donation request is being staffed.

### **DIPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:**

The agency and the Marine Corps have entered into an interim use agreement, which allows the Marine Corps to use the property on a reimbursable basis until the permanent transfer of the property to the Marine Corps receives OMB approval. The interim use agreement was effective July 16, 2013.

In a January 14 conference call, GSA advised that the Marine Corps' justification for a "no cost" transfer of the property was not strong enough to gain approval. The Marine Corps is open to paying the fair market value but the earliest it could budget for it would be FY 2017. GSA is looking at two options, putting the site up for sale now, or continuing to work with the Marine Corps.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in December, the station's 16-cylinder Cummins standby generator overheated and was removed from service. The generator's valve heads and injectors had to be sent to South Africa for repair.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in December, the project to install VESDA fire detection units in transmitters GB-4, GB-5, and GB-6, is complete.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in December:

The Station Manager met with Rahman Panjshiri, Director of International Relations for Radio TV Afghanistan. Discussions covered several areas including maintenance, fuel oil deliveries, spare parts and technician support. The primary purpose of his visit was to push for continued expansion of the IBB FM network to the remaining provinces. RTA is very willing to provide the labor and expertise for any further FM installations. They can provide rack space and antenna tower space at their existing facilities.

A great deal of work was completed in Afghanistan during the month. Additional fuel filters have been added to most sites, as well as, the installation of a generator at the Kabul FM site. A generator mechanic was hired and has proven to be a real cost savings. The Kabul Caterpillar dealer is very expensive and often unreliable. The new mechanic is very capable and also willing to go to all the IBB sites. He has already resolved several long standing generator problems.

One of IBB Germany's satellite technicians spent a day of his vacation in Greece to visit an affiliate in Thessaloniki, Greece, who has been having satellite problems for two months, which the site staff could not resolve. The visit was fully successful, as all problems were identified and resolved.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in December:

On the afternoon of the 20<sup>th</sup>, the station had a failure of the A3 transmission line due to a defective bullet and arcing inside the 9-inch line on the overhead transmission line bridge. Because the failure occurred just before dark, the station technicians and contract personnel were called out that evening to investigate the situation and prepare a spare 40-foot section of the transmission line for replacement during daylight hours on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The decision to replace the transmission line the next day was made for safety reasons, as the work required the use of a vehicle with a boom to raise the line.

Just after noon on the 25<sup>th</sup>, the station's Master Control Room (MCR) received a phone call from (b) (6) of the Kuwait Ministry of Information in regards to the station operating on the 9370 kHz frequency. Apparently, the Government of Kuwait had received a complaint regarding the station operating on that frequency. The station contacted Washington and later that afternoon, the station received OPMEMO B13-068 cancelling the operation on 9370 kHz. The station provided a letter to the Ministry of Information advising that they were no longer operating on that frequency, and providing a list of all HF frequencies on the station's current operating schedule, which had also been requested.

Kuwait Station Antenna Specialist Mohsine Bakkali has been at the Sri Lanka Transmitting Station working with their antenna team personnel to facilitate repair of damaged antennas and on the 24<sup>th</sup>, the station received a request from IBB Sri Lanka to have Mohsine stay another 30 days. The station received Washington concurrence on this extension.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in December, Saipan's availability for the month was 99.86% and Tinian's availability was 99.83%. The lost time was primarily due to program feed, power, and transmitter related problems.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in December, the station's overall availability for the month was 99.77%. The total scheduled program hours were 2,342.60 hours. Total program outages were 5.5 hours. The lost time was primarily due to program feed and transmitter related problems.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in December:

The station antenna riggers completed refurbishment of antenna #01. This 14-week task included replacing 66 horizontal wire assemblies and two vertical wires on the antenna screen. On the radiator side, riggers fabricated and replaced 16 radiator assemblies, eight vertical wires standard 6M, and four feed lines. In addition, they inspected and conducted maintenance of the bridle cables.

The station's Building & Grounds (B&G) antenna tower painters completed corrosion control preventative maintenance on tower #7. They removed rust and corrosion, and primed and applied a final coat of McLuster International orange and white paint.

In preparation for the scheduled diesel fuel offload operation, all sections involved completed their checklists which include inspection of our Boston Whaler, Zodiac, vehicles, safety equipment, and mooring lines.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in December:

(b) (6) from the Information Program Center/Telecommunication Section of Embassy Colombo and technicians from the Regional Information Management Center in Bangkok visited the station to inspect IBB Sri Lanka's repeater sites.

The staff bus (DP-NA 7523) was given a complete overhaul when it was painted in-house by the B&G painters, thus saving IBB a considerable amount of funding.

The installation of new inverter type air-conditioners at the antenna and matrix shelters was completed.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in December:

The month saw an increase in political unrest in Bangkok. Parliament has been dissolved by the Prime Minister and new elections have been scheduled for 2 February. There has been no impact to any of our employees in Udorn, but traffic in Bangkok was unusually disrupted, worse than normal, by demonstrations, marches and protestors occupying some Thai government buildings and facilities.

The Station Manager traveled to the Rasom MW site to review plant operations. (b) (7)(F)

Ordinarily, this action would appear to be a simple issue, but given the political unrest during the month near the Foreign Ministry, few Royal Thai Government employees have been able to get to their offices as demonstrators occupied areas near the ministry.

The Station received permission from Washington to extend its testing of power tube black heating to all Udorn transmitters. Implementation has begun. Also, work has begun to automate control of this function. The station estimates that \$100,000 USD in power cost savings will be realized by shutting down transmitters to black heat rather than keeping them in hot standby mode during off air time.

#### **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** The M&R Program has been allocated approximately \$800,000 in the first allotment of CR funds in FY 2014. The transmitting station managers were requested to identify their immediate and urgent needs and ongoing projects that may be funded at this time. Based on their responses, \$478,050 has been allotted to the stations, spread over eight sites to address the most urgent needs; more allotments will follow later. The FY14 M&R three-year plan was approved by the TSI Director on December 5, 2013. The approved plan was then posted to all the station managers. The station managers have identified the most urgent and crucial M&R projects that must now be funded as soon as possible. A spending plan of

\$2.97 million has been developed encompassing ten separate locations. M&R funds allotments will be processed as soon as funds are made available

**NCC Renovation:** GSA posted this project on September 28th as a “SET ASIDE FOR SMALL DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES ONLY.” The GSA Contract Specialist (CS) received bids on November 13th. After a lengthy procurement process, the contract was awarded on April 25th to ARRIBA Corporation. The NTP was effective October 28th due to the procurement of Construction Quality Management Services (CQM) requested by GSA and the government shutdown. ARRIBA started the first round of submittals on October 31st, with all submittals noted as reject and resubmit after review was completed. As of today, several submittals are still outstanding including the construction schedule. On January 9th, the CO sent a letter to ARRIBA indicating the administrative issues and the inaccurate construction schedule. Furthermore, we noticed a lack of understanding of the scope of the project by the contractor during the A&E site visit. At this point, a meeting with GSA management was requested. The meeting was very productive and the direction was very clear as to having the contractor adhere to the contract, drawings, and specifications. ARRIBA committed to make all the corrections at the last progress meeting. In addition, the RWA amendment for contract modifications due to unforeseen conditions was processed on January 28th. We asked GSA COR (b) (6) for the modifications status. He indicated the CS is working on the procurement package. We have stressed the urgency of processing these modifications as soon as possible to avoid possible delays and re-work claims by the contractor.



## **OPERATIONS AND STATIONS DIVISION (T/EOS) MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2014**

### **DISPOSAL OF THE DELANO TRANSMITTING STATION:**

Delano Transmitting Station has been reported as excess real property to GSA's Property Disposal Division in San Francisco, California. GSA has completed the Federal Screening Process and no other government agency has expressed an interest in the site. GSA is now in the process of screening the property for possible use by Homeless providers, and due to the interest shown in the property for this purpose, the screening may not be completed until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, FY 2014. Due to the isolated location of the site, GSA believes that any homeless request will be denied and GSA will then put the site up for sale at the end of this screening process.

The Antique Wireless Association is requesting the donation of a complete Collins 821A-1 transmitter, a second remote control console from a second transmitter, and an analog studio board from Delano. The AWA's plan for the equipment is to display the transmitter and its remote control console at a museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The second remote control console and the analog audio board will be displayed in its Bloomfield, New York museum. The proposal to declare the requested equipment as excess to the agency's needs so that it can be donated to the AWA by GSA is being staffed.

### **DIPOSAL OF SITE-A AT THE EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:**

Since the Marine Corps cannot budget for the purchase of Site A until FY 2017, GSA has decided not to wait on the Marine Corps and will proceed with the disposal of the site. While the disposal process proceeds, the Marine Corps intends to continue to use the property on a reimbursable basis. The interim use agreement between the agency and the Marine Corps for the use of the site was effective July 16, 2013.

**BOTSWANA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Botswana Transmitting Station reports that in January, the bulk of the month saw a tremendous amount of work being done on the ailing Cummins 16 cylinder generator, which was finally repaired and smoke tested towards the end of the month. This generator supplies approximately 1000 amps of current to the medium-wave building and the Marconi 500kW transmitter. The Botswana technical staff that assisted the Cummins technicians did an outstanding job.

**EDWARD R. MURROW TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Greenville Transmitting Station reports that in January:

Duke Energy restricted the station's electrical use for four hours on January 8<sup>th</sup>. During this time, the station operated on generator power and was completely isolated from the utility power grid. No problems were experienced.

Mr. Rolando Malig joined the technical staff as a contract Electronics Technician.

**GERMANY TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Germany Transmitting Station reports that in January:

The Station Manager accompanied Terry Balazs, acting TSI Director, to the DG 7 meeting in Bonn, Germany on January 29th. The attendees were from the leading government-supported international media organizations known collectively as the DG7. The meeting was attended by representatives of the to the other DG7 broadcasters- Japan's NHK, Australia's ABC, England's BBC, France's Marquis Media Partners, and Germany's DW. The day-long discussions resulted in the identification of several areas where the group can collaborate to achieve both savings and efficiency.

The station staff continued upgrading the station's broadcast equipment by installing a new CPI 700W C-band travelling wave tube (TWT) to enhance the Intelsat 907 uplink. The replacement of the 1989 vintage VARIAN GEN I TWT was necessary due to its low emissions and defective filters. During the installation, uplink tests were performed to ensure that the RF parameters met Intelsat specifications. Prior detailed planning enabled the work to be completed in one working day.

In Afghanistan, there were several small broadcast outages on the FM transmitter at Mazar I Sharif. The transmitter was checked and defective components were replaced. Defective fuel pumps were exchanged at the generators at Ghazn. A Marapco generator was delivered to the Caterpillar dealer for major overhauling.

**KUWAIT TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Kuwait Transmitting Station reports that in January:

The big event of the month was the arrival and unloading of sixteen (16) forty-foot containers with the remains of four old rhombic antennas that were disassembled and removed from IBB Greenville's Site A. These antenna components will be used to install additional shortwave antennas at the station to increase its coverage capabilities.

The station received 12 new Dell 7010 computer workstations, which were preconfigured by the TSI IT staff in Washington, and then forwarded to the station. The station's LAN Administrator is deploying these workstations in anticipation of a scheduled overall IT refresh for the station scheduled for March.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Northern Marianas Transmitting Station reports that in January:

Station Manager William Martin traveled from the Philippines to visit Tinian and Saipan, as part of his management oversight responsibilities.

Mr. Richard Cai, T/EOS, was in the Marianas to conduct antenna guy length measurements on the Tinian towers.

**PHILIPPINES TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Philippines Transmitting Station reports that in January

The 2014 High Frequency Broadcasters' Coordination (HFBC) Meeting was held on January 17th at the Radio Veritas Asia in Quezon City.

A new control cable was laid out between the Antenna Switching System Shelters on all four switch bays and the Master Control Room. It is now interfaced to the forward and reverse interlock of the Antenna Switching System. The result of this project is that a more reliable antenna interlock is now in place.

**SAO TOME TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sao Tome Transmitting Station reports that in January:

The refueling ship, MT Gascogne, arrived on schedule with a delivery of 300,000 gallons of diesel fuel #2 (DF2). The mooring, offload and subsequent restoration were safely completed in just under 24 hours - a record time.

The station suffered a power outage when the retaining pin on a spring loaded grounding bar snapped, taking three phases of 3.3 kV to ground. The generator overcurrent relay tripped and the site went dark. Luckily, the site was staffed at the time. Technicians spent the rest of the day cleaning the smoke residue from the switchgear and repairing damage from arcing.

The station welcomed STATE Magazine Editor-In-Chief (b) (6) in conjunction with an upcoming Mission of the month highlight of the American Embassy Libreville.

**Station Automation Migration:** The site purchased and received the equipment needed for the migration of the station's automation network, Cisco IP Telephone network, and Local Area Network from the satellite to the new terrestrial circuits consisting of a 2Mbps fiber and a 16Mbps Hertzian microwave. The station migrated the automation network off of the digital subscriber line (DSL) circuit to the new terrestrial circuit. After monitoring circuit stability for one week, the station terminated the CST DSL service saving the station \$450 in monthly service fees.

The Station Safety Officer instituted weekly safety training videos. Training consisted of Electrical Safety followed by a Back Safety video.

Congratulations to Alvaro Dos Santos for his selection and promotion to Power Plant Technical Supervisor. Mr. Dos Santos was selected from among three highly qualified applicants, based primarily upon his performance in an acting capacity this past year.

**SRI LANKA TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Sri Lanka Transmitting Station reports that in January:

The most significant event for the month was the much sought after crimping tool arriving at the station via Contractor W.A.P. Fernando Constructions. This equipment brings in a much needed boost to the antenna reconstruction efforts at the station. (b) (6), an Italian national, was contracted by W.A.P. Fernando Construction to familiarize the staff on the use of the crimping tool and therefore, was a frequent visitor to the station.

IBB Kuwait's Mohsine Bakkali, and IBB Sri Lanka's riggers and B&G staff worked tirelessly on the reconstruction of the storm damaged antenna 275L, and were successful in elevating the antenna up to the intermediate spreader bar level. The valuable guidance received from Mohsine Bakkali, our visitor and mentor from Kuwait, was highly appreciated. His thorough knowledge and expertise helped to expedite the antenna rebuilding work during this month. Kudos to Mohsine!

FSN Chauffeurs (b) (6) and (b) (6) received Safe Driving Awards at the Mission Awards Ceremony.

**THAILAND TRANSMITTING STATION:** The Thailand Transmitting Station reports that in January:

All Udorn Marconi transmitters have been operating in filament black heat mode when off the air without incident. By the end of the month, the process of selecting black heat mode during off periods was automated.

Political instability was the order of the day throughout the Bangkok metropolitan area during the month as anti-government demonstrators began their “Shutdown Bangkok” operation on the 13th. The Foreign Ministry was forced to close when their building was blockaded. Radio Saranrom programs on the megawatt medium wave were discontinued until further notice because employees were unable to get to their offices. Government officials were also unable to sign pending water well permit applications so the Rasom (MW site) water well project remains on hold. Customs operations have been affected and clearance of incoming items has been delayed.

On the occasion of Thai National Children’s Day, 64 students and 10 teachers from Ban Nonghai Nonsamran School visited the station.

The new Antenna Equipment Technician, Mr. Uthan Noyomphong, began work this month. The staff wishes him all the best as he begins his new career as an IBB employee with the US Mission in Thailand.

#### **FACILITIES TEAM AND M&R PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

**M&R:** The M&R Program has been allocated approximately \$800,000 in the first allotment of CR funds in FY 2014. The transmitting station managers were requested to identify their immediate and urgent needs and ongoing projects that may be funded at this time. Based on their responses, \$478,050 has been allotted to the stations, spread over eight sites to address the most urgent needs; more allotments will follow later. The FY14 M&R three-year plan was approved by the TSI Director on December 5, 2013. The approved plan was then posted to all the station managers. The station managers have identified the most urgent and crucial M&R projects that must now be funded as soon as possible. A spending plan of \$2.97 million has been developed encompassing ten separate locations. M&R funds allotments will be processed as soon as funds are made available. **(No change from last month).**

**NCC Renovation:** GSA posted this project on September 28, 2012 as a “SET ASIDE FOR SMALL DISABLED VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES ONLY.” The GSA Contract Specialist (CS) received bids on November 13, 2012. After a lengthy procurement process, the contract was awarded on April 25, 2013 to ARRIBA Corporation. The NTP was effective October 28, 2013, with the delay due to the procurement of Construction Quality Management Services (CQM) requested by GSA, as well as the government shutdown. ARRIBA started the first round of submittals on October 31, 2013, with all submittals noted as reject and resubmit after review was completed. From that point on, ARRIBA has not complied with the contract drawings and specifications on numerous occasions. The Contracting Officer has sent letters and had meetings with ARRIBA regarding the issues, most recently concerning the construction schedule. ARRIBA has been advised that they need to adhere to their schedule dated December 5, 2013, which shows April 11, 2014 as the completion date of Phase 1. Work on site is progressing and the mock-up of the console was approved as noted on February 27<sup>th</sup>. The new floor tiles are on schedule to be on site by March 7<sup>th</sup>, with installation scheduled to commence on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Various contract modifications were sent to GSA, which forwarded the packages to ARRIBA for pricing. ARRIBA submitted pricing that was considered unacceptable, and the packages were sent back requesting a cost breakdown.